

**Minutes of the 88<sup>th</sup> AGM held at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham, 15 March 2013 at 7.00pm**  
**Birmingham & District Invitation Cross-Country League**  
**1926 – 2013.**

**Apologies for Absence.**

These were received from Mike Doyle (Past President, Official), Jim Skidmore (Past President, Official), Dudley & Stourbridge, Ted Schuck(Past President)

**Present at the Meeting.**

Mick Petch(Sphinx AC),Bob Carey( Race Sec/Sphinx) John Mills (Past President,Sparkhill) Dave McNamee (Assistant Secretary, Auditor, Cheltenham & County), Graham Allen (Race Sec,Stafford Harriers), Rita Brownlie (Midland Women's CC Secretary/Broms & Redditch), Martin Ludford, Richard Carney (B'ham Running Athletic & Tri), John Peet, (President, Official, Tamworth AC ), Kay Adcocks (Official), Bill Adcocks (Past President/ Official, Coventry Godiva),Dave Jones,Dave McCarthy, Rayna McCarthy (West Bromwich), John Vickers ( Official), Steve Marklew, Simon Corker (RSC), Geoff Wheeler, Andy Rea(Centurion),Len Quartly(Broms& Redd),Margery Ewington (Past President /Nuneaton, Official), Barry Ewington (Past President, Official, Nuneaton)Pat Taylor (President Elect, Official/Nuneaton), Andy Prohett(/Cheltenham & County Harriers),Paul Allen( Halesowen AC), Noel Butler, Dave Blower (Leamington C& AC), Mike Buntin, Bryan Mills(Tipton Harriers),Daniel Bolton (TamworthAC), Colin Thompson ( Wolverhampton & Bilston AC), Steve Maguire, (Severn AC), Terry Haines(President ,Severn AC ), Max Mladenovic , Lloyd Barton(Knowle & Dorridge), Steve Howes( Solihull & Small Heath), Ken Westley ( Unattached), Derek Burns,Terry Harvey(Massey Ferguson), Ian Clarke, Natalie Dellar (Stourbridge RC), Brian Shepherd(DASH President) Rob Mulgrue( Official Dudley & Stourbridge, Simon Hudson (Aldridge RC), Martin Smith (DroitwichAC), Rex Tomlinson(Oak Park Pacers), Betty Downs (Past President, Birchfield Harriers), Stuart Paul(Birchfield Harriers) Graham Heeley( Race Referee/Sparkhill),Danny Tolhurst ( Stratford upon Avon), Pam Davies (Offiical), David Waldron (Worcester AC),Richard Sannwald(Dudley Kingswinford),Vince Carroll, Terry Egan, Terry Atkiens(Rugby & Northampton), M. Willams, J. McNalley(Kenilworth RC), Ian Anholm, Jamie Knapp(Loughborough Students), Carolyn Franks (Hon Sec/Treasurer)

**Minutes of the 87th. A.G.M.**

The meeting accepted the minutes of the AGM and the Executive minutes with the following changes noted that Dave Gresswell's apologies be added to the AGM minutes & Droitwich needed to re-apply and that Amazing Feet should have been put under Division Two.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes.**

The President pointed out that our investigation into making the League into a Charity had been dropped due to the insufficient turnover in our accounts.

**Statement of Accounts.**

Dave McNamee went through the Accounts explaining that during the year we had not gone into the red due to the increase in fees last year. Concern was expressed at the lack of interest received & asked the meeting to inform the Treasurer if they knew of any other bank where the interest rate would be better. Terry Atkins ( Rugby & NorthamptonAC) asked why we holding so much in the Santander account. It was pointed out that this would soon be used up if there were large increases in hire /trophy costs. Bill Adcocks (Coventry Godiva) pointed out that £95 affiliation equates to £2 per athlete per race which when compared to other entry fees was an extremely low competition entry fee. Noel Butler proposed that the meeting accept the statement of accounts. This was seconded by Graham Heeley.and was passed unanimously.

