

Minutes of the 77th. AGM



Friday 6th. September 2002

BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT INVITATION CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE.

1926 - 2002

Minutes of the 77th. A.G.M. held at Alexander Stadium, Stadium Way, Walsall Road, Birmingham on Friday 6th. September 2002 at 7.30pm.

Obituary.

The President asked delegates to stand for a few quiet moments in memory of Tom Talbot, who passed away earlier this year. Tom was for many years secretary of Tipton Harriers, he was a League Timekeeper who later went on to become the President of the League. It will always be easy for the League to remember Tom for he presented the League with the Presidents chain of office.

Apologies for Absence.

These were received from Bill Adcocks (Past President, Coventry), Bob Carey (Race Secretary, Sphinx), Ron Freeman (Race Judge, Gloucester), George Williams (Race Timekeeper - Cheltenham), Glen Marriott (Staffs. Moorlands), Alice Naylor (Loughborough Students), Nick Price (B'ham Rowheath), Nick Wilson.

Present.

Alan Hemsley (President), B.Ewington, Graham Heeley, David McNamee, John Mills, Tom O'Reilly, Jim Skidmore, (Past Presidents), Terry Alcock, Pam Davies, Mike Doyle, Stewart Harris, Ted Schuck, Brian Shepherd, Terry Taylor, Ray Williams (League Officials), Graham Kelcher, Margaret Kelcher (Telford A.C.), Eric Hubbleday, David Winter (Sparkhill Harriers) Terry Akiens, John Gercs, Bernie Myers(Rugby & Northampton A.C.), Richard Sannwald (Dudley Kingswinford), Bob Hughes, Tom Humphries, Chris Powner (Cannock & Stafford A.C.), Stirling Farmer (Cobra), Roger Pollard (Royal Sutton Coldfield A.C.), David Jones, Neil Munroe (West Bromwich Harriers), A.Jones (Tamworth), M.Petch, A.Bagley (Sphinx A.C.), G.Farmer, D.Loundes, G.Powner (Chase Harriers), Mark Hill (Worcester A.C.), Richard Carney, Martin Ludford (B'ham Rowheath A.C.), Paul Jackson (Birchfield Harriers), Alan Jackson (Kidderminster & Stourport A.C.), Rex Tomlinson (Oak Park R.C.), Ray Bunn, Bill Nock (Halesowen A.C.), Geoff Wheeler (Centurion R.C.), Mark Baker, Colin Banks, Tony French (Northbrook A.C.), John Andrew, Paul Andrew, Kim Rye (Saracens A.C.), Gordon Hurd, Dilys Stockton (Wolves & Bilston A.C.), A.T.Card, Dave Smith (Aldridge R.C.), Ian Hill (Sneyd Striders), John Danahay (City of Stoke A.C.), Bob Froggatt (Solihull & Small Heath A.C.), Terry Haines (Severn A.C.), Alan Pratt, Martin Smith (Droitwich A.C.), Graham Allen (Stafford Harriers) & C.B.Franks (Hon. Secretary / Treasurer). Sixty three delegates signed themselves present at the meeting.

Besides the Clubs show above the following Clubs were represented either by Past Presidents or League Officials : Nuneaton Harriers, Cheltenham & County Harriers, Massey Ferguson R.C., Dudley & Stourbridge Harriers, Tipton Harriers, Thirty three Clubs being represented at the meeting.

Minutes of the 76th. A.G.M.

These were approved as a true record of the meeting, being passed unanimously after being proposed by Ray Williams and seconded by Jim Skidmore.

Matters Arising.

The secretary raised two matters, the first from 76th AGM minutes, the second from the Executive minutes.

- a) Glen Marriott had proposed that delegates, who had ideas for spending some of the money that the League had built up, should put their ideas before the Executive Committee. The secretary commented that no delegate had written in with any ideas to be considered.
- b) Eligibility of students, the secretary had received a letter from Loughborough to confirm that all their athletes were bona fide members of the Loughborough University students.

Statement of Accounts.

The Treasurer placed the audited accounts before the meeting. He went through each item, explaining each individual item. The main crux of the accounts was that the League had made a profit over expenditure of £929 - 31. This profit he explained was due to the promotion of the Reebok Cross Challenge. Without this event, the League would have made a loss of close to £240 on the year. However, the Treasurer was pleased to record that the League had assets of £9,658 - 69 at the end of the financial year.

As last year, the Treasurer was questioned, some would say admonished for the League making a profit over the year. The President reminded delegates that they had been invited to send in ideas for spending some of

the money and had not done so.

Two ideas that were put forward from the floor were :

a) Trophies for 'B' teams

b) Extra awards ordered by Clubs, to be paid for by the League.

However, the meeting thought that any ideas should go before the Executive and then be put to next years AGM. These ideas should be put in writing and sent to the secretary before the end of the coming season.

This included the ideas above if anyone thought they were worth persevering with.

Finally, the President asked for acceptance of the accounts. Terry Haines proposed acceptance, this was seconded by Bob Froggatt. The motion was approved unanimously by the delegates present.

Presidents Address.

The President, Alan Hemsley, remarked that it did not seem a twelve month since he was invested into the post of President. He considered it a great honour, especially when he looked at some of the names of previous Presidents.

Alan, had a very satisfactory and interesting season, starting with the Senneleys Park fixture, which has become a highlight of the season. He then visited Gloucester to watch the second division fixture promoted by Severn A.C.. Division three was his desination for the third fixture, this being held at one of his favourite courses at Princethorpe College. The final race of the first division saw the President travelling to Leek. Promoted by Staffs Moorlands on a true cross country course. He was very disappointed to see the low turn out, only a 119 athletes. Generally, he was disappointed with the standards on display at the Leek race, especially after the first dozen or so home.

This was his first attendance at a first division fixture since the 1950's when he used to go with his father who was a Godiva Official. Joining Massey Ferguson in 1984 he has found himself locked in division two, much of that time as Race Secretary. He mentioned that he hoped Massey Ferguson would manage to remain in the second division after the Club's poorest results of last season.

