

Birmingham & District Invitation Cross-Country League **1926 – 2006.**

Minutes of the 81st. A.G.M. held at Alexander Stadium, Stadium Way, Walsall Road, Birmingham on Friday the 8th. September 2006. At 7.30pm.

Obituary.

The President asked the delegates to stand for a period of silence in memory of Cliff Grant who had passed away recently. The League mourns the passing of Cliff who was a stalwart for Halesowen AC and a Past President (1985/6). For the many years Cliff has been a most reliable timekeeper. 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), Colin Stone(Official), Bill Adcocks (Race Secretary,Past President, Coventry), Paul Hawkins (Stratford), Margaret Kelcher(Telford),Rex Tomlinson (Oak Park Harriers),Jude Vidler(Timekeeper)Vince Carroll (Rugby & Northampton),Dave & Muriel Johnson(Judges),Ernie Johnson(Timekeeper),George Williams(Timekeeper), Nick Price (Birmingham Rowheath), Betty Downes (Pat President),Paul (Sphinx AC).

Present at the Meeting.

Bob Carey (Past President Race Secretary, Sphinx),Terry Taylor (Past President, Nuneaton),Ted Schuck (Past President, Sparkhill), Dave McNamee (Auditor, Cheltenham & County), Graham Heeley (Race Referee, Sparkhill),John Mills (Offical, Sparkhill), Gordan Harper (Wolves & Bilston), Eric Hubbleday, David Winter, (Sparkhill H.), Peter Burns, Graham Allen (Stafford H.), John Geru (Rugby & Northampton), Ken Westley (non-affiliated Club), Brian Shepherd (Official, Dudley & Stour.) Jim Skidmore (Past President Dudley & Stourbridge), Richard Carney, Martin Ludford (B'ham Rowheath), Tom Orton, John Peet (Tamworth), Philip Wood, Martin R. Smith (Droitwich),Kevin Naughton(Sphinx), Tom O'Reilly (Race Secretary), Bill Nock, Ray Bunn, Nic Hazelwood (Halesowen), Peter Banks (Coventry Godiva),Geoff Wheeler, Andy Rea(Centurion), Alan Jenkins, John Strange, Gareth Bellamy, P. Hough (Telford Harriers), JimPrice (Bournville Harriers), Barry & Margery Ewington (Nuneaton), Richard Sannwald (Dudley Kingswinford), Roger Pollard,Peter Parker (Royal Sutton Coldfield), Stan Hawes,Dave Jones, Joan Clarke(West Bromwich) Richard Greenhalf (Kenilworth Runners), Pete Lisseman (Past President), Steve Poutlon (Kidderminster & Stourport), Terry Alcock (President, Solihull & Smallheath), Graham Lawrence (Solihull & SmallheathAC), Rita Brownlie (MCAA/MWCCL),Len Quaterley(Bromsgrove & Redditch AC),Derek Loundes (Chase Harriers), Ray Williams (President Elect, Race Referee,Tipton), Matt Lockett (Tipton),Mike Doyle, Pam Davies(Officials), Ian Clarke (Stourbridge RC), Stephen Edmonds (Birchfield), Jim Skidmore (Past President,Dudley & Stourbridge, Terry Haines (Severn AC), Shaw Pye, Simon Gregg(Amazing Feet), Ken Westley (FRA MFR), Carolyn Franks (Hon. Secretary / Treasurer). 60 delegates signed themselves present at the meeting. 29 Clubs had representatives at the meeting (Div One 8 with one apology, Div Two 7, DivThree 8, with one apology, Div Four 6 with 2 apologies).

Minutes of the 80th. A.G.M.

These were approved as a true record of the meeting, being passed unanimously by the meeting. The Executive minutes were also passed.

Matters Arising from the Minutes. None

Statement of Accounts.

A copy of the finances as they stood on the 8th September 2006 was presented to the meeting. At this point there was a difference of £ 3.50. Due to a lack of time this was not resolved but the Auditor has asked another person to help resolve this difference. Graham Heeley proposed that this should be left as it was & seconded By Rita Brownlie. The meeting agreed, but Dave McNamee said he still wished to resolve it & send out the accounts hopefully with the correction.

It was pointed out to the meeting that last years income from Senneleys Park was down considerably due to the late advertising by UKA. On a positive note we had moved all monies from the Leeds & Holbeck Account & transferred £15,000 into the Alliance & Leicester Community Instant Account which is giving an interest rate of 4% plus.

Presidents Address.

Bob Carey

Secretary's Report

.The Secretary thanked Dave McNamee for his fantastic support throughout the year . Without his unstinting assistance the League would have been in difficulties.

Senneleys Park is a massive event to organise which was not helped by the lateness of information but the league had increased numbers taking part which is pleasing, However, dealing with the results was complicated by athletes wearing their division number on their front!

