

SOUTH WEST ATHLETICS LEAGUE
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT THE EXETER HARRIERS CLUBHOUSE AT
10am ON SATURDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2022

- 1. Present in person:** Mike Furse (President – Dorchester AC), Richard Llewellyn-Eaton (Chairman – Taunton AC), David Varney (Divisional Secretary – Newquay & Par AC), Keith Reed (Officials Secretary – Armada), Dave Robinson (Exeter Harriers), Janice Hindle & Mike Hindle (Newton Abbot AC), Graham Berry (North Devon AC), Peter Impett (Wimborne AC) and Geoff Cole (Yeovil Olympiads AC)

Present by “Zoom”: Roger Lee (Treasurer – unattached), Karen Robillard (Cornwall AC) and Peter Cornes (Poole AC)

Apologies: Geoff Williams and Steve Choules (North Devon AC) and Mark Pauley (Poole AC)

2 Minutes

2.1 Acceptance of the AGM of 16th October 2021 was proposed by Dave Varney, seconded by Graham Berry and carried unanimously.

2.2 Acceptance of an EGM of 19th February 2022 was proposed by Geoff Cole, seconded by Mike Hindle and carried unanimously.

3 Reports

3.1 Chairman (Richard Llewellyn-Eaton)

The Chairman welcomed officers and club representatives to the meeting. He said that the 2022 competition was delightfully. However, he also noted that numbers were down and that this reflected a national trend.

3.2 League Secretary (Ian Humphreys)

No report submitted.

3.3 Divisional Secretary (Dave Varney)

The Divisional Secretary thanked organisers and officials for making the competition so successful.

There was general discussion about the validity of records being set by athletes who had been moved up an age

It was agreed that agreed to allow records in the younger age group when athletes move up but that this would not be retrospective unless someone came forward with a claim / proof.

The following league records were set in 2022

U20 Men	5000m	Ed Bird	Poole AC	
	Long Jump	Harry Barton	Yeovil OAC	7.24
U17 Men	1500m S'chase	Noah Heal	Taunton AC	4-54.14
	[Initial record at new hurdle height]			
U15 Boys	Triple Jump	William Langridge	Wimborne AC	12.92
	[This performance was set whilst competing in the U17 Men's event (see section 3.2 above regarding validity)]			
U13 Boys	Long Jump	Rufus Brookes	Dorchester AC	5.05
	4x100m Relay		Wimborne AC	53.97
U20 Women	Triple Jump	Georgina Scoot	(N/A + Torbay AC)	12.32
U13 Girls	1500m	Ava Sutton	Cornwall AC	4-53.71

Mike Hindle proposed a vote of thanks to Dave Varney for all his work. Seconded by Keith Reed and carried unanimously.

3.4 Officials Secretary (Keith Reed)

The Officials Secretary pleaded for officials to reply to his availability requests in a timely manner.

3.5 Treasurer (Roger Lee)

No formal written accounts were submitted.

On the basis of the accounts submitted verbally by "Zoom" the treasurer felt that the league was still quite well off and no fee increase was needed for 2023.

This despite anticipated increases in costs of first aid in the year ahead. No other costs were expected to rise steeply. Set against this, a loss of income was anticipated due to the withdrawal from the league of Poole AC and possibly Mendip AC.

The annual cost of the use of EDM was £400

Given these factors the treasurer stated that fees for 2023 should be £600 per year per club.

Acceptance of this report was proposed by Dave Varney, seconded by Mike Hindle and carried unanimously.

The Treasurer informed the committee that club accounts would be transferred to Metro from March 2023.

Ian Humphreys is co-signatory on our present account. He would need to be replaced if Mendip AC were to withdraw from the league.

4. Presentation of Awards

The following clubs received age group and overall league trophies. There was no cup competition in 2022.

Under-13 Boys	Wimborne AC	
Under 15 Boys	Wimborne AC	
Under 17 Men	Newquay & Par AC	
Under 20/Senior Men	Armada	
Under 13 Girls	Wimborne AC	
Under 15 Girls	Newton Abbott AC/Torbay AC	Exeter Harriers
Under 17/Senior Women	Taunton AC	Yeovil OAC
Relays	Wimborne AC	Not contested
Overall	Wimborne AC	Yeovil OAC

5. Proposals

5.1 [Suggested by Peter Impett on behalf of Wimborne AC]. *It is suggested that the league considers revisions to the programme in order to reduce the length of the competition day. Specifically, it was noted that other competition formats manage to run 100m races concurrently with distance races (e.g. 1500m at English Schools).*

That provision for Officials lunches is re-considered

Officials Sign-Ins are enhanced to include at least URNs.

