

**Minutes of the 97<sup>th</sup> AGM held at Halesowen Athletic Club 2nd June 2023 at 7.00pm**

**Birmingham & District Invitation Cross-Country League**  
**1926 – 2023**

**Obituary**

Before the start of the meeting the members were asked to have a minutes silence in respect of Barry Ewington( President 1993/4 Nuneaton Harriers), Arthur Birt ( President 1996/7 Gloucester AC), Margery Ewington ( President 2000/01 Nuneaton Harriers).

**Apologies for Absence** These were received from Glen Lock (Race Referee, W&B), Jim Skidmore ( Past President), Gavin Harrison (Sneyd Striders), Graham Allen ( Official), David Waldron ( Worcester AC), Paul Hawkins ( Stratford AC), Dave Gresswell (Gloucester AC), Peter Banks ( Coventry Godiva H), Peter Ball ( Bromsgrove & Redditch AC), Daniel Connelly ( Race Secretary, Massey Ferguson) Terry Haines (Severn AC), Andy Prophett ( Weston Tempo), Chris McKeown (Auditor, Spa Striders), Keith Perry ( Official), Terry Alcock( Solihull & Smallheath AC) Andrew Peat (Birchfield), Graham Heeley ( Official, Sparkhill), John Vickers ( Official), Keith Bate (Sedgley Striders)

**Present at the meeting**

Rob Mulgrue (DASH, President Elect ,Official), Chris Hitchman (Official, Leamington), Phil Pollock, Dean Lucas(RSCAC), Simon Hudson(Aldridge), Martin Ludford, Richard Carney (BRAT), Simon Neale,Dave Lee (Massey Ferguson), Steve Howes (Solihull), Wayne Broadbent, Sally-Anne Tully (SphinxAC),Dave Norman (W&B),Craig Hinks(Sparkhill), Vince Carroll ( President Rugby & Northampton), Ian Clarke(Race Sec Div 3,Cobra & Tri), Michael Stevens(U of B'ham), Pete Teevan ( Spa Striders), Peter Dear ( Halesowen),Chris Hamer-Hodges (Nuneaton Harriers),Chris Attwood (Black Pear Joggers), Rachel Vines ( CLC Strider),Rita Brownlie, Rebecca Freeman ( MWCCL), Bryan Mills ( Webmaster,Tipton), Daniel Jordan (Treasurer, Trentham),Ray Morgan ( Race Sec , Leamington )Noel Butler (Chair, Leamington) Carolyn Franks (Hon Sec, Past President, Cheltenham & County Harriers).

**Minutes of the 96<sup>th</sup> A.G.M.**

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes of the AGM & the Executive Minutes.**

- a) It was pointed out that in the minutes it stated it was 95<sup>th</sup> instead of 96<sup>th</sup>.
- b) Centenary of the League is not far away CF asked the meeting if clubs could look in their archives if they had pictures of any races they could send in. NB explained that doing research on the history is not feasible. The League is hoping that we can celebrate it with the first race of the season with all Divisions.
- c) A paper had been sent out regarding the future of what the league presents to the team & individuals. It was agreed to have plaques for the individuals & medals for the Team plus giving clubs the option to purchase a plaque as a club memento. Steve Millington It was also felt it would be wise to purchase several years supply to save on costs.

**Chairperson's Report**

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

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

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

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

The Divisional Secretaries once again ran their divisions efficiently during the season with the results coming out as fast as ever. So, thank you Ray Morgan, Daniel Connolly, and Ian Clarke, in his first season, for all your hard work. At the recent executive meeting Daniel gave the league a year's notice that he will be standing down as Divisional Secretary, so Division 2 clubs have a year to find a replacement.

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

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

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

*Noel Butler*

**President's Address** As a boy I enjoyed running ,football and all sport, I enjoyed the competition against others. Unfortunately my school never really supported cross country so I only ran once in a county schools event when I just entered and turned up myself. When I was 21 I entered the London Marathon to run for charity and from my own devised training plan finished in 3 hours 17 minutes. People noticed this and encouraged me to join the local running club Northampton Phoenix. I ran my first Birmingham League Division 2 race at Burbage common in November 1991 and ran my 100<sup>th</sup> race at Abington Park Northampton in January 2019, I have currently run 109 races, my highest position 69<sup>th</sup> in Division 1 and 31<sup>st</sup> in Division 2.

I have started in the men's cross country team manager role in 2000 as Phoenix and continued the role in 2002 after the merger with Rugby until present .I also managed the track team as Phoenix and the first few years of Rugby & Northampton. In that time I have also qualified as a track and field judge also. Over past few years I have spent more time coaching some of the clubs seniors and vets and I have a group of boys and girls who are doing well in the West Midlands Young Athletes League which is the breeding ground to the Birmingham League. This season it was 15<sup>th</sup> time Rugby and Northampton have hosted the league and myself and the late John Love who was my mentor and stalwart of the league have contributed as the lead planners.

