

Minutes of the 97th AGM held at Halesowen Athletic Club 10th June 2022 at 7.00pm

Birmingham & District Invitation Cross-Country League
1926 – 2022

Obituary

Before the start of the meeting the members were asked to have a minutes silence in respect of Ted Hutchings (President 1978/79) Harbourne Harriers.

Apologies for Absence These were received from Terry Haines (Severn AC), Bob Hughes (Past President, Cannock & Stafford), Graham Allen (Official), Tom Holden (Tipton), Keith Perry (Official), David Waldron (Worcester AC), David Bagwell (Kings Heath), Malcolm Bowyer (Stratford Upon Avon AC), Nick Richards (Amazing Feet), Peter Ball (Bromsgrove & Redditch AC), Dave Gresswell (Gloucester AC), Chris Attwood (Black Pear Joggers), Colin Stone (Official), Tony French(Northbrook), Andrew Kaighan (Cheltenham & County H), Gary Clifton (West Bromwich), Kevin Hendricken(Stoke AC), Andrew Peat (Birchfield), Andy Rae(Centurion), Will Pearce(CLC), Will New (Weston Tempo).

Present at the meeting

Mary & Terry Akiens(R&N), Rob Mulgrue (DASH, Official), Noel McKakly (President, Referee , Wolverhampton & Bilston), Daniel Connolly, (Race Secretary, Massey Ferguson), Chris Hitchman (Official, Leamington), Steve Millington(Halesowen), Mary Hodges (MWCCL), Gavin Harrison, John Dargavel (Sneyd Striders), Graham Heeley (Official, Sparkhill), Jim Skidmore (Past President), Phil Ponson, Andy Bradley(RSCAC), Simon Hudson(Aldridge), Martin Ludford, Richard Carney (BRAT), Simon Neale, Dave Love (Massey Ferguson), Terry Alcock, Steve Howes (Solihull), Glen Lock(Race Sec , W&B), Wayne Broadbent, Sally-Anne Tully (SphinxAC), Clarke Roberts(Coventry Godiva), Michael Tovey (Cobra) Rob Langford, Rory Campbell (Dudley Kingswinford), Dave Norman (W&B), Craig Hinks(Sparkhill), Keith Bate (Sedgley Striders), Richard Sannwald (Dudley Kingswinford), Chris McKeown (Auditor, Spa Striders), Vince Carroll (President Elect, Rugby & Northampton), Ian Clarke(Cobra & Tri), Paul Ward(Telford AC), Dean Miller , Geoff Belcher(U of B'ham), Bryan Mills (Webmaster, Tipton), Daniel Jordan (Treasurer, Trentham), Ray Morgan (Race Sec , Leamington) Noel Butler (Chair, Leamington) Carolyn Franks (Hon Sec, Past President, Cheltenham & County Harriers).

Minutes of the 95th A.G.M.

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the AGM & the Executive Minutes.

There were no matters from the AGM or the Executive minutes.

Hon Secretary's Report

It was nice to get back to cross country, seeing everyone at one venue but it was a long way to travel for several clubs. However, the course & facilities were superb & our grateful thanks to Kevin Kendrick who was the driving force encouraging help from Stoke AC & Newcastle Staffs. It was nice to see the newly purchased flags at the start & finish area.

December I made a shorter trip to Plock Court, Gloucester & was shocked by the number of clubs who had not prepared their nominated official – I put a plea out to all clubs in Division Three to do better next season. It made it very hard for your new Referee.

A visit to Division Two at Burton Dassett proved most enjoyable due to the tremendous atmosphere created by the host club – Spa Striders. Chris McKeown not only being the man in charge was involved early morning in a mist setting up the course then ran extremely well. Daniel Connolly the Race Secretary

had his bottle of wine ready to give to the first person who showed him all his details had been filled in on the back of the number. Eventually, it was awarded. However, on a serious note the League requests all athletes do this especially it was not that long ago when we did have a serious accident.

For the first time ever I was unable to attend the final race of the season, likewise so was our President & Chair! But I heard all went well.

It was interesting to see that over the season we had 1,131 athletes compete & 97 Juniors.

I am delighted to report that I have received more results for our Archives from 1949/50 & 51/52. But there are still some results missing so if clubs could look at the website for details on the missing results. We would be delighted to receive them.

It is not long now to our Centenary the Executive would welcome any ideas as to how we should celebrate it.

Finally, from an administrative angle it would be very helpful if clubs when email me if they could add the name of their club. Thanks a lot.

