

Birmingham & District Invitation Cross-Country League **1926 – 2007.**

Minutes of the 83rd. A.G.M. held at Alexander Stadium, Stadium Way, Walsall Road, Birmingham on Friday 25th. April 2008 at 7.30pm.

Obituary.

Ray Williams asked the delegates to stand for a period of silence in memory of Jack Freeman (Dudley & Stourbridge Harriers) who had passed away this last year. The League mourns the passing of Jack who was a stalwart of the league and a Past President (1974/75). The League is grateful for his commitment to the sport over the years.

Apologies for Absence.

These were received from Alan Hemsley (Official, Past President, Massey Ferguson), Vince Carroll (Rugby & Northampton), Ernie Johnson (Timekeeper), Tom O'Reilly (Race Secretary), Ernie Johnson (Official, Stoke), Ken Evans ((Past Presidents, Wolverhampton & Bilston), George Williams (Official), Martin Smith (Droitwich), Betty Downes (Past President), Stewart Harris (Past President), Colin Stone (Official), Dan Clowes (Trentham RC), Steve Cleary (Cobra RC), John Muddeman (Leamington AC), Len Quartly (Bromsgrove & Redditch AC)

Present at the Meeting.

Bob Carey (Past President Race Secretary, Sphinx), Paul Bergin (Sphinx AC), Terry Alcock (Past President), Ted Schuck (Past President, Sparkhill), Dave McNamee (Auditor, Cheltenham & County), Graham Heeley (Race Referee, Sparkhill), Noel McKakley, Colin Thompson (Wolves & Bilston), Eric Hubbleday, David Winter (Sparkhill H.), Graham Allen, Mike Jones, Peter Burns (Stafford H.), Grace Hough, Peter Hough, (Telford Harriers), John Gercs (Rugby & Northampton), Ken Westley (non-affiliated Club), Brian Shepherd (Official, Dudley & Stourbridge) Richard Carney, Martin Ludford (B'ham Rowheath), Tom Orton, John Peet, Dave Williams (Tamworth), Bill Nock, Nick Hazelwood, Andrew Lloyd (Halesowen), Peter Banks Bill Adcocks (Coventry Godiva), Richard Sannwald (Dudley Kingswinford), Stan Hawes, Dave Jones (West Bromwich), Wayne Oakes, Rich Greenhalf (Kenilworth Runners), Rita Brownlie (MCAA/MWCCL/ Bromsgrove & Redditch AC), Derek Loundes (Chase Harriers), Ray Williams (Past President, Official, Tipton), Mike Doyle (President, Official), Pam Davies (Official), John Mills (Official), Jim Skidmore (Past President, Official), Ian Clarke, Joan Clarke (Stourbridge RC), Terry Haines, Albert Gardiner (Severn AC), Tony French (Northbrook), John Vickers (Official), Peter Lisseman (Past President/Official), Arthur Birt (Past President), Dave Greswell (Gloucester AC), Margaret Kelcher, Graham Kelcher (Telford AC), Peter Robinson (Black Country Tri Athletes), Tony French (Northbrook) Margery Ewington (President Elect/Nuneaton), Barry Ewington, Terry Taylor (Past Presidents/ Nuneaton) Carolyn Franks (Hon. Secretary / Treasurer). 56 delegates signed themselves present at the meeting. 26 Clubs had representatives at the meeting (Div One 6, Div Two 11 with 1 apology, Div Three 5, with 1 apology).

Minutes of the 82nd. A.G.M.

The meeting accepted the minutes of the AGM and the Executive minutes but it was noted that there was an error in the Executive minutes with the make up of the clubs. It should read in Division Two West Bromwich Harriers & in Division Three Royal Sutton Coldfield were demoted due to failing to complete a team in one fixture.

Matters Arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising from these minutes.

Statement of Accounts.

Dave McNamee explained that there was a loss on the year despite it being a short year with the moving of the AGM of £1,327.43. The Birmingham Cross Challenge was the biggest expense, but I must be remembered that England athletics sponsorship was included in last year's accounts. On the reverse side of the accounts was a detailed breakdown of the Birmingham Cross Challenge. There was a considerable drop in the income from the Challenge with numbers being low especially in the younger age groups. The reserve account is still gaining excellent interest rates. On closing the account we still had not received the £250 from the Women Midland Cross Country League & two clubs have not been paid for hosting their fixtures. The Meeting accepted the statement of accounts.

Presidents Address.

Ray Williams reported that in 1961 when he first started running as a Youth in the league that he never expected to be holding the chain of office. Running for Tipton he tried on successive years to be one of the scoring six, but failed ever to make his mark due to the high standard of the team at this time. Despite never achieving his aim he had always followed his sport taking the natural progression into the officiating for the League but never thought that one day he would be elected as President of the League following so many illustrious names in Cross Country. Ray expressed his grateful thanks to the Executive in giving him this honour.

