

**Minutes of the 94<sup>th</sup> AGM held at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham, 22nd March 2019 at 7.00pm**

**Birmingham & District Invitation Cross-Country League**  
**1926 – 2019.**

**Obituary**

Before the start of the meeting the members were asked to be upstanding in respect of Brian Shepherd ( Past President, Dudley & Stourbridge AC), Mike Doyle ( Past President, Sparkhill Harriers) & Ron Bentley ( Tipton Harriers) who have all passed away in the last year.

**Apologies for Absence** These were received from Andy Prohett (Cheltenham & County Harriers), Ron Oliver (Kidderminster & Stourport AC), Paul Hawkins (Stratford upon Avon AC), Terry Haines (Severn AC), Keith Richards ( Official), Terry Egan ( Rugby & Northampton AC), Kay Adcocks ( President, Bill Adcocks( Past President, Official, Coventry Godiva), Chris Attwood (Black Pear Joggers), Colin Stone ( Official Gloucester AC), Wayne Broadbent( SphinxAC), Michael Tovey (Cobra R & Tri), Jo Tork (Knowle & Dorridge RC )

**Present at the Meeting**

Martin Ludford, Richard Carney (BRAT), Andy Rea (Centurion), Steve Howes , Rebecca Freeman(Solihull & Small Heath), Ian Clarke (MCAA, Official), Jim Skidmore (Past President, DASH), Rob Mulgrue (DASH, Official), David Waldron (Worcester AC), Noel McKakly (Referee, Wolverhampton & Bilston), Daniel Connolly, (Race Secretary,Massey Ferguson), Bob Hughes (Past President, Cannock & Stafford), Noel Butler (Chairperson, Leamington), Ray Morgan (Race Secretary, Leamington), Chris Hitchman (Official, Leamington), Tony French(Northbrook), Terry Alcock (Past President, Referee), Keith Perry, Peter Dear (Halesowen), Rita Brownlie ( MWCCL), Stewart Underhill (Kenilworth Runners), John Turner (Stratford, Official), Deborah Thomas, Daniel Jordan (Trentham), Gavin Harrison (Sneyd Striders),Paul Sandeson, Dean Gaffer (Telford AC), Mike Green, Hannah Maguire (Kings Heath RC), John Vickers (Official), Steve Marklew ( RSC), Aaron Bennett (Gloucester AC), Richard Sannwald (President Elect, Dudley Kingswinford), Matt Leydon, Chris McKeown (Spa Striders), Daniel Carpenter(B'ham Uni), Craig Hinks (Sparkhill), Danny Tolhurst (Stratford), Graham Allen ( Race Secretary), Mary Hodges ( MWCCL), Martin Smith (Droitwich), Graham Heeley( Past President, Official, Sparkhill), Andrew Peat ( Birchfield), Eric & Eleanor Fowler (Nuneaton Harriers), Vince Carroll ( Rugby & Northampton), Dave Long ( West Bromwich), Pete Banks ( Coventry Godiva), Peter Ball ( Bromsgrove & Redditch), Carolyn Franks (Hon Sec, Treasurer & Past President).

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

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

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

There were no matters from the AGM minutes. Matters from the Executive minutes will be dealt with later in the meeting.

**League Secretaries' Reports**

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

**President's Address.**

In February 2018 I was informed that the leagues executive committee had nominated me to be the president of the Birmingham and District Invitation Cross Country League for the 2018/2019 season. I felt surprised, honoured and humbled but was delighted to accept the role which was endorsed at the 2018 AGM.

## BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT INVITATION CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

In October 2018 I sent an email to the nominated contacts of the host clubs notifying them of the venues and dates when I would be attending their events.

In November I attended the division 3 fixture hosted by Northbrook and Sphinx in Coventry. In December I went to Stratford on Avon for the division 2 fixture hosted by Stratford and in January and February I attended division 1 fixtures at Abington Park Northampton, hosted by Rugby and Northampton and Lilleshall, hosted by Telford. At three of the fixtures I was invited to start the races.

I enjoyed some excellent races in very good weather apart from at Coventry where the athletes endured torrential rain for the duration of the race.

