

BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT INVITATION CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

1926 - 1998

Minutes of the 73rd. A.G.M. held at the West Midland Police Sports and Conference Centre, 'Tally Ho', Pershore Road, Birmingham on Wednesday 16th. September 1998 at 7:30pm.

Obituaries

The secretary regretfully informed the meeting of the deaths of three stalwarts of the League, Ted Powner, Frank Wood both past Presidents of the League and Ken Oldfield one of the Leagues Timekeepers.

The meeting stood in silent memory to these departed colleagues.

Apologies

These were received from : Joe Gripton, Basil Heatley, Arthur Wright, Cliff Grant (Past Presidents), Janet & Phil Ramsden, Chris & Pat Lockley, Mary & Dave Conn (Officials), Bob Carey, John Heminsley (Race Secretaries), George Gandy (Loughborough), Lionel Heap (Beaumont Leys), Rex Tomlinson (Oak Park), Paul Hawkins (Stafford), Richard Sanwald (Dudley Kingswinford), John Love (Northampton Phoenix), Danny Freer, Noel Wonfor (Droitwich), Peter Banks (Coventry Godiva).

Present

Muriel Johnson (President), David McNamee (President Elect), W.Adcocks, K.Dare, B.Ewington, G.Heeley, D.Johnson, P.Lisseman, J.Mills, J.Skidmore (All Past Presidents), Mrs. E.Downes, R.Freeman, S.Harris, A.Hemsley, A.King, T.O'Reilly, E.Schuck (League Officials), E.M.Johnson (City of Stoke), A.J.Lane (Dudley King), N.Wilson, A.Richards (Nuneaton), M.Dix (Severn), B.Shepherd (DASH), S.Loundes, G.Powner (Chase H.), R.Carney, N.Price, M.Trevor (B'ham Rowheath), R.Payne (Kidderminster), S.Pyke, D.Colclouan, I.Bridgett (Trentham), M.Petch, J.Andrew (Sphinx), I.Clarke, J.Clarke (Stourbridge), E.Hubbleday, D.Winter (Sparkhill), R.Bunn (Halesowen), J.Lloyd (COBRA), K.Westley, D.Jones (West Brom), J.Graves (Tamworth), S.Easto (Peel), V.Harry, T.Woodward, C.Brown (Broms. & Redd.), D.Woodward, R.Burrows, C.Reading (Leamington), G.Marriott (Staffs Moor), M.Kelcher, J.Riley (Telford A.C.), M.Millington (Birchfield), E.Wheeler, E.Langford (Centurion), G.Clifton (Sandwell Valley), B.Clifton (Tipton), G.B.Allen, D.J.Preece (Stafford H.), P.Pollock, C.Ward, R.Miles (Royal Sutton), G.Harper, G.W.Lock (Wolves & Bilston), R.Froggatt (Solihull & S.Heath), T.Brown, N.Jarvis (Massey Ferguson), R.Ashwood (Stourport), I.Summers, A.McKenzie (Gloucester), C,B,Franks (Hon.Secretary/Treasurer). Attendance 72 delegates from 35 separate Clubs.

Minutes of the 72nd. AGM.

D.Johnson proposed and D.McNamee seconded that the minutes of the 72nd. AGM be accepted, this proposal was unanimously accepted by the delegates present. The Executive minutes were also approved.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Statement of Accounts

The Treasurer explained the accounts to those present; stating that he was pleased to announce a surplus on the year of £660 - 67. Although this sum was good it was down on the previous year by £64 - 97. Also the figure was boosted by six Clubs not claiming there promotion fees. If they had claimed, it is likely that instead of declaring a profit on the year, there may have been a slight loss.

The accounts were accepted unanimously, with a vote of thanks to the Treasurer and Auditor for their work. Proposed G.Heeley, seconded B.Adcocks.

Presidents Address

Muriel felt that it was an honour to have been elected as President of the League, indeed she felt doubly honoured as she was the first Lady President to be elected to this prestigious position. She stated that as an Official taking numbers at the finish, she normally only got to see a small part of the races. Being President allowed her to go round the course encouraging athletes and talking to a wide variety of people who had come along to support their teams.

Finally, Muriel thanked all the race secretaries and Officials and everyone else who made her term in Office such an enjoyable experience.

Secretary's Report

First Division

Loughborough Students dominated the first race held in Sutton Park, Birmingham; filling the first three places with Spencer Barden, C.Karlson and Matt O'Dowd, just eight seconds separating the three students. Placing their three other scorers in the top twenty, the University gave themselves an excellent start to the season, scoring just 53pts. Coventry Godiva placed second with 101pts. ahead of Tipton 102pts. and the host Club Birchfield 130pts.

