

# Minutes of the East Anglian League AGM

1st December 2024

## Face to face meeting at Bury St Edmunds Sport Centre with online link

**Present:** Fraser Watts (WSAC and chair), Noel Moss (C&C – retiring league Sec), Graham Leroy (Treasurer), Tony Cheatham (Ipswich Harr and committee), Sarah Newman (Hunts AC), Simon Styles (Colch and Tend), Taliesin Stevenson (Colch and Tend).

**Online:** Elaine Larkins (PANVAC), Colleen Fuller (Ipswich Harriers), Mandy Cobold (Ipswich Harriers), Sharon Ross (West Norfolk Composite), Sarah Thomas (CoNAC), Chris McAllen (Waveney), Mark Thompson (GY&D) John S.(Attleborough)

**Apologies:** Dawn Williams

### **League Secretary's report:**

There were 2 notable issues in 2024.

1. Due to a clash of fixtures for their field Referee, the fixture at Kings Lynn had to be moved to an alternative date.
2. The match at St Ives had to be reformatted by the host club to cover the lack of qualified officials. The clubs who failed to meet their commitments on that match and matches elsewhere were penalised by loss of points, which in the case of Southend resulted in some age-groups missing the final.

The league can no longer continue to accept clubs who regularly fail to bring officials.

### **Treasurers report and accounts:**

We made one or two notable changes this year to the leagues financial structure. To assist in finding more clubs who were willing to host matches, we offered payment to host clubs of £175 per match, and due to this the annual membership subscription was increased for £50 to £160.

Part way through the year as treasurer, I concluded that, to facilitate these payments more easily, it would help to change the bank account to an online account, thereby making it a simpler payment process. I had previously for the few payments which needed to be made, written cheques to my personal account and then made payments from there. The new arrangement enables me to make direct payments to the payee. With effect from January 2025 there will be a monthly charge for this facility initially set at £4.25 together with a minimal charge for payments out and cheques deposited, and this needs to be factored into the 2024/5 projections.

The 2023/24 accounts show a capital reduction on the bank account of £352 and even if other costs do not increase, together with the bank charges, we will need to account for additional income of approx. £400 to break even.

After some discussion it was agreed to continue to pay the £175 to host clubs and increase the annual subscription to £200 per club or composite team.

**Action: General Secretary to distribute a copy of the 2024 accounts with these minutes by e-mail.**

**2025 league membership fees (£200) should be sent to the league treasurer by 15<sup>th</sup> February, payable to "East Anglian T&F League" paid by bank transfer to Lloyds account 30-95-24, 00191540 (please e-mail Graham at [grahamleroy670@gmail.com](mailto:grahamleroy670@gmail.com) when you have paid. In case of any difficulties please e-mail Graham.**

**Composite teams pay only one fee per team (Diss/Woodbridge/Jaffa and WNAC/Dereham/N Norf harr)**

### **Election of Officers:**

Chairman – Fraser Watts re-elected  
Treasurer – Graham Leroy re-elected

League Gen Sec – Sarah Newman elected  
Committee and appeals – Tony Cheatham and Noel Moss

The treasurer has indicated that he will be stepping down at the end of the 2025 season, so volunteers are required.

Thanks also to Simon Styles and Taliesin Stevenson who have volunteered to assist with admin and software in the future.

### **New clubs/withdrawals:**

Ely Runners have requested to join the league and have formed a composite team with Newmarket Joggers. The composite has been registered with England Athletics.

After a discussion about penalties for clubs not providing officials, the meeting voted to suspend City of Southend's membership for 2025 on the basis that they are repeatedly bringing a large team but no qualified officials which is disruptive to the running of the meetings.

*Action: League Secretary to contact Southend to inform them of this decision.*

*Action: League Secretary to confirm that composite team Ely Runners / Newmarket Joggers have been accepted into the League.*

### **Fixture dates and structure for 2025:**

A vote was taken on options for fixtures dates as listed in the agenda.

The fixture dates were agreed as April 27<sup>th</sup>, May 25<sup>th</sup>, July 6<sup>th</sup> and a final on Sept 21<sup>st</sup> 2025.

It was noted that the date of Sept 21<sup>st</sup> is not ideal, but due to a clash this year with the SEAA intercounty meetings, the EYAL have used our date of the YDL finals, and the other possible date of August 31<sup>st</sup> was also an SAL weekend making it difficult for clubs to get enough qualified officials.

It was agreed that Under 20 athletes can compete in throws and hurdles using the U20 equipment alongside the Seniors and be scored in the Senior competition.

*Action: The League rules for 2025 will be amended to reflect this.*

*A notification has to be added to the scoring software to indicate the equipment used in these events.*

It was suggested that the league could consider having 2 8-club fixtures per round instead of the current 3 6-club matches. It was agreed to look at the viability of the suggestion as it would provide better competition for everyone and should increase number of officials in attendance.

PANVAC and Ipswich/Cats have offered to host on May 25<sup>th</sup> 2025. Offers are required for the other dates and a 3<sup>rd</sup> venue for May 25<sup>th</sup> 2025

### **Structure for 2026:**

The options listed on the agenda were discussed. It was raised that U12's should also have a throw event. Option 1 was initially favoured – Sen, U18, U16, U14 plus 100m, 800m, Long jump and shot for U12's. However, the meeting decided to make a final decision by the 2025 AGM at the latest.

*Action: To revisit League Structure 2026 once further information available from England Athletics / UKA on age groups changes and with reference to implement weights and hurdle heights.*

### **Any Other Business:**

No matters arising.

Noel Moss (Retiring League Sec)

Sarah Newman (Elected League Secretary)