

**Minutes of the 93rd AGM held at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham, 23rd March 2018 at 7.00pm**

**Birmingham & District Invitation Cross-Country League**  
**1926 – 2018.**

**Apologies for Absence** These were received from Graham Heeley (Past President, Sparkhill, Official) Stewart Harris (Past President), Andy Prophett (Cheltenham & County Harriers), Mike Dolby (Official, Sparkhill), Ron Oliver (Kidderminster & Stourport), Paul Hawkins (Stratford), Terry Haines, Chris Brown (Severn AC), George Duggan (L'boro Students), Martin Smith (President, Droitwich AC), Bryan Mills, Tom Holden (Tipton Harriers).

**Present at the Meeting**

Martin Ludford, Richard Carney (BRAT), Kay Adcocks (Official, Coventry Godiva), Bill Adcocks (Past President/Official, Coventry Godiva) Mary Williams, Andy Rea (Centurion), Chris Holloway (Tipton Harriers), Steve Howes (Solihull & Small Heath), Ian Clarke (Rep to MCAA), Jim Skidmore (Past President, DASH), Rob Mulgrue (DASH, Official), David Waldron (Worcester AC), Noel McKakly (Referee, Wolverhampton & Bilston), Daniel Connolly, Ros Cooper, Martin Judge (Massey Ferguson), Bob Hughes (Past President, Cannock & Stafford), Alan Edwards, Nick Tawney, Noel Butler (Leamington), Ray Morgan (Race Secretary, Leamington), Chris Hitchman (Official, Leamington), Tony French, B. Adams, C. Fenn (Northbrook), Simon Griffiths, Lorraine Griffiths (Black Pear Joggers), Bob Carey (Past President, Race Secretary, Sphinx), Pete Whitehouse, Paul Bergin, Wayne Broadbent (Sphinx), Terry Alcock (Past President, Referee), Keith Perry, Peter Dear (Halesowen), Dave Long (West Bromwich Harriers), Rita Brownlie (Broms & Redditch & MWCCCL), Peter Ball, Len Quartly (Broms & Redditch), Stewart Underhill (Kenilworth Runners), John Turner (Stratford, Official), Simon Hudson, Jo Yarnall (Aldridge AC), Deb Thomas, Daniel Jordan (Trentham), Gavin Marrison, Mark Till (Sneyd Striders), Steve Marklew (RSCAC), Paul Ward (Telford AC), Michael Tovey (Cobra), Sharon Timms, Mike Green, Barbara Partridge (Kings Heath RC), John Vickers (Official), Seth Atkin (City of Birmingham Striders), Aaron Bennett (Gloucester AC), Richard Sannwald (Dudley Kingswinford), Matt Leydon (Spa Striders), Jethro McGraw (B'ham Uni), Craig Hinks (Sparkhill), Tony Jackson (Stratford), Neil Gerrity (Newcastle Staffs), Carolyn Franks (Hon Sec, Treasurer & Past President).

The Secretary started the meeting by thanking Lyn Orbell (Birchfield Harriers) for organising the room & for providing the most welcome refreshments.

In order to run the meeting it was necessary to vote in a Chairperson. Leamington C & AC had proposed Noel Butler. This was seconded by Chris Holloway & with no other nominations Noel was voted into the post.

**Minutes of the 92rd A.G.M.**

A correction was pointed out that Trentham RC should have been in Division One, not Two. Rob Mulgrue proposed that they be accepted & Jim Skidmore seconded. The meeting accepted the minutes of the AGM. The Executive minutes were accepted, subject to a correction in the list of Division 3 clubs: Kidderminster and Stourbridge should read Kidderminster and Stourport.

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

There were no matters from the AGM minutes but the following points were raised from the Executive Minutes:-

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- i) Ray Morgan had proposed that there should be a period of consultation on a Masters race. There are several ideas put forward, e.g. doing 2 laps. Terry Alcock spoke against, pointing out that the league was already providing a race in which masters athletes can take part; others were concerned as several of their runners counting in the senior race were masters, so having a separate race would adversely affect their team score. It was agreed to make clubs aware of the proposal by consulting via email & by putting it on the website. The proposal was seconded by Noel McKakly. The motion was carried.

ACTION: CF to inform clubs & CH to provide the information for the website.