Chairperson's Report

The Chair thanked Terry Alcock for his work as Division Three Referee & welcomed Glen Lock in his place. He also thanked Rob Mulgrue who has decided to retire as Division Two's Referee & also Dave Long as Division Three's Race Secretary who work has taken him away from the Midlands.

It is such a pleasure to write this report when all I need to talk about is cross country. After the suspension due to COVID we had a season to remember with some excellent racing.

After an interval of many years the season started with a joint fixture of all three divisions running together at Betley Court Farm. Our thanks to City of Stoke AC for hosting this fixture and Newcastle (Staffs) AC for helping them on the day. It proved to be a great afternoon of cross country racing which was shared with the Midland's Women's league whose two divisions ran together as well. It will be interesting to hear the clubs' views on this fixture and whether they want it to be repeated next season.

This season I decide that as well as going to see all divisions run, I would also offer to officiate. I was meeting manager for the joint fixture in October. In November, I visited division 2 at Stratford where I was Chief Judge. The Women's league 1st Division also ran there that day and I refereed that race.

In January, I was with division 3 at Droitwich where I was Chief Judge for both the Men's and Women's (2nd Division) races. Finally, in February, on my home course I was meeting manager for the 1st Divisions of both leagues.

It was clear from all four fixtures that athletes were delighted to be back running again though numbers were slightly down on the last season before lockdown.

As always we were supported by our officials who did such a good job throughout the season. In previous years we have struggled to get sufficient officials for our fixtures but an initiative with the Women's league has started to bear fruit with more qualified officials becoming available to work on our fixtures.

It goes without saying that without the dedication of our officials the league could not continue so it was with regret that we had to accept that Terry Alcock our long serving referee for division 3 was stepping down at the beginning of the season. I must go on record to give the league's thanks to him for his service to the league. He will be missed.

This could have caused us problems as we didn't have an obvious replacement, but Glen Lock of Wolverhampton & Bilston stepped into the breach and took over as referee. Thank you, Glen.

We had a new referee for division 1 where Chris Hitchman (Leamington C&AC) took over from Noel Mckakly for Noel's year as President. Finally, Rob Mulgrew refereed division 2 with his usual calm professional manner which all the clubs appreciate. At the end of the season, he informed the league he would no longer continue as referee though he would offer his services as a technical official.

I would like to offer our thanks for all Rob has done during his time with the league. I am delighted to inform you that Rob has been nominated as President Elect for next season and will be President for the

2023-24 season. Fresh from his work on division 1 last season Chris Hitchman has been proposed as division 2 for next season. This means we have referees for all three divisions.

The divisional secretaries once again ran their divisions efficiently during the season with the results coming out as fast as ever. So, thank you Ray Morgan, Daniel Connolly and Dave Long for all your hard work. Disappointingly, Dave has advised us that due to a change in his work circumstances he cannot continue as secretary for division 3 so we need to find a volunteer to do this important job for the coming season.

Our webmaster Bryan Mills worked away in the background to produce a questionnaire for clubs with the objective of improving our website by giving clubs what they want from it. This should be in place for the new season.

Once again Coventry Runner sponsored our numbers, and we are extremely grateful for their generous support.

Finally, I want to thank our Treasurer Dan Jordan and Secretary Carolyn Franks for all the time they have given to make last season such a success. The league is blessed with dedicated and loyal officers.

Noel Butler

President's Address

I was due to take over the presidency of the Birmingham League for the 2020-2021 season Unfortunately due to the Covid Pandemic no cross-country fixtures took place. Although I was disappointed like many of us it was agreed I could extend my role as President for this season. I am proud and honored to be chosen for such a prestige role.

Fixture One- Betley Court Farm Crewe 13th November 2021

This was the first fixture since February 2020 with all three divisions together plus the Midland Womens league taking part. It was lovely to see all the club runners, officials and volunteers all taking part in one venue. The course was two laps for women and three for the men a good course undulating in parts challenging but enjoyed by the athletes. My job on the day was acting as Starter for both races which I enjoyed and it went smoothly it was a nice gesture to be announced as the league president before the start of the race.

During the race I was presented with the President chain and the arm band by the outgoing president Richard Sannwald and I spent the rest of the day walking round with a broad smile on my face.

Fixture Two- Plock Court Gloucester 4th December 2021

My next stop was the Division three match at Plock Court Gloucester I travelled with the new Referee Glen Lock. Carolyn Franks was also in attendance with Graham Allen so it was nice to see some familiar faces and ex-presidents helping on the day. On arrival I was greeted by Terry Haines and a few course marshals from the host club Severn who quickly informed me the mayor was unavailable to say a few words and start the race. It appears this is a tradition at fixtures at Plock Court to invite the local mayor to start the race. It was already agreed by the Referee I would start the race as it was the President privilege. It was a bit of a frosty reception on arrival from the host club. Prior to the start of the race I had a lovely reception from the runners on the start line with a bit of banter and a round of applause for the president. This time I ended up officiating as Chief Judge at the funnel which I enjoyed.