Throughout the year the league had over 600 runners out at each race with the Universities dominating Division One. It was pleasing to see Division Four managed to get some Juniors out which is a most for the future of the sport. It was disappointing to see Trentham, Droitwich & Lichfield struggling as clubs, but pleasing to hear from Trentham & Droitwich that they wish to be reinstated. For a small club Droitwich must be congratulated on their keenness always to offer to host a fixture to which the league is most grateful.

This year we have had problems with the printer which when we asked how much to repair it the quote was huge – so with lots of patience Dave & myself managed to repair it ! but today the printer played up again. It has never been overhauled & probably needs some attention.

I have a big concern over the lack of officials. Those working for the league are getting on in years – one being 78 ! 7 others health is a problem for the coming year. We need new blood to learn the art from the wise owls who serve us so well. We have also lost the services of Stewart Harris, a long serving Referee & Past President to whom the League is eternally grateful for all his past work for the League.

To say a small thank you we have purchased some pens with Birmingham & District Invitation Cross Country League – the best league in the country has been engraved on the pens. These will be given to all Race Officials & Team Managers.

The Mercury Shield awarded to the winning Team of Division One -arrangements have been made to have it on display at Senneleys Park in order that all Divisions can see the Shield.

Promoting Clubs Risk Assessment / Permits / First Aid – Reminder.

- a) Risk Assessment - Please ensure this form is completed & updated on the day.
- b) Permit forms – 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.
This form must be displayed on the day.
- c) First Aid – please ensure this is booked.
- d) A request has been sent in to ask Team Managers to ensure athletes not finishing have been reported into the officials. The meeting suggested that their number is taken to the finish. This information to be added to the Team Managers notes.

Cross Challenge

It has been agreed that the first league race will run in conjunction with the UK Cross Challenge. ge at Senneleys Park, Birmingham. Once again Birmingham City Council have kindly agreed to support this venture, which is now in its ninth year and becoming known as a well organised fixture. It has been decided to keep the river in for the Senior Men's race. From the survey that went out to clubs on email, there was an overwhelming support to keep the river in. Concern was expressed about the week change which has affected the North Staffordshire League races. Unfortunately, we were controlled by Birmingham City Council & were totally unaware of a previous meeting that had tried to avoid this situation. We fully understand that they are aggrieved and now that we are aware of this we will bare this in mind for next year.

Officials for the Season

The meeting was made aware of the lack officials , especially in Division Two. After much discussion it was proposed by Len Quarterly and seconded by Ray Bunn that lots are drawn for all Divisions to provide 2 officials (those clubs promoting an event will be exempt) for a fixture. Margery Ewington was willing to pass on contact details for Lisa Oakes and suggested contacting John Vickers as possible Timekeeper. 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

The Photo Gallery of Past Presidents is making headway but there are still some outstanding and the meeting was requested to see if clubs could help out.

Has been in operation for over a year now.

Has been kept up to date with a current information service to members on pertinent cross country news and events.

Also contains the League's results both current and archived; and more archives results will be gradually added. The Midland Womens CC league results have also been added as they now compete and are hosted at Birmingham CC league races.

Also contains a copy of League rules, a list and picture gallery of past presidents and a brief overview of how the league actually began.

I have also set up a number of unique email addresses to specifically handle Birmingham League correspondence with suitable distribution lists of email addressees to league members.

Care and consideration when using League email distributions

However, one outcome of this is has been that one such League correspondent has used the contents of these distribution lists to advertise their own Club promotions and at least one recipient of this non-League type email correspondence has objected to being sent this unsolicited email.

I would therefore ask that Birmingham League email members use my email lists with due care and consideration for other League email members. Please do not send unsolicited mails using my email distribution lists without first considering if the intended recipient actually wants to see it.

Results Service

From this year onwards I intend to publish the League results in PDF format which, via the Adobe Acrobat reader, is more readily viewed, downloaded and printed than the currently used HTML format.

In conclusion

I hope the membership has enjoyed and appreciated the website service. I am always ready to welcome ideas and suggestions for enhancing and improving the website so please feel free to contact me and we can see what we can do to get them implemented.

Universities – separate award?

Due to the Universities dominating so much in Division One due to the way Universities are now run. It was put to the meeting that a separate Shield, that should be given to the Universities in order that the clubs can have the opportunity to winning the award. After much discussion with the meeting basically feeling that this was not in the spirit of the league the Chair proposed keeping the awards as they are now. It was passed with only two votes against.

Role of Team Managers

Clubs were asked to ensure that the information for Team Managers is passed on & that they read & follow the instructions in order to make the Divisional Secretaries jobs easier.

