

**Minutes of the 91st AGM held at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 at 7.00pm**  
**Birmingham & District Invitation Cross-Country League**  
**1926 – 2016.**

The Meeting started with a minutes silence in respect to the passing of Terry Taylor (Past President 2004/5), Terry Brown (Massey Ferguson), Tom McCook (Birchfield)

**Apologies for Absence.**

These were received from Terry Egan (Rugby & Northampton) ,Stuart Harris ( Past President), Ken Westley (Unattached), Simon Mottershead (Kenilworth, Official), John Aylmer(Massey Ferguson, Official), Rob Mulgrue (DASH Official), Graham Heeley (Past President, Sparkhill, Official) John Mills (Sparkhill, Official) Pat Taylor (Past President, Nuneaton, Official) , Martin Hollamby (Peel RR) , Jonathan Randell (Knowle & Dorridge), Matthew Pollard (Bournville), Aaron Bennett (Glos AC), Richard Warder (Kidderminster & Stourbridge), George Gandy, Dave Howe, Ian Anholm (Loughborough Students)

**Present at the Meeting.**

Dave McNamee (Assistant Secretary, Auditor, Cheltenham & County), Martin Ludford, Richard Carney (B'ham Running Athletic & Tri), Kay Adcocks, Peter Banks(Officials, Coventry Godiva), Bill Adcocks (Past President/ Official, Coventry Godiva) Andy Rea(Centurion), Bryan Mills(Tipton Harriers), Steve Howes, Rebecca Freeman, (Solihull & Small Heath), Ian Clarke (Stourbridge RC), Brian Shepherd, Jim Skidmore (DASH Past Presidents, Officials) Martin Smith (Droitwich AC), David Waldron (Worcester AC), Colin Thomson, Carl Morgan (Wolverhampton & Bilston), Noel McKakley (Referee, Wolverhampton & Bilston), Derek Burns, Terry Harvey, Daniel Connolly, Peter Paprcka (Massey Ferguson), Bob Hughes (President Elect Cannock & Stafford) ,Craig Pearson (Cannock & Stafford), David Blower, Chris Hitchman, Ray Morgan (Leamington),Tony French (Northbrook), Chris Harris (Black Pear Joggers), Bob Carey ( Past President, Sphinx), Terry Alcock (Past President, Referee), Keith Perry ( Halesowen), Alex Goodall, Kieran Wye (Loughbrough Students), Clark Woodall (West Bromwich Harriers), Ray Rogers (Peel Road Runners), Calvin Scoltock (Broms & Redditch),Darren Riley(Sparkhill), Mary Hodges(Midland Women's ), Andy Prophett (Cheltenham & County Harriers),Paul Hawkins ( Stratford), Graham Allen ( President, Stafford Harriers), Carolyn Franks (Hon Sec and Treasurer)

**Minutes of the 90th. A.G.M.**

Jim Skidmore proposed that they be accepted & Dave McNamee seconded them. The meeting accepted the minutes of the AGM and the Executive minutes .

**Matters Arising from the Minutes.**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the AGM but the following points were brought to the attention of the meeting from the Executive Minutes:-

- 1) A plea to all clubs to send in at the beginning of the season ONLY names of actual runners. They are able to add names of runners as the season progresses. In one division 406 names were sent in but only 282 of these names actually ran in a race.
- 2) It has been decided to try to just to appoint a Chief Timekeeper & then a group of named officials who will be used in a flexible manner depending on who is available.
- 3) For volunteer officials from non-hosting clubs the aim this next season will be to give them the same job for the whole season so that they learn the job. Details of what they need to bring will be sent out to clubs PLEASE note that the official must NOT be the Team Manager as well. The Official from the non-host club should report to the Race Secretary to

sign in at the declaration area & then to report to the Race referee ¼ hour before the start of the race at the start.

- 4) HOST CLUBS – please bring details of your fixture in an envelope with the name of the official on it so that if they are not seen at a previous fixture you can then post their details.
- 5) November fixture – due to the lack of qualified officials for the first fixture of the season it was regrettably recommended that we should go back to separate races for each division.
- 6) The Executive thought that it was time to have a separate shield for the Universities as the clubs are not getting the opportunity to win the trophy. After much discussion a vote was taken & it was agreed to keep it as it is.
- 7) John Aylmer had been initially omitted from the Officials list but is now restored.

### **Statement of Accounts.**

Dave McNamee explained that this year hosting and first aid costs had increased significantly & that in the past we had had to use the Santander Account to top up the working current account balance. It has also been essential to keep this account live so a token amount was moved from the HSBC account to keep it active. There was also a brief discussion on how the levy amount for last year's Leamington fixture had been used. Overall there had been an financial loss of over £700. Ray Morgan then proposed that a breakdown of the costs is brought to the AGM this was seconded by Jim Skidmore.