**Presidents Address.**

I was delighted and honoured to become the President of the League for 2012- 13. I have been fortunate to have had several honours bestowed on me in recent years. None has given me such pride. Many of us are active in different areas of our community life. Athletics and cross-country running is particular has been the area I have strived most in and received the greatest personal satisfaction whilst enjoying the competitive company immensely.

When I started in the sport in the early 60's the Birmingham League was considered the best in the UK and by reference the best in the world. My club Gloucester AC entered in Division Three and my present club Severn AC Division Five in 1995. The League races have always been the major focus for my clubs.

I have attended races in all three divisions this year. The fierce club spirit was prominent and evident as always. There may be rival claimants to that 1960's reputation, but I do not think so. We are still the best.

At a time when many of us are concerned about the intricacies of professionalism, celebrity, commercialism and frankly the dumbing down of our sport, it is heartening to attend the real sport of cross country exemplified by the Birmingham League. The motto of my school was "Guard they Faith" & nothing sums up my feeling better about how the Birmingham League should face its future.

Thank you Birmingham League for the chance to enjoy a year as your President.

Terry Haines Severn Athletic Club President 2012 -13

**League Secretaries Reports**

These had been sent out prior to the meeting. The following points were raised by the meeting.

**Division One:** Bill Adcocks ( Race Secretary) pointed out that apart from the first race of the season little or no refreshments were provided for the named officials. Non-host clubs were better this last season in providing officials which is much appreciated. Steve Marklew (Royal Sutton Coldfield) reported that in the last race a runner dipped under the tape of the finishing funnel, he was called back but refused to co-operate showing total lack of respect to the officials. Kay Adcocks (Official) reported that she had spoken to the Race Referee who it was thought did speak to the runner on the day. The meeting felt he should have been disqualified & considered being banned for the season. The meeting requested that the Secretary should write to Wolverhampton & Bilston expressing our concern.

**ACTION:** Secretary to write to Wolverhampton & Bilston

Kay Adcocks also asked if clubs could see if there were others in their clubs that would be willing to officiate on a regular basis.

**Division Two:** Max Mladenovic (Knowle & Dorridge) asked about how each club was notified of the jobs they have to do. The Secretary explained all the details plus the job specification were sent to all clubs at the beginning of the season to the 2 named people for each club & they were asked to make sure they were passed onto the correct people. This was then backed up by Bob Carey (Race Secretary) who used the practice of sending out a further email to all clubs that have a job to do before the race as a final reminder. It is up to all clubs to make sure details are passed on & if there are any changes in personal/contact details the league Secretary is notified ASAP.

Danny Tolhurst (Stratford Upon Avon) asked if the Race Referee could in their reports explain why an athlete is disqualified. Graham Heeley explained that in the case the athlete concerned started the race late, had no club vest, & did not go through the finishing funnel. Bill Adcocks stated it was the responsibility of the Team Managers to educate their athletes.

**Division Three :**No points raised.

Andy Prophett (Cheltenham & County Harriers and Division 1) asked why the clubs who fielded ineligible athletes were not given the penalty points as per the rules. In the first case the athlete was removed from the results but the Executive had looked at the case very seriously before deciding

that was the best course of action. In the second case again the Executive spent a lot of time dealing with the situation of the athlete moving clubs that involved payment to the previous club. However there turned out to be a series of additional difficulties that surfaced. Added to this, the League had received a letter about this case with a lot of legal jargon regarding a definition of what “tangible assets” were.. Graham Heeley then asked if there was a resolution from the meeting to have the wording in the UKA rules altered but the meeting decided against this. At the end of this case the original club, due to the difficulties which arose, decided not to pursue the case & they were happy for the incident to be forgotten.

### **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary reported it had been a season of good & bad incidents. There had been two major incidents at the first race (1) a runner running in someone else's number, (2) an ineligible athlete. Both incidents had created a lot of unnecessary work with the Executive which resulted in the delay in getting the results out for the first race. A plea for all clubs was therefore issued to get their house in order for next season. On top of this Noel Butler ( Leamington C& AC) as Race Organiser for the first meeting reported several incidents at the first fixture which showed a the lack of respect to the organiser and promoting club. Because of this Noel had decided to resign incurring a great loss to the sport and to our League. The Secretary reported that she had informed all clubs of the poor behaviour towards the organisers and that she was very disappointed in the lack of response from them. However, she expressed her grateful thanks to Noel for all the hard work he had done over the years for the League & asked the meeting to show their appreciation.

