

Birmingham & District Invitation Cross-Country League **1926 – 2010.**

Minutes of the 85th AGM held at Alexander Stadium, Stadium Way, Walsall Road, Birmingham on 23rd April 2010 at 7.30pm

Apologies for Absence.

These were received from Alan Hemsley (Official, Past President, Massey Ferguson), Bryan Acford, Vince Carroll (Rugby & Northampton), Graham Heeley (Referee, Sparkhill), Graham & Margaret Kelcher (Telford AC), Terry & Pat Taylor (Officials, Nuneaton), Terry Haines (Severn AC), Betty Downes (Past President), Noel McKakley (Official), Rita Brownlie (Midland Women's CC Secretary/Broms & Redditch), Ed Cockayne, Dave Lawrence (Birchfield), Mark Baker (Northbrook), Peter Lisseman (Past President, Official), Dave Johnson (Past President, Official), Tom O'Reilly (Past President, Race Secretary) Carolyn Franks (Secretary, Treasurer)

Present at the Meeting.

Bob Carey (Past President Race Secretary, Sphinx), Paul Bergin (Sphinx AC), Ted Schuck, John Mills (Past Presidents) Dave McNamee (Assistant Secretary, Auditor, Cheltenham & County), Graham Allen, Peter Burns (Stafford Harriers), Ken Westley (non-affiliated Club), Martin Gwilliam, Rex Tomlinson (Oak Park), Brian Shepherd (Official, Dudley & Stourbridge), Richard Carney (B'ham Running Athletic & Tri), Tom Orton, Howard Bush (Tamworth AC), John Peet, (Official, Tamworth AC) Peter Banks (Coventry Godiva) Bill Adcocks (Past President/ Official, Coventry Godiva), Stan Hawes, Dave Jones (West Bromwich), Mike Doyle (Past President, Official), Jim Skidmore (Past President, Official, Dudley & Stourbridge), John Vickers (Official), Peter Robinson (Black Country Tri Athletes), Margery Ewington (President /Nuneaton, Official), Barry Ewington (Past President, Official, Nuneaton), George Williams (Official/Cheltenham & County Harriers), Ben Sharman (Birchfield Harriers), Geoff Wheeler (Centurion RC), Sue Ward, Mark Lynock (Bournville Harriers), Noel Butler, Dave Blower (Leamington C& AC), Keith Hawkes (Stratford AC), Tony Phillips, Mike Bunting (Tipton Harriers), Ian Clarke (Stourbridge AC), Colin Thompson (Wolverhampton & Bilston AC) Carolyn Franks (Hon Sec/Treasurer)

Obituary

The President asked the meeting to stand for a minute silence for the following the sad loss of athletes who have been very active in the league over the years: -

Mark Perry (Cobra), Peter Holmes (Cheltenham & County Harriers), Cavin Woodward (Leamington C&AC), Robin Suddens (Nuneaton AC), Roy Fowler (Staffs Moorlands)

Minutes of the 84th. A.G.M.

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

Matters Arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

Statement of Accounts.

Dave McNamee explained that a the reason for the loss this year was basically due to England Athletics paying us twice for Senneleys in 2008 and that we had no sponsorship this last season for Senneleys. Graham Allen proposed that meeting accept the accounts; Mike Doyle seconded this. The Meeting accepted the statement of accounts.

Presidents Address.

Margery Ewington expressed that she had been very proud to be the President, of such a long established & prestigious League. The first league race she attended was in 1959 when Barry was running for Nuneaton Harriers in their Division Three Race. In the eighties Ken Oldfield persuaded her to have a go at timekeeping. She enjoyed it and decided to take it up seriously, working her way up through the grades and is still active.

The multi-division race at Senneleys Park was her first one she attended as President. The weather was not very good to begin with and she had to do some of the presentations in the Officials tent but the day improved as it went along. The Deputy Mayor of Birmingham joined her for part of the day. He was a very pleasant man, interested in what was going on, presented some of the awards and started one of the races. As usual it was well organised and spectator friendly event.

For the second one Margery went to Crypt School, Gloucester for the Division Two race. Graham Heeley handed her the air horn to start the race. As the race developed she walked the course noticing how well marshalled it was. Fortunately, the rain held off until the end of the race. It was unpleasant later driving up the M42 in torrential rain. She expressed her thanks to Gloucester AC for their hospitality.

The third race she attended was on home territory, the Division Three race at Burbage Common near Hinckley. It was a very cold, damp day and again she walked the course. It was very wet & slippery underfoot due to the melting of the snow & ice. She congratulated all those that finished the race in such difficult conditions. Margery expressed her thanks to Nuneaton AC for hosting the event and gave Tom O'Reilly the Race Secretary a special vote of thanks as he has decided to retire after 50years involvement with the league.