Alan ended by thanking all the delegates for electing him to the post of President and in so doing providing him with a very rewarding year. He certainly did not think eighteen years ago, when he first attended the AGM, that he would be elected to such a prestigious and elated position.

Secretary's Report

First Division

Once again all four divisions of the League came together at Senneleys Park, for the fourth running of the Reebok Birmingham Cross Challenge. Blessed with excellent weather, the event provided perhaps the finest bonanza of Cross Country running yet seen in the second city. Certainly, the event seems to go from strength to strength each year it has been run; and is a major event in the cross country calendar to be looked forward to each year.

Once again our thanks must go to Sandra Jurkovic for her continued inspired work on our behalf and to the wonderful Birmingham City staff who seem to have the habit of pulling rabbits out of the proverbial top hat each year. Thanks also to Nick Price and his team of helpers who construct a wonderful course each year and to the squad from Sparkhill Harriers, who under the direction of Graham Heeley build the finish area, which copes so admirably with the numbers of finishers. To all those too numerous to mention individually, who help in any way to make the day such a wonderful advert for Cross Country running, this League salutes and thanks you for your efforts.

This first race provided a cracking start to the team competition with just eighteen points separating the first four Clubs at the end of the day. Tipton Harriers (86) just seven points ahead of Loughborough (93) who were in turn only four points ahead of Birchfield Harriers (97). Coventry Godiva were fourth with 104 points. At the other end of the division Trentham, Staffs Moorlands, who had a particularly unexpected bad start in their debut in the division and Bromsgrove and Redditch were in the relegation placings.

The Coventry pair of Glyn Tromans and Stephan White were placed one and two in the individual, they were followed home by Rob Birchall of Birchfield.

The second race held at Alexander Stadium was won by Daniel Rowan (Tipton) ahead of club mate I.Mitchell, who outsprinted home based runner Matt Boulstridge. Youngster, Matthew Lole of Coventry was

beginning to show what a force he would become in the Junior ranks, in finishing fourth.

Tipton Harriers (50) placing their scoring team in the first eighteen runners home, ran out easy team winners on the day, ahead of the Loughborough Students (141) and their University rivals from Birmingham (190) who placed third on the day. With Cheltenham and Leamington having poor outings, they joined Bromsgrove & Redditch at the foot of the table.

Loughborough Students (740) led Tipton (904) in the 'B' team competition at the half way point of the League. Only seven Clubs had fielded 'B' teams in the first two fixtures.

The fast Coventry course provided the venue for the third fixture. For the third time in succession the race provided a different winner, showing that no one athlete was dominating the proceedings, this time Loughborough Student J. McAlister beat the fast improving Darrius Burrows, who was coming back from serious illness. Local runner Gerald Deacon was third.

Tipton (71) won their third race in a row, once again defeating the Loughborough Students (77) by a narrow margin. OWLS (152) having their best run of the season finished third. With Cheltenham and Trentham reversing their efforts of the second race, Trentham joined Leamington and Bromsgrove & Redditch in the relegation zone; whereas Cheltenham were beginning to claw their way to safety.

The final race held at Leek on a course described as slightly gruelling for division one athletes, saw a one, two, three from Birchfield athletes Matt Dalkins, Matt Boulstridge and P. Hinch, these three pouring scorn on some that said the course was too tough.

Tipton who were taking a comfortable 105 point lead into this fixture would surely hold off the Students from Loughborough. Surely they would not allow to happen the reversal that was sprung on them last season. Yet the nightmare happened with Loughborough (86) winning their only fixture and taking the League Championship Title. On the day Birmingham University (156) finished second and Birchfield (180) third. Poor Tipton (226) were fourth, however they managed to hold onto the runners up spot, over doubling their score on the last fixture.

Only three teams finished a team in the 'B' team competition, they were Loughborough (1309), Cheltenham (2450) and Leamington (2805)

On the individual front Daniel Rowan (14) won the best athlete award, he also won a special award for best over four races. Second was Matt Boulstridge (15) and third was Gerald Deacon (26). The Junior awards were won by D. Webb (4), L. Turner (8) and S. Marriott (10)

Second Division.

The first race showed what good form Matt Vaux-Harvey was in for Kidderminster & Stourport, finishing a street ahead of his opposition. G. Taylor of Staffs Uni. finishing second, some 78 seconds behind the Worcestershire runner. The venerable Bill Nock in a close up third position. Paul Moores of Tamworth was the first Junior home in a fine seventh place.

Kidderminster & Stourport (112) placed three men in the top ten home, giving them an excellent start, and enough to hold on to a narrow lead (6 points) over a useful Severn A.C. (118) squad. Nuneaton (139) clinched third place. Solihull & Small Heath together with Staffordshire University were in the relegation zone after the first fixture.

The second race over the very flat and fast course at Plock Court, Gloucester, again showed the class of Matt Vaux-Harvey who took another easy victory, this time by 89 seconds. Lees of Solihull finishing a good second, pushing the last race runner-up Taylor into third position. The perennial Alan Jackson improving to fourth place. Paul Moores once again was the first Junior to finish, yet again in seventh position.

Cross Country showed what a strange sport it can be sometimes, with Solihull & Small Heath (122) going from a relegation position in the first fixture to first position in the second race, this all in the space of four weeks. Severn A.C. (129) once again finished in the runner up position, this performance was good enough to place them at the top of Division Two. Kidderminster & Stourport (169) placed third, holding on to second place in the division. Nuneaton hanging on to third position in the League table. Joining Staffs University in the relegation places was Sparkhill Harriers.

The venue may change, this time Northampton, yet the individual winner was once more Matt Vaux Harvey again by 89 seconds from the Staffs University pair of Goodliffe and Gould. Once more Alan Jackson finished in fourth place. First Junior home was K. Clarke from the host Club, finishing in 18th place. Placing their scoring six in the first 25 runners home, Kidderminster & Stourport (67) had a very easy team win. This win taking them to the top of the division, moving ahead of Severn A.C. (211) who had their worst race of the year finishing in fifth place. Northampton Phoenix (141) making a late charge for promotion pipped Nuneaton Harriers (151) for second place on the day. However, the Warwickshire Club remained in the third promotion spot, taking a 41pt advantage into the final race on their home course. At the foot of the table Sparkhill looked almost certain for relegation, the question who was to join them, with only 77 points separating four Clubs : Massey Ferguson, Tamworth, Staffs University and Birmingham Rowheath. Matt Vaux-Harvey in setting his third win of the season was in an unassailable position for the individual title.