A plea to all clubs to check the results immediately they are out- most clubs generally did but we did have one instance where the final version happened nearly a month later. The secretary then stressed that we do need the appropriate time to correct results before the next race.

It was also sad to lose Cindy Morrissette (Official Div 1) who has decided to stop due to the lack of progress she is making in progressing her official grades through the UKA system. The Secretary expressed her disappointment at this great loss to the league.

One request to all clubs was to inform her if they have sent their Affiliation direct into the bank.

On the positive side it was good to see clubs are realising they need to provide officials at certain races to assist with the officiating – please thank all helpers & looking at the list of named officials all should realise that it will be even more important this coming year.

The numbers participating have increased which is pleasing to see & record numbers are turning out in Division One. The competition between clubs was extremely competitive this year. On my visits to Leamington it was good to see no numbers littering the course & it paid off to buy the waterproof numbers. Other visits enjoyed were at Plock Court where the course was shortened due to the prevailing weather conditions & Sandwell which provided an excellent, undulating course which was spectator friendly too. Regretfully, I was not at the final fixture due to an athlete of mine getting selection for the Indoor Trials & as a youngster I felt she needed my support. I hope the league will forgive me!

Hopefully, everyone has seen the progress made on the website with Chris Holloway, Bryan Mills & Dave McNamee all working together to improve the site.

The Secretary expressed her grateful thanks to all the Race Secretaries/ Race Referees, & Dave McNamee for without their superb support the league would not operate.

### **Officials for the season**

Graham Heeley pointed out to the meeting that more officials are needed. The list in the Executive minutes may look healthy but he listed several who for a variety of reasons are not always present. This leaves the league very thin on the ground hence the importance of clubs that are not hosting a fixture to provide the assistance that is sent out to all clubs with the various job details & specifications. Pam Davies pointed out that officials are doing it for the athletes for free but that folks do have a life outside athletics & due to her own commitments, there are times when she

needs to leave before her partner & co-official Mike (Doyle) & therefore they are having to bring 2 cars to a race all at their own expense.

The Secretary was able to inform the meeting that she had found one more official - Derek Harding of Wolverhampton & Bilston as a Timekeeper.

### **Women's Midland Cross Country League.**

Rita Brownlie reported that the ladies were very happy with the way last season had gone & were very grateful to the Birmingham & District Invitation Cross Country League for allowing them to hold their races in conjunction with the men - their races sometimes having over 200 runners per race. Dave McNamee had also supplied a results program to speed up their results service and these are posted as promptly as possible on the Midland website. Their AGM is on 29<sup>th</sup> April at Alexander Stadium at 7.00pm. Rita noted from our Executive minutes the need to provide 2 ladies officials for the finishing funnel for next season.

The Secretary then pointed out that Ladies clubs need to contact Rita in the first instance for any information about the ladies events because she was getting a lot of queries to do with the Midland Women's League.

Bill Adcocks pointed out that although the women's league is being successful with the increase of numbers it does also have implications on those clubs willing to host in the areas of car parking & additional facilities needed.

### **Constitution**

Rule 8: Before passing the new rule there was much discussion. Ian Anholm (Loughborough Students) informed the meeting that at Loughborough there is one Students Union covering the University & the College. Both are allowed to have alumni students but these athletes are only allowed to guest in the University events. They have 17 athletes who come into this bracket & they are first claim members. Mike Buntin (Tipton Harriers) pointed out there are 3 scenarios:-

- 1) University athletes
- 2) Those that have left University but remain in the area & still join the University as a first claim member.
- 3) Have left University and not joined first claim & therefore should not be allowed to compete.

Richard Carney (BRAT) said that 25% of students stay in the area.

