

Birmingham & District Invitation Cross-Country League **1926 – 2009.**

Minutes of the 84th AGM held at Alexander Stadium, Stadium Way, Walsall Road, Birmingham on 24th April 2009 at 7.30pm

Apologies for Absence.

These were received from Alan Hemsley (Official, Past President, Massey Ferguson), Bryan Acford, Vince Carroll (Rugby & Northampton), Ray Williams (Referee, Tipton), Pete Burns, Ian Clarke, Colin Thompson (Wolverhampton & Bilston), Andy Prophett (Cheltenham & County Harriers), Paul Hawkins (Stratford upon Avon), Bill Nock (Halesowen), Graham Heeley (Referee, Sparkhill), Steve Marklew, Bunny Kyd, John Fletcher (Royal Sutton Coldfield), Margaret Kelcher (Telford AC), Terry & Pat Taylor (Officials, Nuneaton), Dave Winter (Sparkhill).

Present at the Meeting.

Bob Carey (Past President Race Secretary, Sphinx), Paul Bergin (Sphinx AC), Ted Schuck, John Mills (Past Presidents) Eric Huddleday, Sparkhill), Dave McNamee (Assistant Secretary, Auditor, Cheltenham & County), Graham Allen, Martin Gwilliam (Stafford Harriers), Peter Hough, John Strange (Telford Harriers), John Gercs (Rugby & Northampton), Ken Westley (non-affiliated Club), Brian Shepherd (Official, Dudley & Stourbridge), Martin Ludford, Richard Carney (B'ham Rowheath), Tom Orton, John Peet, (Official) Dave Williams, Sharon Garoner (Tamworth), Peter Banks (Coventry Godiva) Bill Adcocks (Past President/ Official, Coventry Godiva), Richard Sannwald (Dudley Kingswinford), Stan Hawes, Dave Jones (West Bromwich), Rita Brownlie (MCAA/MWCCL/ Bromsgrove & Redditch AC) Len Quartly (Bromsgrove & Redditch), Mike Doyle (Past President, Official), Pam Davies (Official), Jim Skidmore (Past President, Official), Terry Haines, (Severn AC), John Vickers (Official), Peter Lisseman (Past President/Official), Dave Gresswell (Gloucester AC), Peter Robinson (Black Country Tri Athletes), Margery Ewington (President /Nuneaton), Barry Ewington, Tom O'Reilly (Past President/ Official), Betty Downes (Past President), George Williams (Official/Cheltenham & County Harriers), Mike Jones (?) Cindy Morrisette (Staff Moorlands), Dave Billiard (Birchfield Harriers), Martin Smith, Phil Wood (Droitwich), Geoff Wheeler, Andy Rea (Centurion RC), S. Ward, Mark Lynock (Bournville Harriers) Noel Butler, Dave Blower (Leamington C& AC) Carolyn Franks (Hon Sec/Treasurer/ President Elect)

Minutes of the 83rd. A.G.M.

The meeting accepted the minutes of the AGM and the Executive minutes.

Matters Arising from the Minutes.

The following points were brought to the attention of the meeting from the minutes: -

- a) It had been agreed that clubs could pay their affiliations via bankers order. Clubs wishing to do this need to contact the Secretary for the bank details.
- b) The First Aid requirements – the executive felt that host clubs needed to make the necessary arrangements that are required for their course.
- c) Tom O'Reilly will be retiring at the end of the 2009/10 as Race Secretary & the league needs to find someone willing to shadow Tom this season.
- d) Officials – clubs not hosting will be required to provide officials who will be given a specific job. The meeting asked for this to be reviewed at the end of the year to see if there is a need to put it as rule of the league.
- e) On the website there is a form for clubs to update their key people that the league needs to maintain contact with. Please send this to the Hon. Secretary.

Statement of Accounts.

Dave McNamee explained that there had been a profit of £2074.51 but that the interest rate for the Alliance & Leicester account was obviously well down. £3,000 had been moved from the reserve account to offset the deficit in the HSBC account. The Meeting accepted the statement of accounts.

Presidents Address.

Mike Doyle thanked the Secretary/Treasurer, Assistant Secretary for all the hard work in various ways to keep the League flourishing. He also thanked the League Divisions Secretaries for their ongoing behind the scenes work, to create the competition on the day which is not easy to do. Finally, Mike thanked the ever-faithful officials for controlling & compiling the race results.

Mike attended Senneleys Park for the first multi-divisions competition and wished to have recorded the co-operation received from Birmingham City Council for their part in making this event special and for which we are extremely grateful. Mike attended a race in Divisions 3, 2, and 1 in that order and was very pleased with the aspect of well-organised competition. However, he apologised to the Women's League for not being present at any of their races other than Senneleys as the diaries clashed.

Mike's observations generally are, that, we need more OFFICALS. We should not have to be twisting arms to drag out Senior Citizens to fill the gaps. He made a plea to the clubs to take notice and to find officials for the future of our League.

