

## **Birmingham & District Invitation Cross-Country League** **1926 – 2005.**

Minutes of the 80<sup>th</sup>. A.G.M. held at Alexander Stadium, Stadium Way, Walsall Road, Birmingham on Friday the 2nd. September 2005. At 7.30pm.

### **Obituary.**

The Secretary asked the delegates to stand for a period of silence in memory of Bob Froggatt who had passed away this year. The League mourns the passing of Bob who was a stalwart for Solihull & Smallheath AC. For the past 25 years had been their Treasurer & acted as Team Manager for Cross Country. This commitment is a loss to the sport. The League wishes to pass on their condolences to his family.

### **Apologies for Absence.**

These were received from Alan Hemsley (Race Secretary, Past President, Massey Ferguson), Phil Walker (Official), Arthur Birt (Official), Terry Haines (Severn AC), Bill Adcocks (Race Secretary, Past President, Coventry), John Mills, Mike Doyle (Sparkhill), Pam Davies (Official), Paul Hawkins (Stratford), Richard Baker (Amazing Feet), Mark Hill (Worcester), Pat Taylor, Margery Ewington (Nuneaton), Margaret Kelcher (Telford).

### **Present at the Meeting.**

Bob Carey ( President Race Secretary, Sphinx), Terry Taylor (Past President, Nuneaton), Ted Schuck (Past President, Sparkhill ), Dave McNamee (Auditor, Cheltenham & County), Graham Heeley (Race Referee, Sparkhill), Elliot Prince (Cheltenham & County Harriers), George Williams (Official, Cheltenham & County), Gordan Harper (Wolves & Bilston), Eric Hubbleday, David Winter, (Sparkhill H.), Peter Burns, Graham Allen (Stafford H.), Ian Clarke (Stourbridge), Mary Akiens, Terry Akiens, Vince Carroll (Rugby & Northampton), Ken Westley (non-affiliated Club ), Brian Shepherd (Official, Dudley & Stour.) Jim Skidmore (Past President Dudley & Stourbridge), Geoff Mann, Martin Ludford (B'ham Rowheath), Tom Orton, (Tamworth), Philip Wood, Martin R. Smith (Droitwich), Mike Petch (Sphinx), Tom O'Reilly (Race Secretary), Bill Nock, Ray Bunn, Steve Millington, Bill Aston (Halesowen), Peter Banks (Coventry Godiva), Chris Pearson (COBRA), Geoff Wheeler (Centurion), Peter Austin, Angela Hands plus another (Northbrook), Alan Jenkins, John Strange, Gareth Bellamy, P. Hough (Telford Harriers), Mark Lynock, John.P. Ward, Jim Price (Bournville Harriers), Rex Tomlinson (Oak Park RC), Barry Ewington (Nuneaton), Richard Sannwald (Dudley Kingswinford), Steve Marklew (Royal Sutton Coldfield), Stewart Harris ( Warks AA , Race Referee), Stan Hawes, Dave Jones, Neil Munroe, Joan Clarke (West Bromwich) Richard Greenhalf (Kenilworth Runners), Pete Lisseman (Past President), G. McMillan (Kidderminster & Stourport), Geoff Card (Aldridge RC) Carolyn Franks (Hon. Secretary / Treasurer). 56 delegates signed themselves present at the meeting. 26 Clubs had representatives at the meeting.

### **Minutes of the 79<sup>th</sup>. A.G.M.**

These were approved as a true record of the meeting, being passed unanimously after being proposed by Graham Allen and seconded by Pete Lisseman. The Executive minutes were also passed.

### **Matters Arising from the Minutes.**

The best interest rate that has been found is with the Alliance & Leicester - 4.55% in a 30-day account. The meeting approved that the monies be removed to this bank with the bulk of the monies in this account & then a small amount in a current account.