Bryan Mills felt that athletes should be first claim while at University. Noel Butler proposed that we move onto the main motion & was seconded by Bill Adcocks. Jamie Knapp requested that Alumni students be included. The meeting voted against this amendment. It was noted that England Athletics, by accepting Loughborough students as first claim members, has caused the problem. The motion was to add to rule 8 "The League recognises a student as on a bona-fide full time course for that academic year at University/ Higher Education Establishment." The following amendment was proposed to add "registered student" & take out "full time" and this was seconded by Dave Waldron (Worcester AC). The motion was carried unanimously. It will now read "The league recognises a registered student is on a bona-fide course for that academic year at that University/ Higher Education Establishment".

Rule 10: The Executive proposed the following changes:- at the end of the first sentence add "under normal circumstances" & add at the end of the first paragraph "this will be reviewed by the Executive each year & then recommendations will be taken to the AGM". Rob Mulgrue (Dudley & Stourbridge) proposed this. It was accepted & and seconded by Michael Williams (Kenilworth Runners). The motion was passed.

Rule 15 The Executive recommended the following words be added at the end of the second sentence "these are held by the Race Secretary who will provide them on the race day" & to change the word "MUST" to "SHOULD" in the third sentence. This was accepted unanimously.

## BIRMINGHAM & AND DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

### League Website

Dave McNamee presented to the meeting the following shore statement.

For this year the league website has been under “new management”. On behalf of the League I wish to give our very, very grateful thanks to Chris Holloway and Bryan Mills for their huge success in making it a really useful & very informative resource for all league members and supporters.

It now has a wealth of information of past and present detail which satisfies both the casual visitor and also the “anorak” type visitor who might want to know/discover even the *minutiae* of what our League is all about.

You will all have already seen the inclusion of more archive results, additional features such as runners completing their hundredth league race and past memories of league competition and history and there are more projects planned. e.g.

Timeline of events in the league’s history

Interviews with past members on their experiences in the League

Courses used by the League

All these things will of course take time to put into action. Your League Secretary and Assistant Secretary will be having discussions with Chris and Bryan to work out the best way forward on making the website even better and more informative.

### Make-up of the League for the 2012-2013 Season.

- (a) Droitwich AC & Newcastle AC have asked to be re-instated. This was approved unanimously.
- (b) Black Pear Joggers have applied to join the league & this was accepted by the meeting.
- (c) The following will be the make up for all the Divisions:-

<b>Division One</b>	<b>Division Two</b>	<b>Division Three</b>
Birchfield Harriers	Amazing Feet RC	Aldridge RC
BirminghamRunning&Tri Club	Bournville Harriers	Black Country Triathletes
Birmingham University	Bromsgrove And Redditch	Black Pear Joggers
Chelt & County Harriers	Cannock & Stafford	Cobra RC
City of Stoke	Centurion RC	Coventry Triathletes
Coventry Godiva Harriers	CLC Striders	Droitwich AC
Halesowen AC	Dudley & Stourbridge H	Dudley Kingswinford
Kenilworth runners	Gloucester AC	Kidderminster & Stourport
Loughborough Students	Knowle & Dorridge	Newcastle (Staffs) AC
Rugby and Northampton AC	Leamington AC	Oak Park RC
Severn AC	Massey Ferguson	Peel RR
Staffs Moorlands	Northbrook AC	Sneyd Striders
Telford AC	Nuneaton Harriers	Solihull & Small Heath
Tipton Harriers	Royal Sutton Coldfield	Sparkhill Harriers
Warwick University	Sphinx AC	Stafford Harriers
Wolverhampton and Bilston	Stratford Upon Avon	Stourbridge RC
	Tamworth AC	West Bromwich H
	Worcester AC	

BIRMINGHAM & AND DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

**Affiliation**

The affiliation is to remain the same as last year £95 but it was recommended from the Executive that late payments would incur a further payment of £15. All affiliations to be paid by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013. Noel Butler asked that the Executive consider electronic payment.

**Dates Fixtures and Venues for the 2013 – 2014 Season.**

A discussion took place regarding the input Universities give to the league. John Mills pointed out that they never put on a race, nor provide an official & asked if they should be in the league. The Secretary was asked to write to the Universities pointing out our concerns.

