

**Birmingham & District Invitation Cross-Country League**  
**1926 – 2004.**

**Minutes of the 79<sup>th</sup>. A.G.M. held at Alexander Stadium, Stadium Way, Walsall Road, Birmingham on Friday the 3rd. September 2004. At 7.30pm.**

**Obituary.**

Bill Adcocks asked the delegates to stand for a period of silence in memory of Cliff Franks who had passed away in May. He reminded the meeting of how the league had given Cliff much pleasure as an athlete & then followed by 29 devoted years as Secretary/Treasurer. He was extremely proud of the League and would wish it to remain a highly competitive League. Unfortunately, the league had also lost another stalwart with the sudden passing of Roy Tilling of Birchfield Harriers and a Past President. Roy's unstinting work for athletics will be greatly missed. The League mourns the passing of both these workers of the sport and wishes to pass on their condolences to both families.

**Apologies for Absence.**

These were received from Stewart Harris (Past President), Alan Hemsley (Race Secretary, Past President, Massey Ferguson), Phil Walker (Official), Arthur Birt (Official), Terry Haines (Severn AC).

**Present at the Meeting.**

Terry Taylor (President, Nuneaton), Ted Schuck (Past President, Sparkhill), Bob Carey (President Elect, Race Secretary, Sphinx), Dave McNamee (Auditor, Cheltenham & County), Graham Heeley (Race Referee, Sparkhill), Terry Roberts, Keith Holt (Birchfield), George Williams (Official, Cheltenham & County), G. Harper, Colin Thompson (Wolves & Bilston), Glenn Marriott (Staffs Moorlands), Ernie Johnson (Official, City Of Stoke), Ann Johnson H., Eric Hubbleday, David Winter, John Mills, Mike Doyle (Sparkhill H.), Pam Davies (Official), Graham Allen (Stafford H.), Ian Clarke (Stourbridge), Dave Jones, Joan Clarke, S. Hawes, (West (Staffs AAA), Vince Carroll, Terry Akiens, Bryan Acford (Rugby & Northampton), D. Loundes, Geoff Farmer (Chase Brom), Ken Westley (non-affiliated Club), Brian Shepherd (Official, Dudley & Stour.) Jim Skidmore (Past President Dudley & Stourbridge), Richard Carney, Martin Ludford (B'ham Rowheath), Mick Petch (Sphinx), Mark Hill (Worcester A.C.), T. Orton, J. Peet (Tamworth), Richard Baker (Amazing Feet), Alan Pratt, M.R. Smith (Droitwich), Tom O'Reilly (Race Secretary), Bill Nock, Ray Bunn, W. Aston (Halesowen), Bob Froggatt (Solihull & S.H.), Bill Adcocks (Past President, Race Secretary, Coventry), Peter Banks (Coventry Godiva), Stirling Farmer (COBRA), Geoff Wheeler (Centurion), Tony French, Tom Gillon (Northbrook), Joan Andrew, Paul Andrew, David Burns (Saracens), Alan Jenkins, John Strange, G. Bellamy, P. Hough (Telford Harriers), Bob Hughes (Cannock & Stafford), Margaret Kelcher, Graham Kelcher (Telford AC), Mark Lynock, J.P. Ward (Bournville Harriers), Rex Tomlinson (Oak Park RC), G.T. Card (Aldridge), Barry Ewington (Nuneaton), Steve Poulton (Kidderminster & Stourport), Richard Sannwald (Dudley Kingswinford), Steve Marklew (Royal Sutton Coldfield), Rita Brownlie (Midland Womens Cross Country League, Bromsgrove & Redditch), Carolyn Franks (Hon. Secretary / Treasurer). 71 delegates signed themselves present at the meeting. 41 Clubs had representatives at the meeting.