With no Vaux-Harvey to contend with in the final race at Burbage Common, Hinkley, M. McKay of Northampton pulled off the narrowest of wins from the Staffs University pair of Goodliffe and Taylor. This result, however, did not stop Matt Vaux-Harvey from taking the individual title with 3pts. from Taylor 8pts. and Jackson 14pts. Alan Jackson went on to take the plaque for the athlete with the best aggregate over four races. Northampton's K. Clarke won the Junior award.

Despite Kidderminster & Stourport (116) only finishing second on the day they ran out convincing winners of the second division. Severn (161) fourth on the day, held on for second place. The third promotion spot sent people rushing for their calculators. Northampton (103) had a superb day in winning the race on the day and when their points were totted up for the season they came to 646pts. exactly the same total as Nuneaton Harriers. Another rush, this time to the League rules, which state : 'In the result of a tie in team or individual competition, the team / individual who places higher in the fourth race shall be declared the winner'. This of course placed Northampton in the promotion spot and unfortunate Nuneaton have another year to wait to see if they can clinch promotion to division one.

Relegated, with Sparkhill, were Tamworth who had an absolute disaster in the final race.

Third Division.

Rugby (102) started the season with a flourish showing that their fall from the second division last season was just a hic-up and not to be tolerated. Second to them was a rejuvenated Worcester (141) who were some 19 points of Gloucester (160). These three holding the promotion positions. Surprisingly Wolves & Bilston (416) started their season at the foot of the table. Sphinx (350) and Stourbridge (405) were the other two teams who started their season looking at relegation.

Rob Barry of Northbrook had an excellent run to win the individual race, he was followed home by John Gercs Rugby and T. Warrinder of Wolves & Bilston. First Junior to close was L. Amphlett of Worcester in fourth position.

The second race held in Coventry was won by Peter Kellie of Gloucester by just over a minute from the winner of the first race Rob Barry. Mike Johnson of Kenilworth was third runner home. Once again Rugby (100) took the race by the scruff of the neck, this time coming in ahead of Gloucester (146). Worcester (182) dropped one position in both the race and League table, finishing third on the day. Wolverhampton had a much better second race to finish in mid table, in so doing, they moved up two places in the division, although were still in the relegation zone. At the midway point of the League Sphinx and Stourbridge looked a promising bet for relegation.

A testing course at Princethorpe College was the venue of the third race. Worcester (133) warming to the hills, ran splendidly to take their first team win of the season over home club Rugby (145). This result placed Worcester back into 2nd position in the League. Surprise third placers were Wolverhampton & Bilston (148) who continued to improve, so much so that at this fixture they eliminated the threat of relegation. Gloucester (163) fourth on the day continued to hold onto the third promotion spot. Looking fairly certain that Sphinx and Stourbridge were for the drop, the question being asked was who would be the third relegation team? Mike Johnson continued his improvement to win the race by 25 seconds from home runner Hywel Davies

who just outsprinted T.Warrender. Lee Slater was first Junior home in 6th. place.

The final race at Malvern Common produced more surprise, Wolverhampton & Bilston (95) won the race. How many clubs have finished last in the first fixture and gone on to win the final fixture?? This splendid performance took the Black Country team into the top half of the League table. Worcester (111) and Rugby (124) both consolidated their positions at the top of the League table. Finishing 6th on the day Gloucester (266) held off the fast improving Dudley & Stourbridge (206) to hold onto the third promotion spot.

Sadly, a spirited last ditch effort by Stourbridge, seventh position in this final race, failed to keep them from relegation; joining Sphinx and Centurion, who in turn, were only nine points from saving themselves from the drop.

T.Warrender who had featured prominently at the front of all four races, was to achieve his goal by winning the final individual race. He was followed home by the Rugby duo of Brown and Gercs. Lee Slater was once again the first Junior to finish.

Warrender's fine run gained him the leading individuals award and the athlete with the best aggregate over all four races. Stourbridge athlete, James Savage won the individual award for the best Junior athlete.

Worcester A.C. won the 'B' Team competition, where 6 teams closed in all four races.

Fourth Division.

In a good race that saw just seven seconds separating the first three individuals A.Bird of Cannock & Stafford got the best of P.Andrew Saracens and M.Smith Cannock & Stafford who crossed the line virtually together, the Coventry athlete obtaining the verdict. P. Andrew was also the first Junior to cross the line.

Black Country Triathletes (98) made their first impression on the League by winning this first race, they were followed home by Black Country rivals West Bromwich Harriers (137). Third place went to Cannock & Stafford (214). Sadly, Oak Park did not complete a team in the first race.

In the first of two races held at Stafford Common was won by A.Bird of Cannock & Stafford, he was followed home by Club mate C.Hollinghead. Promising junior, P.Andrew for the second occasion running, this time finishing third.

The team race proved to be a white wash for Cannock & Stafford (27), who placed their scoring six in the top nine finishers home. This superb performance took the Club to the head of the League table at the half way stage of the season. Once again an interesting battle was enacted between those Black Country rivals West Bromwich Harriers (161) and Black Country Triathletes (174). Despite this defeat, the Triathletes held on to 2nd. spot in the league table.

Merry Hill R.C. did not turn up to the fixture. Once again Oak Park failed to field a complete team.

The third fixture was also held at Stafford Common and it would be appropriate at this juncture to thank host Club Stafford Harriers for their efforts on our behalf; producing a differing course for this fixture, from the one used for the second event.

Cannock & Stafford (42) continue to show their undoubted strength, when once again they romped home easy winners, although this time it took them to 19 position before they closed their team. West Bromwich once again took second position on the day and indeed moved up to that position in the League table. Home Club Stafford Harriers had an excellent race to finish third. Black Country Triathletes had a poor race by the high standards that they had set themselves for the season, by finishing ninth on the day. However they remained in the three promotional spots.