D.Hyde of the students was the first Junior athlete home in 10th. place.

Telford staged the second fixture and Tipton Harriers took the opportunity of the three top Loughborough men's absence to pull themselves back into the title race; placing their six scorers in the top 22 to score 70pts. The University held onto second place 115pts and was followed home by Godiva Harriers 170pts. and Birchfield 182pts. This result put Tipton just a mere four points behind their University rivals.

At the half way point the relegation battle was being fought out by City of Stoke 792pts, Stourport 838pts. and the newly promoted Club Cheltenham 842pts.

On the individual front M. Vaux-Harvey had a good win over H.Chepkwony to take him to the top athlete over the first two races.

D.Everett of Birchfield led the Juniors home in 42nd. place.

The third race held at Coventry over fast parkland, saw the Loughborough students come back into their own with their six scorers placed in the top 23 home, to score a low 53pts. The Black Country men of Tipton finished second 104pts; dropping some 51pts behind the Students, giving them a difficult but not impossible task in the final race. Coventry consolidated their third place in the Division with 111pts. Birchfield finishing fourth, but dropping back, almost 200pts behind Godiva.

With Vaux-Harvey continuing his quality running in third place behind O'Dowd and Graffin he consolidated his grip on the top athlete award.

Turnbull of Loughborough Students was the first Junior to finish in 4th. place.

City of Stoke in finishing 7th. team, did themselves a power of good, taking themselves out of the relegation region. However Potteries Marathon had a disaster, finishing last and giving them relegation problems.

The undulating course at Cheltenham provided spectators with a cracking individual race. Rob Whalley, Spencer Barden and Darius Burrows were locked in battle every inch of the way, with Whalley only getting away over the last half mile, using his track speed.

Again the Students had the superior fire power and despite being pushed by a revived Birchfield, came out winners for the third time this season with 76pts. The stags finished second with 99pts. Tipton who held onto their second position, was third on the day with 151pts.

So for the first time in the History of the League, Division One was won by a University Team our congratulations go to Loughborough Students.

Despite a spirited effort from the host Club Cheltenham in finishing fifth on the day, they could

not do enough to avoid relegation. Cheltenham was joined by Potteries Marathon for the drop to Division two.

M.Vaux-Harvey (Stourport) continued his consistent running to take the leading athletes award and G.Riddell (Coventry) claimed the Junior award.

Second Division

Ian Furness of Dudley & Stourbridge had a run-a-way win in the first race held at Princethorpe College. However it was the youthful side from Solihull & Small Heath (73pts.), that took control of the team competition, cruising to a comfortable victory over Staffordshire University (138pts.) and Birmingham University (138). Staffs Uni. getting the verdict over their University rivals, on the last scorer rule.

First Junior home was T.Gardner of Birmingham University.

Burbage Common, venue of the second fixture, saw a tight race won by two seconds by D.Smith (Solihull) over M.Plane (Staffs Uni.). S.Lees (Solihull) was the first Junior to finish in 6th. place.

Solihull & Small Heath (172pts.) pulled further away at the top of the table from Staffs University (251pts), who in turn put 10pts. between themselves and the Birmingham University. For the second meeting running Wolverhampton & Bilston failed to close a team and will automatically be relegated at the end of the season.

Despite having three runners in the top six Solihull & Smallheath (128pts) were beaten for the first time by their University rivals from Staffordshire (61pts). Although this race virtually decided who was to be promoted to Division One, it set up an interesting battle for the final race, as there was only 12pts. between the two teams.

D.Smith chalked up his second consecutive win over his Junior team mate D.Rowen.

At this stage Centurion looked the likely candidates to go down with Wolves & Bilston who again failed to close a team.

D.Smith continued his fine running to pick up a hat trick of wins and in so doing claim the award for the leading athlete. His victory helped his Club Solihull & Smallheath (77pts) to the narrowest of victories over Staffordshire University (78pts.). Massey Ferguson, on their own course, came strongly over the final event to snatch third place in the race and in the League table.

As predicted Centurion was relegated to Division Three, whilst Wolverhampton & Bilston with yet another incomplete team, must reapply for election to the League and restart in Division Five.

D.Rowen of Solihull came away from the meeting with the leading Junior award from his team mate S.Lees.

Third Division

Bill Nock of Halesowen had a run-a-way win in the first race at Coventry, over OWLS D.Shepard who led his Club(114pts) to a narrow two point victory over Severn. Halesowen was just a further 14pts. behind in third with Sparkhill (149pts.) fourth; just 35pts covering the first four teams.

P.O'Sullivan of Sparkhill was the first Junior home in 7th. place.