Sadly I feel it necessary to comment on the fact that some of the host clubs did not acknowledge the presence of the president at their event or remember to welcome the president to their event. At one of the fixtures I felt embarrassed at being there especially as I was wearing the presidential chain of office. I felt that the role of the president was being disrespected. Thankfully the season end on a high note at Telford where the hosts provided me with a very warm welcome. I really did not wish to complain about the lack of welcome, but I sincerely feel that there is a lack of respect for the position of the president. I do hope that things will be different in the future.

The league remains vibrant as was shown by the number of finishers in all of the races that I attended. I wish the league continuing success in the future. Thanks to all of the league officers, officials and volunteers without whom this would not be possible.

Kay Adcocks

### **Chairperson's Report**

I have enjoyed my first season as your Chair and managed to get to see all three divisions run and therefore meet the officials that do such a fine job for the league.

This has been a successful year and it began even before the season started with Carolyn hosting a meeting with the Midlands Ladies League to agree how we would work together. It was agreed that the Ladies League would supply assistant referees for each fixture and that for a least one fixture they would run their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> divisions at separate venues. Both these initiatives were successful and you will no doubt read more in the reports from the Divisional secretaries and referees.

Also, it was agreed that both leagues would make payments to the host club over and above reimbursement of expenses. This was a long overdue action.

As instructed by last year's AGM the constitution has been revised and this will be on the AGM agenda. Thanks, must go to Chris Holloway and Rob Mulgrue who have put a substantial amount of time into this redrafting. Please therefore ensure your club has reviewed it and let Carolyn have any comments.

My thanks go to all the hosting clubs for without you we couldn't have a league.

The one overriding issue I have taken from the season is being behind the scenes and seeing what great work is done by all the officers. This league is fortunate to have such a dedicated group of people whose aim is to ensure you have high class cross country on demanding but safe courses. I take my hat off to them.

**Noel Butler**

### **Secretary's Report**

I always enjoy my visits to hosting clubs & try to visit all divisions, but this year I failed due a trip abroad, which meant I came back one day too late for the January fixture & for the first time ever failed to visit all Divisions. This was particularly annoying as we had a new Race Secretary for Division Three in Daniel Connelly- but I must say he has done a splendid job. Apologies to Daniel & all Division Three officials & athletes.

## BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT INVITATION CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

November, I supported my home club, Cheltenham & County Harriers & was pleased to welcome all from Division One. As the first race of the season it was good to see the problems that the Race Secretaries had dealing with athletes who had not been registered before race day, which is preferable as it gives the Race Secretaries time to check if they have registered with England Athletics & have been issued with their URN number. We realise this is the first year of this requirement & that there will be teething problems. I cannot stress enough the importance of athletes ensuring they register their correct name. For example not Alex but Alexander & ensure the spelling is correct to help our Race Secretaries. Hopefully, it will ensure clubs get more organised for the future.

December – I visited Stratford, who showed that lack of facilities did not stop them from offering to host- parking was not close, there were no changing facilities, portloos were essential & they brought in a van selling drink & food. A small tent was used for registration. It worked & well done Stratford. I walked the course as is my usual plan, so that I can thank the marshals for helping the League. It was a tough testing course just to walk it!!

January – would have been my visit to Droitwich AC! Apologies, but I understand the new course was received very well.

February – I was welcomed by Telford AC who had laid out the course several times, due to the strong winds earlier in the day. Fortunately, these died down by the time of the race. Again, walking round seeing the layout of the course, which had plenty of variety & seeing the marshals. Refreshments were laid on near the course, which was good to see the club able to offer this. Telford AC had organised a room in the main block for presentation, which also had refreshments on sale nearby. Unfortunately, only clubs in the first 3 places or those with individual awards stayed for the presentations.

It was pleasing to see a lot of close finishes & even ties. As a result I have had to purchase extra plaques, which are here for collection today. My thanks to Steve Millington (Halesowen AC) for his excellent service for the League.

During the year I had 2 clubs failing to pass onto their person who was organising the fixture, the letter with the instructions to help host clubs. Communication is vital, & as I only have 2 named persons per club I rely heavily on the named folks to pass the information on.

You will see in the report from the Auditor that we had 2 clubs failing to pay their affiliation despite numerous reminders. In fact I had 19 clubs that I needed to remind before the deadline to pay. This adds to my work load & I would be grateful if all clubs could pay attention to deadlines & act on them.

Sadly, we have had 2 Past President's pass away this year. There was a plea from Pam Davies for folks to visit Mike Doyle during his illness- can I thank on Pam's behalf those who so kindly managed to visit him. It was greatly appreciated.

