

TYNEMET BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Annual General Meeting – Part 2

Sunday 8 August 2021, 10.30am

Venue – Vertu Motors Arena, Scotswood Road (free parking for our meeting)

please wear a face covering when indoors in the public spaces of the arena

Agenda

1. **Apologies for absence** – Simon Lathbury
2. **Member motion from Neil Rogers (Northumbrian Nomads/Area Registrar) – see Motion 1 [Neil Rogers]**
3. **Election of Officers for 2021-22 [Chair]**

The following Officer posts are available and the following people have elected to stand for office:

- a. Chairperson – **vacant** – JonPaul Heron has been nominated
- b. Secretary – **vacant** – Bethany Honour has been nominated
- c. Treasurer – **vacant**
- d. Registrar – Neil Rogers
- e. Fixtures Coordinator – Phil Darling
- f. Disciplinary Secretary – Malcolm Holmes + election of 2021-22 Disciplinary Committee (3+1)
- g. Appointments Officer – **vacant**
- h. Website Officer – Keith Harrison

4. **Constitutional changes & changes to the Code of Conduct (see separate documents) [Chair]**
5. **2021-22 season structure (see separate document) [Chair]**
 - a) **Entry of new teams to TML**
 - b) **Update on referee availability to service TML games**
 - c) **Decision on those teams not meeting the referee quota in the 2019-20 season**
 - d) **Decision on division structure**
6. **Member motion from Neil Rogers (Northumbrian Nomads/Area Registrar) (Neil Rogers Member motion from Neil Rogers (Northumbrian Nomads/Area Registrar) – see Motion 2 [Neil Rogers]**
7. **Subsequent agreement of number of refereeing duties coverable by each TEAM for the 2021-22 season (para 18 of the League's Constitution) [Chair]**
8. **Dates of next meetings (2021-22 season – see below) [Chair]**

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For information – proposed meeting schedule for 2021-22

League meeting Tuesday 14 September 2021, time and venue tbc
[TML competitions begin **Monday 20 September**]

Exec meeting Tuesday 16 November 2021, time and venue tbc

League meeting Sunday 12 December 2021, time and venue tbc

Exec meeting Tuesday 22 February 2022, time and venue tbc

League meeting Sunday 13 March 2022, time and venue tbc

Exec meeting Tuesday 19 April 2022, time and venue tbc
[2hrs to begin prep for AGMs]

Exec meeting Tuesday 17 May 2022, time and venue tbc
[1hr to finalise AGMs]

Handicap Cup and Plate Finals Sunday 29 May 2022, time and venue tbc

Annual General Meetings Wednesday 8 June 2022, time and venue tbc

All agendas will be circulated at least seven calendar days in advance of all meetings; minutes from meetings will be circulated within 14 calendar days of each meeting.

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Motion 1. BE or not BE

Since beginning my role as the area registrar at the beginning of the 2019/2020 season I have more interactions with BE than I ever did as 'just' a player and my multiple interactions have made me ponder whether our area and its members are best served by continuing with our affiliation with our sport's governing body. I have spoken to many of the executive committee and many of our areas members and other than point to a list of benefits on their website (which I encourage everyone to check out @ <https://www.basketballengland.co.uk/membership-hub/basketball-england-member-services/>) I do not feel I have ever been given an answer that gives a tangible benefit to our members. The definition of tangible will vary from person to person, but I encourage anyone reading this to take a moment and ask themselves whether or not their basketball experience, whether playing or officiating, benefits by having BE involved.

A lot of this proposal will look at the financial implications to each member, I would to take this opportunity to say that my proposal was not created in an effort to 'pinch pennies'. A lot of the fees I will talk about are relatively small and I'm sure that like myself every person who participates in basketball in our area expects there to be some sort of fee and factors this in to their decision to participate in the same way they would buying their new Jordan's, their teams new kit or a new, larger refereeing shirt (lockdown has not been kind!). That said in my role as the Treasurer for my club, the Northumbrian Nomads, I am aware that each of my clubs members expects me to be able to account for the money they pay as they subs and I am regularly asked by members of my club what the £15 they pay to BE gets them and other than insurance (which is covered below) I'm not able to give much of an answer.

On 7th July you should have received an email from BE outlining the changes for the upcoming season regarding membership and licences. Their email advises that "membership of Basketball England will give everyone in the sport a voice and a place to help strengthen the sport". Recently I attended a regional meeting where a member of BE's team explained the reasons for the change and the main reason those at the meeting was given was that changing to a free membership model will, hopefully, increase BE's total membership numbers and make them more attractive to sponsors. This reason is omitted from BE's email. I appreciate this is a relatively minor (and understandable) omission but given my experiences with BE since the start of the pandemic it is another in a long list of issues that I feel requires highlighting. The regional meeting I mention was one that had to be rescheduled as no member of BE's team had attended the original meeting. Over the last two years the majority of regional meetings have not been attended by a BE representative (despite their attendance being part of their job role) and having attended most of these meetings I have often felt that local league is at the bottom BE's list of priorities and the majority of their efforts are focused on youth participation and national league. Several attendees of these meetings have echoed these feelings and expressed that they believe BE treats local league with "contempt". Whilst both youth basketball and national league important aspects of basketball within the country I do not believe that local league players should be subsidising them as is currently the case. You may have seen an email earlier this year from BE explaining that a decision has been made for National League licences to "roll over" onto the upcoming season, the question was asked why local league licences have not and no adequate answer was given.