Mike was very grateful for the opportunity to be President and thanked the Executive Committee for giving him the honour. He recalled that it was in the autumn of 1951 that he first made an appearance in the league as a Youth. At that time there was very little competition (other than Schools) and youngsters were encouraged to come and support their elders to run 2 of 3 laps or 1 of 2 laps. The world of athletics was completely different to today - officials had their plywood recording boards, or if lucky, a bakelite or tufuol boards. No Bic biros, just pencils or fountain pens. No electronic watches – but mechanical timers with split hands, which needed cleaning, oiling & greasing with “MOTS” to check on accuracy. No plastic tape or polypropylene rope, just hemp! Metal Stakes, cotton material flags on wooden stakes, sawdust and occasionally paper strips with a pinch of potassium permanganate crystals in the snow, which turned pink. No start or finish banners just a crude wooden board with card pinned on them. Runners were instructed to keep the hedge on their left or right, climb farm gates or fence, jump or wade the streams and rivers, to mind the bullocks or horses (these were the worst). A good course always had a ploughed field, preferably uphill and frozen. Nobody complained it was a challenge. Very few athletes had cars so the clubs hired a motor coach to get to venues, which created the club spirit. Everyone washed off the “course” from their legs and feet in galvanised baths of water before changing to go home!

League Secretaries Reports

These had been sent out prior to the meeting. There were no matters arising are they were accepted by the meeting. It was pointed out that the cost per athlete was roughly 35p per race.

Secretary's Report

Yet again the season had started off with the Senneleys Park fixture where the teamwork of a small band of folks makes the event run seamlessly. We are lucky to have such dedicated people willing to make this a first class fixture so it was very disappointing that clubs in all age groups did not support it.

It was pleasing to see the actual numbers running in Division One were up, meanwhile, four clubs struggled to complete teams but it is nice to report that they have all re-applied for the coming season. Race Secretaries have done a grand job supplying Dave McNamee with the results quickly who has worked like a Trojan in order that we could email/post them out to all clubs & officials.

I certainly do hold concerns for the future though we need folks to learn from the “masters” of the trade as I witnessed at all the Divisions an aging group of officials. I enjoyed walking all the

courses to see what the athletes were be provided with & top marks must go to Droitwich for their superb course which was in places fast firm ground to hilly, muddy & testing sections, while the Sphinx course came a very close second with great viewing for most of the race.

The Secretary concluded by thanking all clubs, host clubs, Team Managers, Officials, Race Referees, Race Secretaries and the Assistant Secretary for their contributions for supporting the League.

Promoting Clubs Risk Assessment / Permits / First Aid – Reminder.

- a) Risk Assessment/ Permits - Please ensure this form is completed & updated on the day. These can be downloaded from the Midland website.
- b) Permit forms – Promoting clubs must send this form to Rita Brownlie, 15, Three Oaks Road, Wythall, Birmingham, B47 6HE a.s.a.p. **This form must be displayed on the day.**
- c) First Aid – please ensure this is booked.

Birmingham Cross Challenge

The Secretary reported that Birmingham City Council had asked the League if they would be prepared to change to a Sunday & that Ian Stewart would like the League to promote the one of the McCann's series but at Perry Hall Park. After much discussion it was agreed that the members of the meeting voted convincingly that they wished to keep the league on a Saturday & to hold it at Senneleys Park. Noel Butler recommended that the children races were kept in & that clubs should encourage their younger athletes to support the race, which is probably the second best race in the country. It was also recommended that literature on the event is sent out in amply time, but it was pointed out to the meeting that we have to wait for Birmingham City Council to produce it and that they did a distribution to all their sports and leisure centres in Birmingham.

Officials for the Season

It was pointed out to the meeting that the league we are just able to cover the events with Officials and if someone is not able to attend then we are struggling. A good case by example is Pete Lisseman who informed the meeting he will be away in December. Hence the reason for implementing the policy that all clubs not hosting will be asked to provide officials for set jobs during the season. Cindy Morrissette (Staffs Moorlands) has been trying to get qualified, but has had great difficulty in getting graded.

Women's Midland Cross Country League.

Rita Brownlie was pleased that the Midland Women's Cross Country League was included with the Birmingham & District Invitation Cross Country League and said it was getting over a 100 runners per race. She was happy with the suggestion for all the Ladies starts for the coming season to be brought forward to 1.45pm.

Constitution

Rule Eight – **University clubs MUST comply with Rule 5 First Claim Status 3(i) in the 2008 uk:athletics handbook.** The meeting passed the above.

League Website

Dave McNamee reported that he had constantly been updating the site with results, the latest news & had provided links to other useful websites for the benefit of all those interested. Unfortunately, there is still the problem of updating the website in the archive section & Dave promised to make every effort to contact Chris Holliway to assist in this matter. (If any members have any newspaper/photos of interest please forward them to Dave) Bill Adcocks gave a vote of thanks for all the work Dave has done on behalf of the league website.

Make-up of the League for the 2009-2010 Season.

(a) Droitwich AC, Nuneaton Harriers, Wrekin RR, Oak Park RC, Aldridge RC had written in reapplying for membership of the league. John Mills Proposed they be re-elected on bloc and was seconded by Bill Adcocks. This was approved unanimously.