**Minutes of the 78<sup>th</sup>. A.G.M.**

These were approved as a true record of the meeting, being passed unanimously after being proposed by John Mills and seconded by Tony French. The Executive minutes were also passed after being proposed by Ted Schuck and seconded by Dave McNamee.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes.**

- a) Barry Ewington was omitted off the Officials list; Stafford Harriers was left off Division Four in the Executive Minutes.
- b) Tony French queried what had happened to the Shields for the 'B' Teams as it was passed at last years AGM that these would be awarded. Due to Cliff's illness this had been overlooked and the meeting agreed that an order should be made.
- c) Terry Taylor asked what the decision was for providing some form of identity for the officials, were jackets to be provided? No decision had been made, but it was agreed to discuss at the Executive Meeting.

**Statement of Accounts.**

The Auditor had produced an account sheet, which is not a true reflection of the accounts, due to the fact that no cheques could be written till the new mandate with the bank had been completed. This has now been done and outstanding expenses can now be paid. The Treasurer will now be able to produce a true statement of the accounts for auditing. The Building Society accounts needs to be updated too. The meeting asked if the Treasurer could look at places that give a higher rate of interest. Mike Doyle proposed that the accounts be accepted as they are at present, with a true record being provided as soon as possible. This was seconded by G.Allen and passed unanimously.

**Presidents Address.**

Ted recollected that his first involvement with the Birmingham & District Invitation Cross Country League was at the Old Alexander Stadium and he had no idea then that he would have the pleasure of being the League President 50 years later. He commented on the changes the sport had been through but it had not affected this League.

He thoroughly enjoyed the mass start to the season with all divisions at Senneleys Park as part of the Reebok Cross Challenge. This was followed by a visit to Droitwich to see Division Four. An experience for all to see, plenty of mud, yet all athletes enjoying the occasion as they were cheerfully cheered on by lots of supporters. West Bromwich kindly put on the third race for Division Three at Aldridge providing a superbly marked course. Finally, attending Division One at Leek provided everyone within two hours, all four seasons of the year! Added to that, Staff Moorlands ensured the runners had a testing cross-country course, which proved to be mountainous.

Ted expressed his most grateful thanks to all officials and friends for making his year as President so enjoyable.

**Referees Reports**

Due to Cliff's death all league Referees were asked to submit a report of their Division. It was proposed by Colin Thompson and seconded by Mark Hill that these reports be accepted for this year. This was accepted unanimously. See attached.

**Risk Assessment / Permits / First Aid – Reminder.**

- a) Risk Assessment forms – the meeting was reminded that the organisers of races must produce a risk assessment, which is held by the organiser. It must be available, but not necessarily displayed, as there may be last minute alterations.
- b) Permit forms – Each race must now have their own Permit form. Bill Adcocks had produced some for all organisers to collect at the end of the meeting. The format of these forms is to be renewed but at the present to use the ones provided. These forms must to sent to *Rita Brownlie, 15, Three Oaks Road, Wythall, Birmingham, B47 6HE*

- c) First Aid – There was much discussion on this issue due to the sudden unavailability of St. John's or their failure to appear when booked. The following suggestions being made:
- i. Ensure the marshals around the course have mobile phones for more immediate contact if there are problems as it could happen anywhere and this would provide better cover than at present.
  - ii. As a contingency plan have one official trained as a first aider.
  - iii. Ask the Referee to inform the runners that no First Aid had arrived and that they must make the choice as to whether they wished to run.
  - iv. Buy in Paramedics.

It was finally agreed that the rule should remain as it is – if there is no First Aid provided then the race is cancelled.

**These forms take some time to process so would Race Organisers attend to these as a matter of urgency.**

### **Reebok Cross Challenge**

It has been agreed that the first league race will run in conjunction with the Reebok Cross Challenge at Senneleys Park, Birmingham. Once again Birmingham City Council have kindly agreed to support this venture, which is now in its seventh year and becoming known as a well-organised fixture.

### **Officials for the Season**

The League had one offer from Jude Vidler who is willing to help in any capacity and any Division. This kind offer was accepted and it was suggested to invite her to Judge at Division One. Concern was expressed at the lack of younger officials coming forward and it was mooted that there may come a time when clubs will be obliged to provide an official.

