Birmingham Invitation Cross Country League

Chairman's Report for Season 2022/23

With all the traumas we have had over recent years it is so pleasing to write a report that reflects on a successful season. There were four rounds of fixtures with three on each date and eight being joint fixtures with the Midland Women's league and my thanks goes out to the host clubs, without who we would not have a league. Many of these host every year but we must not always rely on them, and the other clubs must seriously consider how they might host either on their own or share with another club or clubs. Assistance will be available for you from the league.

Disappointingly, I was unable to attend fixtures for all three divisions last season. I usually let the President and League Secretary chose which fixture they will attend, and I visit the remining one. So, apologies to Division 3 and I will make sure I see them this coming season.

In November, I went to Betley for Division 1 and then was at Wolverhampton with them in December. I was away in January and finished the season with Division 2 at Burton Dassett which although being one of the courses closest to my home, I had never visited before. As last season, I did not just go there to watch so I was Assistant Referee for the first two fixtures and a Timekeeper for the final fixture.

Last year I mentioned that the officials' initiative with the Women's league had started to bear fruit with more qualified officials becoming available to work on our fixtures. This was enhanced last season with a trial where there was the same referee for both races, for fixtures where the leagues shared a venue and the technical officials were asked to officiate for both races. The feedback from officials was that this was a great success and when we meet with the Women's league to discuss arrangements for next season, we will formalise how this will work going forward.

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 Ian Clarke, in his first season, for all your hard work. At the recent executive meeting Daniel gave the league a year's notice that he will be standing down as Divisional Secretary, so Division 2 clubs have a year to find a replacement.

There is an item on the AGM agenda concerning the league possibly moving to on-line entries so please read it and discuss it at your club so we can have an informed debate at the AGM.

Once again Coventry Runner sponsored our numbers, and we are extremely grateful for their generous support. They have confirmed they will continue their support next season.

Finally, I want to thank our Secretary Carolyn Franks, Treasurer Dan Jordan, and Webmaster Bryan Mills for all the time they gave to make last season such a success. I repeat what I said in my report last year, that the league is blessed with dedicated and loyal officers.

Noel Butler
Chairman
18th May 2023