

BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT INVITATION CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE (1926 - 1994)

Minutes of the 69th. A.G.M. held at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham on Wednesday the 14th.
September 1994 at 7:30p.m.

The meeting started fifteen minutes late due to traffic jams on the Walsall Road. Delegates agreed that Graham Heeley should take the Chair until the President arrived.

Obituary

The Chairman informed the meeting that during the past year Derek Bacon had passed away. Derek had been a long serving servant of the League; both as a Timekeeper and as a Race Secretary. He will be sadly missed. Graham Heeley asked the meeting to stand for few moments in memory of Derek.

Apologies

These were received from :- John Andrews; David Bennett; Rita Bradley; Ted Clifford; David Conn; Mary Conn; Cliff Grant; John Heminsley; Ted Hutchings; Geoff Munro; Ted Powner; Peter Swann; Tom Talbot; John West; George Williams and Goodyear R.C.

Present

Barry Ewington (President); Tom O'Reilly (President Elect); W.Adcocks; K.G.Dare; G.Heeley; D.Johnson; J.A.Mills; R.Tilling (Past Presidents); D.McNamee (Hon. Auditor); A.Birt; E.Downes; Stewart Harris; A.Hemsley; M.Johnson; C.Lockley; P.Lockley; K.Oldfield J.Ramsden; P.Ramsden; T.Schuck (League Officials); R.Bunn (Halesowen); K.Buckle (Cheltenham); S.Taylor, J.Taylor (Aldridge); J.Leeming, D.Leeming, S.Leeming (Omega); K.Westley, D.Jones, P.Powell (West Bromwich); R.Tomlinson (Oak Park); A.Rowe, P.Baker (Cobra); R.A.Potter, R.Mullaney, P.Ponscu (Royal Sutton); D.Winter, E.Hubbeday (Sparkhill); R.L.Froggatt (Solihull & S.H.); R.Payne, R.Chrzan, D.Stock (Kidderminster); E.Langford, G.Wheeler (Centurion); N.Wonfor, D.Freer (Droitwich); R.L.Ashwood (Stourport); E.Johnson (City of Stoke); V.Harry, C.Brooks, A.Ward (Bromsgrove & Redditch); G.Jones, J.Fernie, P.Hough (Shrewsbury); C.Woodward, D.Woodward (Leamington); I.Clarke, J.Clarke (Stourbridge); M.T.Storey, R.Armstrong (Gloucester); R.Hughes (Cannock & Stafford); A.I.Phillips (MCCA & Tipton); G.Millar (Michelin); M.Robertson, K.Wood (Tamworth); M.E.Millington (Birchfield); R.A.Sannwald (Dudley Kingswinford); N.Jarvis, J.Jones (Massey Ferguson); R.Awcock, R.O'Shea, G.Perrens (Northbrook); B.Wills (Nuneaton); H.Fowler, J.P.Ward (Rowheath); S.Smith, A.Smith, G.Clifton (Sandwell Valley); P.Banks (Coventry); M.Petch, B.Carey, B.Sammons (Sphinx); K.Smith (Rugby); G.Allen (Stafford H.); J.Love, T.Egan (Northampton P.) and C.B.Franks (Hon. Secretary/Treasurer).

Attendance 87, but once again, I have added delegates that were present but had not signed the sheets. There may have been others whom I did not recognise and are therefore not to be found in these minutes. Representatives of 38 Clubs were present. Considering the very poor weather and the Traffic jams an excellent turnout.

Minutes of the 68th. AGM

The minutes of the 68th. AGM were passed unanimously as a true record by the delegates.

Matters Arising

Other than those items on the agenda there were no matters arising from the minutes.

Statement of Accounts

The Treasurer was once again happy to announce a surplus of £432-92p. over the year. This was especially pleasing as the Replacement of a Trophy and the refurbishment of the Division

One trophy cost the League almost £150; a sum that the League would not usually encounter. The League has assets in the Bank and Building Society of £1634-66p.

Dave McNamee the Hon. Auditor informed the meeting that he had checked the books and had found them to be in order.

Graham Heeley, from the Chair, proposed a vote of thanks to both the Treasurer and Auditor for their work over the year. This was supported unanimously by the meeting.

Presidents Address

The President, Barry Ewington, Thanked the delegates for electing him as President, he considered it a great honour. He had only been able to attend four Divisions as there was no joint fixtures. However the Secretary had represented him at the 5th. Division.

For the opening fixture he had been to the Fourth Division fixture at Warley Woods, this had been held over a very well marked course; and had produced a good race. Staffs University coming out easy team winners.