ACTION: Bring to AGM the venue hire & first aid costs breakdown for individual fixtures over the season.

### **Presidents Address.**

It was most disappointing for me when I could not attend last year's AGM, due to work commitments, especially as it was start of my year as President, for which I thank the Executive Committee, who put me forward for selection.

To enable me to carry out the duties of President of the League, a replacement Division 2 Race Secretary was required to fill the breach for the season. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ray Morgan of Leamington C & AC for taking on this role during the season.

My first involvement with the League came in the mid-1980's competing for Stafford AC; the merger of Cannock AC and Stafford AC, resulted in various club officials and athletes, of which I was one, forming Stafford Harriers in 1986. After only a year in the League, I approached our Club Committee with the idea of putting forward Stafford Common as a venue for a League Race as it had been my school Cross Country course for our Games lessons. As we now are aware, it has progressed to be used for County and Regional Championships.

When Tom O'Reilly indicated that he wished to stand down as Division 3 Race Secretary, I agreed to replace him, although I had given no consideration to doing this previously. In my dealings with Tom, in my capacity as Team Manager, I had gained a great deal of knowledge from him with regard to the workings of the League and officiating at the races, for which I can only thank him. Like many others, I was impressed with Tom's mode of transport to get to the venues, it was a bicycle; he would travel southwards from Birmingham to Gloucester, or northwards to Stafford.

The first Birmingham League race I attended, as President, for the 2015-2016 season was combined with the Midlands Ladies League at Newbold Comyn, Leamington. Before the Men's race Carolyn had asked Team Managers to attend a meeting in front of the Changing Rooms, as not all had attended, we proceeded to visit Club Tents. When Carolyn makes these arrangements it is important that the Club Representative attend.

On this occasion I did not officiate in any capacity, Graham Heeley had called in Officials from the South, in addition to Midland Officials; this is necessary because the numbers competing are

almost double the numbers at the Regional Championships. Congratulations to Leamington C & AC, as the course was well marked out with tape and there were plenty of marshals.

In December my second visit was to Cofton Park, Birmingham for Division 2. It is an excellent venue to lay out an interesting course and in the main the surface remains firm. As with the first fixture, the Midlands Ladies League joined us for this event. On the day it was windy, but dry, Terry Alcock, our Referee, had an extremely stressful afternoon as there were an inadequate number of stakes, together with tape to direct the athletes. Fortunately the Bournville Harriers marshals were able to ensure that athletes did follow the designated course. At the Finish, with the restriction of having not enough stakes the Funnel was extremely short in length, but with the use of more Funnel Stewards than normal we kept matters under control.

Travelling to Droitwich, in January, for my third visit to attend the Division 3 fixture, with the flooding that had occurred around the country, I envisaged the river path under water and the woods knee deep in mud. This was my assumption based on a couple of year's previously when Martin Smith had to put in place many changes to the route taken. On my arrival conditions did not look bad and our Referee, Barry Ewington said there would be no problems with the areas I referred to. At this point I will have to admit that on arriving at the venue I became aware that I had travelled without the "Chain of Office", so I sheepishly mentioned this to Barry Ewington and Graham Heeley. If I had been closer to home, I definitely would have returned home, rather than admit my guilt. As normal, Droitwich AC provided their excellent refreshments and marshalled the race very efficiently. The Finish was a smooth operation with League Officials and Club Officials working well together.

For the fourth and final fixture in February, I travelled the short distance to Aldersley Stadium, Wolverhampton for the Division 1 Race. As it was the occasion when I would have the honour of presenting the League Shield to the winning team, together with the other awards, I spent all week reminding myself to take the President's Chain with me. This was the third venue that I attended where the Midland Ladies League joined us on the day. Wolverhampton & Bilston AC provided a superbly marked out course, overhead conditions remained dry and underfoot conditions were firm.

Thank you to all clubs who have promoted the races, especially the Division 2 last minute arrangement at Blackridge.

Finally I must thank all Officers, Referees, Secretaries and Officials for their commitment to the League.

Graham Allen

### **League Secretaries Reports**

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

Bill Adcocks reported that we had the most runners since the League had started in Division One with 1053 individual runs. There were however problems with the time lapse between the winner & the last runner. The Executive did discuss this fully with particular reference to the December/January fixtures due to the light, but it was decided at this stage to leave the races as they are. The meeting discussed it further with the following observations: There are runners who just enjoy competing but are not so fit; so should there be a time limit i.e. 40 minutes; Most courses have 3 laps so could the League offer a 2 lap course? Start the races at 2.00pm? The course could be cut to 5 miles. Bill Adcocks finally proposed that clubs should consider the different options & that the League then makes a decision on this subject next season.

