

Minutes of the 90th AGM held at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham, 20 March 2015 at 7.00pm
Birmingham & District Invitation Cross-Country League
1926 – 2015.

The Meeting started with a minutes silence in respect Ken Evans (Wolverhampton & Bilston) President 1983/84 who had passed away in October 2014.

Apologies for Absence.

These were received from George Williams(Official), Andy Prophet(Cheltenham & County Harriers), Vince Carroll (Rugby & Northampton), Mike Doyle, Pam Davies, John Turner, Noel McKakley, Peter Banks(Officials),Stuart Harris (Past President), Ray Morgan (Leamington), Elliot Prince, Terry Haines (Severn AC), Vince Carroll (Rugby & Northampton),Ken Westley (Unattached), Will Gray (University of Birmingham), Andrew Wright (Tamworth), Colin Thompson (Wolverhampton & Bilston AC), Geoff Wheeler(Centurion), Graham Allen(Official/Stafford Harriers)

Present at the Meeting.

John Mills (Official, Sparkhill),Craig Hinks (Sparkhill),Graham Heeley (Past President, Official Sparkhill), Dave McNamee (Assistant Secretary, Auditor, Cheltenham & County), 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), John Vickers (Official), Andy Rea(Centurion),Len Quartly (Broms & Redd),Margery Ewington (Past President /Nuneaton, Official), Barry Ewington (Past President, Official, Nuneaton)Pat Taylor (President Official/Nuneaton),Bryan Mills(Tipton Harriers), Steve Howes Rebecca Freeman, Paul Lloyd(Solihull & Small Heath), Ian Clarke (Stourbridge RC), Brian Shepherd, Jim Skidmore (DASH Past President) Rob Mulgrue (Official DASH), Simon Hudson (Aldridge RC), Martin Smith (Droitwich AC), Betty Downs (Past President, Birchfield Harriers),Tony Fraw, Mike Baisdon (Birchfield Harriers), David Waldron (Worcester AC), Richard Sannwald(Dudley Kingswinford),Chris Driskell(CLC Striders), Tom Stock, James Waterman, David Wood (University of Warwick), Peter Stark (Wolverhampton & Biltston), Derek Burns, I Harvey, Daniel Connolly(Massey Ferguson), Danny Tolhurst, Richard Eden, Graham Black (Stratford upon Avon), Bob Hughes (Cannock & Stafford), Richard Weale (Kidderminster & Stourport), David Blower, Alan Edwards, Chris Hitchman(Leamington),Marc Curtis, Richard Broadbent (Kenilworth Runners), John Wilson, Amanda Deavy, Cath Fenn(Northbrook), Phil Pollock(RSC), Chris Harris (Black Pear Joggers), Bob Carey (Past President Sphinx), Martin Hollandby (Peel RR), Lesley Pymm, Paul Thompson, Richard Bayliss(Bournville H), Terry Alcock (Past President), Carolyn Franks (Hon Sec/Treasurer)

Minutes of the 89th. A.G.M.

Bryan Mills proposed they were accepted & Dave McNamee seconded it & the meeting accepted the minutes of the AGM and the Executive minutes.

Matters Arising from the Minutes.

- 1) The Secretary noted that the matter of clarification was needed from the Executive minutes regarding the re-useable numbers. It will be helpful if clubs can let the Race Secretaries of Division Two & Three now of new athletes a week before, but clubs can still declare new runners on the race day.
- 2) The Megaphones have now been bought & will be held by the Race Secretaries.
- 3) Any clubs wishing to make their affiliations via the bank can do so, but the Secretary asked that if clubs do it this way if they would kindly email the Secretary to say that they are doing

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that way. The Secretary will do the receipt once it appears on the bank statement. The details of the bank are :-

HSBC
2 The Promenade
Cheltenham
Glos GL50 1LR

Sort Code : 40 17 10 Account number: 11114247

4) Bill Adcocks reminded the members that there are signing sheets for the jobs to be done by the non –host clubs.

Statement of Accounts.

Dave McNamee explained that this year he felt there was no need to claim for anything. The meeting questioned this but Dave explained that all that he has used was his own time & expertise. This year accounts do not include 2 host clubs expenses. The secretary has now received these & pointed out how hard it is for clubs to submit expenses on time if hosting the last fixture due to closeness of the AGM. There was a discussion on the lack of payment to England Athletics. It was pointed out that they no longer let the League know when it is due. Alan Edwards explained that clubs are covered via the permit which gives the insurance & the fact that all runners are affiliated to England Athletics. He agreed to check this out with England Athletics.

ACTION: Alan Edwards to contact England Athletics

Presidents Address.

I have to say how proud I was when the league selected me as president for 2014/15 season.

I started my year in office by attending the first event which was combined with the Midlands Ladies League at Newbold Comyn Leamington. Before the race it was wet and windy but it was dry during the time that mattered. It was an exhilarating feeling walking around wearing the chain of office but it did not exclude me from officiating as we have struggled to recruit enough this season. Clubs turned up trumps on the day and in the end we had a good day's competition. As the men came in rather muddy, I think in future we will have to charge them for mud spa treatment. I must congratulate Leamington C & AC on their organisational skills, as always course was well marked out with tape and plenty of marshals.

