

# UP NORTH COMBINE LIMITED

## AGM – Part 2

Location : The Shack, Boldon, Tyne & Wear. NE35 9AL  
Day/Date : Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024  
Time : 7.30pm  
UNC Committee : John Groom, Bobby Embleton & Karen Goldsbrough

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## MINUTES OF MEETING

### 1. **Attendees:**

UNC – K Goldsbrough  
Coquettale – A Nicol  
East Cleveland – K Arkless  
Gateshead – G Morris  
Hartlepool – J Groom  
Hetton – R Embleton  
Houghton – G Braban  
Mid Tyne – T Ridley  
North East Counties – C Chapman  
North Yorkshire – A Ward  
Northumberland Premier – G Shields  
Shotton & Trimdon – D Baxter  
South East Durham – A Lovack  
South Shields – N Davison  
Sunderland Premier – P Shergold  
Tees Valley – G Richardson & D Hobson  
Teesside – T Barron & A McLeod  
Tynemouth North – N Stark & R Colvin  
Wansbeck – J Patterson

### **Federations not in attendance:**

Border  
Durham Middle Route  
Middlesbrough & District  
Newcastle West  
Sunderland & District

### **Apologies:**

None

## 2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record although Gary Shields from Northumberland Premier mentioned that the 2<sup>nd</sup> voting stage for Coquetdale was incorrect, it should have read 5 votes and not 4. The secretary apologised for this error (the final outcome would not have been affected).

## 3. Matters arising from the AGM Part 1 meeting:

### a) *Race Programme*

After lengthy discussions and agreed with 12 federations in attendance that the following changes were to be made on the provisional programme emailed on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

2 further OB inland nationals from Eastbourne (instead of Grantham on 8<sup>th</sup> June and 20<sup>th</sup> July) – (it was also agreed if Eastbourne was unavailable to revert back to Maidstone).

Grantham to replace Huntingdon on 15<sup>th</sup> June

Saturday liberations for the channel races (it was agreed that if the weather forecast for the Saturday was poor, to revert back to the Friday liberation)

To disregard Santa Pod if necessary, due to events taking place that is advertised on their website.

### b) *Baskets to be painted in 3 colours for the 3 sections to prevent any liberation errors*

It was agreed that the baskets would be painted as follows:

Top Section – Yellow

Middle Section – Green

Bottom Section - Grey

## 4. UNC Officials:

### a) Votes of no confidence –

- *Wansbeck have no confidence in the Management Committee.*
- *Teesside have no confidence in the President, Secretary or Vice Presidents.*
- *Shotton & Trimdon have no confidence in the President.*

Explanations from the 3 federations above as to why the votes of no confidence were given –

Wansbeck explained it was due to pick-up issues

Teesside explained it was due to the YB national disaster

Shotton & Trimdon explained it was due to the President not being able to control the combine

b) Resignations

- *As notified at the AGM Part 1, David Drinkhall resigned as Vice President*  
No further resignations have been put in writing to the Secretary.

c) Applications for 2024

- *Hartlepool nominate John Groom as President*
- *Hetton propose that Bobby Embleton to stay on as Vice President and in addition to the agenda that Robert Frost stays on the Finance Committee.*

Due to no further applications in writing to the Secretary, a new committee had to be formed at this meeting.

President: John Groom - seconded by Wansbeck

Senior Vice President: Bobby Embleton (Hetton) - seconded by the President due to longevity on the committee

Vice Presidents:

Dave Baxter (Shotton & Trimdon) – seconded by North East Counties

Gary Shields (Northumberland Premier) – seconded by Wansbeck

Matthew Arkless (East Cleveland) – seconded by Teesside

Dave Hobson (Tees Valley ) – seconded by East Cleveland

## 5. Pickups:

- North Yorkshire have requested that they are picked up after East Cleveland when central pickups occur.*  
The email request received has been given to the UNC lads who in turn will look at this when they are arranging the routes etc.
- Sunderland & District propose only club pickups but federation pickups for the combine inland races and the channel.*
- Tees Valley propose club pickups to happen as often as possible instead of central pickups.*
- Wansbeck propose every club to be picked up without exception at club headquarters.*

- e) *Middlesbrough & District propose due to lack of members sending when it is central pickups, which is costing revenue for clubs, fed and the combine, they would like club pickups for all races except the nationals.*

Due to the now approved 2024 race programme, there will only be club and federation pickups, channel racing will be from nominated marking stations.

## **6. Race Marking:**

- a) *Sunderland Premier propose the channel races to be marked on Thursdays*  
The channel race marking will be held on Wednesdays (due to vet availability)

## **7. UNC Staff:**

- a) *North Yorkshire asked if the drivers can work for agencies during the winter.*  
The drivers are employed full time by the UNC, but, as can any person in the UK, work for who they wish providing appropriate termination notice is given to their current employer. The drivers are also mechanics and maintain all the vehicles, getting them prepared for their MOT's and the forthcoming race season as well as maintaining the UNC headquarters buildings.
- b) *Teesside suggests the Secretary to go part time to save money.*  
The duties carried out by the secretary could not be completed in a part time position. An exhaustive list of duties can be issued upon request. It was agreed at this meeting that the Secretary stays full time.
- c) *Sunderland & District would like to know how many workers are on site and that the days of work to be looked at for the wagon drivers.*  
There are currently 4 members of staff (1 x Secretary and 3 x Drivers/Mechanics) who work Monday to Friday out of the race season.