### **Secretary's Report**

Firstly, the Secretary apologised for the change of date for the AGM explaining that she had just had her hip operation & Dave McNamee was going to hold the fort but then unfortunately took ill.

It had been an interesting start to the season with Leamington providing a superb course for all divisions & the Ladies race. Unfortunately, we did have an unpleasant incident with a member of the public which required police intervention & was most unpleasant for the marshal to deal with. I am pleased to say the athletes concerned made light of it. At this meeting I had sent out a request to ALL clubs to meet me for a short meeting – thanks to all that did come, although I was disappointed that Division One had 5 clubs missing, Division Two had 9 missing; Division Three had 8 missing. Communication is key to the running of the League!

It was pleasing to have the co-operation of the clubs making their affiliation payments on time during a slack time of the year, but it would also be helpful if clubs could state the name/address of their Treasurer in order to return the receipt of payment. Those clubs paying direct to the bank will receive their receipt once I have seen the bank statement and it would also be helpful if clubs inform me that they have done it this way.

Due to the knowledge that I had of impending operations I decided to visit all the local venues. So in December it was Division One at Cheltenham in December. Then, in January, literally the day after the hand operation I went to Division Two at Gloucester run by CLC Striders where it was marked out like a championship course & then finally Division Three at Plock Court, Gloucester. All three races were very well run by the host clubs. I did manage to walk all the courses or should I say hobble & I was delighted that Terry Haines, despite the amount of rain & the fact the Universities had recently held their Championships there the previous weekend, had made his course 4 laps for League runners to run.

For the first time ever since taking on this post we had difficulties in finding a venue for Division Two's last fixture. Eventually, Gloucester AC came up trumps and saved the day. All clubs need to be prepared to host if they wish to be part of the League, even if it means working with another club to stage an event. Please consider this carefully & be prepared to take some share in the running of the League.

Hire costs have spiralled this year with several host clubs being charged huge amounts. Fortunately, there are also clubs like Coventry Godiva & Droitwich which manage to hire facilities at a reasonable price. My sincere thanks to all clubs that have staged a fixture this last season, the league is indebted to you all.

Finally, I would like to thank all the League officials, the Race Referees, Race Secretaries who all work tirelessly behind the scenes & are vital to the smooth running of the League. My grateful thanks also go to Ray Morgan for stepping in this year to act as Division Two Secretary allowing Graham Allen to fulfil his role as President. Last but not least to Dave McNamee who works tirelessly supporting me.

### **Promoting Clubs**

Clubs were reminded of the need to get the permits, risk assessments & possibly the First Aid.

**Officials for the season**

The appointed officials for the season are:-

	<b>Division One</b>	<b>Division Two</b>	<b>Division Three</b>
Race Secretary	Bill Adcocks	Graham Allen	Bob Carey
Race Referee	Noel McKakley	Terry Alcock	Barry Ewington
Chief Timekeeper	John Vickers	John Turner	Margery Ewington
Officials	Kay Adcocks Mike Doyle Derrick Harding Peter Lisseman Simon Mottershead David Pettifer	Graham Heeley Chris Hitchman Rob Mulgrue Colin Stone John Aylmer	David Bennett Alison Mills Jim Skidmore Pat Taylor

**Constitution**

The following changes were passed by the meeting:-

Point 4 to delete the word Treasurer after the Assistant Secretary.

Point 10f to delete the sentence “An additional award shall be made to the athlete with the best aggregate over three of the four races”

Also point 10i (award to winning B team) was discussed to be removed but the meeting felt very strongly that this was a motivational award & should remain.

**League Website**

Bryan Mills reported that this year there would be an invoice for the cost of hosting the website. The meeting congratulated everyone involved in getting the results so quickly on the website & that it was also easy to use making it a very good place to go to get any information about the League.

**Make-up of the League for the 2016-2017 Season.**

(a) The following clubs had applied to join the League :- Halesowen Triathletes, City of Birmingham Striders, Spa Striders, Wrekin Road Runners, TW West Midlands ( discovered after the AGM their name is Sedgley Striders) & Kings Heath Running Club. The meeting subsequently voted & agreed to allow the following clubs in for the coming season:- Kings Heath Running Club, Spa Striders & the City of Birmingham Striders.

