

Minutes of the 98th AGM held at Halesowen Athletic Club 6th June 2024 at 7.00pm

Birmingham & District Invitation Cross-Country League
1926 – 2024

Obituary

Before the start of the meeting, the members were asked to have a minute's silence in respect of Ken Walklate (President 1981/82 City of Stoke) John Andrews (President 1984/85 Bromsgrove & Redditch)

Apologies for Absence These were received from Glen Lock (Race Referee, W&B), Jim Skidmore (Past President), Graham Allen (Official), Paul Hawkins (Stratford AC), Peter Banks (Coventry Godiva H), Terry Haines Chris Brown (Severn AC), Keith Perry (Official, Halesowen), Terry Alcock (Solihull & Small Heath AC), John Vickers (Official), Daniel Jordan (Treasurer), Peter Teevan (Spa Striders), Malcolm Bowyer (Stratford AC), Phil Pollock (RSC Official), Paul Ward (Telford AC), Steve Marklew (RSC), Jo Tork (Knowle & Dorridge), Rob Langford (Dudley Kingswinford), Nav Akhtar(COBS), Chris Attwood (Black Pear Joggers), Neil Cressy (Kenilworth), Robert Coleman(Stourbridge), Vince Carroll (Rugby & Northampton AC), Bill & Kay Adcocks (Past Presidents).

Present at the meeting

Rob Mulgrue (DASH, Past President, Official), Chris Hitchman (Official, Leamington), Daniel Connelly (Race Secretary, Massey Ferguson) Simon Hudson (Aldridge), Martin Ludford, Richard Carney (BRAT), Tom Watts (Massey Ferguson), Steve Howes (Solihull), Wayne Broadbent, Sally-Anne Tully (Sphinx AC), Dave Norman (W&B), Noel McKakly (W&B, Referee) Craig Hinks (Sparkhill), Nick Wilson (Nuneaton), David Robinson (BRAT) Andy Rae (Centurion), Andrew Peat (Birchfield), Ian Clarke (Race Sec Div 3, Cobra & Tri), ? (U of B'ham), Andrew Kaighan (Chelt & Co Harriers), Peter Dear (Halesowen), Matt Leydon (Spa Striders), Chris Hamer-Hodges (Nuneaton Harriers), Matt Ashman (CLC Striders), David Waldron (Worcester AC), Andrew Parkinson, David Sutton (RSCAC), Rita Brownlie (Broms & Redditch MWCCCL), Rebecca Freeman (Solihull & Small Heath AC, MWCCCL), Mary Hodges (MWCCCL), Bryan Mills (Webmaster, Tipton), Graham Heeley (Sparkhill, Past President, Official), Noel Butler (Chair, Leamington) Carolyn Franks (Hon Sec, Past President, Cheltenham & County Harriers).

Minutes of the 97th A.G.M.

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

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

Online entries will be dealt with later in the meeting.

Chairperson's Report

Without a doubt the summer preceding this season was the busiest I have ever known. We were looking for a new Secretary for Division 1 to replace Ray Morgan who was not able to give us much notice that he was standing down and we had decided to trial online entries in division 2. The trial was due to be in division 1 but it was felt that it would be too much for the new divisional secretary, so Daniel Connolly agreed to take it on for division 2.

At this point I should formally thank Ray for all the work he has done over many years. When he took over, the results were done manually. He automated the process to the extent that the results were available on the league's website shortly after every race.

It was always going to be a hard act to follow, and we initially had no volunteers and we were close to announcing that there would be no races in division 1 for the season when Bryan Mills agreed to do it for a season to allow the Division 1 clubs to find a permanent successor. I must confess I was not happy we had to accept his offer as Bryan was already our Web Master and I do not like one person holding more than one office because if the trend continued, we would have the league run with fewer and fewer people and that constitutes an operational risk for the league.

Another issue was that we were having difficulties getting sufficient venues and this lasted right up to the weeks before the first fixtures. In the end we had to hold a joint fixture for divisions 1 and 2 on the first weekend to get all the fixtures completed.

In the end it was with great relief that we started racing!! As usual there were four rounds of fixtures with two on the first weekend and three on each subsequent date and eight being joint fixtures with the Midland Women's league and my thanks goes out to the host clubs, without whom we would not have a league. I repeat what I said last year in that 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 the hosting with another club or clubs. If you do this then assistance will be available for you from the league.

I didn't get to division 3 the previous season so I started the season with them at Aldridge Airport and then saw division 1 at Wolverhampton in December. I was back with division 3 in January at Pelsall Common and finished the season at Worcester with division 2.

The trial with online entries went well and Daniel Connolly reported to the executive that it made his job much easier. At this point I must thank Sarah Bland for all her help with this trial. We could not have done it without her.