Once again Merry Hill did not turn up for this fixture. Good to see Oak Park back on track and finishing a team.

Cannock & Stafford A.C. produced the individual winner yet again this time in the guise of P.Lester, he was followed in by his compatriot M. Smith. For the third consecutive race P. Andrew gained a top three position, making him unassailable as the winner of the Junior individual award, even before the fourth race was held.

Droitwich, the venue of the final race, was to see P. Andrew come of age with a splendid win over M.Smith. Placing in the top three for the first time this season was B.Aitken of Aldridge, certainly having his best run

of the season.

Black Country Triathletes (102) dominated this final race. However, they were chased home by their rivals West Bromwich, who have had a renaissance this season. Indeed despite the Triathletes efforts, West Brom hung on to 2nd. place in the division. An excellent team effort from Aldridge gave them third place on the day. Cannock & Stafford A.C. having their worst race of the season finished down seventh position, despite this their dominance over the two middle races was enough to give them the Divisional Championship. West Bromwich were the only Club in this division to field a 'B' team in all four races, this of course giving them the 'B' Team title.

Facts & Figures.

| | <u>1st.Div.</u> | <u>2nd. Div.</u> | <u>3rd. Div.</u> | <u>4th. Div.</u> | <u>Totals</u> |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Race One, 3rd. Nov.2001 | 177 | 156 | 181 | 175 | 689 |
| Race Two, 1st. Dec. 2001 | 155 | 153 | 187 | 173 | 668 |
| Race Three, 12th Jan 2002 | 158 | 142 | 178 | 172 | 650 |
| Race Four, 16th Mar. 2002 | 119 | 158 | 158 | 158 | 593 |
| Totals : | 609 | 609 | 704 | 678 | |
| Average per race : | 152.2 | 152.2 | 176 | 169.5 | |

It would be remiss of me, if I did not end this report by thanking all those Clubs who have once again come forward to stage the Leagues Promotions in such a professional manner, without such Clubs there would be no Birmingham & District Cross Country League. I would urge other Clubs to look at the possibility of staging a League race, for we cannot always rely on the same Clubs to put themselves forward each year. To our Officials, I would say thank you, there are thankfully very few problems that occur in our League and this is due in no small measure to the way that you, our officials, conduct the races in a completely unofficial way, cajoling and joking the athletes into a great sporting manner. They may call the Commonwealth Games the friendly games; but the Birmingham & District Cross Country League is most certainly, the friendly Cross Country League.

First Aid / Risk Assessment / Permits - Reminder of Rule 14.

The Secretary reminded Clubs of Rule 14 which states ;

The Hon. Secretary of the promoting Club shall arrange for Marshals, Officials and First Aid Cover for each race. A Disc System of scoring shall be used. Each Club shall provide its own disc steward.

Please note : Referees have been told that they must cancel any fixture where there is no First Aid cover provided. This agreed at the 2001 AGM. It is the host Club that is responsible for booking First Aid and checking that St. John Ambulance / Red Cross will be in attendance. Written confirmation of First Aid cover is desirable.'

He also stated that he would be sending a permit application form, together with a Risk Assessment to be filled in. The permit form must be returned to the Secretary as soon as possible, the Risk Assessment should be filled in and kept by the Club for at least a twelve month.

Identification of First Aid Personnel.

When St. John or Red Cross are used, it is easy to identify them by their uniforms. However, where Clubs have used very good, highly qualified first aiders from other sources, it is very difficult to identify who they are, or more importantly where they are? The League asks that Clubs using such first aiders take them to meet the Referee at the beginning of the meeting. One to establish where they are to be found and that they are genuinely bona fide first aiders. It would be helpful if a Red Cross or some other identification could be posted at the position where they set up their base.

At this juncture Terry Taylor raised the question of identification of Officials. He was told to raise this question in any other business.

Executive Proposal - Addition / Change to Rule 7 :

The Executive proposed a change to Rule 7 as follows:

Races to be confined to **First Claim Team Members** of member Clubs.'

After the secretary explained the reasoning behind this proposal, the meeting unanimously agreed to the change / addition.

Reebok Cross Challenge Race

The secretary informed the meeting that once again Clubs had agreed to hold the first fixture jointly and in conjunction with the Reebok Cross Challenge. This event to be held on the 2nd. November at the usual venue of Senneleys Park, Birmingham.

Make up of the League for the 2002 - 2003 season.

- Northampton Phoenix and Rugby & District A.C. had amalgamated and would therefore be taking up their place in Division One.
- Oak Park had reapplied to remain in the League. Merry Hill had not written. Therefore, Oak Park were re-elected to the League; Merry Hill are no longer members of the League.
- Amazing Feet had written to become members of the League. Their application was unanimously supported by League delegates. Amazing Feet will take up their position in division four.
- The meeting agreed that the first three divisions be made up to thirteen for the coming season.

Therefore the League make up is as follows :

| <u>1st. Div.</u> | <u>2nd. Div.</u> | <u>3rd. Div.</u> | <u>4th Div.</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Birchfield Harriers | B'ham Rowheath A.C. | Black Country Triathletes | Aldridge R.C. |
| B'ham University | Brom. & Redditch A.C. | Cannock & Stafford A.C. | Alvis R.C. |
| Cheltenham & Cty. H. | Chase Harriers | Centurion R.C. | Amazing Feet R.C. |
| City of Stoke A.C. | Dudley & Stourbridge H. | Kenilworth R.C. | COBRA R.C. |
| CoVentry Godiva H. | Gloucester A.C. | Newcastle A.C. | Droitwich A.C. |
| Kiddermin. & Stourport | Halesowen A.C. | Northbrook A.C. | Dudley Kingswinford |
| Loughborough Students | Leamington C & A.C. | Royal Sutton Coldfield | Hereford Couriers |
| Northampton & Rugby | Massey Ferguson R.C. | Stafford Harriers | Lichfield R.C. |
| O.W.L.S. | Nuneaton Harriers | Sparkhill Harriers | Oak Park |
| Severn A.C. | Solihull & Small Heath | Tamworth A.C. | Peel R.C. |
| Staffs Moorlands | Staffs. University | Warwick University | Saracens R.C. |
| Telford A.C. | Trentham R.C. | West Bromwich H. | Sneyd Striders |
| Tipton Harriers | Worcester A.C. | Wolves & Bilston A.C. | Sphinx A.C. |
| | | | Stourbridge R.C. |
| | | | Stratford A.C. |
| | | | Telford Harriers |