It has been a very time consuming year for the Executive with extra meetings to deal with the new Constitution/ Rules- on behalf of the League I would like to give our thanks to Chris Holloway & Rob Mulgrue who started the process, which we will deal with later in the meeting.

At this point the key item for the coming year is the need for a Race Secretary for Division Three. No Secretary means no races!! We also need more qualified officials & the referees tell me there are lots of

folks who did a very good job last season – the League is willing to put on a course & will pay for anyone willing to do it.

Finally, may I say a huge thank you to the Executive for their hard work over the last season.

Carolyn Franks

Daniel Connelly (Massey Ferguson) proposed we put on an Officials course & paid for anyone who is a member of the League. This was seconded by John Turner (Stratford) and passed by the meeting. It was agreed that it would be ideal to be put on in September. Graham Heeley ( Sparkhill, Official) pointed out that this has to go through England Athletics.

**ACTION** : CF to set up a course & inform all clubs.

Terry Alcock ( Race Referee) was extremely concerned that 2 clubs had not paid last year's affiliation. The meeting asked that there were names & shamed. The Secretary informed the meeting that Tamworth & Trentham were the offending clubs.

Graham Heeley gave the Secretary a vote of thanks for all the work she had done over the past season.

### **Statement of Accounts.**

Daniel Jordan (Trentham) recommended that the League reverts to one signatory to avoid having to send in letters when the league wishes to do a bank transfer, plus it might be worth looking at the mandate.

Richard Carney( BRAT)asked for an explanation of dormancy. The meeting was informed that if there has been no payments in or out for a 3 year period then the account is blocked.

Daniel Connelly asked if we paid for the website. Bryan Mills ( Webmaster)explained that he does it on the back of another account.

Chris Hitchman ( Leamington) said that on the face of accounts it looks as if there was a deficit but in the light of knowing there were 7 clubs payments outstanding from the previous year, plus 2 clubs still to pay their affiliation we were actually about £1,600 up.

Noel Butler (Chair) wished to express his thanks to the Auditor.

Ray Morgan felt it would be good to see the debts & what is owed by the Midland Women's Cross Country League. He mentioned that it would be better to have the actual signatures of the Treasurer & the Auditor instead of an electronic one. On the breakdown of expenses to change the wording, from refund to payment. The meeting felt it would be better to have a report from the auditor & another one from the Treasurer. Daniel Connelly asked if more information on the host expenses could be given. This was agreed could be done.

Ray Morgan( Leamington) proposed that the accounting be changed to income /expenditure with a balance sheet with recur accounting. This was seconded by Tony French(Northbrook). 22 votes were for & nil against. Ray Morgan also stated he was concerned that the Auditor had signed the accounts off with these mistakes. **ACTION** : As a result of several queries it as agreed they should be amended & re- issued.

BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT INVITATION CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

**Officials for the 2019/20 season**

The appointed officials for the season are:-

	<b>Division One</b>	<b>Division Two</b>	<b>Division Three</b>
Race Secretary	Ray Morgan	Daniel Connelly	???
Race Referee	Noel McKakly	Rob Mulgrue	Terry Alcock
Chief Timekeeper	John Vickers	John Turner	Ian Clarke
Officials Secretary	Bill Adcocks	Dave Pettifer	Graham Allen
Officials	Kay Adcocks Derek Cowdrey Derrick Harding Chris Hitchman Bob Hughes Keith Perry Keith Richards	John Aylmer Richard Carney Colin Stone	Graham Heeley

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 CF

**Make-up of the League for the 2019-2020 Season.**

There had been 3 new applications Hereford Harriers, Redditch Stars & Telford Harriers. The Executive recommended to the AGM that we accepted Telford Harriers, but that we ask the other clubs for more details, sending them a format to assist their application. The meeting accepted this.

**ACTION:** CF to write to all 3 clubs.

All 4 clubs ( COBS, Droitwich, Sedgely Striders & West Bromwich Harriers) that needed to re-apply to join the League had done so.