League Secretaries Reports

These had been sent out prior to the meeting. There were no matters arising as they were accepted by the meeting.

Secretary's Report

Unfortunately, the Secretary reported that there were still clubs who had to be chased for their affiliation at a time when life is really hectic in preparing for the Birmingham Cross Challenge. It was suggested from the floor that this might be **overcome** if clubs were able to pay by Direct Debit. It was felt that this might be an ideal way forward.

Last season we asked all clubs to provide a list of their possible runners. Some clubs **misunderstood** what was required & **provided** large numbers of runners. This meant we were unable to put names of runners in the programme as was intended. The Secretary also asked that Christian names are **supplied** as well. The Secretary provided a list of the breakdown **that** Bill Adcocks had done in his report for Division One for the other Two Divisions showing number of names given and the actual numbers that ran for each club, **plus** a breakdown of the numbers of runners. It is quite worrying to see the numbers have gone down.

The Secretary put out a plea to all clubs to ensure the Team Managers **READ** the information carefully so that can help the Race Secretaries.

On a more positive side, Senneleys Park works because of the tremendous team spirit of those involved in making it happen. The League is most grateful to all those who willing do all the donkey work behind the scenes.

A record must have been broken this year in that the results were in the post by the Wednesday after the final league race thanks to the Race Secretaries providing Dave McNamee with the results so quickly & then efficiently collating them in a format so that the Secretary could print them off, collate and send out.

Special mention was made to Dave McNamee who still came up trumps with dealing with the results/website despite the fact that this past year he was working in the Midland Office, which involves long days. The members present showed their appreciation too.

Unfortunately, the Secretary had to report that Ken Walklate had decided to retire from Officiating, as he is now 80 years old. This will have an impact on the Officials for the season. The Secretary expressed the Leagues grateful thanks to Ken for all the years of dedicated work, which she will pass onto to him.

The Secretary concluded by thanking all clubs, host clubs, Team Managers, Officials, Race Referees and Race Secretaries for all their contributions for supporting the League.

Junior Awards

The Executive had put forward the proposal that this should be only given to the first Junior with the best score out of the four races. This was accepted by the meeting.

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

- a) Risk Assessment - Please ensure this form is completed & updated on the day. These will be sent out to the host clubs.
- 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. Terry Haines asked the meeting what does this actual cover mean as it seems to vary from area to area. Is it just emergency medical cover/ or is it up to the provider to decide what is needed? The meeting asked the Executive to look into this matter.

Birmingham Cross Challenge

The Secretary was pleased to report that Birmingham City Council are still happy to help us promote this event also with the help of England Athletics- West Midlands & the Midland Counties AA. This year it is also proposed to include a new initiative by the **English Cross Country Association** who are promoting a series of races with prizes and wish our fixture to include one of these races for the senior races. As a group we have tried very hard to involve the West Midland Young Athletes, but at this stage their committee is resisting the idea as they run their races on Sundays, but we have been asked to make contact with the clubs involved in the League to see if we can persuade them to re think.

Officials for the Season

The following changes were made from the Executive Minutes: -

Division One Delete Ken Walklate but add Noel McKakly & Graham Kelcher as Judges.

Delete Ernie Johnson from the timekeepers

Division Two Add Ernie Johnson to the timekeepers list. Race Secretaries/Referee note that Rob Mulgrue of Dudley & Stourbridge is willing to help as a judge if needed and is usually at all races.

Due to the problems of lack of officials it was agreed that all divisions if a club was NOT hosting they needed to provide two officials on the day.

Women’s Midland Cross Country League.

Rita Brownlie was pleased that the Midland Women’s Cross Country League was included with the Birmingham & District Invitation Cross Country League. Numbers were up on previous years with an average of a hundred runners. Their AGM is next month when they will decide on which races they will be using.

Constitution

Rule Nine (d) change to “In the result of a tie in the individual competition an award will be given to those involved in the tie.”

Rule Nine change the wording in the last sentence to” In Addition the top Junior in each division will receive a league award.”

Rule 16 final paragraph - changed to “ Please take note that all promotion expenses must be with the Treasurer 28days prior to the AGM.”

All the above were passed by the meeting.

League Website

Dave McNamee explained that he had kept the website in the same format though he had changed how he gave the results table. He hoped that he was providing what the league members wanted. Any news of useful Cross Country Events he is happy to put on the website. There has been a lack of activity with the archives due to lack of time and any offer of help would be appreciated. If any one has other ideas or different formats that could be used on the website to contact Dave with the information.

Ian Clarke requested that directions to events did not have a coloured background. Dave agreed to ensure they are in black & white in future.

Make-up of the League for the 2008– 2009 Season.