Dates, Fixtures and Venues for the 2002 -2003 Season.

| | <u>1st.Div.</u> | <u>2nd. Div.</u> | <u>3rd. Div.</u> | <u>4th.Div.</u> |
|-----------------|--|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 2nd. Nov. 2002 | Combined Fixture at Senneleys Park, Birmingham - Reebok Cross Challenge. | | | |
| 30th. Nov. 2002 | Gloucester (Severn) | Massey Ferguson | Northbrook | Saracens |
| 11th. Jan. 2003 | Princethorpe Coll. | Nuneaton | Stafford | Droitwich |
| 1st. Mar. 2003 | Alexander Stadium | Worcester | Wolverhampton | Aldridge |

Election of Officers & Officials.

The Executive proposed Stewart Harris for the post of President for the 2002 - 2003 season , this was endorsed unanimously by the meeting and outgoing President Alan Hemsley presented Stewart with his chain of Office.

Stewart took up Cross Country running whilst at Leeds University, his first race was at Wythenshawe Park, where a young Ron Hill was winner. Although primarily interested in cross country he performed well on the track at distances between a mile and three miles. Whilst at University, Stewart had his first taste of organising a cross country event, being the co-ordinator for the BUSF Cross Country Championships at Round Hay Park, Leeds. - later to become famous as an England National Championship course. Interestingly, the great Herb Elliott was a competitor in these University Championships at Leeds.

It was in 1958 that Stewart joined BTH Rugby Harriers, the forerunner of the present club. In the early sixties he remembers winning a second Division race at Wordsley. He remembers with some discomfort running in the first division and seeing a wee toothless man from Leek 'winging away from us mere mortals' (Roy Fowler). Injury curtailed Stewarts running carreer and he ended up playing local Rugby.

However through his job as a school master , he became increasingly involved in schools athletics and

coaching. Honing his skills as an administrator, Team Manager and organiser of athletics events. The highlight of his career so far was the part he played in the organisation of the ESAA Cross Country Championships at Stoneleigh in 1995. For the last twenty and more years he has been one of the leading lights of Rugby & District A.C. and is proud of the fact that he is the third Rugby man to be given the honour of President of the Birmingham League. This in a year when he has also become Championship President of the MCCA.

In Stewarts spare time, he is taken out for walks by his two dogs.

Ted Schuck (Sparkhill Harriers) was proposed by John Mills for the position of President Elect, he again was unanimously accepted for that position by the meeting.

The new President put forward C.B.Franks for the posts of Secretary & Treasurer of the League, this was accepted by the meeting. He also proposed Dave McNamee as Hon. Auditor of the League, this was accepted unanimously by the delegates present. Stewart thanked both, for their services to the League.

It was agreed to approve en bloc the Executives proposals for Officials for the coming season. They are :

| | 1st.Div. | 2nd.Div. | 3rd.Div. | 4th.Div. |
|------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Race Secretary : | Bill Adcocks | Alan Hemsley | Tom O'Reilly | Bob Carey |
| Race Referee : | Ken Walklate | Terry Alcock | Graham Heeley | Alan King |
| Judges : | Betty Downes Ray Williams | Bill Aston Barry Ewington Terry Taylor Ron Freeman | Peter Lisseman John Mills Ted Schuck | David Johnson Muriel Johnson |
| Timekeepers | Ernie Johnson Phil Walker George Williams | Margaret Ewington Arthur Birt Colin Stone | Pam Davies Mike Doyle Barry Gladwin | David Bennett Brian Shepherd Jim Skidmore Byron Rowe |

The secretary commented that the League could use another couple of judges in Division One and Division Four. The President asked delegates to pass on names to the secretary if they know of any prospective Officials.

It was agreed that C.B.Franks be the Leagues delegate to the M.C.A.A. and to the A.A.A. of England.

Affiliation Fees.

The meeting agreed to the Executive proposal that there should be no increase in affiliations for the next two seasons. Therefore, the affiliation remains at £50.

Any Other Business.

Terry Taylor again requested some means by which Officials could be identified. The secretary explained that the League did buy arm bands, these did not find favour with Officials and were soon lost, indeed there were very few around after one season. Terry stated it was not what the officials wanted, it was for the benefit of the athletes, in order that they could establish who the officials were.

It was agreed that the secretary should look at means by which Officials can be identified and purchase the solution.

Date and venue of the 78th. AGM.

It was agreed to hold next years AGM on Friday the 5th. September 2003 at Alexander Stadium.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm with a vote of thanks to the President.

Birmingham & District Invitation Cross Country League.

RULES

1. That the name of the League be the Birmingham & District Invitation Cross Country League.
2. That the objects of the League be the promotion of combined races, allowing any numbers of runners to compete.
3. All Member Clubs **MUST** be affiliated to the MCAA for Cross Country running.
4. That the management of the League be vested in a President, President Elect, Three delegates from each Club, Hon. Secretary, Hon Treasurer, also an Asst. Secretary & Treasurer, if the AGM feel that these Assistant Officers are necessary, all of whom shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting each year with the Past presidents.
5. An Executive Committee shall be elected at the AGM and will consist of the following
 - i) The President
 - ii) President Elect
 - iii) Immediate Past President
 - iv) The Hon. Secretary
 - v) The Hon. Treasurer
 - vi) The Race Secretaries
 - vii) The Race Referees.

This Executive should be instructed to meet once a year after the close of each season to discuss relevant matters from the preceding season. Duties of this Committee shall be to make recommendations for items for discussion at the next AGM, if thought necessary. Also this Executive would have the powers of an appeals committee and as such could be asked to meet, at the discretion of the Hon. Secretary, if any problem should arise through-out the season. This committee shall have the power to co-opt members if it deems necessary.