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

- (a) Droitwich AC and Trentham AC had written in reapplying for membership of the league. This was approved unanimously. Lichfield have lost some key members abroad and therefore Have not reapplied.
- (b) No new applications had been received. Therefore the League make-up for the coming season is as follows:

<u>1st. Div.</u>	<u>2nd. Div.</u>	<u>3rd. Div.</u>	<u>4th. Div.</u>
Birmingham Rowheath	Birchfield Harriers	Black Country Tri	Aldridge RC
Birmingham Uni	Broms & Redditch	Centurion RC	Alvis RC
Cheltenham & Cty H	Cannock & Stafford	Dudley Kingswinford	Amazing Feet RC
City of Stoke AC	Dudley & Stourbridge	Gloucester AC	Bournville Harriers
Coventry Godiva H	Kenilworth Runners	Newcastle AC	Chase Harriers
Halesowen AC	Kidd & Stourport AC	Nuneaton AC	Cobra AC
Loughborough Univ	LeamingtonAC	Oak Park Pacers	Droitwich RC
OWLS	Northbrook	Royal Sutton Coldfield	Massey Ferguson
Rugby & Northampton	Sphinx AC	Solihull & Smallheath	Peel RC
Severn AC	Staffs Moorlands	Sparkhill Harriers	Saracens AC

Telford AC	Tamworth AC	Stourbridge RC	Stratford AC
Tipton Harriers	Warwick Univ	West Bromwich H	Sneyd Striders
Wolves & Bilston	Worcester AC		Stafford Harriers
			Telford Harriers
			Trentham RC

c) Discussion took place on the paper regarding distributed with the AGM notification. With the drop in numbers and difficulties in getting Officials it was felt that it would be better if there were three divisions. Some felt it might be hard for some clubs to host due to the numbers, others were concerned that some clubs would become static. It was proposed from the chair that we go to three Divisions as of next September 2007 with 4 clubs to be promoted/demoted. 36 were for, 9 against so the motion was carried.

Affiliation

The proposal from the Executive Committee that the affiliation fees remain at £50 for this year. It was proposed by Barry Ewington & seconded by Ray Williams that the Affiliation went up by £5 as from September 2007. It was passed unanimously.

Dates Fixtures and Venues for the 2006 – 2007 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>1st. Div.</u>	<u>2nd. Div.</u>	<u>3rd. Div.</u>	<u>4th. Div.</u>
28 October 2006	Combined fixture at Senneleys Park, Birmingham – UK Cross Challenge.			
2 December 2006	* Severn AC	Leamington AC	West Bromwich	*Droitwich
13 January 2007	*Coventry Godiva	*Sphinx AC	* Nuneaton H	TBC Offers?
17 February 2007	*Cheltenham & Co	* Northbrook AC	*Gloucester AC	*Stafford H

HOST CLUBS – it was felt that all clubs should provide a mobile phone number as a contact on the day.

League Rules

No changes this year.

Election of Officers & Officials.

The Executive proposal of Bob Carey for President of the League for the 2006 – 2007 season was unanimously endorsed by the A.G.M.

President Elect: Ray Williams was proposed by Executive. Once again by a unanimous vote. Carolyn Franks was proposed by Graham Heeley and seconded by Ted Schuk as Secretary and Treasurer of the League, this was accepted by the meeting unanimously. David McNamee was proposed by Terry Haines and seconded by Bob Carey 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>1st. Div.</u>	<u>2nd. Div.</u>	<u>3rd. Div.</u>	<u>4th. Div.</u>
Race Secretary	Bill Adcocks	Bob Carey	Tom O'Reilly	Alan Hemsley
Race Referee	Ray Williams	Pete Lissemann	Graham Heeley	Jim Skidmore

Judges.	Ken Walklate Jude Vidler		John Mills John Peet Ted Schuck Terry Taylor Pat Taylor Pam Davies	David Johnson Muriel Johnson
Timekeepers.	Ernie Johnson Phil Walker George Williams	?Colin Stone	Margery Ewington Mike Doyle	David Bennett Brian Shepherd

? to be confirmed

Ian Clarke offered his services to act as the delegate on the MCAA and Mrs C.Franks to the AAA of England . This was proposed by Graham Heeley and seconded by Bob Carey This was agreed unanimously.

Any Other Business:

- a) England Athletics – this year the affiliation is free. The meeting empowered the Executive to make a decision on the future with respect of England Athletics.
- b) Droitwich suggested that some of the money be used to send officials on courses. The Executive were asked to consider, possibly with being reimbursed if they complete the season.
- c)

Date and Venue of the 82nd. AGM.

It was agreed to hold next years AGM on **Friday 7th September 2007** at Alexander Stadium.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.40 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.***

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, 11th 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.