### **Statement of Accounts.**

The Auditor had produced 2 account sheets. 2003/4 season and one for 2004/5. It was noted that there was a fall in the numbers of entries to the Reebok, which affected the income received. Monies had been used to set up the website – ([www.birminghamcclleague.co.uk](http://www.birminghamcclleague.co.uk)), buying the armbands to identify the main officials. It should be noted that 12 clubs affiliations had been paid into the 2003/4 account. The accounts were accepted by the meeting.

### **Presidents Address.**

2004 to 2005 was, in all, a good season, the Divisional Referees/Secretaries reports paint a picture of a well run League – congratulations to all the officials involved. As is custom, I did the Presidential walk about, commencing with the Senneleys Park ‘get together’; this was a wonderful day of sport, a full programme of events spiced with keen competition.

My conversations with the Lord Mayor and Council representatives during the Senneleys Park event revealed their commitment to Sport, I am sure that they went away even more committed.

My first solo excursion was to the second race of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, held as a combined event with the Ladies League, at Aston University playing fields. The Men’s race evolved into a fast race over a demanding course, my only reservation concerned the patch of bushes/scrub at the end of the lap. The competitive bunch that entered the bushes on the first lap become a single file which appeared to last until the finish; without the restriction of the bushes we may have seen a tighter finish.

My second excursion was to the 4<sup>th</sup> Division event at Aldridge, a good race over the old airfield course on a fine day; the secretary should be commended for the high standard of documentation provided.

My final visit was to observe the 1<sup>st</sup> Division race at Northampton and despite whatever arrangements W. Adcocks may have made regarding the weather, (he has influence in high places), it turned from fair to foul. Despite the conditions the athletes had a good race, a fitting climax to the season.

Regarding the Presidential Medallion, worn by all Presidents in turn, an idle thought occurred to me, I know a ribbon that would suit the ‘League’ better than the blue used at present. It is that of the Royal Tank Regiment, as devised during the First World War; the colours are brown, red and green. Legend accompanying them was being, “ Through the mud and blood to the green field beyond”. Appropriate to cross country runners, don’t you think? Many thanks for an enjoyable year may the future years be as good.

Terry Taylor

### **Secretary’s Report**

The Secretary firstly, apologised for all the mistakes that had happened in the season. It had been a big learning curve making one fully appreciate the amount of time & effort Cliff put in. There had been a lot of teamwork with Dave McNamee, Birmingham City Council, Midland Counties all playing their part in assisting, particularly Senneleys Park fixture. There was a tremendous amount to do in the last fortnight which is the reason for recommending all affiliations are paid by the AGM as it will be one thing less to deal with at a time when there is a lot of pressure. It also helps to avoid having to ask League Secretaries to have to collect in monies on the day. A special vote of thanks goes to Dave McNamee who also dealt with results (especially when I was in Australia), has set up the Leagues website, is the auditor & has gradually educated me further on computer skills. It was recommended that Dave be elected officially as Assistant Secretary.

The Secretary thought that asking Race Secretaries & Race Referees to produce a report gave an accurate & true record of each race. The Secretary apologised to Stafford Harriers for reporting that there was no first aid. It appears they were there at certain points on the course.

It was disturbing to hear of Tom O'Reilly's accident, but good to see him at the AGM on the road to recovery and willing to still act as a Race Secretary. We own a debt of gratitude to Geoff Wheeler & Graham Heeley who held the fort together for the last race when Tom was in hospital.

It is interesting to note that in the first race we had 666 runners complete the race, 667 in race 2, 584 in race 3, 575 in race 4. Divisions One & Two had low numbers in the last race, which may have been affected by the timing of the National a fortnight later. The same scenario applies this year. Division Two had the highest number of runners out 788 while Division Three were the lowest with 515. A good number of juniors competed during the season, which is encouraging for the future.

Cost for staging the fixtures varied from £99 to over £300. First Aid costs are very inconsistent.

Results have been sent out in different formats due to aiming to get the results out quickly. The meeting were asked if they had a preference. It was agreed that the Secretary should send them out in the easiest format. It was thought that all records had been broken when for the last fixture the results were out within the week.

A special vote of thanks was given to the Race Secretaries, Referees, and Officials and to all Clubs who so kindly volunteered to stage a race.

