

BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT INVITATION CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE
(1926 - 1993)

Minutes of the 68th. A.G.M. held at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham on
Wednesday the 15th. September 1993 at 7.30 p.m.

Obituary

The secretary informed the meeting of the sad loss of John Mountford, who had been an Official of the League for many years. President, Bill Adcocks asked the meeting to stand for a few moments in memory of John.

Apologies

These were recieved from :- Bob Allen, John Andrews, Rita Bradley, David Conn, Mary Conn, Ken Evans, Danny Freer, Cliff Grant, John Heminsley, Ted Hutchings, David Johnson, Muriel Johnson, Chris Lockley, Ted Fowner, Tom Talbot, Phil Walker, David Winter, Frank Wood, Terry Haines & A.Carter.

Present

Bill Adcocks (President); Barry Ewington (President Elect); K.Dare; G.Heeley; J.Mills; R.Tilling (Past Presidents) D.McNamee (Hon. Auditor) D.Bacon; B.Downs; A.Hemsley; K.Oldfield; T.O'Reilly; P.Pucci; J.Ramsden; P.Ramsden; E.Schuck; T.Taylor; J.West; G.Williams (League Officials); E.Hubbleday (Sparkhill); G.Allen, J.Charter (Stafford H.) S.Leeming, F.Buckley (Omega R.C.); G.Barnes (Amazing Feet); R.Stanier, D.Loundes (Sneyd St.); G.Jones, P.Hough, J.Fernie, J.Williams (Shrewsbury); K.Buckle (Cheltenham); E.Johnson (City of Stoke); P.Powell, S.Cort, D.Jones (West Brom); N.Wilson, R.Wills (Nuneaton); G.Hill, W.Hill (Sandwell Valley); M.Robertson (Tamworth); M.Pearce, H.Pearce, R.James (Hereford C.); D.Benning (Staffs. Uni.); J.Love (Northampton F.); R.Hughes, I.Connelly (Can & Staff); I.Spedding, R.Ferrier (Michelin); J.McCall, K.Collins, P.Goodfellow (Newcastle); B.Awcock, I.Corbett (Northbrook); P.Bacon (Solihull & S.H.); S.Harris, T.Akiens, K.Smith (Rugby); R.Potter, P.Follock, C.Ward (Sutton Coldfield); R.Gallier (Telford); C.Weir, M.Millington (Birchfield); T.Phillips (Tipton); R.Tomlinson (Oakpark); T.Brown, N.Jarvis (Massey Ferguson); G.Parton, B.Cook (Goodyear); C.Brooks, V.Harry, P.Collins (Brom & Red.); R.Bunn (Halesowen); R.Sannwald (Dudley King.); F.Cox (Bridgnorth); M.Hill (Worcester); R.Ashwood (Stourport); J.Ward, H.Fowler (Rowheath); T.Mah (Bor. of Sandwell); A.Townsend, B.Carey (Sphinx).

Attendance 84, although once again I believe some people did not sign the attendance sheets. The attendance sheet showed there to be 40 Clubs represented at the meeting out of a possible 60 Clubs.

Minutes of the 67th. AGM

The minutes of the above meeting had been circulated and were proposed as a true record by Ken Dare and seconded by G.Heeley. They were passed unanimously.

Matters Arrising

There were no matters arrising, other than those that follow later on the agenda.

Statement of Accounts

The Treasurer was pleased to announce that the Association had once again made a surplus for the year. This year the surplus was £256-82p. With a Bank balance of £585-55p., it was thought that some of this total should be put into the Building Society to acruer interest. The Treasurer is to decide the sum that should be transfered to the Building Society.

The Hon. Auditor Dave McNamee said that he had examined the books and had found them to be in order.

Ray Potter proposed and John Mills seconded that the accounts should be adopted. The motion was passed unanimously. A vote of thanks from the meeting were given to the Treasurer and Auditor.

Presidents Address

Bill Adcocks said how much he had enjoyed his year as President. Due to the dual fixture at Tamworth he had managed to see all five divisions and was much taken with the enthusiasm of all the Clubs in all divisions. He himself had been associated with the league since 1957 and he thought it played a most important role for athletes no matter where they finished or in which division they ran in. To the top runners it might mean important competitive training, to others it was their major competitive structure.