(b) The clubs below requested to be recorded as the following: -

Staffordshire Moorlands AC, Centurion RC, Birmingham Rowheath AC, Coventry Godiva Harriers, Leamington C & AC, Halesowen AC

(c) Therefore the League make-up for the coming season is as follows:

Division One	Division Two	Division Three
Birchfield Harriers	Bromsgrove & Redditch AC	Aldridge RC
Birmingham Rowheath AC	Cannock & Stafford H	Amazing Feet RC
Birmingham University	Centurion RC	Black Country Tri
Bournville Harriers	Dudley & Stourbridge H	Chase Harriers
Cheltenham & County Harriers	Dudley Kingswinford RC	Cobra RC
City of Stoke	Gloucester AC	Droitwich AC
Coventry Godiva Harriers	Kenilworth RC	Leamington C & AC
Halesowen AC	Kidderminster & Stourport AC	Massey Ferguson
Loughborough Students	Northbrook AC	Newcastle AC
OWLS	Royal Sutton Coldfield AC	Nuneaton Harriers
Rugby & Northampton AC	Solihull & Small Heath AC	Oak Park Racers
Severn AC	Sparkhill Harriers	Peel Road Runners
Staffordshire Moorlands AC	Sphinx AC	Saracens RC
Tipton Harriers	Stourbridge RC	Sneyd Striders
Warwick University	Stratford Upon Avon AC	Stafford Harriers
Wolverhampton & Bilston AC	Tamworth AC	Telford Harriers
	Telford AC	Trentham RC
	Worcester AC	West Bromwich Harriers
		Wrekin Road Runners

Affiliation

It had been agreed at last years AGM to raise it to £65 and is due as of today.

Dates Fixtures and Venues for the 2009 – 2010 Season.

- Denotes that the club is willing to have one of the three Women’s races. Rita Brownlie to confirm with the Secretary which three races the Women will use.

	<u>Division One</u>	<u>Division Two</u>	<u>Division Three</u>
24th October 2009	Combined fixture at Senneleys Park, Birmingham.		
5th December 2009	*Birchfield Harriers	* Gloucester AC	* Leamington A & AC
16^h January 2010	* Coventry Godiva	*Sphinx AC	*Nuneaton Harriers
13^h February 2010	Rugby & Northampton AC	* Worcester AC	West Bromwich Harriers

HOST CLUBS –PLEASE provide a mobile phone number as a contact on the day.

Election of Officers & Officials.

The Executive proposal of Margery Ewington as President of the League for the season of 2009 – 2010 was endorsed by the AGM.

President Elect: Executive proposed Carolyn Franks. Once again by a unanimous vote. Carolyn Franks was proposed by Jim Skidmore and seconded by Brian Shepherd as Secretary & Treasurer of the League this was accepted unanimously.

David McNamee was proposed by Bill Adcocks and seconded by Bob Carey for the position as Hon. Assistant Secretary and Auditor. The meeting elected Dave unanimously to both these positions.

Representative to the Midland Cross Country Association - Ian Clarke was not present & it was agreed for the Secretary to contact Ian to see if he was willing to continue in this post.

Representative to England Athletics – This post no longer exists.

It was agreed to approve en bloc the Executive proposals for Officials for the coming season. They are:

	<u>1st. Div.</u>	<u>2nd. Div.</u>	<u>3rd. Div.</u>
Race Secretary	Bill Adcocks	Bob Carey	Tom O'Reilly
Race Referee	Ray Williams	Graham Heeley	Jim Skidmore
Judges.	Noel McKakley Pete Lisseman	John Mills John Peet Ted Schuck Rob Mulgrue Graham Kelcher	David Johnson Pat Taylor Terry Taylor AlanHemsley GrahamAllen Barry Ewington
Timekeepers.	John Vickers George Williams Ernie Johnson	Colin Stone David Bennett Brian Shepherd	Mike Doyle Pam Davies

Any Other Business:

There was no other business.

Date and Venue of the 85th AGM

The Executive agreed to hold next years AGM on **Friday 23rd April 2010 at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham at 7.30pm**

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Don't forget your affiliations are now due

The Affiliation is still only £65

Please send Cheques made payable to:

The Birmingham & District Invitation Cross-Country League

PLEASE SEND TO: -

**Carolyn Franks
23 Salisbury Avenue
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 3BT.**

WOMENS MIDLAND LEAGUE VENUES

These will be decided at their AGM and Clubs will be notified if they are required to host a women's race. Would all clubs/officials please note the above- all the women's races will start at 1.45pm at these venues.

Hosts clubs please send a copy of all details to the Midland Office – **AT LEAST 3 WEEKS BEFORE THE ACTUAL DATE**

MCAA, Alexander Stadium, Walsall Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham B42 2LR

The Senneleys Park fixture will be known this year as the Birmingham Cross Challenge

A reminder to Team Managers – if an athlete wishes to compete in the Birmingham Cross Challenge as well as in the league race itself, then a separate Challenge entry form with payment must be sent in.

These forms/information about online entries will be available as soon as possible on our website:

www.birminghamccleague.co.uk