The Secretary informed the meeting that at the end of September she will be having a hip operation (since the meeting, the operation has been deferred), therefore all queries during the month of October should be directed to Dave McNamee – tel: 01242 677587 e-mail: [dave\\_macn@ntlworld.com](mailto:dave_macn@ntlworld.com)

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

- a) Risk Assessment – the meeting was informed that a Risk Assessment Course will take place on 23 October at UK Athletics. If interested please contact Mary Hodges Tel: 01926 495458
- b) Permit forms – It had been hoped that these would have been available at the meeting. The secretary will send them out to promoting clubs. These forms must be sent to Rita Brownlie, 15, Three Oaks Road, Wythall, Birmingham, B47 6HE a.s.a.p.
- c) First Aid – one club were informed that the First Aid cover was not available but managed to get a Doctor to replace them which was acceptable. The meeting was reminded to observe Rule 14

### **Cross Challenge**

It has been agreed that the first league race will run in conjunction with the Cross Challenge at Senneleys Park, Birmingham. At this stage it is not known who will be the sponsors. There are two offers in the pipeline. It was left that the League goes with what is considered as the best offer. Once again Birmingham City Council have kindly agreed to support this venture, which is now in its eighth year and becoming known as a well organised fixture.

### **Course Distances**

A reminder was given that course distances should be between 5 to 7 miles. Concern had been expressed about the severity of some of the courses.

### **Officials for the Season**

Presentation was made to Bill Aston who felt that standing out in the cold was not good for his health. He had been involved in the league since 1949 having been influenced by Ken Dare. He had been a Divisional Secretary for 10 to 12 years in the 60/70's, a Field Judge. He moved south but on his return to the Midlands he has officiated on behalf of Halesowen. The League expressed its sincere thanks for all the sterling work he had done over the years.

The League had one offer of help from Lisa Oakes (Kenilworth) who is willing to help as a Timekeeper in Division Two. The meeting agreed to accept the offer of all the Officials en bloc from the Executive Minutes.

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

Rita Brownlie had expressed thanks for incorporating the Midland Women's Cross Country League and would be grateful if the league was willing to allow the Women to run with the League. All present were happy to continue.

### **League Website**

Dave McNamee informed the meeting of the name of the site – [www.birminghamccleague.co.uk](http://www.birminghamccleague.co.uk) So far the following information can be gleaned from the website :-League Rules, Dates of fixtures, List of all Past Presidents with photographs (some are missing and if anyone can help it would be appreciated); all results from 2003 with the ability to type in names to see individual results; more results will be added with the help of Con McHugh of Northbrook; directions to venues will be added. If anyone has any other ideas they think would be useful to please contact Dave McNamee. Dave McNamee asked the meeting if they had any objections to putting on the results of the Midland Womens League. This was accepted unanimously.

### **'B' Team Trophies**

A long debate took place on the Executives proposal to remove 'B' Team trophies due to a team being demoted but gaining 'B' Team awards. It was strongly felt that there should be a result as it encouraged teams to get athletes out. It was proposed by Chris Pearson (Cobra) and seconded by Geoff Card (Aldridge) that a 'B' Team is recorded but no trophies presented. There was a majority in favour. There was further discussion on the number of the scoring team. It was eventually agreed by the majority that it should be kept at six runners to score for a team.

### **Declaration of Juniors**

This was a reminder to clubs TEAM MANAGERS to put a letter J by any athletes who are classed as juniors. In Division Four last year there were none recorded, other divisions showed a reasonable number.

### **Notification of results by e-mail or post**

It would be helpful if clubs could give any updates or changes of addresses/emails and to indicate to the Secretary which method they prefer to receive information. (See separate sheet to return)

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

- (a) Alvis, Droitwich and Newcastle had written in reapplying for membership of the league. This was approved unanimously. The Secretary received written application the following

day from Lichfield. Contacting members of the Executive it was agreed to let them have membership too.