As you will no doubt be aware the TML constitution currently requires that every club, player, coach, referee and table official be registered with BE and have a valid licence if they are to participate in any games. Currently this requires clubs to pay £60 to BE, players to pay £15 (national league players pay more) and officials to pay £15 + the varying amount required for the level of their qualification. BE withhold the right to increase these charges on a season by season basis and can also introduce new fees such as the requirement for officials to pay to be DBS checked. Of the money paid by our non-national league members 40% was previous rebated to the area and from there some of the money was invested back into TML. This has now changed and the 40% will be sent to our region and must be applied for. This means that our area and league will likely not receive the same money back as it has in the past.

Going back to 2014 the area has received between £1656 (2017) and £2114.40 (2014) from BE with our most recent rebate in 2020 being £2017.40 (the second most we have received). If this money is not received, whether it is because we are not affiliated to BE or because of the change in how the rebate is distributed then the fees, then the league may have to increase its current club/team entry fees or introduce a small player registration fee.

As mentioned earlier one of the first things that came up when discussing not being affiliated to BE was the loss of their insurance cover. Due to this I have spoken to a couple of different insurance companies and have received quotes that we can use as a comparison. Please note the use of the words club and team as I have used these with the same definition as we have within the TML. These figures are also only for guidance at the moment as later in the AGM we will be deciding how many teams will be entered into the 2021/2022 season and this will likely vary.

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Option 1 is the entire TML is covered under one policy. Option 2 is each TEAM is responsible for taking out its own policy.

	BE Cover	Option 1*	Option 2a**	Option 2b**	Option 2c**	Option 2d**
TEAM Fees	£60 (per CLUB)	£68.42	£66.99	£44.99	£266.99	£243.99
Member Fees	£15 (minimum)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Per member cost***	£20	£5.70	£5.58	3.74	£22.25	£20.33
Public Liability	£10m	£5	£10m	£1m	£10m	£1m
Personal Injury	£25k	£10k	n/a	n/a	£25k	£25k
Products Liability	n/a	£5m	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Professional Indemnity	£5m	£1m	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Directors & Officers Liability	£2m	£250k	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Employers Liability	n/a	£10m	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

* These figures are based on 26 TEAMS participating in 2021/2022 TML season and each team paying an equal share of the £1779 cost. This will vary if that number changes.

** These figures are based on 24 teams participating in 2021/2022 TML season and may vary if that number changes

*** Based on a squad of 12 paying an equal fee

It is worth noting that the TML already runs to different rules than BE recommend. BE regulations state that a local league game can go ahead with a Level 1 referee if the other official is Level 2 or higher but the TML constitution currently advises all referees should be Level 2 or higher. It is not a BE requirement for each team to have registered Level 2 coach, but this is something that has been voted into our league.

I believe it is up to our members to decide if they would rather continue to pay for BE fees and be subjected to their oversight or if we should step away and be allowed to run OUR league as our members see fit.

Neil Rogers
July 2021

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Motion 2. Exec Refereeing commitments

As everyone will be aware the TML constitution currently requires every team to provide a referee for at least 10 games if it wishes to avoid having league points deducted. There are multiple reasons for this but fundamentally TML, as a whole, requires each of its clubs, teams and members to contribute if it is to continue to run and provide each of its members an opportunity to play competitive basketball at the level we have grown accustomed to in previous seasons.

Before the 2019/20 season I proposed that part of this 10-game obligation be offset by a member of a team serving on the Executive Committee. My logic being that the exec team are necessary for the league to run and I believe that "giving up" and evening to referee has a similar benefit to the league as serving in the committee and attending a meeting. Unfortunately, my last proposal lacked an "exchange rate" and without this crucial component it was put to a vote and decided that each exec team member would be deduct two games from a team's refereeing obligations.

I appreciate that the majority of the league are not affected by this proposal but given that almost all members voted that being on the exec team should reduce the refereeing commitments and there are exec spots open for TML members it apply for I feel that the subject should be approached again. Having served on the committee as registrar for one full season and also having being qualified as a referee for the majority of our previous season it is clear that refereeing two games requires far less effort than attending each TML Exec meeting, BE Regional meeting plus the behind the scenes work that the post requires. With this in mind, I would like to propose that every official TML Meeting an Executive Committee member attends be counted as one refereeing obligation being fulfilled.

Along with rewarding exec members for their hard work and attendance I hope this this will incentive new members to join the committee as well as encourage all exec members to attend meetings as anyone who attends meetings regularly will confirm that there are some members that attend far fewer than other others and rewarding the effort of each member equally is against the spirit of the original motion I raised last season.

Neil Rogers
July 2021