

Dear Birmingham League Management Committee,

In support of our application to join the league we want to provide this covering letter to introduce you to our new club “Western Tempo” and explain how we are committed to the league.

Western Tempo are a new running club predominantly based in Cheltenham. Our club was formed when a very significant proportion of Cheltenham Harriers senior endurance runners decided that their interests were better served in a specialist running club rather than being part of a track and field club. We wish our friends who remained in Cheltenham Harriers well both in this league and other athletics pursuits and have no doubt that there will be times we work together to benefit the sport in our town.

We are aware that when a new club applies to join the Birmingham League that the League wants to see a proven track record of the club being committed to supporting serious team competitions at regional level and to the sport as a whole. As a new club formed in a pandemic we sadly have not had chance to fully demonstrate this yet, but we hope that the past commitment to the Birmingham League of our members will show that Western Tempo will be a positive addition to such a great competition that we fully respect. We hope to outline below how our members already have a culture of participating in the league and other cross country events.

As outlined above the vast majority of our members have moved over from Cheltenham Harriers to join Western Tempo. Over the last fifteen years Cheltenham Harriers have successfully participated in the league, hosted fixtures and turned out in good numbers. Throughout the period this was in large part to the leadership of Andy Prophett, as team manager, and Dave Newport as senior endurance coach, ensuring that the club managed to continually commit to the league competition and participate successfully. Dave and Andy have both been key figures in the setting up of Western Tempo and are keen to continue getting their large group of runners to race in the league. Our club members include athletes such as Phil Wylie who has won a division one race, as well as athletes such as Dom James and Ben Price who have made the top ten in the same division. We have a large group of runners who already know and enjoy taking part in the league and want to be able to continue to do so.

When Cheltenham Harriers hosted races in recent years it was Andy that led the organisation of races. The vast majority of the people that helped him to set up the course, man carparks, marshal, pack away etc. are now members of Western Tempo. This includes members of our club committee who have helped to officiate at cross country events.

Sadly 2020-21 hasn't allowed Western Tempo to compete as a cross country team yet. We would like to highlight that whilst we did not get chance to compete, Western Tempo did have a significant number of runners entered in the South West Championships in Somerset. Our runners are willing to travel to good quality regional events such as the Birmingham League.

As a club we will ensure that we provide committed and driven athletes that will successfully partake and hopefully add to the value of the Birmingham League.

Contact Details (Applicant) –

William New (Men's Team Captin)

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Club Formation & Affiliations –

Western Tempo was formed in the spring of 2020 and became affiliated to England Athletics on 22nd October 2020. By being affiliated to England Athletics we understand this covers out affiliation with both Midland Counties and ECCA.

Club Base/Headquarters –

We are based Cheltenham.

Club Membership –

Is available to all and includes a separate student membership option.

Club Colours –

Solid orange vest with black writing (please see photo below)



Estimated number of members eligible for the League –

55 (5 juniors)

Does your club take part in any other cross country league(s)? -

We had affiliated to Glos AAA for the Glos XC League 2020-21 season, but sadly there was no competition. The only cross country championship that took entries for the season was the South West XC Championships in Somerset, we had a full teams (A and B teams) of athletes covering the full ability range of our club. This shows that we have

a group of coaches and athletes who were willing to travel similar distances in search of quality regional competition

Officials -

Whilst we do not currently have any qualified officials, as a new club we would hope to have officials in the future once EA courses resume. We do have two people that officiated at Birmingham XC League races last season and would encourage members to help the league. As a club we will solely be concentrating on the Men's Birmingham League and therefore will have a number of female members not competing available to help out

XC Courses -

As a new club starting in a pandemic we have yet had a chance to promote our own races and we do not plan to do this within our first year of existence, but hope to do so in the future. We do have within our club people who have organised league cross country and road races with other clubs. When Cheltenham Harriers hosted Birmingham League races the organisation and links with the council for facilities and the park came from people now with Western Tempo, as did the majority of the people who marked out the course, marshalled, car park attended etc.

Any other information –

Please see the covering letter for more information..

Best wishes,

William New

On behalf of the Western Tempo Committee