6. That the Headquarters be a suitable venue in the Birmingham & District area, where meetings may be held.
7. Races to be confined to **FIRST CLAIM TEAM MEMBERS** of member Clubs.

NO GUEST RUNNERS

Athletes must have reached the age of Seventeen years by August 31st./September 1st. at the commencement of the coming Cross Country season. The rules of the E.C.C.A., uk:athletics rules for competition and MCAA shall apply.

8. University Clubs **MUST** comply with Rule 5 First Claim Status (3) in the uk:athletics book Rules For Competition 2002 page 7.
9. That the League be divided into Four Divisions containing Clubs of equal strength. The three Clubs finishing first, second and third in the second, third and fourth divisions to move to the higher Division; and the three Clubs finishing at the bottom of the tables in Divisions one, two and three to move into a lower Division.

Any Club dropping out of the League shall be considered as one of the three teams to be demoted from the division in which they were competing. The correct number of teams for that division and subsequent divisions, shall be made up to the correct strength by promoting an extra team from the division below.

In the case of a tie:

- i) In the result of a tie in team or individual competition, the team/individual who places higher in the fourth race shall be declared the winner.
- ii) Scoring the Junior Individual race will be scored as a separate race. i.e. the first Junior home shall score one point, the second home two points etc. if two Juniors are equal on points at the end of the final race, then two plaques shall be awarded.

The top three teams in each Division to receive League awards respectively; also the top three Individuals, on points, in each Division will receive League awards (scored over three races). An additional award shall be made to the athlete with the best aggregate over the four races. In addition the top three Juniors in each Division will receive a League award (Scored over three races).

Awards may be purchased through the League Secretary. if Clubs require extra

plaques. However, only those athletes that have scored in one or more fixtures shall be eligible for an award, purchased or not.

Providing Clubs field twelve finishers in each race there will be a 'B' competition with results printed and distributed to Clubs; however there will be no Trophies or awards for this competition.

10. That the distances of races be from 5 to 7 miles, races to be decided on Championship line. All races will start at 2:30pm, unless circumstances decree otherwise, in which case Clubs will be notified.
11. Affiliation fee to be decided at the AGM (at present £50-00.) per Club per annum. Numbers and results sheets to be supplied by the League.
12. Any Club which fails to pay its affiliation Fee prior to the first race after the A.G.M. shall have their invitation to compete in the League withdrawn.
13. Each race shall be in the charge of an appointed Referee whose decision shall be **FINAL**. League Judges and Timekeepers for each Division shall be appointed by the AGM and will be responsible for giving and recording the official placings and times at each race. The races will be started by an appointed Starter.
14. The Hon. Secretary of the promoting Club shall arrange for Marshals, Officials and **First Aid Cover** for each race. A Disc system of scoring shall be used. Each Club shall provide its own Disc steward.

Please note : Referees have been told that they **must** cancel any fixture where there is no First Aid cover provided. This agreed at the 2001 AGM. **It is the host Clubs that is responsible for booking First Aid and checking that St.John Ambulance / Red Cross will be in attendance.** Written confirmation of First Aid cover is desirable.

15. Any Club failing to complete a team in all four fixtures shall automatically finish at the bottom of their Division table in the final placings; and will therefore be relegated. Failing to complete a team in the Fourth Division shall mean that the Club must apply in writing (before the next AGM) to the Hon. Secretary for re-election to the League, if the Club wishes to retain its membership of the League. A Club not completing a scoring team in at least one of the four fixtures, no matter which Division, shall forfeit its membership of the League. Any Club in this position would have to re-apply for membership of the League; if re-admitted would take up its place in the lowest Division.
16. The dates and venues of all League races shall be decided at the AGM and those Clubs giving written application to stage a League Fixture shall be given preference when choosing venues for the coming season.
17. The Hon. Secretary of each promoting Club **MUST** inform all Clubs in their Division, the President, League Secretary, Race Secretary, Referee, Judges and Timekeepers as to the Venue, Travel Directions and the type and distance of the course at least **FOURTEEN (14) DAYS** before the race is to be run. Host Clubs will be liable to forfeit their League expenses if they fail to comply with the above instructions. To receive these expenses Clubs must furnish the Hon.Treasurer with photo copies of the invoices of costs incurred by the Club in the promotion of their League race. Reimbursement will only be for hire cost of facilities and for First Aid cover up to a maximum of £50 for donations. However, where Clubs are invoiced by the First Aid agencies, the League will pay up to £100 on receipt of a copy of the invoice. *Please note that all promotion expenses must be with the Treasurer by the 30th. April, following the close of each season. Failure to do this will result in the Club forfeiting its claim, and no payment will be made.*
18. **CLUB COLOURS MUST BE WORN.** The Referee will disqualify any athlete who does not comply with this rule.
19. Safety pins are not provided by the League for athletes numbers, this is the responsibility of individual Clubs to provide. The League Officials would appreciate if athletes could pin their numbers on the sides rather than top and bottom of the

number. All four corners would be even better.

20. The responsibility for the up to date engraving of the Leagues Trophies, is that of the holding Club. Clubs **MUST** return League Trophies to their Division Secretary by the **THIRD RACE** of the season.
21. Unless otherwise stated in information sent out all races will start at 2:30p.m.
22. The secretary will provide each promoting Club with a permit form at the beginning of the season. This must be filled in and returned to the secretary in order that a permit for the event can be obtained from the MCCA.

Clubs please note that your affiliation is now due.

Please forward your £50 affiliation to the Hon. Treasurer :

**Cliff Franks,
23 Salisbury Avenue,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire,
GL51 3BT.**

BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT INVITATION CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

Names and addresses of Club Secretaries and League Officials.

2002 - 2003.