Unfortunately, due to a change of venue and the fact that no one informed her she went to Princethorpe College expecting to attend the Division One final race. It was only later that she found out that it had been changed to Northampton. Margery was obviously; very disappointed not to be there to present the awards and she hoped that in future all clubs would make sure they notify all officials when making last minute changes. We cannot afford to lose any of the officials we have by treating them in this manner.

Margery thanked the Secretary/Treasurer & the Assistant Secretary for all their hard work to keep the league moving forward. She also expressed her thanks to the Race Secretaries whose hard work before and after each race keeps the wheels turning. Last, but not least she thanked the officials and volunteers who turn out time after time to support the League. She echoed Mike Doyle's concerns that we need new officials to support the League.

League Secretaries Reports

These had been sent out prior to the meeting. There were no matters arising as they were accepted by the meeting.

Secretary's Report

This last season saw the demise of Senneleys with a lot of hard work for very little return in numbers entering and this was made worse by the fact that apart from Birmingham City Council we had no sponsors. So a full rethink about the future of the first race of the season has to be made.

In order to ensure all clubs are sent all relevant information we sent out at the beginning of the season a Club Information sheet for clubs to update us with any changes. We only received 25 replies so assumed that there were no changes.

The rest of the season ran very smoothly, with great competition between the Race Secretaries to get their results in first! We apologised for the lateness of the results after the January. Dave McNamee was inundated with several projects all at the same time & I am very reliant on Dave's computer skills to present me with the results in a format that I can then print off to send out.

For the first time in years we had a severe winter, which nearly put the third race in difficulties, which you will see the Executive has discussed and have proposed new rules be added to deal with such a situation in the future.

Officials has been a word on the tongues of the Executive for several years as we recognise that those who are out there for the athletes are an aging but very experienced group of volunteers. Many are now well into their late 70's. This year sees the loss of three Officials, Dave Johnson due to not receiving the information hence again the Executive are proposing a new rule to added. Dave was President in 1989/90 but started officiating in 1980 acting as Referee in Divisions 1,2, & 3 plus as a Judge in Divisions 2,3, & 4. Ray Williams, the Division One Race Referee but he has informed me he will still be attending & will support the new Referee. Ray started in the League, as a Judge in 1996 to 1998 in Division Four then became Race Referee in 1999 till this year; during this spell he was President in 2007/08. Finally, Tom O'Reilly who joined the league in 1960 running as a Youth when there were only three divisions and the number of clubs was much smaller. As a youth he finished 3rd in the Nationals. At his first race he witnessed Roy Fowler beat Basil Heatley, which he found inspirational. He ran for Centurion till February 1988 where he finished 130th in Division four. He recalls fondly cycling to races & Ken Dare looking after his clothing! 1988/89 he became the Race Secretary for Division Four moving into Division Three as the league changed. This post he held till this season, a period of 21 years. Reflecting on his 50 years involvement he felt it was a shame that the youths Race disappeared due to the West Midland Young Athletes League. The fields were smaller but were stronger- lots of quality at the front and more competitive. If you made the top ten in Division One you were an International runner. The calendar of cross-country & Road Races has actually diluted the League even though there are more runners. It is a small proportion of the population on the fitness roll.

Tom has enjoyed his time with the league and is an amazing chap, who cycled to all races (always wondering if he would need to call out his wife if he had a puncture – fortunately, this only happened once on his way to Nine Styles School when he was only 2 miles from home!) The good news is that Tom is still happy to act as a reserve Race Secretary if the need arises. It is good to know we have a stand by.

Communication is key to the smooth running of the League. This year I have had several incidents were I have heard indirectly of folks not receiving or having a phone call about races i.e. the President this year! If a week before a race you have not heard from the host club please contact me immediately you so I can resolve the matter. The main problem is that most people now use email BUT please remember that does not apply to everyone! When I first took over the job I was sending out over a 100 letters now it is down to about 25 which is a big saving on post especially as the price has gone up again this year.