Daniel gave the league a year's notice that he would be standing down and I am pleased to say that Nick Wilson of Nuneaton has offered to take on this role for next season.

Although he said he would only do it for one season Bryan Mills has confirmed he will continue with division 1 and Ian Clarke is continuing with division 3.

Another departure from the executive is our Treasurer Dan Jordan. I am pleased to report that Martin Ludford from BRAT has offered to take over from him.

This means all executive positions are filled, subject to endorsement at the AGM, which is a very satisfactory position to be in. Can I formally thank Daniel and Dan for all the hard work they have put in for the league during their time on the executive. Both of them have made a significant contribution to the league and set a high standard for their work.

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

Finally, I want to thank our Secretary Carolyn for all the support she gives me to ensure the league runs smoothly.

Noel Butler

President's Address

1. Firstly, many thanks to the League for appointing me President for 2023/24. It is a great honour. As shown in my President's profile on the League web site, cross-country running has been part of my life, either as a competitor, administrator or Technical Official for 60 years. To my mind it is the most interesting and demanding of all the disciplines within the sport of athletics.
2. My inaugural duty in my year of office was the pleasant one of handing over the certificate to the League's first Life Vice-President, our League Secretary, Carolyn Franks, at the 2023 AGM. Carolyn and her late husband, Cliff, have served this league for many years and without such people the sport would not continue to exist. When I was "just" a runner I did not appreciate the amount of work needed to keep the league operating. Now I do. All of us owe a great debt of appreciation to Carolyn and the many other officials.
3. I visited the races at Cheltenham (divs 1 & 2), Stratford (div. 2), Pelsall Common (div.3) and Northampton (div.1). The sight of over 500 runners starting at Cheltenham was memorable. The efforts of host clubs in putting on fixtures are considerable and time-consuming but are essential. Two or more clubs can share responsibility for putting on a fixture, thus reducing the burden on an individual club. I hope other clubs than the regulars will consider putting on races – it will be good for the runners to experience different courses.
4. My final duty of the year was to present the *Sunday Mercury* Challenge Shield to the winning team, the University of Birmingham, the plaques and medals to the second and third teams and to the individual award winners. Well done to them all!

Rob Mulgrue

Statement of Accounts.

Birmingham League Treasurer's report to the AGM 2023 - 2024

The loss for this year is £1351 (last year was £693). This is due to the factors below:

1 Race costs

Race costs overall have increased slightly, by £191 from last year, but we were hoping for a reduction

2021 - 2022 £12,833

2022 - 2023 £10,668

2023 - 2024 £10,859

Race costs - Medical costs have reduced from last year

2021 - 2022 £3,076

2022 - 2023 £3,740

2023 - 2024 £3,050

Race costs - Toilets have increased from last year. The additional information given

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to the clubs to reduce the costs of toilets has not been successful.

2021 - 2022 £4,608

2022 - 2023 £3,586

2023 - 2024 £4,603

2 Expenses

There is an additional £385 in travelling expenses for officials this year, I would expect this to remain similar or increase next year

2021 - 2022 £1,409 (included £750 for tents)

2022 - 2023 £680

2023 - 2024 £1065

3 Medals

We purchased all of the medals we should need for 5 years during this financial year, with an additional one-off charge of £1755. £1,400 of this is for future years so basically, the year balanced.

Conclusion

Given the slight increases in race costs and expenses, and the reduced costs in the medals for future years I would suggest either leaving the affiliation costs as currently or increasing by a small amount, say £10 per club

Profit and Loss			
1.4.2023 - 31.3.2024 and comparison to previous year			
		2022-23	2023-24
Income			
	Affiliations	£8,786.25	£8,415.00
	Midland Womens XC League	£3,209.88	£4,274.52
	Donation for race numbers	£557.74	£377.17
	Lost numbers	£123.00	£0.00
	Extra plaques	£450.00	£414.00
	Total Income	£13,126.87	£13,480.69
Expenditure			
	Hosting costs	£10,668.12	10,859.58
	Plaques	£1,771.20	£2,604.60
	Travelling expenses	£679.97	£1,083.77
	Out of pocket expenses	-	£8.00
	Race numbers	£557.74	£377.17
	Donation	£123.00	£60.00
	Affiliation to EA	£0.00	£150.00
	Room hire	£0.00	£50.00
	Other	£20.56	£0.00
	Total Expenses	£13,820.59	£15,193.12
	Net	-£693.72	-£1,712.43
	Interest	£30.42	£141.42
	Total Profit/Loss	-£663.30	-£1,571.01

These had been sent out to clubs prior to the meeting.

The Executive had proposed that there should be an increase to the affiliation of £10. All at the meeting were in favour.