Division One

- President:- Stewart Harris, 42 Orson Leys, Hillside, Rugby, CV22 5RF. (01788 811871)
Secretary :- C.B.Franks, 23 Salisbury Avenue, Cheltenham, Glos., GL51 3BT. (01242 528548)
Race Secretary :- B.Adcocks, 90 Frilsham Way, Coventry, CV5 9LR. (02476 674665)
Referee :- K.Walklate, 31 Werburgh Drive, Trentham, Stoke on Trent, ST4 8SP. (01782 658858)
Judges :- Betty Downes, 1 Gorstie Croft, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 5LZ (0121 357 3203)
Ray Williams, 27 Withymoor Road, Dudley, West Mids. DY2 9JZ (01384 562990)
Timekeepers :- E.Johnson, 237 Crewe Road, Sandbach, Cheshire, CW11 0PZ. (01270 763589)
P.Walker, 166 Stroud Road, Gloucester, (01452 500841)
G.Williams, 117 Grettton Road, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire (01242 602529)
Birchfield :- M.Millington, Birchfield Harriers, Alexander Stadium, Stadium Way, Perry Barr, Birmingham, B42 2LR. (0121 344 4858)
B'ham University :- Cross Country Captain, Sports Union, Birmingham University, Edgbaston, Birmingham. (0121 472 3686)
Cheltenham & County H. :- D.Randall, 3 Fairhavens Court, Pittville Circus Road, Cheltenham, GL52 2QR. (01242 243346)
City of Stoke :- J.Danahay, 19 Waterside Close, Madeley, Crewe, Cheshire, CW3 9TH (01782 751851)
Coventry G. :- P.Banks, 107 Berkeley Road South, Earlsdon, Coventry, CV5 6EV. (02476 712163)
Kidder. & Stour. :- R.Payne, 76 St. John's Avenue, Kidderminster, Worcs., DY11 6AZ. (01562 68971)
Loughborough St. :- X-Country Captain, Union Building, Ashby Road, Loughborough, Leics. (01509 217766 Ext.40)
Rugby & North. :- T.Akiens, 290 Lower Hillmorton Road, Rugby, Warks., CV21 4AE. (01788 844542)
OWLS :- W.Walker, 21 Tentercroft Ave., Syston, Leicester. LE7 2EZ. (09738 24638)
Severn A.C. :- T.Haines, 48 The Triangle, Longlevens, Gloucester. (01452 410885)
Staffs Moorlands :- G.Marriott, 41 Hillswood Avenue, Leek, Staffs. ST13 8EQ. (01538 398581)
Telford A.C. :- Mrs. M.Kelcher, 10 Lillehurst, Abbey Road, Sherrif Hales, Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 8RL. (01952 604046)
Tipton :- C.Holloway, 79 Underknoll, Peasedown St. John, Bath, BA2 8TY. (01761 420053)

DIVISION TWO

- President :- Stewart Harris, 42 Orson Leys, Hillside, Rugby, CV22 5RF. (01788 811871)
Secretary :- C.B.Franks, 23 Salisbury Avenue, Cheltenham, Glos., GL51 3BT (01242 528548)
Race Secretary :- A.Hemsley, 272 Browns Lane, Allesley, Coventry, CV5 9EE. (02476 404890)
Referee :- T.Alcock, 27 Water Orton Road, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, B36 9ER. (0121 747 9694)
Judges :- B.Aston, 82 Yellow Hammer Road, Spennells, Kidderminster, DY10 4RR. (01562 862033).
B.Ewington, 16 Hemsworth Drive, Bulkington, Nuneaton, Warks., CV12 9PE. (02476 314990)
T.Taylor, 12 Staines Close, Nuneaton, Warks., CV11 6EA. (02476 327151)
R.Freeman, 16 Belgrave Road, Gloucester, GL1 1QZ. (01452 384169)
Timekeepers :- M.Ewington, 16 Hemsworth Drive, Bulkington, Nuneaton, Warks., CV12 9PE. (02476 314990)
A.Birt, 43 Wilton Road, Gloucester, GL1 5NJ. (01452 536391)
C.Stone, 9 Druids Oak, Quedgley, Gloucester, GL2 6YZ. (01452 723878)
B'ham Rowheath. :- R.Carney, 21 Whittleford Grove, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, B36 9SL (0121 747 3582)
Broms & Redditch :- V.Harry, 36 Campden Close, Crabbs Cross, Redditch, Worcs., B97 5NJ. (01527 459092)
Chase Harriers :- D.Loundes, 26 Raymond Close, Walsall, West Mids., WS2 7AG. (01922 614359)
Dudley & Stour. :- Mrs. B.A.Shepherd, 22 Ashdene Gdns., Stourbridge, West Mids., DY8 5JQ. (01384 278968)
Gloucester A.C. :- Sandra Ennis, 114 Cecil Street, Gloucester, GL1 5HQ. (01452 504630)

Halesowen A.C. :- R.Bunn, 4 Pinewoods Avenue, Hagley, Stourbridge, West Mids., DY9 0JF.
(01562 884207)

Leamington :- R.Burrows, 16 Sabin Drive, Weston under Wetherley, Leamington Spa, Warks.

Massey Ferg.:- A.Hemsley, 272 Browns Lane, Allesley, Coventry, CV5 9EE. (02476 404890)
(01926 864452)

Nuneaton Harriers :- B.Ewington, 16 Hemsworth Drive, Bulkington, Nuneaton, Warks., CV12 9PE.
(02476 314990)

Solihull & S.Heath :- R.Froggatt, 18 Beacon Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Mids., B73 5SJ.
(0121 355 3283)

Staffs University :- Dr. D.Benning, Div. of Sport.Health & Exercise, Leek Road, Stoke on Trent,
ST4 2DF. (01782 294000)

Trentham R.C. :- D.Colclough, 3 Westcliffe Avenue, Westbury Park, Clayton, Newcastle, Staffs.,
ST5 4JS. (01782 618397)

Worcester A.C. :- M.Hill, 26 Battenhall Rise, Worcester, WR5 2DE. (01905 358562)

THIRD DIVISION.