He had found the course to be excellent and well set out, they were certainly varied in terrain and running. He thanked the Promoting Clubs for putting on races.

Bill also thanked the Officials, Race secretaries and Team Managers for their hard work on behalf of the League.

He finished by thanking the delegates for electing him to the position of President.

Ken Dare mentioned that in his many years with the league he had never before seen the athletes of a Division applaud the President just before the start of a race. This he thought showed the esteem in which the athletes have for Bill Adcocks.

Secretary's Report

First Division

The first two races saw excellent wins for the steadily improving Stourport team; putting them 54 points ahead of the strong Birchfield Club, at the half way stage of the season. Birchfield Harriers reduced this deficit to a meagre 25 points after the third race. With one race remaining both Clubs brought out the walking wounded in an attempt to win both the final fixture and the League Title. Indeed we were treated to a tremendous battle at the tough Telford course, with both teams running neck and neck after the first lap. As the race developed however Stourport's team started to edge in front, taking a grip on the race that they were not to relinquish; thus taking their first ever First Division Title.

Congratulations to Stourport on their title win as it must give great hope to the other smaller Clubs in the League.

Tim Rudd won the award for the leading athlete over the four races; making it a clean sweep for Stourport. He beat his club mate Allan Jackson.

Wolverhpton & Bilston who looked as if they would hang on to first division status with one race to go were beaten in the final race by Telford who in turn did enough to go one above Wolves in the table. Rugby joined Wolverhampton in the drop to division two.

Tipton Harriers also deserve our congratulations; who by their standards had a mediocre year in the league finishing third, but with a much depleted team they still showed their depth by finishing 2nd. in the National Championships. Also well done to Stephan White and the Coventry Godiva Junior team on winning both the individual and Junior Team title at the same National Championships.

Second Division

Birmingham University found their old form to win all four races and to end up run away winners of this division. Cannock & Stafford took the second promotion spot being clear of Bromsgrove and Redditch. Centurion and Royal Sutton Coldfield struggled for most of the season and were relegated.

In the individual event D.Hollins of Potteries ran consistently well to beat McKeivitt of the University for the individual award.

Division Three

Omega continued their run towards the top divisions, winning the first three races. When the almost impossible happened in the final fixture they were beaten for the first time since joining the League. This defeat was inflicted by Cheltenham who were also promoted. Apart from this slip-up Omega were run away winners of the Division.

West Bromich, despite an excellent last fixture were relegated together with Dudley & Stourbridge

J. Stephenson of Omega won the Individual plaque, running consistently in all four fixtures.

Division Four

Before Christmas there was no stopping Cadby and Wigston, building up a substantial lead over the first two races. However, they had a disaster in the third race finishing 9th. The season was salvaged for them by a solid second place in the final race to see them promoted as divisional Champions. Warwick University, fast improving, joined OWLS in gaining promotion.

A. Jones of Sneyd took a well deserved individual title.

Stonemaster Marathoners and Michelin were relegated.

Division Five

Staffordshire University showed how powerful they are by winning all four races to run out easy winners of the Division. They were joined in promotion by Stourbridge, who were a comfortable second.

J. Mills of Staffs Uni. won the Individual title, never finishing lower than 2nd place in any of the fixtures.

General

The Junior Individuals continue to be reasonably supported in some divisions. However, I'm sure that some Clubs are not declaring their Junior athletes.

Young athletes races were once again very disappointing and pretty well non-existent. Perhaps the time has come to drop these races.

The continued support of the Race Secretaries, Referees, Judges and Timekeepers once again deserve our utmost gratitude and I thank them for their support

Thanks also to all the Clubs for their enthusiastic support of the League. Finally may I personally thank our President Bill Adcocks for his advice and support throughout the season.

Trophies

i) The secretary informed the meeting that he had drawn a blank in finding the Ian Mole Trophy, he had traced it back to Gloucester who in turn informed him that it had been passed on. Further than this he was able to get no further in the search for the Trophy. He suggests that the League buys a replacement Trophy and that it be given to Worcestershire AAA to award for Young Athletes purposes for Cross Country. The meeting agreed to this and ordered the secretary to proceed in buying a replacement.

ii) The League Championship Trophy is in disrepair and lacks places to put new name shields on. Bob Ashwood reported that his Club is in the process of having the Trophy repaired and having more shields put onto it. Bob was asked to pass on the costs for this renovation to the Treasurer.