- ii) Ray Morgan put out a plea out for help with the results as a back up to himself. This last season Ray had dealt with all the results & would welcome support from a person(s) with IT skills, particularly with knowledge of Excel. As there were no offers from the floor it was decided to circulate the clubs & place on the website.

ACTION: CF to ask clubs. CH to place on the website.

- iii) Wastage of numbers – CF asked clubs to ONLY send details of runners who are definitely going to run. There is no need to give masses of names at the beginning of the season as the system enables clubs to add runners at any time.

- iv) Slow Runners – Tony French was totally against the Executive recommendation of stopping the race after 60 minutes for a variety of reasons – courses can be between 5 to 7 miles, the different types of terrain, the masters runners could be part of a club's scoring team. There was a lively discussion which ended with Bob Carey proposing an amendment that runners be pulled out after 2 laps, but they would score say 201 points. He later made an amendment that it should be after 40 minutes. On a vote there were only 2 for the Executive recommendation & the rest of the meeting voted against.

- v) Newcastle Staffs – wished to know what the rationale was that had affected their club from being promoted this year. It was explained that in the past there had been clubs who were "pot hunting". It was recommended that they send in a proposal that this rule should be revised as part of the review of the rules (see vi below).

ACTION: Newcastle Staffs to send in a proposal.

- vi) Chris Holloway had sent in a proposal with a time scale for a formal review of the rules of the League, with input from athletes/officials & clubs allowing for ideas/issues to be discussed & then brought to the AGM next year. This was seconded by Ray Morgan. The meeting accepted this.

ACTION: CF to send out to the clubs/officials & to arrange a meeting for the Executive to discuss the outcomes & to prepare a new set of rules for next year's AGM. CH to place on the website.

- vii) Noel Butler's report – CF expressed her disappointment in the number of replies. Rob Mulgrue felt that the small response showed that clubs and league officials felt that there were no fundamental problems with the way the League operates; most of the points in the report were minor ones that it was appropriate for the separate men's and women's leagues to deal with according to their own situations. He felt that the two major issues identified were the number of officials and the availability of venues. However, the former was being dealt with by the penalty points system and the latter in a variety of ways: new clubs were offering to host races; clubs were collaborating to put on races; and the women's league apparently accepting that on occasions it would be necessary for them to stage their races at different venues. Ray Morgan said the major issues were the lack of qualified officials. CF pointed out that a few years ago we offered to put on & pay for a course but no one came forward & at the present moment she was trying to get an official on a course but there is nothing available! New clubs coming forward to offer to host would be given advice on what was required. Noel was thanked for doing a good job.

- viii) Expenses for host clubs was raised. CF explained that clubs had claimed for extra items and, if they were felt necessary, they were paid.

ix) Chris Holloway asked why it was necessary to remove from the website the number of runners in the Women's League races. CF explained that this is for the Men's information & that it is up to the Women to place their information on the website that they use.

x) Rob Mulgrue questioned the idea of the extra board "C" when we already have 2 boards/discs and spot checks on the timekeepers' board. Ray Morgan explained that it is quicker to do a check at the venue instead of the 2 boards & the disc envelopes that takes time later. The idea is to get the results out quicker & he was able to go home with an agreed result. After a discussion, it was agreed it was up to the Race Referee/Race Secretary to decide if they would use this. Kay Adcocks pointed out that 2 extra officials would be needed, though it was felt the dispersal job could be used instead.

### **League Secretaries' Reports**

These had been sent out prior to the meeting. There were no matters arising from the reports.

### **President's Address.**

Since Martin Smith was unable to attend, the Secretary read out his report:

My first visit was to the Division One race at Pittville Park, hosted by Cheltenham Harriers. I was warmly greeted by Carolyn and Noel Mckakly and his team of officials. The weather was almost perfect as it was slightly overcast but quite mild for the time of year. Being Armistice Day, we all observed one-minute silence before the race. There was a large field of 310 athletes, which meant the start line needed to be extended. The race started promptly at 2:30 p.m. and I was given the privilege of starting the race. The 6.6 mile course was well laid out by Cheltenham Harriers and was compact enough to view the race from several viewpoints. The highlight, of course, being the stream crossing which provided entertainment for the spectators. The University teams were very evident in Division One with Loughborough Students romping home in first place with 50 points followed by Birchfield Harriers and The University of Birmingham.

