

BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT INVITATION CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE (1926 - 1995)

Minutes of the 70th. A.G.M. held at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham on Wednesday the 13th. September 1995. at 7.30p.m.

Obituary

The President asked the meeting to stand for a few moments in memory of Wilf Aston who had passed away three weeks prior to the meeting. Wilf was a member of Bilston A.C. and was one of the leading runners in the league during the fifties and early sixties.

Apologies

These were received from : Bill Adcocks; Ted Clifford; Ted Hutchings; Tom Talbot; Roy Tilling; Ken Walklate; Frank Wood (all past Presidents); Dave McNamee (Hon Auditor); Stuart Harris; Pat Lockley; Janet & Phil Ramsden (League Officials); Ken Buckle (Cheltenham); Bob Froggatt (Solihull); Steve Leeming (Omega); Maurice Millington (Birchfield); Clive Rowberry (Hereford C.) & Rex Tomlinson (Oak Park).

Present

Tom O'Reilly (President); C.B.Franks (President Elect & Hon. Secretary/Treasurer); K.Dare; B.Ewington; G.Heeley; D.Johnson; P.Lisseman; J.Skidmore (Dudley & Stour.) (Past Presidents); A.Phillips (MCCA); A.Birt; Mrs.E.Downes; Mrs. M.Johnson; C.Lockley; K.Oldfield; T.Schuck; T.Taylor (Officials); J.Hobbs, D.Smith, P.Tonks (Aldridge); A.Greenaway, M.Trevin (Bor. of Sandwell); K.Holt (Birchfield); C.Brooks, V.Harry (Brom. & Redditch); G.Wheeler (Centurion); G.Williams (Cheltenham); E.Johnson (City of Stoke); P.Baker, A.Rowe (Cobra); C.Trippas (Coleshill); P.Banks (Coventry); D.Freer, N.Wonfor (Droitwich); R.Sannwald (Dudley King.); R.Armstrong, M.Storey, P.Storey (Gloucester); R.Bunn (Halesowen); R.Payne, D.Stock (Kidderminster); A.Hemsley, N.Jarvis (Massey Fer.); G.Millar, I.Spedding (Michelin); R.Ancok, I.Corbett (Northbrook); T.Egan, J.Love (Northampton P.); R.Wills, M.Wilson (Nuneaton); J.Ward (Rowheath); R.Potter (Royal Sutton); T.Akiens, P.Henderson (Rugby); J.Heminsley (Rugeley); H.Beards, G.Clifton, A.Simpson, S.Smith (Sandwell Valley); P.Bacon (Solihull & SH); E.Hubbleday, D.Winter (Sparkhill); B.Coney, B.Sammons (Sphinx); G.Allen (Stafford); I.Clarke, J.Clarke (Stourbridge); R.Ashwood (Stourport); M.Robertson (Tamworth); A.Dippie (Telford); B.Clifton, J.Satchwell, J.Taylor (Tipton); S.Cort, D.Jones, P.Powell, P.Smith (West Brom); J.Abbis, P.Beckett (Wolves & Bil.); M.Hill (Worcester)

Attendance 80 but there may have been others who did not sign the sheets. Delegates from 38 Clubs were present.

Minutes of the 69th.AGM.

These were approved as a true record by the delegates present. The Executive minutes were also approved by those members of the Executive present.

Matters Arrising

The secretary informed the meeting that the University first claim rule that the League recommended to the BAF Rules Revision Committee was likely to be added to; as the MCAA were recommending that Universities may only recruit membership from within the Students and staff of that University and not from the community outside of the University campus.

Since the Executive meeting Maurice Millington had contacted the secretary agreeing that he and Viga would be pleased to support the League with numbers again. The meeting was pleased to accept Maurice's offer of support, and in his absence thanked him and Viga for this valued help.

Statement of Accounts

The Treasurer went through the balance sheet and was pleased to announce another surplus on

the year. Although he stressed that the surplus (£956 - 98p.) was a little false in that three or four Clubs had not applied for their promotional costs and that the League also did not have the usual large bill for numbers, thanks to the support of Maurice Millington and Viga.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Dave Johnson and seconded by Ray Bunn with a vote of thanks to the Treasurer and Auditor Dave McNamee. This was accepted unanimously by the delegates present.

Presidents Address

The President, Tom O'Reilly, told the AGM that it had been a great honour and privilege to have been elected President of the Birmingham and district Invitation Cross Country League. He informed the meeting that he had a 35 year link with the League as runner, Club Official and as Race Secretary.

During the season he had visited races at :

Aldridge on the 5th. November, Division 4. A beautiful day, saw an excellent race start the season; with most of the race in view from the start and finish.

Massey Ferguson 26th. November, Division 2. Where he saw a well contested race individually and a very exciting team contest, which continued throughout the season.