President :- Stewart Harris, 42 Orson Leys, Hillside, Rugby, Warks., CV22 5RF. (01788 811871)

Secretary :- C.B.Franks, 23 Salisbury Avenue, Cheltenham, Glos., GL51 3BT. (01242 528548)

Race Secretary :- T.O'Reilly, 26 Silverbirch Road, Erdington, Birmingham, B24 0AS. (0121 682 2848)

Referee :- G.Heeley, The Cedars, Sixteen Acres Lane, Bickmarsh, Nr. Bidford on Avon, Warks. B50 4PA
(01789 490112)

Judges :- P.Lisseman, 3 Len Davies Road, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton, WV12 5UD. (01922 403985)
J.Mills, 49 Acheson Road, Hall Green, Birmingham 28. (0121 733 6559)

E.Schuck, 86 Stockfield Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham, B27 6BB. (0121 706 8601)

Timekeepers :- Mike Doyle & Pam Davies, 415 Barrows Lane, Sheldon, Birmingham, B26 1QQ.
(0121 742 4609)

B.Gladwin, 333, Quinton Road West, Quinton, Birmingham, B32 1PL. (0121 421 7357)

Black Country Tri :- A.Thomson, 14 Oakleigh Drive, Sedgley, West Mids., DY3 3LH. (01902 671324)

Can & Staff :- R.Hughes, 3 Clematis Close, Great Bridgeford, Stafford, Staffs., ST18 9QF.
(01785 282676)

Centurion :- G.Wheeler, 25 Chattle Hill, Lichfield Road, Coleshill, Birmingham, B46 1LB.
(01675 462972)

Kenilworth :- R.Wilson, 9 Frythe Close, Kenilworth, Warks., CV8 2SY. (02476 415315)

Newcastle :- M.Hackney, The Tyroleans, 22 Longbrook Avenue, Blurton, Stoke on Trent, ST3 4BU.
(01782 315753)

Northbrook A.C. :- B.Adams, 17 Kenilworth Court, Styvechale, Coventry, CV3 6HZ. (02476 504701)

Royal Sutton Cold.:- R.Pollard, 19 Sandon Grove, Erdington, Birmingham, B24 9DQ.

Stafford H.:- G.B.Allen, 18 Harcourt Way, Tillington, Stafford, ST16 1QY. (01785 259376)

Sparkhill :- D.Winter, 5a Beechwood Park Road, Solihull, West Mids., B91 1ER. (0121 705 8706)

Tamworth :- J.Graves, 34 Park Lane, Bonehill, Tamworth, Staffs., B78 3HZ. (01827 287177)

Warwick Uni. :- Cross Country Secretary, Students Union, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL.

West Brom :- S.Hawes, 8 Harold Avenue, Rowley Regis, Warley, West Mids. (0121 561 3519)

Wolverhampton & Bilston:- C.Thompson, 11 Springfield Lane, Fordhouses, Wolverhampton, WV10 6PU.
(01902 754295)

FOURTH DIVISION.

President :- Stewart Harris, 42 Orson Leys, Hillside, Rugby, Warks., CV22 5RF. (01788 811871)

Secretary :- C.B.Franks, 23 Salisbury Avenue, Cheltenham, Glos., GL51 3BT. (0242 528548)

Race Secretary :- R.Carey, 106 Oxendon Way, Ernesford Grange, Coventry, CV3 2GR. (02476 455251)

Referee :- A.King, 14 Oakover Close, Uttoxeter, Staffs., ST14 8XZ. (01889 564943)

Judges :- Dave & Muriel Johnson, 18 Summerfield Avenue, Halesowen, West Midlands

Timekeepers :- D.Bennett, 16 Weaver Close, Pensnett, Brierley Hill, West Mids. (01384 278968)

B.Shepherd, 22 Ashdene Gdns., Wordsley, Stourbridge, DY8 5JQ. (01384 278968)

J.Skidmore, Trelawney, The Green, Wordsley, Stourbridge, West Mids., DY8 5BN.
(01384 288219)

Byron Rowe, 15 Larkhill Road, Wollaston, Stourbridge, West Mids., DY8 3LN.
(01384 370661)

Aldridge :- D.Smith, 'Woodglade', 12 Wood End Way, Aldridge, Nr. Walsall, West Midlands,
WS9 8SF. (01922 865938)

Alvis :- D. Lawlor, 16 Brockhurst Lane, Monks Kirby, Warwickshire, CV23 0RA. (01788 832146)

Amazing Feet :- R.Baker, 9 Sycamore Road, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 7SP. (0121 358 4483)

Cobra :- S.Farmer, 227 Bromsgrove Road, Hunnington, Halesowen, West Mids., B62 0JS.

Droitwich :- M.Smith, 20 Nuffield Drive, Droitwich Spa. WR9 0DJ. (01905 770991)

Dudley King :- R.Sannwald, 3 Newfield Drive, Kingswinford, West Mids., DY6 8HY. (01384 273650)

Hereford Cour.:- A.Cooke, c/o 18 Danesfield Drive, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 8HP.

Lichfield :- R.Houghton, 47 Long Bridge Road, Lichfield, Staffs., WS14 9EN.

Oak Park :- R.Tomlinson, 620 Aldridge Road, Great Barr, Birmingham, B44 8NG.
(0121 360 3829)

Peel :- S.Easto, 44 Ensor Drive, Polesworth, Tamworth, Staffs., B78 1JN. (01287 700837)

Saracens R.C. :- Debbie Sanders, 442 Binley Road, Coventry. CV3 2DN. (02476 617566)

Sneyd :- R.Drew, 47 Ganton Road, Bloxwich, Walsall. WS3 3XQ. (01922 409518)

Sphinx :- M.Petch, 8 Olaf Place, Walsgrave, Coventry, CV2 2DG. (02476 613563)

Stourbridge :- I.Clarke, 20c Olive Lane, Halesowen, West Mids., B62 8LS. (0121 559 7892)

Stratford :- P.Hawkins, 52 Pembroke Gdns., Wellesbourne, Warwick, CV35 9PX. (01789 842681)

Telford H. :- J.Strange, 43 Acer Close, Telford. Shropshire, TF3 5DD. (01952 401628)

**REMEMBER YOUR AFFILIATION MUST BE PAID BEFORE THE FIRST RACE
ON NOVEMBER 2nd. 2002. Failure to do so will result in your Club being
eliminated from the League. Affiliation Fee is £50.**

Please send your affiliation to :-

**C.B.Franks
23 Salisbury Avenue
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 3BT.**