For the second race it was my intention to visit the Division Two race at Clopton Park Stratford upon Avon. Unfortunately, I was ill and unable to attend.

My next visit was to Division Three, my home event at Droitwich. Again the weather was kind to us as the course was reasonably dry and not too boggy. Bob Carey was on hand to deal with numbers and results. Barry Ewington was Race Referee and managed to walk round the course beforehand. The 10km course was the usual two laps round the start field and then three large laps taking the athletes through the Nature Reserve. 189 runners completed the course with Felix McGrath in first place with a time of 35:15 mins. This being his third win he was confirmed as the senior champion for the season.

Newcastle (Staffs) AC were well ahead with 57 points followed by Severn AC and Amazing Feet. For the final fixture, I was at the Division Two race at the National Star College Cheltenham. The event was hosted by CLC Striders Running Club. I was again warmly greeted by Terry Alcock and introduced to the officials. Much of the course could be viewed from the finish area. It looked quite challenging from where I was standing. The conditions weren't too bad to start with. It was a bit overcast but fairly mild. However, during the race the wind increased and it started to drizzle. Terry and I walked to the start as it was about six minutes away from the finish area. With about 10 minutes to go, only a handful of athletes had arrived. I'm sure that after running up the hill to the start, many were still out of puff by the time I started the race. On the day the winning team was Worcester AC with 87 points followed by Cannock & Stafford AC and Telford AC. Congratulations to all three teams who gained promotion to Division One. I was very pleased to be able to assist Graham Allen with the presentation of the Trophies at the end of the meeting.

Finally, may I add that it has been a privilege to serve as President of the Birmingham and District Cross Country League for this season. Being invited to attend the Executive meetings, I was able to see how much hard work goes into ensuring the League runs smoothly. The Committee has an immense amount of experience and knowledge and they have dedicated many years' service to the League. With several members wishing to retire, it would be encouraging to see younger members step forward and take over some of these roles so that their legacy may continue. This will ensure a successful League for the future and benefit all of its athletes.

Many thanks to Carolyn Franks for all her hard work as Secretary and also to all of the officials working hard behind the scenes ensuring everything runs smoothly. Finally, thank you to all the host clubs for staging the venues, without them there wouldn't be any Cross Country.

Martin Smith

President 2017/18

### **Secretary's Report**

It was sad to see before the season started that Peel Road Runners had withdrawn from the League. Yet again I enjoyed my visits to the different divisions starting with Cheltenham & County Harriers, as it is on my own patch & I had been roped in to receive the main officials & I was able to help with the signing in of the non-host clubs' officials. This gives me a chance to do my monthly walk going the reverse way round supporting the athletes & being able to thank all the marshals. The going was fast & I was unable to complete one lap before the finish!

In December I visited the Third Division at Plock Court, Gloucester with Severn AC kindly hosting for the second time' to whom we are indebted. Unbeknown to us Margery Ewington had fallen during the week & was unfit to attend & Barry was looking after her & hence we found ourselves without a Referee & a Chief Timekeeper. I decided to take on the job of Referee & Ian Clarke kindly volunteered to be the Chief Timekeeper & Newcastle Staffs also offered an extra official. As a result I did not do my "walk"! I was taken a little aback by the lateness of the officials signing in giving very little time to have a chat with them. Fortunately, the race went off well.

In January I had the pleasure of visiting Division Two at Cofton Park who also hosted a Women's race. What a sight on arrival – masses of marshals in their yellow bibs! It was a text book lesson on how to run a fixture &, as a new club to the league, this was their first attempt at staging a fixture - the marking/signs were superb. There was a great club spirit spearheaded by Barbara Partridge & Mike Green. All the marshals said how much they were enjoying themselves encouraging the athletes & even using tambourines & bell clangers to boost the runners! The new pavilion proved most useful for registration & to welcome the officials with 2 lovely tea ladies. The club wisely contacted both Terry Alcock & Rob Mulgrue, who were the Race Referees, & had had a site visit in advance. Congratulations to Kings Heath for a very impressive fixture which I am sure all enjoyed.