A flat parkland course at Gloucester saw Bill Nock stride to his second victory, being chased home by Junior J.Ellis of Sparkhill.

Fielding their scoring six in the first 31 runners home, Halesowen (81pts) had a narrow win over the host Club Severn (88pts). This moved Halesowen into 2nd place and Severn into first position, at the half way point of the League.

Over another Parkland Course at Sparkhill, Bill Nock chalked up a hat trick of wins again being chased home by a Junior athlete, this time by his team mate S.Bradley.

Halesowen taking the first two individual places, gained a 26pt. victory over Sparkhill (126pts) who closed on Severn (160pts.) who were placed third. With just 37pts between Severn & Sparkhill an interesting final race was set up, to see which of the two would gain promotion. Halesowen, barring disasters, looked likely to go forward to the second division.

On his home course at Halesowen Bill Nock completed a full set of wins to comfortably take the fourth race. A blast from the past saw Dave Black running for Tamworth finish a magnificent 2nd. Dave, who had run all four races, started the season by finish 13th. in the first two races. It's good to see such a fine runner coming back to run so well. S.Bradley of Halesowen led the Juniors home for the second time to finish third in the race and take the award for the leading Junior.

Halesowen (85) comfortably won the final race to take the third division title and was joined by Severn (113pts.) for promotion to Division Two.

Despite a spirited last race from Newcastle they unfortunately took the drop to Division Four with Aldridge R.C.

Division Four

Beaumont Leys (53pts.) with 6 in 19 won the first race easily at Gloucester. In turn Trentham (94pts.) were a comfortable second ahead of Stafford (166pts.) in third. Warwick University failed to finish a complete team.

M.Scotney (Beaumont Leys) ran well to beat his Club mate M.King to score a victory in the race. Cannock Chase was the venue of the second fixture in which R.Washington (Trentham), who had finished third in the first race, took revenge over Scotney to win this race comfortably.

However, Beaumont Leys (75pts) continued their good start to the season to yet again come home first team, although they were chased all the way by Trentham (80pts.)

C.Folliott of Warwick University was first Junior home in 13th. position.

Trentham, for the second race running, provided the individual winner in the shape of S.Pyke who scored a 10 second victory over fast improving C.Watters (Oak Park).

Beaumont Leys (128pts.) continued their superiority by scoring three team wins on the trot, Trentham yet again finishing second. Barring accidents these two Clubs looked likely to gain promotion.

C.Watters continued his improvement by winning the final race held at Stafford. Indeed this win gained him the award for the leading runner in the division.

Beaumont Leys (64pts.) continued their charge towards Division Three by taking their fourth team victory and in so doing, became Divisional Champions. On this occasion Chase (137pts.) toppled Trentham (148pts.) into third place, however, the Trentham side gained the 2nd. promotion spot.

No Junior competed in three races, therefore no awards were presented; this was rather disappointing.

Division Five

The first race on their own course at Leek saw newcomers Staffordshire Moorlands take the first six positions and get the lowest score possible 21pts. Shrewsbury and Kenilworth fought out the battle for the minor placings, with the Shropshire Club coming out on top with 119pts., Kenilworth was just a further 4pts. adrift.

D.Neill (Staffs Moor) was first home, followed by team mate and Junior S.Bailey.

Junior runner S.Bailey (Staffs Moorlands) won the second race held at Kenilworth. This time Moorlands (37pts.) were only able to fill the top five places, however, no one will be surprised that this still gained them a comfortable second team victory. Host club Kenilworth (89pts.) finished a very good second, taking them to second position in the League at the half way stage. D.Neill was back for the third race at Rugeley, and was a run-a-way winner from his most consistent Junior club mate S.Bailey.

Staffs Moorlands (24pts.) yet again had a very low winning total, only M.Williams 4th. spoiling their second minimum score. Kenilworth (127pts.) barring disasters in the final race, virtually assured themselves of second place in the League.

In their relentless drive to the fourth division Staffs Moorland (28pts.) filled the first five places at Droitwich, gaining promotion and the Divisional title at their first attempt. Kenilworth continued their fine effort in finishing 2nd. also was rewarded with promotion. The final promotion spot was gained by Shrewsbury.

A.Fowler (Staffs Moorlands) won the individual race on the day and this was enough to gain him the leading athletes award. S.Bailey (Staffs Moorland) won the Junior award.

Speaking for the League, I thank the following:

- i) Muriel Johnson for the support that she gave in her year as President.
- ii) All the Race Secretaries and League Officials who do such an excellent job in making the League run smoothly and efficiently.
- iii) All the promoting Clubs for all their hard work in providing the League with courses and marshals. Without these willing Clubs there would be no League.