(b) The following will thus be the make-up of all Divisions:-

<b>Division One</b>	<b>Division Two</b>	<b>Division Three</b>
Birchfield Harriers	Amazing Feet	Aldridge RC
BRAT	Bournville	Black Pear Joggers
Bromsgrove & Redditch AC	CLC Striders	Centurion RR
Cannock & Stafford AC	Dudley Kingswinford	City of Birmingham Striders
City of Stoke AC	Dudley & Stourbridge Harriers	Cobra R & Tri
Cheltenham & County Harriers	Gloucester AC	Coventry Tri
Coventry Godiva Harriers	Leamington C & AC	Droitwich AC
Halesowen A & CC	Massey Ferguson	Kidderminster & Stourport AC

BIRMINGHAM & AND DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

Kenilworth Runners	Northbrook AC	Kings Heath RC
Knowle & Dorridge	Sparkhill AC	Newcastle (Staffs) AC
Loughborough Students	Staffordshire Moorlands AC	Nuneaton Harreirs
Royal Sutton Coldfield AC	Stratford upon Avon AC	Peel Road Runners
Rugby & Northampton AC	Tamworth AC	Severn AC
Tipton Harriers	Telford AC	Sneyd Striders
University of Birmingham	Trentham AC	Spa Striders
Wolverhampton & Bilston AC	Worcester AC	Sphinx AC
	University of Warwick	Solihull & Small Heath AC
		Stourbridge RC
		West Bromwich Harriers

**Affiliation**

Due to previous conversations Daniel Connelly (Massey Ferguson) then proposed that the affiliation be raised to £125 & was seconded by Bill Adcocks. It was passed with 27 for & 4 against.

**All affiliations to be paid by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016 (see also the details at the end of the minutes).**

**Dates Fixtures and Venues for the 2016 –2017 Season.**

	<b><u>Division One</u></b>	<b><u>Division Two</u></b>	<b><u>Division Three</u></b>
<b>12th November 2016</b>	Cheltenham& County Harriers	Leamington *	?????
<b>3rd December 2016</b>	Loughborough Students	Stratford *	???????
<b>14th January 2017</b>	Coventry Godiva	Telford AC	Droitwich
<b>11th February 2017</b>	Kenilworth *	Massey Ferguson & Northbrook	?????

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

**DIVISION THREE – please note that we had insufficient offers to host Division 3 fixtures. Droitwich AC are happy to do the January fixture & Severn AC will also do one. BUT WE DO NEED ADDITIONAL OFFERS TO PROMOTE! SO PLEASE CONTACT ME ASAP. THANK YOU.**

**Election of Officers & Officials.**

The Birmingham League Executive proposed Bob Hughes as President of the League for the season of 2016 – 2017.

President Elect: Martin Smith – proposed by Executive. This was accepted unanimously.

Secretary/ Treasurer: Carolyn Franks.

Hon. Assistant Secretary & Auditor : Dave McNamee

Representative to the Midland Cross Country Association - Ian Clarke.

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

It was agreed to approve the League officials en bloc.

The Secretary recommended that Graham Heeley is co-opted onto the Executive.

**Any Other Business:**

- 1) Andy Prophett (C& CH) wondered if host clubs should be allowed to claim for such items as marking tape. After brief discussion it was agreed that every expenses claim submitted by hosting clubs would be reviewed carefully and the refunded amount due would be judged on its merits.
- 2) The Secretary informed the meeting that the order for the extra plaques the clubs had requested, had been sent to the company who makes them. Once they are received the Secretary will be in contact with those clubs to arrange collection & payment.
- 3) Ray Morgan (Leamington AC) proposed there should be a study group to look at the way the Midland Women's Cross Country League & the Birmingham & District Invitation Cross Country League operate. Should we continue to cooperate as we do now or do we split as separate bodies or become combined in some way? He then recommended that this group (comprising 3 persons) should consist of a Team Manager, an athlete & a Race Secretary. Richard Carney proposed that Noel Butler be asked to be its Chairman. Becky Freeman said she would take this to the Women's AGM. It was also felt that this group could look at the times/distances of races when joint fixtures were held.

**DATE and Venue of the 92nd AGM**

It was agreed to hold next years AGM on **Friday 24th March 2017 at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham at 7.00pm.**

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm

**AFFILIATIONS to be sent to:-**

CAROLYN FRANKS  
23 Salisbury Avenue  
Cheltenham  
Glos GL51 3BT

Cheques made payable to:-

BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT INVITATION CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

or

if preferred by bank transfer (BACS) The League's account details as follows:

Account no: 11114247

Sort Code : 40 17 10

N.B. Please also include your club name in the reference to help us identify the payment.

**Final note:** Please also remember to complete your Club Information form which can be downloaded from the website and return to me by Monday May 30 2016 so that the League has the correct contact details for all written and emailed correspondence about the next 2016/2017 cross-country season. Thank you. Carolyn