For the final fixture I visited Wolverhampton who also hosted a double fixture. It is a well-known venue with excellent facilities & again good club support ensuring it was well marshalled & even had a refreshment tent near the tented area. I did not realise that Ray Morgan had a tent near the finish area but I eventually found him. There was a good turn out as the teams were very close!

It was good to see teams battling it out for the honours in all Divisions.

It has been a very busy year for me – dealing with Noel Butler's report & a club disputing the rules. This has been time consuming, as it all needed consultation with the Executive before I could deal with it.

I would put out a plea to clubs to reply promptly as a lot of time has also been spent on chasing up replies. The first reply will be the Club Information form - this will bring to all clubs' attention details of our Data Protection Policy.

Finally, it is sad that we have lost another stalwart of the League- namely the retirement of Bob Carey, to whom the League is indebted for his 21 years of devoted service as Race Secretary for Division Three.

A presentation from the League and Division 3 clubs was made to Bob in warm thanks for his 21 years of service.

### **Statement of Accounts.**

The Accounts are in a healthy state & the auditor was able to check the accounts easily this year. The large balance was questioned but it was explained that this was a necessary reserve which enabled

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the fees to be protected from the need to increase them each year, despite the expenditure on host-club costs increasing. Martin Ludford questioned the amounts the clubs had been paid. It was explained that this set of accounts includes some expenses from clubs who held the February fixtures, as it is impossible for them to get their bills in by the year-end. Likewise the cost of the trophies on the breakdown list does not match the one on the statement of accounts due to clubs ordering extra plaques. Jim Skidmore proposed, seconded by Bob Carey, that they be accepted & this was approved unanimously.

### **Officials for the 2018/19 season**

Since the Executive Ian Clarke has offered his services as Chief Timekeeper for Division Three. John Turner informed us that Andy Turner's job has been altered so he is no longer available. Bill Adcocks wished to be removed from the post of Officials Secretary.

The appointed officials for the season are:-

	<b>Division One</b>	<b>Division Two</b>	<b>Division Three</b>
Race Secretary	Ray Morgan	Graham Allen	?
Race Referee	Noel McKakly	Rob Mulgrue	Terry Alcock
Chief Timekeeper	John Vickers	John Turner	Ian Clarke
Officials Secretary		Alison Mills	
Officials	Kay Adcocks Mike Doyle Derrick Harding Chris Hitchman Bob Hughes	Margery Ewington Barry Ewington	John Aylmer Graham Heeley Colin Stone

As there were no offers for **Race Secretary for Division Three** the meeting was asked to try to see if there was anyone they knew that would be willing to take this on. If they need advice on the job to contact Ray Morgan, Bill Adcocks or Bob Carey. CF to circulate the clubs with a job description.

ACTION: CF to circulate the job description.

### **Make-up of the League for the 2018-2019 Season.**

There had been no new applications. All clubs had re-applied to join the League.

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

<b><u>Division One</u></b>	<b><u>Division Two</u></b>	<b><u>Division Three</u></b>
Birchfield Harriers	Black Pear Joggers	Aldridge RC
BRAT	Bournville Harriers	Amazing Feet RC
Cannock & Stafford AC	Bromsgrove & Redditch AC	Centurion RR
City of Stoke AC	CLC Striders	City of Birmingham Striders
Cheltenham & County Harriers	Dudley & Stourbridge H	Cobra R & Triathletes
Coventry Godiva Harriers	Halesowen AC	Coventry Triathletes
Kenilworth Runners	Kings Heath RR	Droitwich AC
Leamington A & CC	Knowle & Dorridge RC	Dudley Kingswinford RC
Loughborough Students	Nuneaton AC	Gloucester AC
Rugby & Northampton AC	Royal Sutton Coldfield AC	Kidderminster & Stourport AC
Telford AC	Spa Striders	Massey Ferguson RC
Tipton Harriers	Stratford upon Avon AC	Newcastle Staffs AC
University of Birmingham	Tamworth AC	Northbrook AC
University of Warwick	Trentham RC	Sedgley Striders

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Wolverhampton & Bilston AC  
Worcester AC

Severn AC  
Sneyd Striders  
Solihull & Small Heath AC  
Sparkhill Harriers  
Sphinx AC  
Stourbridge RC  
West Bromwich Harriers

At the end of the coming season (2018-2019) in order to balance the numbers we will revert back to 3 clubs up and down.