The second fixture saw him staying on home ground for the fixture put on by 3rd. Division Nuneaton at Burbage. This race produced keen competition with the top four Clubs seperated by a mere 20pts.

A beautiful day greeted competitors and spectators alike for the 2nd. Division fixture held at Cheltenham for the Presidents third visit. On a good spectator course, a fine individual race was fought out; with Bill Nock of Halesowen coming out on top. Omega were the Team winners.

The final fixture for the League Championship was held at Birchfield. Tipton managed to overturn an almost unassailable lead held by Birmingham University to take the League title.

Barry was a little concerned that many athletes and Clubs did not stay for the presentation in Division One.

He ended his address by thanking all the League Officials for their work with the League, the Clubs for their hospitality towards him on his visits to the various venues and finally to the AGM delegates who had elected him to the post of President and a most enjoyable twelve months.

Secretary's Report

First Division

Newly promoted Birmingham University made an excellent start to the season, by comfortably winning the first two races. In turn Birchfield finished second in both opening fixtures; having a deficit of 75 points on the University. Going into Christmas Rowheath were in third spot. The interesting point at this stage was that Tipton were a distant 6th., some 148 points behind the leaders.

However, as so often happens the Yule time brings about a change in fortunes. Tipton having a magnificent third race scoring only 70 points, Birchfield once again ending up as second with the University pushed down to third place; despite this, they still had what seemed a comfortable buffer of 64 points over Birchfield with Tipton a further point down.

It soon become apparent in the final race that it was going to be two horse race between Birchfield and Tipton; but could they do enough to close the gap on Birmingham University.

On the day Tipton won the race by just 4 points from Birchfield. With the University having their worst run of the season finishing 5th. on the day, the mathematicians had their calculators out; it was not long before they informed us that the green and whites had once again taken the League Title, Birchfield had done enough to secure second place only three points down on the Champions, with the University dropping back to third place.

Birmingham University took some consolation in M. Smith taking both the Senior and Junior Mens Individual titles, an excellent performance.

With only one Club taking the drop this season, Cannock & Stafford took home the wooden spoon, losing their battle with last years League Champions Stourport.

Second Division

Omega carried on their march towards Division One, by winning the first three fixtures; and despite only finishing 4th. in the final fixture, they ran out comfortable winners of Division Two. The competition for the other two promotion spots was a great deal closer with Bromsgrove and Redditch, Halesowen and Massey Ferguson vying for the coveted promotion spots. Going into the new year Bromsgrove and Redditch and Massey Ferguson looked the likely Clubs for promotion. Halesowen having a strong third fixtures came into the challenge, which they enhanced with an excellent win in the final fixture, thus securing the third spot behind Bromsgrove and Redditch. Massey Ferguson just losing out.

Gloucester A.C. and Sparkhill Harriers always looked the likely contenders for demotion and this proved to be the case.

B.Gladwin of Wolverhampton & Bilston ran consistently to take the individual title. No Junior athlete took part in all four fixtures.

Third Division

Solihull & Smallheath with two victories out of three looked as if they would be the likely third Division Champions, However OWLS had other plans and run out of their skins in the final fixture to take the title. Indeed Solihull dropped to third place being overtaken by Royal Sutton Coldfield as well. Newcastle having won the first race did enough to hang onto the fourth promotion spot.

Sadly in his Presidential year, our Presidents saw his own Club Nuneaton demoted together with Warwick University.

S.Kinson, Leamington ran well to take the individual title and R.Burman, RSC took the Junior title.

Fourth Division

Staffs University proved to be run away winners of this Division, winning three of the four races; continuing their rush up the Divisions. Worcester also ran consistently up until the final fixture when they finished 5th., however, they had done enough to hang on to the 2nd promotion spot. A late challenge from Dudley & Stourbridge secured the third place and promotion.

Despite a spirited attempt in the final fixture Sphinx were demoted together with Stourbridge R.C.

G.Cartwright of Dudley & Stourbridge ran well to take the Individual title, with A.Prophett of the University winning the Junior title.

Fifth Division

Stratford set the pace for the first three races, securing a 81 point lead over Aldridge. Aldridge reduced this slightly in the final race by winning with the low score of 65 points. These two Clubs were joined by Oak Park and Chase Triathlon Club in promotion to the fourth division.

M.Proctor of Stratford won all four races to take the Individual title, an excellent performance. Whilst Ian Milner of Chase Harriers won the Junior title.

It would be remiss of me not to end this report by thanking the Race Secretarys for their continued support and to all the race Officials, for without their support there would be no League. Finally thanks to Barry Ewington for his support throughout his Presidential year.