Age Groups

The secretary informed the meeting that B.A.F. had put the Cross Country age groups into abeyance for a twelve month, therefore age groups would be the same as in the past for the coming season. However, he was almost certain that changes would be made for the season after. He therefore urged Clubs to look at the Executive proposal on age groups and to let him know their thoughts on the ideas therein.

Tony Phillips the MCCA secretary was asked to explain to the meeting the likely changes in age groups. His explanation caused much discussion and the Clubs present were obviously concerned by the outcome of BAF's deliberations.

Clubs were urged by Tony and the secretary, to make their feelings felt for if they did not, it would be no use grumbling later. They should do this by attending Midland Cross Country meetings and by writing to David Bedford of BAF.

Universities - First Claim Rule

The secretary explained that he had written to all the Universities in the League explaining that the Birmingham League had been asked by First Claims committee to enforce the first claim rule regarding Universities. This had caused some disquiet amongst the Universities and he had received phone calls from most. The secretary had recommended over the phone, that Universities only affiliate to the MCAA for Cross Country, this would allow their athletes to still compete for their original first claim Club on Track and Field and Road Running.

Cost of Promoting Fixtures

The President spoke out strongly on this matter, advocating that Clubs get the League competition on the cheap and gave figures to back up his arguments. He was concerned that we could come to the situation where, because of the costs in promoting a fixture Clubs who in the past have been good servants of the League would be unable to host a fixture. He then put the motion from Executive that the affiliation fees be increased to £35 and that the payment to promoting Clubs be increased to £55. This motion was carried, with two delegates against.

It was also agreed that Clubs would only receive this grant towards their fixture, when they provided the Treasurer with a balance sheet of costs in promoting the fixture.

Massey Ferguson Proposal

Alan Hemsley proposed and Stuart Harris of Rugby who spoke strongly in favour of the motion seconded the proposal. The motion was carried with 6 delegates voting against.

This proposal will mean at the end of the coming season only one team will be relegated from Division One, whilst three teams will be promoted from Division Two.

Two teams will be relegated from Division Two, whilst four teams will be promoted from Division Three.

Two teams will be relegated from Division Three, whilst four teams will be promoted from Division Four.

Two teams will be relegated from Division Four, whilst four teams will be promoted from Division Five.

Division Five will then take all the other teams.

This for one year only.

Promotion/Relegation

Peel R.R. and Goodyear R.C had both written asking for reinstatement to the League, apologising for not having been able to field full teams in all fixtures last year. Both were re-elected to the League.

The following Clubs have made application to join the League Kenilworth R.C.; Stratford Upon Avon A.C.; Cobra R.C.; Aston University and Chase Triathlon Club. All five Clubs were accepted by the delegates.

Make up of the League for the 1993 - 94 Season

1st. Division	2nd. Division	3rd. Division	4th. Division
Birchfield H.	Bromsgrove & Red.	Bridgnorth A.C.	Amazing Feet
Birmingham Uni.	Cheltenham & Cty.	Centurion R.R.	Bor. of Sand.
Cannock & Staff.	Gloucerster A.C.	Hereford Cour.	Dudley King.
City of Stoke	Halesowen A.C.	Leamington A.C.	Dudley & Stour
Coventry Godiva	Massey Ferguson	Newcastle A.C.	Sneyd Striders
Loughborough Uni.	Northampton Ph.	Northbrook A.C.	Sphinx A.C.
Rowheath H.	Omega R.C.	Nuneaton H.	Stafford H.
Stourport A.C.	Potteries Mar.	Oadby & Wigston	Staffs. Uni.
Telford A.C.	Rugby & Dist.	Royal Sutton C.	Stourbridge
Tipton H.	Sandwell Valley	Shrewsbury & D.	Tamworth A.C.
	Sparkhill H.	Solihull & S.H.	West Brom. H.
	Wolves & Bil.	Warwick Uni.	Worcester A.C