This year it was my honour to be President of league. At the first fixture at Stoke I spoke a few words before the race and ran the race. Due to a shortage of our club runners ,I scored in the clubs A team on the day. At the final race at Northampton I had the honour to organise the race

and say a few words, but declined starting it as my first love is running in the league. My race that day was cut short due to a calf injury, but in contrast to the first race the team historically won the event on the day for the first time ever in Division 1. Vince felt highly honoured to have been President.

Vince Carroll Rugby & Northampton

### **Statement of Accounts.**

These had been sent out to clubs prior. RB pointed out that from the Women's point of view sharing venues was really helpful. At the moment the Women pay host clubs £50 & the men do the same. She asked if it was possible for the Birmingham XC League could pay £100 & then charge the Women at the end of the season which would save a lot of work. DJ agreed that this was feasible. DJ pointed out that he had not had a written report from the Auditor but once he receives it, it will be sent out to all clubs. The auditor had confirmed to the Chair that apart from a few minor adjustments required he was happy with the accounts.

**ACTION :** DJ to pay host clubs £100 if a joint fixture & then claim £50 per race from the Women at the end of the season.

### **Online Entries**

NB read out Gavin Harrison's email & the problems it would cause him as a Team Manager. RM explained the effects of the system . If an athlete enters themselves we get the relevant medical information, but a Team Manager would not know who had entered. Although we are happy with the way we get our results, this system would make life easier for the Race Secretary. The downside is we would have to pay for it. RM recommended we talk to 3 companies finding out what they can offer & how much would it cost? He is conscious that the Ladies have this system in place & it is free but there will be a cost. BM was concerned that the league would lose its history. CH wanted to know who was legally responsible to insure the data was secure especially when AV published results when they had been told not to. Daniel Connelly Div Two Secretary would be happy to try the system but Glen Lock Div Three Race Referee was against using it. RF said it had made the Team Manager & the Divisionally Secretaries jobs easier in the Women's league. RM thought it would probably cost between £1500 /£2000 They would do just the entries or just the results or both. RM felt it would be best to try it out on Division One first. NB felt we should research the three firms & come back to the AGM next year. RM was thanked for his work on this aspect.

**ACTION:** NB to research the 3 firms & bring the information to the next AGM

### **Constitution**

The following amendments were recommended by the Executive to the Constitution:-

Insert the following and re-number the following clauses accordingly:

“A12 LIFE VICE-PRESIDENTS

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The Annual General Meeting on the proposal of the Executive Committee may award the title of Life Vice-President to persons who have made a long and distinguished contribution to the work of the League.”

There are a number of consequential amendments needed to specify the nomination and approval process for the title:

In clause A9.1 (Executive Committee terms of reference) re-word (d) and (e) as follows (new inserted wording underlined):

“to consider nominations from clubs, League Officers and Technical Officials for appointment of League Officers and Life Vice-Presidents and to make recommendations on these to the AGM;

“if it considers it appropriate, to make its own recommendations to the AGM for appointment as League Officers and Life Vice-Presidents;

In clause A13 (AGM Proposals and Nominations) insert in 13.1 after “... proposals for League Officers” the words “and Life Vice-Presidents”

and in 13.5 re-word as follows: “The Executive Committee may itself make nominations for election as League Officers and Life Vice-Presidents.”

The meeting agreed to the amendments.

### Officials for the 2023/24 season

Regretfully Ray Morgan is moving away so will longer be the Race Secretary for Division. NB thanked RM for his work with Division One & reminded the meeting that Daniel Connelly has informed the League he will do be Race Secretary for Division Two for one more year.

Richard Carney questioned the use of Referees. After a discussion NB suggested we set up a sub committee one from the men’s & one from the Women’s League who set up the officials for the season. Ian Clarke reminded the meeting of the League rules which straight that any club not hosting or providing qualified officials had to provide an official and it is important these folks are used.

The appointed officials for the season are:-

	Division One	Division Two	Division Three
Race Secretary	Vacant	Daniel Connelly (Massey Ferguson)	Ian Clark (Stourbridge RC)
Race Referee	Noel McKakley (Wolverhampton & Bilston)	Chris Hitchman/Noel Butler (Leamington C&AC)	Glen Lock (Wolverhampton & Bilston)
Chief Timekeeper	John Vickers (Coventry Godiva Harries)	Bob Hughes (Cannock & Stafford)	
Officials Secretary	Vacant	Vacant	Graham Allen (Stafford Harriers)
Officials	Richard Carney (BRAT)	Terry Alcock (Solihull & S)	Graham Heeley (Sparkhill Harriers)
	Derek Cowdrey (Worcester AC)	Keith Perry (Halesowen)	David Bennett
	Derrick Harding (Wolverhampton & Bilston)	Dave Pettifer (Kenilworth RR)	
	Keith Richards (Coventry Godiva )		

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Colin Stone (Gloucester AC) Phil Pollock (Royal Sutton Coldfield) Dave Pettifer (Kenilworth RR)		
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The Chair wished to record thanks to all our officials. These were proposed by the Chair enbloc and accepted by the meeting.