Ian Humphreys said that there were no problems fitting in races in 2022 due to lower number of entrants in previous years. However, this would become very different if numbers increased again in future years.

In a detailed discussion it was concluded that there was not really scope to save time on the track. Among suggestions for shortening the field programme was operating simultaneous long throws supervised by a controller who dictated which event threw next.

A suggestion that relays are re-programmed to mid match was rejected on grounds that this would not be popular with athletes and coaches who would still have events to come.

This section of the proposal was withdrawn for future review by Peter Impett.

It was agreed that club officials were not receiving payment for their match day activities and that the custom of providing them with lunches be continued.

It was recalled that Exeter Harriers had been providing refreshments at all SWAL matches because they did not have to meet travelling costs as all matches were at Exeter.

It was agreed that Exeter should be asked to provide simple lunches to include at least tea and biscuits.

Karen Robillard gave a critique on officials' training which she thought could be better done locally. She extended the same thoughts on coaches' training. She said that national training raises a lot of income for providers which they would not want to lose. The national scheme also insists on using their own approved trainers.

Discussion then centred on the awarding of officials points in SWAL matches. There was a wish that officials' points should be increased to provide further incentives for clubs to provide their allocation.

Dave Varney proposed that the maximum number of points awarded to clubs at SWAL matches be 50 points for field officials and 30 points for track officials. This proposal was seconded by Keith Reed and carried unanimously.

Concerning officials' sign in sheets the meeting was told that the sign-in sheets were merely a back-up system. It was important that clubs submit their main officials' sheets with the information required.

5.2 [Suggested by Peter Impett on behalf of Wimborne AC] *That the U20M age-group is looked at again, with regard to providing equal opportunities across the two sexes*

and

[Suggested by Mark Pauley on behalf of Poole AC] *Poole AC would like to propose that opportunities for U17W were equalised with those of the U17M with regard to competing numbers and points scoring.*

Following widespread discussion Dave Varney proposed the following motion that was seconded by Geoff Cole and carried unanimously

“An extra athlete should be introduced for each of the Under-17 Women's events.

Only four events should be offered for Under 20 Men. These were the four throws events. These were shot, discus, hammer and javelin. Each of these events used equipment specifications that were different from all other age groups. Each of the four events offered places for only one athlete per club.”

5.3 [Proposed by Dave Varney – Divisional Secretary/Newquay & Par AC] *The rules surrounding “League Records” bettered when an athlete is competing up an age-group should be clarified.*

See section 3.3 for resolution of this issue.

- 5.4** [Proposed by Keith Reed – Armada] *To set up a working party (to report back in 12 months' time) regarding the possibility of having separate junior and senior divisions in 2024, potentially with a full programme of events for each.*

This proposal was seconded by Dave Varney and carried by ten votes to two.

Keith Reed will head-up the working party.

6 Venues and Dates for 2023 Season

The chairman presented eight possible dates for the 2023 league matches:

April 30 th	May 28 th	June 4 th	July 16 th	July 30 th
August 13 th	August 20 th	September 3 rd		

Following debate, the four most popular of these options were:

30 th April	May 28 th	July 16 th	September 3 rd
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Richard Llewellyn Eaton will check the availability of these dates at the Exeter Arena and book where possible.

It was noted that the South West Inter-counties has to be held on one of the eight possible dates first proposed by Richard (see above). It was thought likely that this would be on July 30th.

7 Election of Officers for 2023

The following office holders were proposed by Mike Hindle and seconded by Peter Impett.

President	Mike Furse
Chairman:	Richard Llewellyn-Eaton
League Secretary	Ian Humphreys
Treasurer	Roger Lee
Results Secretary	Dave Varney
Officials Secretary	Keith Reed
Minutes Secretary	Mike Furse

All nominated candidates were elected unanimously

There being no further business, the meeting closed at approximately 1300h

Following the meeting details of the relay scoring system in 2023 were given

Winning team:	2 x number of clubs competing in the league
Second team:	2 less than the winning team
Third team:	2 less than second team
Fourth place:	2 less than third team and so on.