5th. Division

Aldridge R.C.	Alvis R.C.	Aston University	Chase Harriers
Chase Triathalon	Cobra R.C.	Colleshill R.C.	Droitwich A.C.
Evesham R.C.	Goodyear R.C.	Kenilworth R.C.	Merry Hill St.
Michelin A.C.	Oak Park Pacers	Peel R.R.	Royal Doulton
Rugeley & Dist.	Stone Master M.	Stratford A.C.	Wolverhampton

Dates, Fixtures & Venues

	1st. Div.	2nd. Div.	3rd. Div.	4th. Div.
6th. Nov. 1993	Telford	Northampton	Bridgnorth	Bor of Sand.
27th. Nov. 1993	Rowheath	Rugby	Nuneaton	Stafford H.
22nd. Jan. 1994	Coventry	Cheltenham	Sutton Cold.	Worcester
19th. Feb. 1994	Birchfield	Massey Ferg.	Newcastle	Sphinx

Division Five.

6th. Nov. 93	27th. Nov. 93	22nd. Jan. 94	19th. Feb. 94
Evesham	Rugeley	Droitwich	Aldridge

Election of Officers/Officials

Bill Adcocks the outgoing President proposed that Barry Ewington be elected as the new President, this proposal was passed unanimously by the AGM.

Barry is a very hard worker for athletics and he has his roots firmly fixed in Club Athletics. He has been a stalwart of the League for many years, having competed in the League, been Referee and for many years a very reliable Race Secretary a position he still holds. Certainly over the last decade or so Barry has been one of the kingpins of the League, always willing and ready to step into the breach when required. On top of all this he is the Midland staff coach for Steeplechase.

Barry's first job as President was to award the Presidents Plaque to the outgoing President Bill Adcocks, in doing so he thanked Bill for the past work he has done on behalf of the League.

A proposal from the Executive that Tom O'Reilly be elected President Elect was unanimously accepted by the AGM.

Hon. Secretary/Treasurer :- C.B. Franks proposer Barry Ewington.

Hon Auditor :- D. McNamee proposed K. Dare, seconded A. Hemsley.

	1st. Div.	2nd. Div.	3rd. Div.	4th. Div.
Race Secretary :	B. Adcocks	A. Hemsley	B. Ewington	T. O'Reilly
Referee :	K. Walklate	G. Heeley	M. Johnson	M. Conn
Judges :	B. Downes	J. Mills	D. Johnson	D. Conn
	F. Ramsden	E. Schuck	T. Taylor	M. Northall
	J. Ramsden	S. Harris	K. Dare	
		P. Lisseman		
Timekeepers :	C. Lockley	A. Birt	M. Ewington	J. Andrews
	F. Lockley	B. Hussey	K. Oldfield	J. Perkins
	T. Talbot	P. Hussey	P. Walker	M. Perkins
		E. Powner	G. Williams	

Division Five

Race Secretary :	J. Heminsley	Referee :	E. Hutchings
Timekeepers :	J. Skidmore	Judges :	J. Freeman
	R. Bradley		J. West
	D. Bennett		

Delegate to MCAA : D. Bacon. Delegate to BAF & AAA of E : C. B. Franks.

Affiliations

These had been set earlier in the meeting at £35. **WILL CLUBS PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS AFFILIATION IS NOW DUE & MUST BE PAID BY THE 5TH. NOVEMBER 1993. CLUBS FAILING TO PAY THEIR AFFILIATION BY THIS DATE WILL FORFEIT THEIR RIGHT TO COMPETE IN THE LEAGUE.**

Any Other Business

Stuart Harris of Rugby proposed that the Senior League races start at 2:30 p.m. this motion was seconded by John Mills (Sparkhill). After some discussion the motion was carried by 48 votes to 12 against. **PLEASE NOTE THAT FOR THE COMING 1993-94 SEASON ALL SENIOR RACES WILL START AT 2:30 p.m.**

A vote was also taken on a proposal that the Hon. Secretary had made in his report that the Young Athletes Races be disbanded; this motion was carried with just two delegates voting against **PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO YOUNG ATHLETES RACES IN THE COMING SEASON.**

Date and Venue of the 69th. A.G.M.

It was agreed that the 69th. AGM be held at Alexander Stadium on September the 14th 1994 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9:55 with a vote of thanks to the President.