The third race, 21st. January, saw him at Centurion where it had rained all morning but the race took place in sunny but blustery conditions.

18th. February saw him at the final race in the 1st. Division held at Alexander Stadium where he viewed another exciting race, with Tipton coming out as Champions.

All races were run in a good friendly spirit. They were well organised by the Clubs concerned and Officiated by our excellent team of Officials. Tom gave his congratulations to the Division Champions : Sphinx, Kidderminster, Staffordshire University, Wolverhampton & Bilston and Tipton.

He finished by thanking all those Clubs who had promoted League fixtures, the race Officials, the runners for taking part and finally to the Hon. Secretary for his continued work with the League.

Secretary's Report

First Division

The first race at Aston University Playing Fields saw Coventry Godiva in scintillating form winning the team race with the low score of 53 points some 61 points ahead of Tipton with newly promoted Omega in third with 180 points.

Stephan white ran well to win the race and stake his claim to a British vest in the European Cross Country Championships.

On the tough parkland course at Cofton Park the Tipton athletes scored a narrow second race victory over Birchfield with Coventry third, but still hanging on to their overall lead by some 35 points.

Darrius Burrows of Birchfield ran out a comfortable individual winner having a 29second advantage over Maguire of Coventry. Alan Jackson, Stourport, with two third places was ahead in the award for the leading athletes at the half way point of the season.

Adrian Passey, Bromsgrove and Redditch, showed how sharp he was by winning the third race at Coventry from David Payne, Tipton. These two were followed by Gary Lough, Kevin Lamb and Karl Udall in what was probably the most competitive individual 1st. Division race of the season.

Tipton began to dominate the Division by winning their second race of the season. Coventry finishing seventh on the day dropped to second overall and now had Birchfield hard on their heels.

Coventry's Glyn Tromans continued his good season by beating Karl Udall in the final race at

Alexander Stadium; he was to finish fourth two weeks later in the National.

Tipton once again dominated beating Birmingham University by 61 points to take the League Trophy yet again. Coventry recovering somewhat from a disastrous home fixture to finish 3rd. on the day and 2nd. overall. Birchfield holding on to 3rd. position in the League table.

Bromsgrove and Redditch and Halesowen took the drop from the Division after only a year in the top Division. However, Omega the other promoted Club from last season finished comfortably in 7th. position and well away from the relegation zone.

John Jackson should be congratulated for his consistency, finishing 3rd., 3rd., 7th. and 4th. in each of the races, easily taking the most consistent athletes award.

Tipton also won the 'B' team race; showing their strength in depth. Thanks are due to Birchfield for promoting two races.

Division Two.

The opening race at Northampton showed what an exciting Division this was going to be; with Cheltenham winning, only 52 points ahead of Massey Ferguson who were in 6th. place. Royal Sutton, Potteries Marathon, Wolverhampton & Bilston and Solihull & Small Heath were sandwiched between these two Clubs.

C. Warren, Cannock and Stafford ran out the individual winner, some 6 seconds ahead of McCaffney of OWLS.

Cheltenham, who did so well in the first race, decided to take their team for a warm weather holiday and in so doing finished 8th. on the day at the Massey Ferguson course. Royal Sutton took advantage of this to not only win on the day but to snatch a 58 point lead at the top of the Division. Potteries were 2nd. at the half way stage of the League, closely followed by Massey Ferguson. Cheltenham had dropped to 4th. overall. Interesting to note that Wolverhampton & Bilston were lying 5th. team at this stage. Phil Gladwin of W & B. won the individual race by some 21 seconds.

Rather like Coventry in the 1st. Division, Royal Sutton chose their home fixture for their worst performance of the season, finishing 5th. on the day; although still holding onto their overall lead. Wolverhampton who had obviously Christmased well ran out good winners, setting up their promotion challenge moving into 2nd. place in the League. Cheltenham too fared better finishing 2nd. on the day and moving up to third spot in the Championship race.

One race to go, 27 points separating the top three teams. All was set for a titanic struggle for promotion in the final race at Cheltenham. Wolverhampton & Bilston continued their strong second part of the season, winning with a 103 points, some 12 points clear of the home Club, who were in turn followed home by Solihull & Small Heath on 117 points. The Wolverhampton based Club had certainly done enough to win the Divisional title; but had Cheltenham done enough to overhaul their West Midland rivals - they were soon to discover that despite beating Royal Sutton on three of the four occasions they had fell short by just 9 points of overtaking the young Sutton Coldfield side.

Phil Gladwin ran very well to take the individual title, finishing 5th., 1st., 1st. and 1st.

Sandwell Valley and Newcastle were relegated to the Third Division.

Massey Ferguson won the 'B' team competition.

Division Three.