The Secretary concluded by thanking the President, all the clubs, and 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 told her that they will no longer be able to support the race at Senneleys due to cut backs. As yet nothing had been received in writing but the League, but we need to plan for the coming season & this must be taken into account. After much discussion it was proposed by Derek Loundes & seconded by Graham Allen that the league should have the first race with all the divisions together. It was passed with 1 abstention The following clubs would be prepared to host this fixture Birchfield Harriers /Stafford Harriers/ Leamington C & AC and were asked to provide the Secretary by the end of May with their costs for the hire of the facilities, first aid and any other costs that would be incurred in the staging of the first race. The Secretary was asked by the meeting to also get the costs for staging it as Senneleys Park. The Meeting instructed the Executive then to make a decision on this information. The date of the first fixture was also discussed, with Bill Adcock's proposing 30th October. This was seconded by Ian Clarke and carried with 16 votes for, nil against, and 2 abstentions.

Officials for the Season

On a positive note Cindy Morrissette has offered her services to officiate this coming season to which we are grateful. It was pleasing to see most clubs responded by providing helpers to learn the art of officiating from the very knowledgeable officials. For this coming season I will be providing a more detailed sheet of the jobs that are required.

Women's Midland Cross Country League.

In Rita Brownlie's absence she had expressed that the Midland Women's Cross Country League would still like to be included with the Birmingham & District Invitation Cross Country League.

Constitution

Rule 12 Delete the words 'by the AGM' & replace with by the 1st July. Failure to pay on time will result in a levy of £10.

Rule 14 Delete the words 'Each club shall provide its own disc steward.' ADD at the end of the paragraph ' in the case of inclement weather where the host club feels it is advisable to cancel the fixture they must notify the Hon.Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Race Secretary & Race Referee by 6.00pm on the Friday evening prior to the race day.

ADD Rule 16 The Race Secretary or the Race Referee is required to write a report at the end of the season in time for the Executive Meeting.

All rules below will now move down one number.

Rule 17 (was 16) ADD after 'before the race is run.' This notification must be by post.

Rule 21 (was 20) change to: - 'Permits for the host clubs are available from the midland counties website.

The above rule changes where all passed by the meeting.

League Website

Dave McNamee thanked the Race Secretaries for their prompt service with all three Divisions being delivered by 4.00pm the following day on one occasion and then on our website by the Monday evening! There are more Archives on the website & he has received from Chris Holloway a DVD containing past results into the 1960's. Dave reported that he has some new software & hopes to give the website a new look. The meeting expressed its thanks to Dave for all his input.

Make-up of the League for the 2010-2011 Season.

- (a) Droitwich AC was the only club asking to be re-instated. This was approved unanimously.
- (b) There were no new clubs applying to join the league.
- (c) Therefore the League make-up for the coming season is as follows:

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

Affiliation

It had been agreed to keep the cost of affiliation at £65 and is due by the first of July. Failure to pay by that date will result in a £10 levy.

Dates Fixtures and Venues for the 2010 – 2011 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>
30th October 2010	*Combined fixture at Leamington C & AC		
4th December 2010	*Birchfield Harriers	* Severn AC	* Nuneaton Harriers
15th January 2010	* Coventry Godiva	*Wolverhampton & Bilston AC	* Sphinx AC
12th February 2010	*Rugby & Northampton AC	* Bournville Harriers	* Stafford Harriers

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

Election of Officers & Officials.

The Executive proposal of Carolyn Franks as President of the League for the season of 2010 – 2011 was endorsed by the AGM.

President Elect: Executive proposed John Peet. Once again by a unanimous vote.

Carolyn Franks was proposed as Secretary/ Treasurer, David McNamee for the position as Hon. Assistant Secretary and Auditor. Representative to the Midland Cross Country Association - Ian Clarke. It was agreed to approve en bloc the above officials. The Meeting en bloc also accepted 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	Graham Allen	Bob Carey
Race Referee	Noel McKakley	Graham Heeley	Jim Skidmore
Judges.	Kay Adcocks Graham Kelcher	John Mills Pete Lisseman Rob Mulgrue John Peet Ted Schuck	Barry Ewington Pat Taylor Terry Taylor
Timekeepers.	John Vickers George Williams Ernie Johnson Colin Stone	Brian Shepherd David Bennett	Mike Doyle Pam Davies Margery Ewington

Any Other Business:

1) It was pointed out that next year will be the Midlands turn to host the Nationals which will be at Alton Towers. Anyone who is willing to help please contact me.

2) Leamington put forward the possibility of re-introducing the 'B' team awards for the 1st Team. It was suggested that this should be in the form of medals. It was proposed by Derek Loundes and seconded by Tom Orton. It was passed with no one against & one abstention.

Date and Venue of the 86th AGM

The Executive agreed to hold next years AGM on **Friday 11th March 2011 at Alexander Stadium**, Birmingham at 7.30pm

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.37pm

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

**Don't forget your affiliations are due by 1st JULY
A £10 levy will be charge for late affiliations.**

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.**