Concern was also expressed for the race at Leamington regarding the narrowing of the course. Noel Butler informed the meeting that this could be overcome by doing an extra lap of the field before going into the narrow area.

	<b><u>Division One</u></b>	<b><u>Division Two</u></b>	<b><u>Division Three</u></b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> November 2013</b>	*Combined fixture at Leamington C & AC		
<b>7<sup>th</sup> December 2013</b>	Rugby & Northampton	Nuneaton AC *	Stafford Harriers *
<b>11<sup>th</sup> January 2014</b>	Coventry Godiva	Sphinx AC	?????
<b>8<sup>th</sup> February 2014</b>	Cheltenham & County Harriers*	Northbrook *	West Bromwich

**\*Denotes that the club is willing to have one of the three Women’s races.**

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

**Election of Officers & Officials.**

The Birmingham League Executive proposed Brian Shepherd as President of the League for the season of 2013 – 2014.

President Elect: Executive proposed Pat Taylor. This was accepted unanimously.

Secretary/ Treasurer: Carolyn Franks was proposed by Graham Heeley and seconded by Terry Haines with no other nominations the meeting accepted this proposal unanimously.

Hon. Assistant Secretary/ Auditor & Webmaster: Dave McNamee was proposed by Graham Heeley & seconded by Terry Haines. Dave was elected unanimously.

Webmasters: Chris Holloway & Bryan Mills were proposed by Dave McNamee & seconded by Rex Tomlinson.

Representative to the Midland Cross Country Association - Ian Clarke. Proposed by Noel Butler & seconded by Rex Tomlinson. This was approved by the AGM.

It was agreed to approve en bloc the officials below

	<b><u>1<sup>st</sup>. Div.</u></b>	<b><u>2<sup>nd</sup>. Div.</u></b>	<b><u>3<sup>rd</sup>. Div.</u></b>
Race Secretary	Bill Adcocks Peter Banks	Bob Carey	Graham Allen
Race Referee	Noel McKakley	Barry Ewington	Graham Heeley
Judges.	Kay Adcocks Derek Harding Pete Lisseman	Rob Mulgrue Pat Taylor Alison Mills	Pet Lythgoe John Peet
Timekeepers.	John Vickers George Williams	David Bennett Colin Stone	Jim Skidmore Mike Doyle

BIRMINGHAM & AND DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

John Turner                      Pam Davies  
Bob Hughes  
Margery Ewington

**Any Other Business:**

1) The Secretary had received 2 letters one from Philip Gould proposing that clubs have a second team in the league & that no runner could compete for the first team and then run for the second team in any season. This would allow runners from the second team to progress into the first team as the season progresses and or cover for injuries in the main team (but that runners would have to remain in the first team for the rest of the season). But it stops captains from moving their best runners into the second team towards the end of the season. Second teams would be excluded from promotion.

The other letter was from Danny Tolhurst (Stratford upon Avon) asking if the league would consider running a Masters League within the league like the women do.

Paul Allen (Halesowen) felt that this was against the ethos of the league. Graham Heeley pointed out the administrative problems for the Race Secretaries policing which runners actually score in which. It is already a problem when team managers are asked to indicate **all** juniors in their teams. All the present Secretaries felt the workload would be too much for them. After much discussion it was decided not to go forward with both proposals.

2) From the Executive the Secretary was asked to bring to the meeting the idea of buying megaphones for all Race Referees. The meeting welcomed the idea.

ACTION: Secretary to purchase 3 megaphones.

3) Rita Brownlie asked all clubs that are hosting to ensure that they have applied for their Permit at least a month prior to the event.

**Date and Venue of the 89<sup>th</sup> AGM**

It was agreed to hold next years AGM on **Friday 14th March 2014 at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham at 7.30pm**

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm

**WOMENS MIDLAND LEAGUE VENUES**

It was discussed and agreed at the Executive that the Birmingham League would select suitable venues.

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

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

**Don't forget your affiliations are due by 30th April 2014.**

**A £15 levy will be charge for late affiliations.**

**The Affiliation is still only £95**

**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.**