Staffordshire University continued their charge through the Divisions winning the first three races at Princethorpe College, Leamington and Centurion comfortably; however, in the final fixture at Malvern they fielded a weakened team and could do no better than finish third. But this was enough they had the large margin of 205 points over their nearest rivals Leamington, who themselves were a further 131 points ahead of third place Dudley and Stourbridge.

With Hereford Couriers arriving late for one fixture and not running they automatically were

relegated together with Shrewsbury.

N.Edwards won the individual award finishing 4th., 12th., 3rd. and 9th.

The 'B' team was won by Leamington.

Division Four.

Kidderminster won all four races in this Division ending up 117 points clear of Nuneaton who were in second place. Nuneaton who at the half way stage were lying 3rd. behind Aldridge, came through strongly in the second half of the season to clinch the second promotion spot. Moving back to the third division after only a season in Division Four.

Tamworth and Sneyd Striders were the two team relegated to Division Five for next season.

G.Barnes took the individual title, running well to finish 2nd., 4th., 1st. and 2nd.

Nuneaton took the 'B' team event.

Division Five.

Despite winning two races in this Division, Chase Harriers just failed to gain promotion to Division Four by a mere 22 points to second place Stourbridge (433 points). Sphinx taking the title with 388 points. These three teams were well clear of the chasing group and provided us with a very exciting competition.

I.Clarke of Stourbridge finished 2nd., 4th., 2nd. and 3rd., great consistency, to take the individual title.

Sphinx showing their depth, won the 'B' competition.

Junior Men.

The competition for Juniors continues to grow; the Juniors certainly turned out in larger numbers and the signs are slightly more encouraging for the future. The Universities are the force behind this improvement in numbers of Juniors, but one or two Clubs are also beginning to bring some Juniors through.

Junior Winners and Numbers Participating.

Division	Individual Winner	Club	1st Race	2nd. Race	3rd. Race	4th. Race
1st Div.	A.Farnworth.	Birmingham Uni.	34	32	19	23
2nd. Div.	A.Thake	Royal Sutton Cold.	8	12	8	15
3rd. Div.	M.Young	Staffs. University	8	8	6	7
4th. Div.	S.O'Donnell	Warwick University	7	16	7	17
5th. Div.			0	0	0	0

The Secretary finished by thanking the following :

- i) All the Race Secretaries and Officials, who give up so much time and energy in order to make the League run smoothly.
- ii) To all the promoting Clubs, who did such a professional job in putting the fixtures on.
- iii) To Tom O'Reilly (President) for his support and help throughout the year.

Claims for Promotion Costs.

After some discussion, the Executive proposal that all claims from Promoting Clubs should be with the Treasurer at latest by the 1st April following the end of the season; was amended to the 30th. April. This amendment was carried by the vast majority of delegates.

*Please note that all claims **must** be with the Treasurer by the 30th. April following the close of*

the season. Claims sent in after this date will not be met by the League and will be returned to the promoting Club.

Make-up of the League for the 1995-1996 Season.

The secretary informed the meeting that both Droitwich and Coleshill had reapplied in writing to remain members of the League, after failing to complete full teams in all races last season. The secretary proposed that they be accepted, this was seconded by Ray Bunn and was carried unanimously by the meeting.

Two new Clubs, Severn A.C. and Telford Harriers had applied to join the League. They were proposed for membership by David Johnson and seconded by Danny Freer. They were accepted by a large majority, with just three voting against.

1st. Division

Birchfield Harriers
Birmingham Univ.
City of Stoke A.C.
Coventry Godiva H.
Loughborough Stud.
Omega R.C.
Rowheath Harriers
Royal Sutton Cold.
Stourport A.C.
Telford A.C.
Tipton Harriers
Wolves & Bilston

2nd. Division

Bromsgrov & Redditch
Cannock & Stafford
Cheltenham & County H.
Halesowen A.C.
Leamington C & A.C.
Massey Ferguson R.C.
Northampton Phoenix
Oadby & Wigston Leg.
Potteries Marathon A.C.
Rugby & District A.C.
Solihull & Small Heath
Staffordshire University

3rd. Division

Bridgnorth A.C.
Centurion R.R.
Dudley & Stourbri.
Gloucester A.C.
Kidderminster R.C.
Newcastle A.C.
Northbrook A.C.
Nuneaton Harriers
Sandwell Valley
Sparkhill Harriers
West Bromwich H.
Worcester A.C.

4th. Division

Aldridge R.C.
Bor. of Sandwell
Chase Triathlon
Dudley Kingswinford
Hereford Couriers
Oak Park Pacers
Shrewsbury & Dis
Sphinx A.C.
Stafford Harriers
Stourbridge R.C.
Stratford A.C.
Warwick Univ.

5th. Division

Alvis R.C.
Droitwich A.C.
Peel R.R.
Tamworth A.C.