- (b) No new applications had been received. 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>
Birmingham Univ	Birchfield Harriers	Centurion RR	Aldridge
Cheltenham & County	Birmingham Rowheath	Dudley & Stourbridge	Alvis
City of Stoke	Broms & Redditch	Nuneaton Harriers	Amazing Feet RC
Coventry	Cannock & Stafford	Oak Park Pacers	Black Country Tri
Halesowen	Gloucester AC	Royal Sutton Coldfield	Bournville Harriers
Kidd & Stourport	Kenilworth	Saracens	Chase
Leamington	Northbrook	Sparkhill Harriers	Cobra AC
Loughborough Univ	Rugby & Northampton	Stourbridge RC	Droitwich RC
OWLS	Sphinx	Stratford AC	Dudley Kingswinford
Severn AC	Solihull & Smallheath	Tamworth AC	Lichfield
Staffs Moorlands	Trentham RC	Telford Harriers	Massey Ferguson
Telford AC	Warwick Univ	West Bromwich H	Newcastle
Tipton Harriers	Wolves & Bilston	Worcester AC	Peel RC
			Sneyd Striders
			Stafford Harriers

### Dates Fixtures and Venues for the 2005 – 2006 Season.

\* 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.

	<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>
5 November 2005	Combined fixture at Senneleys Park, Birmingham – Reebok Cross Challenge.			
3 December 2005.	* Severn AC	*Northbrook	*Nuneaton Harriers	*Droitwich
7 January 2006.	*Coventry Godiva	*Sphinx AC TBC	Venue needed?	*Aldridge
11 February 2006	*Cheltenham & Co	* Wolverhampton & Bilston	*Worcester AC	*Stafford

- d) Make up of the Divisions – Graham Heeley asked the meeting to consider for next year the possibility of making the League into three divisions. The reason for this argument being that numbers had been dropping and to make a good race approximately 200 runners are needed. It also would help with officials and the provision of venues. Stewart Harris backed the idea and asked for an analysis of the coming season.

### League Rules

A paper had been prepared with changes that the Executive had recommended. After much discussion it was passed with the addition of Rule 15 to change the word giving to submitting. See separate sheet with the rules – all changes in bold print.

### Election of Officers & Officials.

The Executive proposal of Bob Carey for President of the League for the 2005 – 2006 season was unanimously endorsed by the A.G.M.

President Elect: Terry Alcock was proposed by Executive. Once again by a unanimous vote.

Carolyn Franks was proposed by Graham Heeley and seconded by Brian Shepherd as Secretary and Treasurer of the League, this was accepted by the meeting unanimously.

David McNamee was proposed by Ted Schuck and seconded by Barry Ewington for the position as Hon. Assistant Secretary/ Auditor. The meeting elected Dave unanimously.

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

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

? to be confirmed

\* to act as floating officials to go to any venue that is struggling with officials.

It was proposed by Graham Heeley and seconded by Terry Taylor that Dave Mc Namee be the League's delegate to the M.C.A.A. and Mrs C.Franks to the AAA of England. 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:**

The meeting asked if next year the room layout could be changed in order to help delegates to hear the business with greater ease. This was agreed to be arranged.

#### **Date and Venue of the 81st. AGM.**

It was agreed to hold next years AGM on **Friday 8th September 2006** at Alexander Stadium.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 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 September, this year 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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## **LATEST UPDATES**

### **WOMENS MIDLAND LEAGUE VENUES**

3 Dec Nuneaton

7 Jan Aldridge

11 Feb Cheltenham

Hosts clubs please send a copy of all details to the Midland Office – **AT LEAST 3 WEEKS BEFORE THE ACTUAL DATE**

MCAA, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Edgbaston House, 3, Duchess Place, Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 8NM

Would the above clubs/ officials please note the above – all the women's races will start at 2.00pm at these venues.

### **The Senneleys Park fixture will be known this year as the UK Cross Challenge**

A reminder to Team Managers – if an athlete wishes to be considered for the UK Cross Challenge then a separate entry form must be sent in. These form should soon be available. Check AW & the UKA website.