## **Make-up of the League for the 2023-2024 Season.**

There has been no new applications, but Dudley & Stourbridge Harriers had re-applied were accepted back into the League. Droitwich AC decided not to re-apply. NB ask CF to write to Martin Smith ( Droitwich AC ) thanking him for all he has done for the League in the past regularly host a fixture. They will be missed.

**ACTION:** CF to write to Martin Smith

The following will thus be the make-up of the Divisions:-

## **Make up of Divisions 2022-23**

DIVISION ONE	DIVISION TWO	DIVISION THREE
Birchfield Harriers	Aldridge RC	Amazing Feet
BRAT	Black Pear Joggers	Bournville Harriers
City of Stoke AC	Bromsgrove & Redditch AC	Centurion RR
Coventry Godiva Harriers	Cannock & Staffs AC	City Of Birmingham Striders
CLC Striders	Cheltenham & County Harriers	Cobra R & Tri
Gloucester AC	Halesowen	Coventry Tri
Leamington C & AC	Kennilworth Runners	Dudley Kingswinford RFC
Loughborough Students	Knowle & Dorridge RC	Dudley & Stourbridge Harriers
Royal Sutton Coldfield AC	Newcastle Staffs	Kidderminster & Stourport AC
Rugby & Northampton AC	Nuneaton Harriers	Kings Heath RC
Tipton AC	Solihull & Small Heath AC	Massey Ferguson
University of Birmingham	Sphinx AC	Northbrook AC
University Of Warwick	Stratford Upon Avon AC	Sedgley Striders
Weston Tempo	Telford AC	Sneyd Striders
Wolverhampton & Bilston AC		Sparkhill Harriers
Worcester AC		Spa Striders
		Sparkhill Harriers
		Stourbridge AC
		Tamworth AC
		Telford Harriers
		West Bromwich Harriers

- a) Dates for the season - 11<sup>TH</sup> November 2023/ 2nd December 2023/ 13<sup>th</sup> January 2024/ 01<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Affiliation Fees** – the meeting agreed to keep the affiliation the same for the coming season.

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### **Dates & Venues for the 2023/24 season.**

	Div One	Div Two	Div Three
11 November '23	Cheltenham with Help from /CLC /& Gloucester AC Women Div 1	Cheltenham with Help from /CLC /& Gloucester AC Women Div 1	Severn AC ?
2 December '23	Wolverhampton & Bilston Women Div 1?	Stratford + Women Div 1 ?	Severn AC ?
13 January '24	Birmingham Uni Warley Woods + Women Div 1	Bromsgrove & Redditch ?	Spa Striders + Women's Div 1?
10 February '24	Rugby & Northampton	Black Pear Joggers ?	Spa Striders + Women's Div 1?

### **Election of Officers**

President:	Rob Mulgtue (Dudley & Stourbridge AC)
Immediate Past President:	Vince Carroll (Rugby & Northampton AC)
President Elect:	Martin Ludford (BRAT)
Chairman:	Noel Butler (Leamington C&AC)
Secretary:	Carolyn Franks (Cheltenham & County Harriers)
Treasurer:	Daniel Jordan (Trentham RC)
MCAA Rep	Graham Heeley (Sparkhill Harriers)
Auditor:	Chris McKeown (Spa Striders)
Webmaster	Bryan Mills (Tipton Harriers)

### **League Website**

Bryan Mills has been doing a good job keeping this up to date.

### **Any Other Business:**

1. AWARDS – details had been sent to all clubs prior to the AGM from Steve Millington our provider as the costs were increasing. After a short discussion the members agreed to the following :-

To keep plaques for the first THREE teams per Division & the President's Plaque but to award medals to the top 6 scoring members of the winning team, & the winning Junior.

2. Life Vice- Presidency . NB announced to the meeting that there would be the first award for Life Vice- Presidency of the League & that honour went to our Secretary – Carolyn Franks who was presented with framed certificate & a huge bunch of flowers. I was dumb struck, but thanked them for the honour. I have enjoyed continuing when Cliff passed away in his honour.

### **Date and Venue of the 98th AGM**

The Chair & Secretary will review dates in June 2024

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.27pm.