It was proposed by Bill Adcocks and seconded by John Mills that the Officials minuted in the Executive minutes be elected en bloc. This was agreed unanimously.

### **Women's Midland Cross Country League.**

Rita Brownlie spoke on behalf of the league stating that their league was now poorly supported by the youngsters due to the numbers of other races available to them. She had written to all the clubs to suggest that the league became just a Senior /Junior women's race and the majority had agreed. The first race is now firmly incorporated with the Reebok Cross Challenge and they would very much like to have three more races linked in with the Birmingham & District Invitation Cross Country League. Their races were usually about six and a half kilometres. After a discussion regarding start times, officials it was agreed to have a trial year and for clubs to offer to stage a ladies race at the point in the meeting when we discussed the venues.

### **Make-up of the League for the 2004 – 2005 Season.**

- (a) Telford Harriers had written in reapplying for membership of the league. This was approved unanimously. The Secretary received written application the following day from Alvis & Lichfield. Contacting members of the Executive, it was agreed to let them have membership too.
- (b) Glen Marriott brought to the attention of the meeting that the following clubs are in the process of amalgamating :- City of Stoke, Staffs Moorlands, Cannock & Stafford and Trentham. After discussion it was decided to leave the Divisions as they are with each of the above clubs running separately. If the amalgamation goes through then the format for next year will need to be discussed.

(c) Therefore the League make-up for the coming season is as follows:

<u>1<sup>st</sup>. Div.</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup>. Div.</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup>. Div.</u>	<u>4<sup>th</sup>. Div.</u>
Loughborough Univ	Halesowen	Broms & Redditch	Massey Ferguson
Birchfield	Trentham RC	Gloucester	Black Country Tri
Coventry	Leamington	Chase	Stafford Harriers
OWLS	Severn	West Bromwich H	Stourbridge RC
Birmingham Univ	Wolves & Bilston	Stratford	Aldridge RC
Tipton	Birmingham Rowheath	Saracens	Sneyd Striders
Staffs Moorlands	Nuneaton	Centurion RR	Cobra AC
City of Stoke	Kenilworth	Sparkhill	Peel RC
Kidd & Stourport	Solihull & Smallheath	Warwick Univ	Droitwich
Rugby & Northampton	Worcester	Dudley & Stourbridge	Oak Park Pacers
Telford	Sphinx	Newcastle	Bournville Harriers
Cannock & Stafford	Northbrook	Tamworth	Amazing Feet RC
Cheltenham & County	Royal Sutton Coldfield	Dudley Kingswinford	Lichfield
			Alvis
			Telford Harriers

### Dates Fixtures and Venues for the 2004 – 2005 Season.

	<u>1<sup>st</sup>. Div.</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup>. Div.</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup>. Div.</u>	<u>4<sup>th</sup>. Div.</u>
30 October 2004	Combined fixture at Senneleys Park, Birmingham – Reebok Cross Challenge.			
27 Nov. 2004.	*Staffs Moorlands	*Northbrook	*West Bromwich	*Droitwich
22 Jan. 2005.	*Coventry	*Nuneaton	Sparkhill	Aldridge
12 Feb. 2005	*Rugby & North	* Worcester	Centurion	*Stafford

\* Denotes that the club is willing to have one of the three Women's races. Rita Brownlie to confirm with the Secretary which three races the Women will use.

### League Rules

The rules need to be altered due to a new UKA rulebook. Plus adding the new rule agreed after last years AGM that 'B' teams winners will receive trophies.

### Election of Officers & Officials.

The Executive proposal of Terry Taylor for President of the League for the 2004 – 2005 season was unanimously endorsed by the A.G.M. Terry became involved in the sport in 1951, being a loyal servant to Nuneaton AC, apart from a spells abroad with the forces. In those early days there was a very small team of athletes who supported the club. Terry turned out for cross-country, but preferred road and track (800m upwards). Once his heydays were over, he took the natural progression of helping run the club – officiating, being Club Secretary and generally turning up to be one of those band of helpers that no club can be without.