## **8. UNC Charges:**

- a) *Sunderland Premier propose no set basket charges for the inland races, each race must be self-sufficient (i.e., Basket charge to be calculated each week based on the number of baskets sent).*  
Set basket prices have always been set prior to the race season and is impracticable to change the system.

- b) *Wansbeck propose every club to be treated equally with regards training, basketing and pricing.*

It was explained that all federations are treated equally with the pricing. The training fee of £200 per toss applies to all federations and it is up to that federation or federations training together on how much their members are charged, as long as the UNC receive the £200 fee.

## **9. Website & Social Media:**

- a) *North East Counties & Tees Valley propose the UNC Secretary does not comment on social media regarding pigeon related posts.*

This will not happen again. In the Secretaries defense, at times, being a menopausal woman, it can be difficult not to, especially, when the people she works with day in day out are being slated and untruths are being circulated. The UNC secretary only has the official UNC page on her face book account (due to being admin) and does not follow any other pigeon sites to prevent reading any comments.

- b) *North East Counties propose the secretary informs the federation secretaries on any business 72 hours before anything is put on social media.*

- c) *Tees Valley propose the race information and results are to be shared with federations before social media.*

- d) *Shotton & Trimdon propose the website is updated with liberation times and any other relevant information.*

Federation secretaries are always given the information first from the Secretary prior to social media by group distribution email and/or group text. It was explained that unfortunately the Secretary cannot control what goes on other social media platforms once the federation secretary has passed the information onto the club secretaries who then in turn informs their members.

## 10. Any other business:

- a) *Sunderland & District propose the balance sheet to be broken down and given to the federations*
- b) *Tees Valley propose the UNC accounts are to be shared well in advance of meetings due to the past few years not receiving copies prior to meetings.*
- c) *Shotton & Trimdon propose that finance meeting minutes be published and sent to federations.*

The balance sheet is the overall financial status of the business. This can be broken down by downloading the profit & loss report from the Sage accounts system (shows the same end balances on the balance sheet), this shows the income and expenditure nominal ledgers (i.e. How much the income was for handbooks, inland races, national races etc, how much was spent on stationery, fuel, corn etc). This report can be distributed to the federation secretaries only for perusal but must not be published on social media.

- d) *Wansbeck propose recording of all UNC meetings for accuracy of minutes, transcripts for secretaries afterwards*  
Both AGM meetings were recorded
- e) *Teesside propose the convoyers report show the number of baskets from all federations and also the combine race results show the number of members as well as birdage.*

The number of baskets can be provided on the convoyers report. The combine race results could show the number of members as well as the birdage but, as long as this information is provided to the secretary when receive the federation results. Not all federations give the secretary the birdage, this is something she has to work out herself prior to issuing the final results.

- f) *Due to late payments and having to chase up multiple times before payments are made well after the season has finished and in some cases after the year end could you please ensure more timely payments as per the handbook rules are made in 2024 please.*

The Secretary would like a 4-week rule payment put in place, if no payment is made then would have to seek the committee's approval to not allow the federation to continue in the next race(s).

- g) The 2024 price list has been issued. Payment must be made when the order is placed, this will stop having to chase payments later in the year like the secretary has had to for the last 2 seasons.

h) As at the time of these minutes being published, the secretary is still waiting the following information for the 2024 Handbook.

- *2023 Federation Winners:*  
Middlesbrough & District
- *2023 Winners Articles*  
Dawson, Peacock & Smith  
Armstrong, Shergold, Johnson & Moon  
Herron & Armstrong

Reminders will be sent again at the end of January/beginning of February to those above, if the following information has not been received by the time the book is ready to go to print, they will be omitted from the 2024 Handbook with no further reminders.

i) As at the time of this agenda being published, the secretary is still awaiting the return of the following trophy -

- Lowcocks (with Dawson Peacock & Smith, Plains Farm)

j) It was also discussed at this meeting that we will be seeking legal advice regarding transporting other organisations birds to France. Should no laws be broken and this goes ahead, it was also agreed at the meeting (10 votes) that their birds are not liberated with the UNC birds.

k) The forthcoming presentation evening was also discussed. The Secretary was under the impression from members that they did not want a fancy venue where drinks were expensive and to look at a more affordable venue. This venue was booked prior to the 2023 race season and it has only come to light now that some members would have preferred somewhere more prestigious. Unfortunately, it is too late to change but would like to remind members wishing to attend to let the Secretary know before 4<sup>th</sup> February at the latest (especially those who have won medals and cups).

*Karen Goldsbrough*

UNC Secretary