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## **NEW BARNLSLEY CLUB WILL SEEK NATIONAL STATUS**

Barnsley has a new athletic club which aims to unite the sport in the area and lead the way towards achieving national status.

The new club, Barnsley Dorothy Hyman A.C. is an amalgamation of the two largest clubs in the area – Barnsley Road Runners and the Dorothy Hyman Track Club.

Three years of discussion and negotiation culminated in an historic meeting last week when the two clubs unanimously agreed to become one from October 1.

The motivation for the amalgamation was the wish to unify the athletic talent in the area and to bring together the different areas of ability which are already embodied in either club.

Both clubs have achieved reasonable success and status over the years but neither has established itself as a major force in British athletics. It is hoped that, together as a stronger club, they can now look forward to eventual national status.

Former Dorothy Hyman Track secretary John Ward will assume the general secretary's role; Barnsley Road Runners' long-serving secretary Dave Bennett will be the new chairman, and Curly Burton, also formerly of the Road Runners, will be the president.

Stated Mr. Ward, "Barnsley would never have been a force in athletics as long as the two clubs existed in their previous form, one catering for road and the other for track and field. With British athletics currently enjoying world-wide successes, Barnsley is now well placed to cater for the needs of both local and international athletes well into the twenty-first century"

Promotions officer Max McNally added: "It is a perfect marriage, each club providing the strengths that the other lacks. I have said for a long time that I longed for the day when Barnsley was as famous for its athletic prowess as it is for the races it promotes. This is our opportunity to achieve that aim".

However, officials stress that they still intend to continue catering for all abilities, particularly on the road running side, where many take part purely for enjoyment and recreational benefit.

To go with the new image, a new and attractive strip is being designed, based upon turquoise with contrasting trim and incorporating a new logo featuring the club name.

Officers of the new club are:

President, Curly Burton; life vice presidents, Mick Mallinson and Dorothy Hyman; chairman, Dave Bennett; vice-chairman, Alan Swann; general secretary, John Ward; treasurer, Linda Westlake; track and field secretary, Malcolm Fletcher; road and C.C. secretary, Dave Bennett; track coach, P. Watson; road coach, Dave Bennett; track events secretary, L. Kaye; promotions officer, Max McNally; social secretary, Anne Bennett; newsletter editor, Keith Binney.