- (a) Droitwich AC, Trentham RC, Aldridge RC, Black Country TriAthletes, Nuneaton Harriers had written in reapplying for membership of the league. This was approved unanimously. Coventry University have decided not to reapply.
- (b) Therefore the League make-up for the coming season is as follows:

Division One	Division Two	Division Three
Birchfield Harriers	Bromsgrove & Redditch	Aldridge RC
Birmingham Rowheath	Bournville Harriers	Amazing Feet RC
Birmingham University	City of Stoke	Black Country Tri
Cheltenham & County Harriers	Dudley & Stourbridge H	Cannock & Stafford
Coventry Godiva	Dudley Kingswinford RC	Centurion RC
Halesowen AC	Gloucester AC	Chase Harriers
Kenilworth RC	Kidderminster & Stourport	Cobra RC
Loughborough University	Leamington C & AC	Droitwich AC
OWLS	Newcastle (Staffs) AC	Massey Ferguson
Rugby & Northampton	Northbrook AC	Nuneaton Harriers
Solihull & Small Heath	Sparkhill Harriers	Peel Road Runners
Staffs Moorlands	Sphinx AC	RoyalSuttonColdfield
Severn AC	Stourbridge RC	Saracens RC
Telford AC	Stratford upon Avon	Sneyd Striders
Tipton Harriers	Tamworth AC	Stafford Harriers
Warwick University	West Bromwich Harriers	Telford Harriers
	Wolverhampton & Bilston	Trentham RC
	Worcester AC	

Affiliation

Colin Thomas proposed that it be increased to £65 seconded by Terry Haines. It was accept unanimously.

Dates Fixtures and Venues for the 2008 – 2009 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.

	Division One	Division Two	Division Three
25th October 2008	Combined fixture at Senneleys Park, Birmingham.		
6th December 2008	*Rugby&Northampton	* Leamington AC	?????? Offers needed
17th January 2009	* Coventry Godiva	Sphinx	*Nuneaton Harriers TBC
14th February 2009	* Severn AC	* Gloucester AC	* Stafford Harriers

HOST CLUBS –PLEASE provide a mobile phone number as a contact on the day.

Election of Officers & Officials.

The Executive proposal of Mike Doyle for President of the League for the 2008 – 2009 season was unanimously endorsed by the A.G.M.

President Elect: Executive proposed Margery Ewington. Once again by a unanimous vote.

Carolyn Franks was proposed by Margaret Kelcher and seconded by Mike Doyle as Secretary and Treasurer of the League, this was accepted by the meeting unanimously.

David McNamee was proposed by Rita Brownlie and seconded by Ray Williams for the position as Hon. Assistant Secretary. Dave was also proposed as the Auditor by Bob Carey and seconded by Terry Alcock. The meeting elected Dave unanimously to both these positions.

Representative to the Midland Cross Country Association - Ian Clarke was proposed by Bill Adcocks and seconded by Ray Williams. This was agreed unanimously.

Representative to England Athletics – Carolyn Franks was proposed by Graham Heeley and seconded by Mike Doyle and accepted by the meeting.

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>	
Race Secretary	Bill Adcocks	Bob Carey	Tom O'Reilly	
Race Referee	Ray Williams	Graham Heeley	Jim Skidmore	
Judges.	Graham Kelcher	John Mills	David Johnson	
	Jude Vidler	John Peet	Terry Taylor	
	Noel McKakley	Ted Schuck	Pat Taylor	
		PeterLisseman	Barry	Ewington
			AlanHemsley	
Timekeepers.	John Vickers	Colin Stone	Margery Ewington	
	George Williams	David Bennett	Pam Davies	
		Brian Shepherd		
		Ernie Johnson		

Rob Mulgrue (Dudley & Stourbridge) is willing to act as a judge for Division Two if required.

Any Other Business:

- Extra trophies – Wayne Oakes asked if they were ready. The Secretary was able to report that they have been order but as yet are not ready.
- The following dates of Cross Country events were given to the meeting: -

4 th October 08	Midland Cross Country Relays	Halesowen
22 nd November 08	Midland 7	possibly Northbrook
24 th January 09	Regional Championships	Mansfield

Date and Venue of the 84th. AGM.

The Executive agreed to hold next years AGM on **Friday 24th April 2008** at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham at 7.30pm.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Don't forget your affiliations are now due

The Affiliation is still only £55

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.***

WOMENS MIDLAND LEAGUE VENUES

These will be decided at their AGM and Clubs will be notified if they are required to host a women's race. Would all clubs/officials please note the above- all the women's races will start at 2.00pm at these venues.

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

MCAA, Alexander Stadium, Walsall Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham B42 2LR

The Senneleys Park fixture will be known this year as the Birmingham Cross Challenge

A reminder to Team Managers – if an athlete wishes **to compete in** the Birmingham Cross Challenge then a separate entry form must be sent in. These forms/information about online entries will be available on our website www.birminghamccleague.co.uk