President Elect :Bob Carey (Sphinx) Proposed by G.Heeley Seconded by Ted Schuck. Once again by a unanimous vote.

G. Heeley proposed, Mrs M. Kelcher seconded that Carolyn Franks takes over as Secretary and Treasurer of the League, this was accepted by the meeting unanimously.

David McNamee was proposed by B. Adcocks and seconded by Ted Schuck for the position as Hon. Auditor. The meeting elected Dave unanimously.

It was agreed to approve en bloc the Executive proposals for Officials for the coming season. An additional official ( Jude Vidler ) offered her services to the league. The current list for the coming season is:

	<u>1<sup>st</sup>. Div.</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup>. Div.</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup>. Div.</u>	<u>4<sup>th</sup>. Div.</u>
Race Secretary	Bill Adcocks	Bob Carey	Tom O'Reilly	Alan Hemsley
Race Referee	Ray Williams	Stewart Harris	Graham Heeley	Jim Skidmore

It was noted that for next season a replacement would be needed for Bob Carey as he does his job as President.

Judges.	Ken Walklate Jude Vidler	Bill Aston Terry Taylor Peter Lisseman Pat Taylor	John Mills John Peet Ron Freeman Ted Schuck	David Johnson Muriel Johnson
Timekeepers.	Ernie Johnson Phil Walker George Williams	Barry Gladwin Margery Ewington	Pam Davies Mike Doyle Barry Gladwin Arthur Birt Colin Stone	David Bennett Byron Rowe Brian Shepherd

It was proposed by Graham Heeley and seconded by Tony French that Mrs C.M.Franks be the League's delegate to the M.C.A.A. and to the AAA of England with Dave McNamee being in a supporting role. This was agreed unanimously.

#### **Affiliation Fees:**

The proposal from the Executive Committee that the affiliation fees remain at £50 was endorsed unanimously by the meeting.

#### **Any Other Business:**

##### **i) Notification of Results**

The Secretary asked if Clubs would appreciate receiving results by e-mail. There was general agreement that this would be welcomed, but that it should be backed up with a hard copy. There was a paper for e-mail addresses for clubs to provide the relevant information. (NOTE WOULD THOSE CLUBS NOT IN ATTENDANCE AT AGM WHO WOULD WANT SUCH INFORMATION VIA E-MAIL ARE ASKED TO PLEASE SUPPLY THE SECRETARY WITH THE APPROPRIATE INFORMATION)

Dave McNamee had offered to put the results on his website.

ii) The Secretary apologised for failing to book the bar and this will be rectified for next year.

iii) The Secretary gave a vote of grateful thanks to Betty Downes, a real loyal official of the league who will no longer be available due to her health.

#### **Date and Venue of the 80<sup>th</sup>. AGM.**

It was agreed to hold next years AGM on Friday the 2nd. September 2005 at Alexander Stadium.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.25 pm. With a vote of thanks to the President.

**Don't forget your affiliations are now due and must be paid before the end of October if you wish your Club to take part in League Races.**

**The Affiliation is still only £50.**

**Please send Cheques made payable to:**

***The Birmingham & District Invitation Cross-Country League***

**And send to:**

***Carolyn Franks  
23 Salisbury Avenue  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire  
GL51 3BT.***

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NOTE - Chris Holloway from Tipton has been extremely busy trying to collate the History of the League. To date he has managed to gather all race results of all Divisions from the season 1959/60 onwards and has small pockets of information from the 50's. Can anyone dig out any results from the past ? ..Or provide photos that can be scanned into the project? If you can, please forward them to Carolyn Franks.

## **A CALL FOR HELP**

**National Cross Country – 19<sup>th</sup> February 2005**

**At Cofton Park, Birmingham**

**ALL MIDLAND CLUBS – can you provide a small band of helpers? Many hands make light work. Come on folks - let's show the rest of the country what we can do!**

**Please contact Graham Heeley Tel: 01789 490112**