Fixture 3 - Burton Dassett Hills Country Park- Hosted by Spa Striders

Birmingham League Division 2 incorporating MCAA Women's Cross Country League Division 1

I arrived early to watch the women's race due off at 13.30 the host club were expecting me as I sent an email informing them of my intention to attend this fixture as part of my tour around each division. This time I was warmly greeted when I parked up and I set about getting familiar with the course layout and start and finish area. The weather was dry I was expecting it to be foggy but it was clear and the view was very good for spectators. Having introduced myself to both referee's I spent time talking to my fellow officials who congratulated me on my role as president and were impressed with the chain I was wearing

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around my neck It was decided as President I would start the women's race and the senior men's race which I was happy to accept. I arranged for the start and assembly lines to be extended and held a briefing with the allocated starters assistant. I was briefly introduced before the women's race and started the women's race which went off on time.

For the Men's race I was introduced to the runners on the start line which was a lovely gesture and received a round of applause before setting off the runners on 1 short and 3 long laps on a challenging course.

Thanks to all the race organisers, marshals ,volunteers, medical teams for their attendance and putting on the races this season. I must also thank all the officials league officers and divisional secretaries who give up their time to be there for the runners. It was great to see cross country back again after missing last season due to the pandemic.

Its' been a pleasure being your president this season. Best wishes to Vince when he takes over the role as president for the 2022/2023 season of the Birmingham & District League.

Noel Mckakly

President 2021/2022

Statement of Accounts.

These had been sent out to all the clubs. There had been a loss on the year as a result of the overall costs going up plus the extra costs for chip timing & introducing that the officials can now claim their travel expenses. The Chair is trying to put together a guide for host clubs of possible places to hire from & to do block booking to try to reduce the costs. Chris Hitchman proposed that this is actioned. It was seconded by Martin Ludford .It was passed unanimously.

Constitution

The following amendments were recommended by the Executive to the Constitution:-

A5.3 Remove "no later than 6 weeks to the Annual General Meeting " & change to "no later than 2 weeks prior to the League's Executive meeting."

A6.2 Remove "first" & change to "second"

A9.2 Remove " as when necessary." & change to " as required to achieve the necessary balance of skills and experience."

A13.1 Remove "8 weeks prior to the AGM." & change to "2 weeks prior to the Leagues Executive meeting."

A13.2 Remove "6 weeks prior to the AGM." & change to " 2 weeks prior to the Leagues Executive meeting."

B7.1 Remove "There is an individual award for the first athlete over 4 races."

C14.1 Remove "for circulation at the end of the season in time for the Executive Meeting held after the conclusion of the League season." & change to "the Chair and webmaster. The webmaster will put it on the League's website."

It was proposed by Ray Morgan & seconded by Rob Mulgrue that the above amendments were accepted. The meeting accepted unanimously.

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There had been a proposal sent to the Executive proposing the League included Masters in the results. The meeting was informed that the Executive were not supportive of this but would support an Individual award. Vince Carroll suggested putting Team Results within the results & Ray Morgan informed the meeting that would not be a problem as long as the age was taken as of 31st August. Rob Mulgrue thought it was fundamentally wrong for the University Teams. Paul Ward asked if the age group results could be put in the results. A vote was taken on a having No Masters Team Award 20 for & 2 against & giving an individual award based over three races -. 20 for 3 against.

Officials for the 2022/23 season

The appointed officials for the season are:-

	Division One	Division Two	Division Three
Race Secretary	Ray Morgan (Leamington C&AC)	Daniel Connelly (Massey Ferguson)	Ian Clark (Stourbridge RC)
Race Referee	Noel McKakley (Wolverhampton & Bilston)	Chris Hitchman (Leamington C&AC)	Glen Lock (Wolverhampton & Bilston)
Chief Timekeeper	John Vickers (Coventry Godiva Harries)	Bob Hughes (Cannock & Stafford)	
Officials Secretary	Vacant	Terry Alcock (Solihull & S)	Graham Allen (Stafford Harriers)
Officials	Richard Carney (BRAT)		Graham Heeley (Sparkhill Harriers)
	Derek Cowdrey (Worcester AC)		David Bennett
	Derrick Harding (Wolverhampton & Bilston)		
	Keith Richards (Coventry Godiva)		
	Colin Stone (Gloucester AC) Keith Perry (Halesowen) Phil Pollock (Royal Sutton Coldfield) Dave Pettifer (Kenilworth RR)		

The Chair wished to record thanks to all our officials. These were proposed by the Chair enbloc and accepted by the meeting.