Finally, it is with a degree of sadness I have to report that two of our stalwart Timekeepers have decided to hang up their Timers and retire, after very many years service to the League. On behalf of the League I express our most grateful thanks to John Andrews and Cliff Grant, both Past Presidents of the League. The League wishes them a long and fruitful retirement from there timekeeping and hopes that we may see them from time to time at our events.

Happy retirement John. Happy retirement Cliff.

Print Machine

Alan Hemsley proposed and Mark Dix seconded that the Hon. Secretary be empowered to buy a Print Machine for the League, in order that results, minutes etc. could be run off, the approximate cost of the machine was £2000. The meeting agreed unanimously.

The secretary stated that if Clubs wished to have printing done for their own events, providing sufficient time was given to the Secretary, he would be most happy to run off any printing required at cost.

Reebok Challenge

Together with Bill Adcocks and Nick Price the secretary updated the delegates on the first fixture to be held at Senneleys Park, Birmingham, that will incorporate the Reebok Challenge Cross country event with-in it. The fixture will combine all five divisions together in addition to those athletes from outside the League who enter the Reebok Challenge. Clubs or individuals

from those Clubs may enter the Reebok Challenge. Clubs or their members will not qualify for the Reebok Challenge unless they enter it. Entry forms will be sent to each of the Leagues Club's. The Midland Womens League are also to hold their first League race in with this fixture and there will be Young Athletes races held in conjunction with the event. A complete jamboree of Cross Country Running.

Bob Ashwood thanked the Leagues Executive for the work they had done in bringing this fixture to fruition, a sentiment endorsed by the majority of the meeting.

Proposal from Bill Adcocks

Bill put the following proposal to the Meeting :Senior best runner award, should be decided over three races, rather than the present four. i.e. as for the leading Junior athlete. His proposal was seconded by Maurice Millington. After some discussion a vote was taken on the proposal. The proposal was lost with only 14 delegates voting in favour of the motion.

Proposal from David Johnson

David proposed that at the final two fixtures of the season, a senior womens race be staged at one venue for each of the last two fixtures. His proposal was seconded by Maurice Millington. After much discussion both pro and against a vote was taken and the proposal was passed by just one vote. 30 votes for the motion 29 votes against.

Rugby & District A.C. offered to stage a womens race at the third 2nd. Division fixture at Princethorpe College.

Birchfield offered to stage a womens race at the final 1st. Division fixture at Alexander Stadium. Both offers were accepted.

Make -up of the League for the 1998 - 1999 Season

Wolverhampton & Bilston A.C. and Black Country Triathletes had both written applying to be re-admitted to the League for the coming season. Both applications were accepted unanimously. The two Clubs will start the season in Division Five of the League.

A letter from Hereford Couriers withdrawing from the League was accepted.

The make-up of the League for the 1998/99 season is as follows :

1st. Division

Birchfield Harriers
B'ham Rowheath
Broms. & Redditch
City of Stoke A.C.
Coventry Godiva
Leamington A.C.
Loughborough St.
Solihull & S.Heath
Staffordshire Uni.
Stourport A.C.
Telford A.C.
Tipton Harriers

2nd. Division

B'ham University
Cheltenham & Cty
Dudley & Stour.
Halesowen A.C.
Massey Ferguson
Northampton Ph.
Northbrook A.C.
Nuneaton H.
Potteries Marathon
Royal Sutton Cold.
Rugby & District
Severn A.C.

3rd. Division

Beaumont Leys
Cannock & Stafford
Centurion R.R.
Chase Harriers
Kidderminster
Oadby & Wigston
Sparkhill Harriers
Sphinx A.C.
Tamworth A.C.
Trentham R.C.
West Bromwich
Worcester A.C.

4th. Division

Aldridge R.C.
Bridgnorth A.C.
Dudley Kingswinford
Gloucester A.C.
Kenilworth R.R.
Newcastle A.C.
Oak Park Pacers
Peel R.R.
Shrewsbury & District
Stafford Harriers
Staffs. Moorlands
Stourbridge R.C.

5th. Division

Alvis R.C.
Rugeley & District
Telford Harriers

Black Country Tri.
Sandwell Valley
Warwick University

Cobra R.C.
Sneyd R.C.
Wolves & Bilston

Droitwich A.C.
Stratford A.C.

Dates, Fixtures and Venues.

