Birmingham Invitation Cross Country League

Chairman's Report for Season 2024/25

The buildup to season 2024/25 proved to less traumatic than the previous season with all the executive positions being filled and the offers to host fixtures were more plentiful so we managed to get venues for all fixtures. It is especially pleasing to see smaller and newer clubs starting to host and doing a great job.

I managed to get to all three divisions during the year. I started with Division 3 at Pelsall North Common in November and went to Betley in December to see Division 1 and completed all three with a trip to Top Barn Worcester in January for Division 2. In February I was meeting manager for the Division 1 fixture at Leamington.

The three divisional secretaries did a wonderful job and I would like to record my thanks to Bryan Mills (Div 1), Nick Wilson (Div 2) and Ian Clarke (Div 3) for their hard work during the season. As Nuneaton will be in Division 3 next season Nick Wilson will be standing down as divisional secretary for Division 2.

Division 2 used the on-line entry system and this seemed to work well and at this point I should thank Sarah Bland for all her help with this.

Martin Ludford our Treasurer had a very good first season as you will see from the accounts he has prepared for the AGM.

One person who is stepping down from his role is our Auditor for many years, Chris McKeown from Spa Striders. He has made a significant contribution to ensure the accounts presented to the AGM are accurate and I take this opportunity to thank him for all he has done for the league. We need to replace him so could you please reflect on people you know who may be suitable to fill this role.

Also stepping down is our officials' co-ordinator Rob Mulgrew, who has worked hard with Mary Hodges from the women's league to ensure we have quality officials appointed to our fixtures. You will see from Rob's report on the work of the officials sub-committee what a positive impact the work Mary & Rob have been doing, has had on the quality and number of officials covering our fixtures.

I am pleased to say that Steve Webb from Solihull & Small Heath has agreed to fill this very important position. I am also pleased to inform you that Rob will be staying on the executive as a co-opted member where his skills and experience will be appreciated.

This means the league will have an experienced executive running its affairs next season subject, off course, to the AGM votes and a volunteer for divisional secretary of Division 2.

The joint fixtures with the Midland Women's League continue to be beneficial to both leagues and that arrangement will contribute this coming season. I would like to thank Becky Freeman and Mary Hodges for their work in making to relationship work so well.

Last season Coventry Runner again sponsored our numbers, and we are extremely grateful for their generous support. I am pleased to say that they have confirmed they will continue their support next season.

Finally, I want to thank our Secretary, Carolyn for all the support she gives me to ensure the league runs smoothly and I am delighted that she has been nominated to be our President in our centenary year.

Noel Butler
Chairman
2nd June 2025