

MINUTES OF THE AGM OF THE MANCHESTER AREA BASKETBALL LEAGUE
THURSDAY 11th JUNE 2009. CASTLEFIELD HOTEL. 7.45 P.M.

Those present are listed on a separate sheet.

Apologies were received from:

Sam Longley (Oxford Phoenix) , Paul Walton (Oxford Phoenix) , Martin Pigot (Web manager) , Gareth Westwood (Preston)

The minutes were taken as read with no matters arising.

All present had a copy of all the reports. A copy is included in the minute book.

TREASURERS'S REPORT:

Simon Felstein highlighted that we were in a healthy position. There had been little change in expenditure. There were no questions.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The bulk of the report was extremely positive. All competitions had been completed successfully and in a well organised manner. The title races had been competitive and of a high quality. The chairman congratulated all teams who completed their fixtures in a proper manner.

Criticism was reserved for two teams....Tameside Arrows who won their division and then promptly announced they would not enter next season , irresponsible and thoughtless in the extreme.....and MMU who made a farce of the two divisions they entered by not forwarding score sheets and by poor table officiating , something the students should be thoroughly ashamed of.

The committee was losing three members...Martin Pigot (web manager) , Mike Greenough (Premier rep) and Ian Pollard (disciplinary) who as we all know tragically died recently. The chairman thanked all of these for their contribution towards MABL. He asked for prospective new members to make them selves known to him as soon as possible.

Next season we were looking for three divisions of 11 teams.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The report was read and accepted. There was some discussion about the player lists and their use. It was suggested that all teams have the players lists. No decision was made. It was highlighted that the late return of score sheets causes problems.

PREMIER REPORT:

The divisional representative was not present so his report was read out. There were no questions.

DIVISION ONE REPORT:

The divisional representative was not present so her report was read out. There were no questions.

DIVISION TWO REPORT:

The report was read and accepted. It was highlighted that Tameside Arrows entered the division , won the title and then would not enter a second season. Most disappointing....there was a feeling that MABL was being used. There were no further comments.

K.O COMPETITIONS:

The cup final between Moss Side and Burnley was undoubtedly the highlight of the year. A great game and a great advert.

The play offs were extremely successful and held at a wonderful venue ...Leigh Sports Village! They were well organised and it was a thrilling two days. Congratulations to all concerned.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Chairman:	Mark Wilkinson
Secretary:	John Cihlar
Treasurer:	Simon Felstein
Referees:	Steve Lee
K.O. Comp:	Chris Gregory
Div. Reps:	Sam Longley Paul Walton

A web site manager is needed.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Player eligibility for play off games was discussed at some length. Many good points were made and after a vote it was decided to make it 8 league games in order to play in the play offs.
- Improving table officials was discussed next. This has been a perennial problem. It was decided to ask Andrea to list the table officials who were willing to go to clubs to officiate and then send that list to clubs.
- The use of professional players in MABL brought forth a fascinating and wide ranging discussion with many good points made, especially in favour of allowing them to participate. Although a vote was not needed (as this matter was not up for rule change) it was clear that the majority of those present felt the presence of professional players in MABL was a positive thing.
- The high cost of referees was discussed briefly. All clubs were encouraged to use MABL's 'equalisation scheme' ...and they were reminded that referees ought to be paid before the game and a expenses form needed to be completed by the referee.
- Commemorative awards were discussed next. It was felt that the use of T-shirts had run its course and a return to medals was needed. It was decided to award medals at the cup final to test whether it would be best. The idea of a MVP award for each division was mooted and met with overall approval.....so it might be introduced next season.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.