Second visit was to Gloucester for Division 2 again weather was very kind to us but on arrival I could see no sign of a course. I wondered if I had got the correct venue but eventually Severn Team arrived and marked the course out. Today I had the honour of looking after the Sherriff and her Consort who were very interested in the information that I could give them on the structure of the league and with the course being flat it was a good spectator course. I will have to brush up my starting skills Barry gave me a handkerchief to start the race and as I was introduced to the athletes on the line I waved to them forgetting that I had hanky in hand fortunately they took no notice and did start when I dropped it.

Third visit was to Division 3 at Droitwich and we were joined by the Midlands Ladies League. The weather was very cold and windy the latter being a real problem. Again today we hit a problem with lack of officials especially timekeepers eventually resolved by injured athletes who could not compete and never doing the job before but did an excellent job. Droitwich must be congratulated in coping with the stretched facilities and providing excellent refreshments even bringing them down to the course.

Fourth visit was to Division 1 at Cheltenham on a beautiful bright winter's day. As I was introduced to the athletes on the line I was acknowledged by clapping, I must say the athletes have

acknowledged me in a similar way at all venues. Course was an excellent spectator's course and watching elite athletes in full flow made me realise why I became an official.

Finally I must thank all Officers, Referee's , Secretaries, Officials and clubs for promoting each event without them we would not have such a vibrant league.

League Secretaries Reports

These had been sent out prior to the meeting. There were no matters arising from the reports.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary thanked the members for ensuring their affiliations had been received on time making her job so much easier. It would however be very helpful if clubs could provide the name of the Treasurer if it is not one of the two named contacts & that they also provide the address to whom the receipt is to be sent.

ACTION: Clubs to communicate

The Secretary reported that she visited the same venues as the President but aimed to walk the course on each occasion. Division Two at Plock Court, Gloucester had a very large turnout & there was a great atmosphere. It took 44 minutes to walk the course & as it was flat I could see most of to the race where there was a terrific battle up front, but I was too late back to see the finish.

Division Three at Droitwich provide the runners with a great course, though very muddy after the 300 plus women. The course was extremely well marshalled though parking was an issue for the men. On the day I managed to persuade one club of their responsibility to provide an official even if they are not qualified. After the race an email was received via Mary Hodges from a lady at Tipton complaining bitterly. This has had a knock on effect with Graham Heeley resigning as Race Referee & as co-ordinator for the Officials for the first race. It should be noted that Mary did a very strongly worded reply.

Division One at Cheltenham the course had to be slightly adapted to please the Park Warden. Despite that there was a very spectator-friendly course which again produced a high quality drama throughout the race. Naturally, as my home club I was biased & thrilled to see them make history for the club in gaining 3rd team, the individual winner & winning the team race that day. I apologised for the lack of our normal refreshments but the facilities are being taken over by a trust who has little knowledge of what is required.

Our grateful thanks go to all clubs who have been kind enough to host a fixture.

The league has had some difficult decisions to make in the light of the women's success but it is in the interest of the Men whom this league is about.

Promoting Clubs

Clubs were reminded of the need to get the permits, risk assessments & possibly the First Aid. Alan Edwards was concerned about the First Aid but it was pointed out that the Secretary will do a block booking as it is cheaper that way & then notifies all host clubs as to whether First Aid has been booked, who it is & their contact telephone number. There are some clubs asked to book their own because they are further out of the Birmingham Area & it is better to hire a local firm.

Officials for the season

Concern was expressed about some of the official officials who either do not appear or have to leave early or choose to go indoors in January / February. This puts a strain on the Race Referee hence the need to have the back-up via those clubs who either do not host a fixture or do not provide an appointed official. A proposition from the Executive was voted on stating that if a club fails to provide an official having been asked in September a 200 penalty points would be added to their score for each race it occurs in. The Meeting asked for the jobs to be evenly spread across the assignments table but for fairness it may need to be done on a two yearly rota. The motion was

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carried with only 2 against. If there was a lack of officials then the Referee would need to abandon having times.

The appointed officials for the season are:-

	Division One	Division Two	Division Three
Race Secretary	Bill Adcocks	Ray Morgan	Bob Carey
Race Referee	Noel McKakley	Terry Alcock	Barry Ewington
Judges	Kay Adcocks Peter Lisseman Pam Davies	Rob Mulgrue Chris Hitchman	Graham Heeley Alison Mills Pat Taylor John Peet
Timekeepers	Mike Doyle John Vickers	John Aylmer Derrick Harding Bob Hughes Colin Stone John Turner	Dave Bennett Margery Ewington Jim Skidmore

Women's Midland Cross Country League.