Ineligible Athlete

The secretary reported that he had been given information by one of the race secretary's regarding an athlete who having competed in the League, had competed for another Club, outside the Region, in the National Championships. The secretary having taken up the matter with the League Club had been assured by that Club that the athlete was a fully paid

up member of that Club. The matter had then been passed onto Matt Fraser (ECCA) who was now dealing with the issue. It looks as if the athlete was the one at fault, he seemed to be playing a game of convenience.

Matt Fraser was happy with the explanation given by the League Club and it would appear that no further action is required by the League.

Executive Proposal

- i) It is proposed to increase the affiliation to £45 per season. (an increase of £10.)
- ii) That the following promotion costs be met :
 - a) Cost of the hire of the facility. i.e. school etc. (a copy of the invoice would be required by the Treasurer before the League pays this cost.)
 - b) Cost of First Aid cover up to a maximum of £25.

The above proposal caused much discussion between delegates and forced two amendment votes to be taken :

1. That the proposal should be dropped altogether - lost.
2. That the proposal should go through but with a rider that the subscriptions be held for two years. - lost, but a narrower margin of about a third of the delegates voting for the amendment.

Finally the proposal went through with a large majority. This new system will be in place for the coming 1994-95 season. **NO PAYMENTS WILL BE MADE WITHOUT THE REQUIRED COPIES OF INVOICES BEING SENT TO THE TREASURER.**

Trophies

The Secretary explained that the Ian Mole Trophy had been replaced and handed over to the Worcestershire AAA for an award at their Cross Country Championships. This was the action taken on the instruction of last years AGM.

The main League Trophy required a great deal of urgent renovation as it was in a dreadful condition. Stourport the Trophy holders volunteered to get the work done. The Trophy is now in excellent condition and will certainly see another twenty or more years, before more shields will be required. Thanks to Stourport for their efforts on our behalf.

Junior League/Age Groups

Graham Heeley proposed and Ray Bunn seconded that in the light of what has happened at BAF level with regards to Age Groups that this item be deleted from the agenda and that the League carries on as usual. This was carried.

University - First Claim Rule

The secretary explained that at the beginning of last season he was contacted by George Gandy of Loughborough to get some compromise on the First Claim rule with regards to Universities. This was followed up by a call from David Bedford BAF secretary to see if anything could be done (we were applying the BAF rules at that time). The secretary together with some of the Executive Committee drafted a rule that was put immediately to the BAF rules revision committee; this rule found favour and is now the rule in the present handbook. David Bedford requested that we bring the rule in for last season, we complied with his request.

The rule is : Rule 4 First Claim Status (11) - page 6 of 'BAF Rules For Competition' 1994-1995.

Rowheaths Proposal

Gained considerable recognition from the delegates present. There proposal to introduce a 'B' competition into the scoring structure of the League; where an athlete could be part of his Club 'A' team in one race, yet finish say eighth in the next race and would therefore score for the Clubs 'B' team. The proposal also stated that if Clubs did not have a full 'B' team then the position of the last place would be added to their scores, multiplied by the number of athletes the Club was short of.

An ammendment from Chris Lockley that Clubs must have 12 finishers in each race to score a 'B' Team was unanimously accepted.

The secretary stated that he was a little worried by the proposition, in that it would be pandering to the Veteran element in our sport and whilst not against Veterans he would rather see the League encouraging the younger athletes. He proposed an ammendment that an under 23 League be run instead of the Rowheath proposal. This suggestion found no favour.

The Proposal went through with a large majority, only 8 voting against.

There are to be no Trophies in the 'B' competition. It is to be a paper exercise only.

Support for the League

Maurice Millington asked if his company could support the League by providing numbers for the races. He stressed that it was not Sponsorship and that the League would retain its present title. The meeting agreed to Maurice's request and thanked him for his generosity.

Make-up of the League for the 1994-1995 Season.

The secretary informed the meeting that he had requests from Rugeley and District A.C. and Droitwich A.C. to be reinstated into the League after their failure to complete a full team at all 5th. division fixtures last season. The meeting unanimously agreed to their reistatment.

Nothing had been heard from Royal Doulton, Stonemaster Marathoners or Wolverhampton R.R. There positions in the League have been withdrawn.

Evesham had written requesting to withdraw from the League. Accepted with regret.

A letter from a proposed new Club had been recieved requesting membership of the League. The Club City A.C. of Gloucester were not yet affiliated to the MCAA and under the Leagues rules were not eligible for membership. However, the meeting agreed that if the MCAA accepted them for affiliation before the season started, then the League would accept them into Division 5. for the coming season.