### Affiliation Fees

The Executive recommended the affiliation fees remained the same as last season at £125. This was accepted by the meeting. **PLEASE NOTE it needs to be paid by 31 May 2018 (see also the details at the end of the minutes).**

### Dates Fixtures and Venues for the 2018 –2019 Season.

	<u>Division One</u>	<u>Division Two</u>	<u>Division Three</u>
<b>10th November 2018</b>	Cheltenham& County Harriers	Black Pear Joggers at Droitwich	Northbrook AC
<b>1st December 2018</b>	Uni of Birmingham at Warley Woods	Stratford upon Avon AC	Severn AC
<b>12th January 2019</b>	Rugby & Northampton AC	Spa Striders	Droitwich
<b>9th February 2019</b>	Telford AC	Trentham RC	Gloucester AC

### Election of Officers & Officials.

The Birmingham League Executive proposed Kay Adcocks as President of the League for the season of 2018 – 2019. (Note: CF took the outgoing President's Plaque to Martin Smith)

President Elect: Richard Sannwald – proposed by Executive. This was accepted unanimously.

Hon.Secretary/ Treasurer: Carolyn Franks.

Hon. Assistant Secretary : LEFT VACANT

Chairperson: Noel Butler

Auditor: Paul New

Web Masters: Chris Holloway and Brian Mills

Representative to the Midland Cross Country Association: Ian Clarke.

It was agreed to approve the League officials *en bloc*.

### Constitution

Point 15: Delete the wording " Hon Secretary"& replace with "The named official"

Delete the words "St John's Ambulance/Red Cross" & replace with "First Aiders who are at least First Person on the Scene(FPOS)trained"

Point 17: add "Reimbursement will be for officials refreshments on a Tea/biscuit type basis"

Add: "When declaring athletes clubs must supply their England Athletics number. The League will check that the athlete's registration is current & first claim for the club for which they compete in the League other than the University teams whose members must be first claim for a club which does not compete in the League."

**Promoting Clubs**

Clubs were reminded of the need to get the permits, risk assessments & possibly the First Aid.

**League Website**

The meeting was happy with the website.

**Any Other Business:**

1. Noel Butler presented to the meeting his intended work areas for the year:-
  - a) Review courses & possible new hosting clubs.
  - b) Review process for recruitment & training of officials.
  - c) Review the Constitution to improve the transparency e.g. notice of AGM to go out before the closing date for the agenda items.
  - d) Review Noel Butler report.
  - e) Consider how the league can work with other bodies for the benefit of the League e.g. the Midland Women's.
  - f) Chair the Executive & the AGM
  - g) Authorise the Secretary to share her club contact list with him to allow him to carry out this mandate.
2. Kay Adcocks proposed that Graham Heeley should be co-opted to the Executive , this was seconded by Terry Alcock. Richard Sannwald proposed Bill Adcocks should also be co-opted and this was seconded by Jim Skidmore. It was agreed that these proposed co-options should be recommended to the Executive for them to consider.
3. Rita Brownlie informed the meeting that the Midland Women's Cross Country League AGM is on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April to which all are welcome.
4. Noel Butler expressed his thanks to the Secretary for all her hard work.
5. Chris Holloway felt the league should investigate the possibility of doing more social media, e.g. twitter in case of inclement weather.

**Date and Venue of the 94th AGM**

It was agreed to hold next year's AGM on **Friday 22nd March 2019 at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham at 7.00pm.**

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.pm, with thanks to the Secretary.

**AFFILIATIONS to be sent to:-**

CAROLYN FRANKS  
23 Salisbury Avenue  
Cheltenham  
Glos GL51 3BT

Cheques made payable to:-  
BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT INVITATION CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

or

If preferred by bank transfer (BACS) The League's account details as follows:

Account no: 11114247

Sort Code : 40 17 10

N.B. Please also include your club name in the reference to help us identify the payment.

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**Final note:** Please also remember to complete your Club Information form which can be downloaded from the website and return to me by Monday 23rd July 2018 so that the League has the correct contact details for all written and emailed correspondence about the next 2018/2019 cross-country season. Thank you. Carolyn

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE : \_\_\_\_\_