It was pointed out to the meeting that due to the increase in numbers of women running it was recommended that the men revert back to men only races as there are too few host clubs that can cope with the numbers. The exception being the first race at Leamington though there will be an increase in the cost of £500 to stage it there. It was also pointed out that one needs to consider the wider picture of Leamington being over-used because it is also used for the Midland Championships and Young Athletes Leagues. There were offers from Bournville, Wolverhampton & Leamington to host the Women. Kay Adcocks pointed out that often the appointed officials do not arrive until the men's race. It was agreed that the Women would need to provide their own officials. Alan Edwards asked who was the point of contact for the Leamington race & the Secretary confirmed that she has always been the main contact & is willing to do so for the coming year. The meeting voted on the need to have the mens races separately. This was passed with one vote against but the meeting was happy to have a joint fixture at Leamington.

Due to the increase in the costs of Leamington it was proposed by Bill Adcocks & seconded by Alan Edwards that a £20 levy be applied to the affiliation to off sets the costs. The motion was passed with only 3 objections.

ACTION: Secretary to inform clubs of the increase.

Constitution

The following changes were passed by the meeting:-

RULE14a Add "A penalty of 200 points will be added to a clubs score if they fail to provide an official when asked for that race."

League Website

Bryan Mills had no comments to make. The Secretary informed the meeting that it was very pleasing to see the results up so quickly, but asked clubs to check immediately & to notify us as soon as possible of any mistakes. This year after the fourth race she was contacted about a spelling mistake.

Make-up of the League for the 2015-2016 Season.

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- (a) The following clubs had applied to join the League :- Halesowen Triathletes, City of Birmingham Striders, Spa Striders, Wrekin Road Runners & Kings Heath Running Club. The Executive had recommended that due to the re-adjustment of the numbers in each division that they should be asked to apply for the season 2016/17. This was accepted by the meeting.
- (b) The following will be the make up for all the Divisions:-

Division One	Division Two	Division Three
Birchfield Harriers	Amazing Feet	Aldridge RC
BRAT	Black Pear Joggers	Centurion RR
Bromsgrove & Redditch AC	Bournville Harriers	Cobra Running & Tri
Cheltenham & County Harriers	Cannock & Stafford AC	Coventry Triathletes
City of Stoke AC	CLC Striders	Droitwich AC
Coventry Godiva Harriers	Dudley & Stourbridge Harriers	Dudley Kingswinford
Halesowen A & CC	Gloucester AC	Kidderminster & Stourport AC
Kenilworth Runners	Knowle & Dorridge RC	Northbrook AC
Loughborough Students	Leamington C & AC	Nuneaton Harriers
Rugby & Northampton AC	Massey Ferguson	Peel Road Runners
Staffordshire Moorlands AC	Newcastle Staffs AC	Severn AC
Telford AC	Royal Sutton Coldfield AC	Sneyd Striders
Tipton Harriers	Stratford upon Avon AC	Solihull & Small Heath AC
University of Birmingham	Tamworth AC	Sparkhill Harriers
University of Warwick	Trentham RC	Sphinx AC
Wolverhampton & Bilston AC	Worcester AC	Stourbridge AC
	West Bromwich Harriers	

Affiliation

The affiliation is to remain the same as last year £95 plus the levy of £20. i.e. a total of £115 Late payments would incur a further payment of £15. **All affiliations to be paid by 30th April 2015.**

Dates Fixtures and Venues for the 2015 –2016 Season.

	<u>Division One</u>	<u>Division Two</u>	<u>Division Three</u>
7th November 2015	*Combined fixture at Leamington C & AC		
5th December 2015	Cheltenham & County Harriers	Bournville *	Aldridge
16th January 2016	Coventry Godiva	CLC Striders *	Droitwich
13th February 2016	Wolverhampton & Bilston AC *	Massey Ferguson (TBC)	Severn AC

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

Election of Officers & Officials.

The Birmingham League Executive proposed Graham Allen as President of the League for the season of 2015 – 2016.

President Elect: Bob Hughes Executive proposed. This was accepted unanimously.

Secretary/ Treasurer: Carolyn Franks was proposed by Bryan Mills and seconded by Bob Carey with no other nominations the meeting accepted this proposal unanimously.

Hon. Assistant Secretary: Dave McNamee was proposed by Carolyn Franks & seconded by Bob Hughes. Dave was elected unanimously.

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Auditor : Dave McNamee was proposed by Phil Pollock & seconded by Jim Skidmore. This was accepted unanimously.

Representative to the Midland Cross Country Association - Ian Clarke. Proposed by Bob Carey & seconded by .Brian Shepherd This was approved by the AGM.

Webmasters: Chris Holloway & Bryan Mills are happy to continue in this role.

It was agreed to approve en bloc the officials see above page 4

The Secretary recommended that Graham Heeley is co-opted onto the Executive. Pat Taylor proposed this recommendation & was seconded by Jim Skidmore. This was agreed unanimously.

Any Other Business:

- 1) It was agreed that the Ladies should provide their own officials

DATE and Venue of the 91st AGM

It was agreed to hold next years AGM on **Friday 18th March 2016 at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham at 7.00pm** to be confirmed.

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

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 2015.

A £15 levy will be charge for late affiliations.

The Affiliation is still only £95 but a further levy of £20 has been added. See minutes above.

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.**