Make-up of the League for the 2022-2023 Season.

There has been no new applications, but the six clubs that re-applied were accepted back into the League. Trentham decided not to re-apply.

The following will thus be the make-up of the Divisions:-

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Make up of Divisions 2022-23

DIVISION ONE	DIVISION TWO	DIVISION THREE
Birchfield Harriers	Aldridge RC	Amazing Feet
BRAT	Black Pear Joggers	Bournville Harriers
City of Stoke AC	Bromsgrove & Redditch AC	Centurion RR
Coventry Godiva Harriers	Cannock & Staffs AC	City Of Birmingham Striders
Gloucester AC	Cheltenham & County Harriers	Cobra R & Tri
Halesowen AC	CLC Striders	Coventry Tri
Kenilworth Runers	Knowle & Dorridge RC	Droitwich AC
Loughborough Students	Leamington C & AC	Dudley Kingswinford RFC
Newcastle Staffs AC	Severn AC	Dudley & Stourbridge Harriers
Royal Sutton Coldfield AC	Solihull & Small Heath AC	Kidderminster & Stourport AC
Rugby & Northampton AC	Spa Striders	Kings Heath RC
Tipton AC	Tamworth AC	Massey Ferguson
University Of Birmingham	Telford AC	Northbrook AC
University Of Warwick	Weston Tempo	Nuneaton Harriers
Wolverhampton & Bilston AC		Sedgley Striders
Worcester AC		Sneyd Striders
		Sparkhill Harriers
		Sphinx AC
		Stratford Upon Avon AC
		Stourbridge RC
		Telford Harriers
		West Bromwich Harriers

- a) Dates for the season - 12TH November 2022/ 3rd December 2022/14th January 2023/ 11th February 2023

Affiliation Fees

A discussion on the possibility of a levy which the Chair had sent out to clubs was turned down in favour of a flat rate. It was felt that the Club Treasurer's would find the proposed method difficult to cope with. The Leagues Treasurer felt we need to have at least £7/8,000 in the bank & recommended a £40 increase. A vote was taken on the 4 options & all were in favour of keeping a fixed fee. Daniel Connelly proposed to have a £40 increase which was seconded by Wayne Broadbent. The motion was carried. The meeting requested that the Executive look at the Bank balance & develop a 3 year plan including the guide for hiring portaloos /First Aid.

Dates & Venues for the 2022/23 season.

	Div One	Div Two	Div Three
12 November '22	Stoke AC. Betley Court Division One + Women Div 1	Severn AC Plock Court	Trentham Park Hall + Women's Div 2
3 December '22	?	Cheltenham + Women's Div 2 TBC	Stratford + Women Div 1*
14 January '23	Birmingham Uni Warley Woods + Women Div 1	Bromsgrove & Redditch ?	?
11 February '23	Rugby & Northampton	Spa Striders Burton Dassett + Women's Div 1	Sphinx /Massey Ferg Coombe Abbey + Women's Div 2

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Thanks were extended to University of Birmingham for hosting for 3 seasons.

Election of Officers

President:	Vince Carroll (Rugby & Northampton AC)
Immediate Past President:	Noel McKakly (Wolverhampton & Bilston)
President Elect:	Rob Mulgtue (Dudley &Stourbridge AC)
Chairman:	Noel Butler (Leamington C&AC)
Secretary:	Carolyn Franks (Cheltenham & County Harriers)
Treasurer:	Daniel Jordan (Trentham RC)
MCAA Rep	Graham Heeley (Sparkhill Harriers)
Auditor:	Chris McKeown (Spa Striders)
Webmaster	Bryan Mills (Tipton Harriers)

The Chair proposed these enbloc and they were accepted by the meeting.

League Website

Bryan Mills has been doing a good job keeping this up to date.

Any Other Business:

- 1) Ray Morgan felt we should have a position recognising folks who have made specific contribution to the League over the years by making the position of Life Vice- President. A vote was taken with 18 for & none against.

ACTION: Executive to decide on appointment of this position.

- 2) Paul Ward brought to the attention of the meeting that the 2024 National will be at Weston Park in Staffordshire with Telford AC being the main hosts.

- 3) The League is grateful to Halesowen for allowing us to use their facilities for the AGM.

Date and Venue of the 98th AGM

Friday 2nd June 2023 Daniel Connelly offered Massy Ferguson 's Social Club.

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.38pm.