	1st. Div.	2nd. Div.	3rd. Div.	4th. Div.	5th. Div.
7th. Nov. 1998	Combined fixture at Senneleys Park, Birmingham - Reebok Challenge.				
28th. Nov. 1998	Leamington	Nuneaton	Chase H.	Kenilworth	Nuneaton
17th. Jan. 1999	Coventry	Rugby	Sparkhill	Gloucester	Rugeley
13th. Feb. 1999	Birchfield	Massey Fer.	Sphinx	Stafford	Droitwich

For the second race in Division Five, this will be held in conjunction with the 2nd. Division fixture at Nuneaton and will start at 14:00 hours. Half an hour before the second Division fixture.

Election of Officers/Officials

The outgoing President Muriel Johnson proposed David McNamee as the new President, this nomination was passed unanimously.

David has been connected with the League for a great number of years, he still competes in the League for Cheltenham & County Harriers. He has spent the last nineteen years as the Hon. Auditor of the League. The length of tenure in this position must say something about Davids ability and the high regard in which he is thought of by the Leagues delegates. Certainly he has earned his year as President.

The first job of the newly elected President was to present the out going President, Muriel Johnson with the Presidents Placque.

President Elect : Betty Downes proposed Executive Committee

Hon. Secretary/Treasurer : C.B.Franks proposed K Dare, seconded M Millington

Hon. Auditor : Dave McNamee proposed D.Johnson, seconded B.Adcocks

All other nominations were elected 'en bloc' they are :

	1st.Div.	2nd. Div.	3rd. Div.	4th. Div.	5th. Div.
Race Secretary :	Bill Adcocks	Alan Hemsley	Bob Carey	Tom O'Reilly	John Heminsley
Referee :	Dave Johnson	Alan King	Graham Heeley	Mary Conn	Peter Lisseman
Judges :	Muriel Johnson	Stewart Harris	John Mills	David Conn	Ted Hutchings
	Ken Dare	Barry Ewington	Ted Schuck	Mavis Northall	Joan Bodsworth
	Terry Alcock	Terry Taylor	Billy Aston	Ron Freeman	Ray Williams
	Phil Ramsden				Jack Freeman
	Ken Walklate				
	Janet Ramsden				
	Betty Downes				
Timekeepers:	Bob Hussey	Marj. Ewington	Barry Gladwin	Arthur Birt	Jim Skidmore
	Pat Hussey	George Williams	Mike Doyle	Colin Stone	David Bennett
	Ernie Johnson	Phil Walker			Brian Shepherd
Delegate to MCAA :	C.B.Franks		Delegate to BAF?, AAA of E AGM's : C.B.Franks.		

Affiliation Fees

As recommended at last years AGM the Affiliation was increased to £50.

Dates for 1999 - 2000 Season

The Secretary asked (without warning) if Graham Heeley would come and explain the thinking and rationale behind the recommendations from the National Committee set up to look at the Cross Country

Fixture list.

Graham's explanation of the Committees thinking caused some discussion (some heated). However a vote of thanks proposed by Stewart Harris on behalf of the League, to Graham for the work he and others had done on trying to put forward plans to rationalise the Cross Country Fixture list was widely and warmly applauded.

The Secretary agreed to send out a list of the proposed dates for the 1999 - 2000 season that had been drawn up by the National Fixtures Committee. He asked that Clubs take these dates back to their Clubs, as he would draw up a questionnaire to be put to Clubs at the second fixture (November 28th.) for the Clubs to say which of four dates they would prefer out of the six put forward by the fixtures committee. The Executive of the League would look at the results of the questionnaire and propose League dates for the 1999 - 2000 season.

The proposed dates for 1999 - 2000 season are enclosed in with these minutes, on a separate sheet.

Any Other Business

The secretary informed the meeting that he had the voting papers for the Dave Moorcroft paper that had been published widely by UK Athletics 98 and wanted to know which way the meeting required him to vote. After some considerable discussion a vote proposed by Graham Heeley and seconded by Stewart Harris in favour of the paper was carried unanimously.

Date & Venue of the 74th. AGM

After much debate it was agreed to hold the meeting on Wednesday the 8th. September 1999. The venue to be agreed by the Executive.

There being no further business the President thanked Graham Heeley for arranging such a pleasant venue for the AGM, he also thanked delegates for their attendance and wished them a safe journey home.

The meeting closed at 10.0pm with a vote of thanks to the President.

Clubs please note that your Affiliation is now due.

All affiliations MUST be paid before the first race. No Club will be allowed to compete unless their affiliation has been paid prior to the event, e.g. latest 5th. November 1998.

The Affiliation fee for the coming season is £50 and should be made payable to :

'Birmingham and District Invitation Cross Country League'

and forwarded to the treasurer :

Cliff Franks
23 Salisbury Avenue,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire,
GL51 5BT

K. G. Dane .

8/9/99.