Online Entries

Noel Butler had decided not to research about online entries at this stage due to Division One /Three Secretaries preferring to retain the manual process. Daniel Connelly pointed out the advantages he got all the medical information, had direct access to the athletes reminding them to keep their number for the season. He felt it helped a lot. Simon Hudson said the athletes did it themselves & it took a lot of pressure of the Team Manager. Wayne Broadbent felt it worked really well. It was decided to leave it to the Divisional Secretary to decide which way they wished to operate the entries.

Constitution

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

- a) We should continue the trial of joint officials. It was felt however, we needed an Officials Co-ordinator. This was accepted by the meeting. Rule A11.1 to add Officials Co-Ordinator
- b) Rule C9 /C10 Ties – the Executive proposed “ In the event of a tie on points in the individual competitions, it shall be resolved in the following in order of priority –i) by the highest position against each other in each race; ii) if a tie remains, then by the number of first places, iii) if a tie still remains then the position in the final race in which both athletes ran.” This was accepted by the meeting.
- c) Head Cameras. The Executive suggested the following “Head cameras must not be used during a league race “ After a discussion in which Bryan Mills brought up the possibility of video cameras & Graham Heeley said it was in the UKA rules. The following amendment was made “ Recording devices must not be used during a league race.” There were 3 against, so the amendment was carried. After further discussion the amended motion was put to the meeting and was lost. Referees can still take action as it is covered under UKA rules

Officials for the 2024/54 season

The appointed officials for the league are:-

Race Secretary Division One : Bryan Mills (Tipton) - he is happy to do it for 5 years.

Division Two : Nick Wilson (Nuneaton)

Division Three: Ian Clarke (Cobra)

The following Referees to be co-opted on the Executive: Noel McKakly, Chris Hitchman, Glen Lock.

Make-up of the League for the 2024-2025 Season.

There has been one new application from South Birmingham Striders. This was accepted. Centurion, Dudley & Stourbridge Harriers, Sedgley Striders, Sneyd Striders & Telford AC had all re-applied were accepted back into the League.

ACTION: CF to write to all the above clubs.

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

Make up of Divisions 2024-25

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

a) Dates for the season - 9TH November 2024/ 30th November 2024/ 11th January 2025/ 9th February 2025

Affiliation Fees – the meeting agreed to raise the affiliation to £175 for the coming season.

Dates & Venues for the 2024/25 season.

	Div One	Div Two	Div Three
9th November '24	City of Stoke, Betley Women Div 1?	Cheltenham with Women Div 1?	Sneyd Striders with COBS Women Div 2
30 th November '24	Rugby & Northampton	Nuneaton Women Div 2	South Birmingham Striders
11th January '25	Birmingham Uni Warley Woods + Women Div 1	Black Pear Joggers Women Div 2	Telford AC Attingham Park
8th February '25	Leamington AC Women Div 1 ?	Wolverhampton & Bilston Women Div 1 ?	Sphinx /Northbrook Coombe Abbey Women Div 2

? The Women's League to decide at their AGM, which venues they would choose to go to.

Kenilworth offered to help marshal at any of the Division Three venues. Glen Lock has also offered to bring extra stakes to help out the venues he is appointed to.

Election of Officers

President:	Martin Ludford (BRAT)
Immediate Past President:	Rob Mulgrue (Dudley &Stourbridge AC)
President Elect:	Keith Perry (Halesowen C & AC)
Chairman:	Noel Butler (Leamington C&AC)
Secretary:	Carolyn Franks (Cheltenham & County Harriers)
Treasurer:	Martin Ludford (BRAT)
MCAA Rep:	Graham Heeley (Sparkhill Harriers)
Auditor:	Chris McKeown (Spa Striders)
Webmaster:	Bryan Mills (Tipton Harriers)
Officials Co-ordinator:	TBC

The meeting was informed that the Executive had selected Bill Adcocks as a Vice Life President in recognition for all the years running in the League & then administrating.

ACTION : CF will make arrangements to visit Bill to present the plaque to him.

The following were co-opted to the Executive; Noel McKakly (Wolverhampton & Bilston), Chris Hitchman (Leamington C & AC) & Glen Lock (Wolverhampton & Bilston).

League Website

Bryan Mills has kindly maintained the website & is happy to continue.

Any Other Business:

- 1.Noel Butler pointed out that next year will be the Centenary & he is willing to look at the possibility of holding the first race with all divisions.
2. The Secretary pointed out that she was more than happy to liaise with all the officials once the selection has been done.
3. Wayne Broadbent (Sphinx) asked if the rules could be clarified regarding warming up. After a discussion on this issue it was agreed that common sense & courtesy should prevail.

Date and Venue of the 100th AGM

The date for the 100th AGM will be Friday 6th June 2025. All clubs to be asked if they would prefer it zia Zoom or in person.

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed _____

Date _____