1st Division

Birchfield H.
Birmingham Uni.
Broms. & Redditch
City of Stoke A.C.
Coventry Godiva H.
Halesowen A.C.
Loughborough Stud.
Omega R.C.
Rowheath H.
Stourport A.C.
Telford A.C.
Tipton Harriers

2nd Division

Cannock & Staff.
Cheltenham & Cty H.
Massey Ferguson R.C.
Newcastle A.C.
Northampton Phoenix
Oadby & Wigston L.
Potteries Marathon
Royal Sutton Coldfield
Rugby & District
Sandwell Valley
Solihull & Smallheath
Wolverhampton & Bilston

3rd. Division

Bridgnorth A.C.
Centurion R.R.
Dudley & Stour.
Gloucester A.C.
Hereford Couriers
Leamington A.C.
Northbrook A.C.
Shrewsbury & Dist.
Staffs. University
Sparkhill Harriers
West Bromwich H.
Worcester A.C.

4th. Division

Aldridge R.C.
Bor. of Sandwell
Chase Triathlon
Dudley Kingswinford
Kidderminster R.C.
Oak Park
Nuneaton Harriers
Sneyd Striders
Stafford Harriers
Stratford A.C.
Tamworth A.C.
Warwick University

5th. Division

Alvis R.C.
Droitwich A.C.
Michelin A.C.
Stourbridge R.C.

Chase Harriers
Goodyear R.C.
Peel R.R.
City A.C.??

Cobra R.C.
Kenilworth R.C.
Rugeley & Dist.

Coleshill R.C.
Merry Hill Strid.
Sphinx A.C.

Dates, Fixtures and Venues

	1st. Div.	2nd. Div.	3rd. Div.	4th.Div.	5th.Div.
5th. November 94.	Birchfield	Northampton	Northbrook	Aldridge	Sphinx
26th. November 94.	Rowheath	Massey Fer.	Leamington	Nuneaton	Rugeley
21st. January 95.	Coventry	Sutton Cold.	Centurion	Stafford	Droitwich
18th. February 95.	Birchfield	Cheltenham	Worcester	Stafford	Michelin

Election of Officers/Officials

Barry Ewington the outgoing President proposed that Tom O'Reilly be elected the new President, this was passed unanimously by the AGM delegates.

Tom has been associated with the League since the early 60's. Firstly as a very good runner (a Junior Cross Country International) and laterly as a very able Race Secretary, gaining this exhalted position when the Fourth Division was formed in September 1984. A great worker for the league, Tom really deserves his year as President.

Tom's first duty as President was to award the President Plaque to Barry Ewington the outgoing President. In doing so he thanked Barry for all the work he has done on behalf of the League.

A proposal from the Executive that C.B.Franks be elected President Elect was unanimously accepted by the AGM

Hon. Secretary/Treasurer : C.B.Franks. proposer Tom O'Reilly.

Hon.Auditor : D.McNamee proposed G.Heeley seconded K.Dare.

	1st.Div.	2nd.Div.	3rd.Div.	4th.Div.	5th.Div.
Race Secretary	W.Adcocks	A.Hemsley		B.Ewington	J.Heminsley
Referee	K.Walklate	M.Johnson	G.Heeley	M.Conn	E.Hutchings
Judges	B.Downes	D.Johnson	J.Mills	D.Conn	J.Freeman
	P.Ramsden	K.Dare	E.Schuck	M.Northall	J.West
	J.Ramsden	S.Harris		T.Taylor	
		P.Lisseman			
Timekeepers	C.Lockley	J.Andrews	A.Birt	J.Perkins	J.Skidmore
	P.Lockley	P.Walker	B.Hussey	M.Perkins	R.Bradley
	C.Grant	G.Williams	P.Hussey	M.Ewington	D.Bennett
	T.Talbot			K.Oldfield	

Delegate to BAF and AAA of E : C.B.Franks.

Any Other Business

Ken Dare inquired if it was thought necessary to have the Junior Awards as they were often not awarded. Frequently the Juniors did not compete in all four races. A proposition from Bob Ashwood that the Juniors need only score in three of the four races in order to be eligible for the Individual Junior awards, gained favour and was passed by the AGM. Clubs were urged to always declare there Junior athletes.

The meeting thanked Birchfield Harriers for the use of their Club Room for the meeting.

Date and Venue of the 70th. AGM

It was proposed and passed that the 70th. AGM be held at the Alexander Stadium on September the 13th. 1995 at 7:30p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:50p.m. with a vote of thanks to the President.

Tom O'Reilly 13-09-95