Chase Harriers
Goodyear R.C.
Rugeley & District
Telford Harriers

Cobra R.C.
Kenilworth R.C.
Severn A.C.

Coleshill R.C.
Michelin A.C.
Sneyd Striders

Dates, Fixtures and Venues

	<u>1st.Div.</u>	<u>2nd. Div.</u>	<u>3rd. Div.</u>	<u>4th. Div.</u>	<u>5th. Div.</u>
4th. November 95	Birchfield	Northampton	Sandwell V.	Sphinx	Severn
25th. November 95	Sutton Park	Massey Fer.	Nuneaton	Bor.of Sand.	Rugeley
20th. January 96	Coventry	Rugby	Northbrook	Aldridge	Michelin
24th. February 96	Birchfield	Cheltenham	Worcester	Stafford	Droitwich

Election of Officers/Officials

Tom O'Reilly, the outgoing President proposed that Cliff Franks be elected the new President; this was passed unanimously by the meeting.

Cliff Franks has been associated with the League since 1958 when he run in the Young Athletes races for Cheltenham & County Harriers. Since that time he has run in the top three Divisions as a Senior athlete. Since retiring as an active runner Cliff represented his Club at several AGM's before being invited to become the Leagues Secretary/Treasurer; a job he has now done for sixteen years.

Cliff's first duty as President was to award the Presidents Plaque to Tom O'Reilly the outgoing President. The President thanked Tom for the hard work that he has done on behalf of the League.

Tom O'Reilly proposed and Cliff Franks seconded the nomination of Arthur Birt as President Elect. The meeting unanimously endorsed the proposal.

Hon Secretary/Treasurer : C.B.Franks; proposed Dave Johnson, seconded Ken Dare

Hon. Auditor : Dave McNamee; proposed Ken Dare, seconded Graham Heeley
 Delegate to MCAA : Tom O'Reilly; proposed C.B.Franks, seconded Ernie Johnson
 Delegate to BAF/AAA of England : C.B.Franks; proposed Dave Johnson, seconded Pete

	1st Div.	2nd. Div.	3rd. Div.	4th. Div.	Lisseman. 5th.Div.
Race Secretary	W.Adcocks	A.Hemsley	B.Ewington	T.O'Reilly	J.Heminsley
Referee	K.Walklate	D.Johnson	G.Heeley	M.Conn	E.Hutchings
Judges	B.Downes	M.Johnson	J.Mills	D.Conn	J.Freeman
	P.Ramsden	K.Dare	E.Schuck	M.Northall	J.West
	J.Ramsden	S.Harris	T.Taylor		J.Bodsworth
	P.Lisseman				A.King
Timekeepers	C.Lockley	C.Grant	A.Birt	J.Andrews	J.Skidmore
	P.Lockley	G.Williams	B.Hussey	B.Gladwin	D.Bennett
	T.Talbot	P.Walker	K.Oldfield		
			P.Hussey		
			M.Ewington		

The above were proposed on block by Ray Bunn and seconded by Ray Potter.

Affiliations

The Treasurer had recommended that the subscription remain at £45, this was carried by the meeting.

Affiliations are now due and must be paid before the first race on November 4th. Any Club not having paid, will not be eligible to compete in the first fixture.

Any Other Business

Inter League Competition

The secretary had received a letter from the Gwent League asking if we would like to take part in an Inter League fixture. This topic caused considerable discussion, after which Alan Hemsley proposed and Ray Bunn seconded that we should in principle accept the fixture. The proposal was accepted by the AGM by 27 votes for and 5 votes against. There were a good number of abstentions.

P.A. System

Paul Tonks, who was sat at the back of the meeting, said that those at the back had great difficulty in hearing what was going on and asked that at future AGM's a P.A. system be used for the benefit of those sat at the back. It was agreed that something would be done for next years AGM.

David Johnson informed the meeting that Worcestershire AAA had a P.A. System and he felt sure we could borrow it for next year.

Executive Meeting

Graham Heeley said that he thought July was far too late for the meeting and suggested that it should be in March or April when the season was still fresh in peoples minds. The secretary agreed and said that he would organise the meeting earlier next year.

Numbers

Graham Heeley said that while he appreciated that the League were getting the numbers for nothing, through the kind support of Maurice Millington and Viga. He wondered whether it would be possible to have numbers where the threes and fives did not look so alike. It was particularly difficult to read the numbers, especially if mud was splashed onto them. The Secretary said he would approach Maurice about them to see if Stacy's would print them with a more distinct stylisation.

Date and Venue of the 71st. AGM

It was proposed and passed that the 71st AGM be held at Alexander Stadium on Wednesday the 11th. September 1996.

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

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:05p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

C. Brakes
11/9/1996