**Birmingham Invitation Cross Country League**

**Chairman’s Report for Season 2019/20**

This season has without doubt been one of the most disrupted seasons in living memory with the unusual high level of rainfall causing each division to move a fixture. I won’t go into more detail as the referees’ reports cover them.

I was going to start the season with Division 3 at Coundon Park to give our new Divisional Secretary, Dave Long some moral support but finished up as Race Director and Chief Marshall for Division 1 at the same venue for a morning start!! And so it continued until the final round of fixtures which was the only ones that were run at the original venues.

There were three new, excellent, venues; Coombe Abbey, Belley Court Farm and Park Hall Country Park and I hope we will visit them regularly in the future.

Circumstances meant that I saw a lot of Division 3 and was delighted to be asked to present their trophies after the last fixture. It was pleasing that so many stayed for the presentations.

This was my second season as your Chairman and I continue to be amazed by the dedication of the officers who make this league one of the best in the country. In particular I would mention the Divisional Secretaries; Ray Morgan, Daniel Connolly and Dave Long and the Referees; Noel Mckakly, Rob Mulgrue & Terry Alcock who do a great job for us. I must confess that I did not realise until now that the league does not offer these great servants any travel costs. Should we?

Our new Treasurer Daniel Jordan also had a difficult first year because we had to change our bankers. Not an easy task. Last but not least is our Secretary Carolyn who continues to run the day to day operations of the league with her usual efficiency and always gets to see each division during the season.

We continue to make progress in the running of the league with the new constitution approved at last year’s AGM. You will have audited accounts at this year’s AGM so you can question the Executive and the Auditor. During the season some divisions experimented with cameras as the backup to the recorders’ boards and if this is deemed to be successful then they could be introduced next season. If this happens then the discs will be retired.

My final thanks go to all the hosting clubs, including those who prepared for fixtures that were moved elsewhere, for without you we couldn’t have a league.

***Noel Butler***

***Chairman***

***12th March 2020***

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