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
Bournville Harriers	BRAT	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	Gloucester AC	Coventry Triathletes
Halesowen AC & CC	Kenilworth RR	Droitwich AC
Knowle & Dorridge RC	Kings Heath RC	Dudley Kingswinford RC
Leamington AC & CC	Massey Ferguson RC	Kidderminster & Stourport AC
Loughborough Students	Newcastle Staffs AC	Northbrook AC
Rugby & Northampton AC	Royal Sutton Coldfield AC	Nuneaton Harriers
Tipton Harriers	Spa Striders	Sedgely Striders
University of Birmingham	Stratford upon Avon AC	Severn AC
University of Warwick	Telford AC	Sneyd Striders
University of Warwick		Solihull & Small Heath AC
Wolverhampton & Bilston AC		Sparkhill Harriers
Worcester AC		Sphinx AC
		Stourbridge RC
		Tamworth AC

## BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT INVITATION CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

Telford Harriers  
Trentham RC  
West Bromwich Harriers

### Affiliation Fees

The Executive recommended the affiliation fees remained the same as last season at £125. Daniel Jordan ( Trentham ) proposed that there should be no fees until the account dropped below £20,000. This was seconded by Ray Morgan. It was also felt that host clubs should be paid for items like stakes if they are needed.

Ray Morgan then put forward further amendment that this would not apply to clubs who have joined the League in the last 5 years.

Daniel Connelly proposed it should be £75 & was seconded by Gavin Harrison (Sneyd Striders). Chris Hitchman ( Leamington) said that £125 was about right.

A vote was taken on the Executive's proposal & there were 25 in favour & 8 against. As a result it was not necessary to vote on the other proposals.

**A DATE FOR THE PAYMENT WAS OVERLOOKED SO PLEASE NOTE it needs to be paid by 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019 (see the details for payment at the end of the minutes).**

### Dates Fixtures and Venues for the 2019 –2020 Season.

	<u>Division One</u>	<u>Division Two</u>	<u>Division Three</u>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> November 2019</b>	Worcester AC	Spa Striders +W div 1	Northbrook AC with phinx & Nuneaton + W div 2
<b>7<sup>th</sup> December 2019</b>	Stoke	Stratford upon Avon AC + W div?	Severn AC
<b>1<sup>th</sup> January 2020</b>	Rugby & Northampton AC	Massey Ferguson +W Div 2	<b>Trentham + W Div 1</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> February 2020</b>	Leamington C & AC + W Div 2	Telford AC	<b>Droitwich + W Div 1</b>

### **NOTE SINCE THE AGM THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE OF VENUES FOR DIVISION THREE**

### **Election of Officers & Officials.**

There had been a late proposal from Trentham putting Daniel Jordan forward as Treasurer. Terry Alcock stated that it was not really acceptable from a club who was one of the offending clubs who failed to pay their affiliation. Steve Howes thought it would ease the Secretary's workload. Ray Morgan thought it was bad governance to have the same person as Secretary & Treasurer. The Secretary pointed out that this has been the way the League has been run for years & was not a huge problem. A vote was taken to have Daniel Jordan as Treasurer & there were 33 for & 8 against. The Chairperson thanked the Secretary for all her hard work as Treasurer. The meeting gave Carolyn a round of applause.

All the other posts were recommended en bloc from the Executive proposing Richard Sannwald ( Dudley Kingswinford) as President of the League for the season of 2019 – 2020. (Note: CF took the outgoing President's Plaque to Kay Adcocks & presented it to her at the wake of Mike Dolye).

President Elect: Noel McKakly – proposed by Executive. This was accepted unanimously.

Hon.Secretary: Carolyn Franks.

Chairperson: Noel Butler

Auditor: Chris McKeown

Web Masters: Bryan Mills

Representative to the Midland Cross Country Association: Graham Heeley.

The incoming President was then given his chain of office stating he had been with Dudley Kingswinford for about 30 years though it started as St Peter's Saltly RC & had been their Secretary & as yet had not been sacked! He considered it a great honour to be President of the best Cross Country League.

### **Constitution**

It was clear from the subsequent discussion that the position of who is responsible for the course is not clear, so while retaining the current rule that the referee's decision is final a small group would be set up to discuss the matter and bring a recommendation back to the league, preferably before the first fixtures. Rob Mulgrue and Tony French agreed to be part of the group and the Chair will set up the meeting.

**Action: Noel Butler to arrange meeting**

Northbrook also commented on C14 that when we (Northbrook) provide Medical Cover, there is always a trained person available in case of "no show" of the booked provider. When the League arrange Medical Cover; do they also ensure that there is a "back up"? We suggest that the League ensure that, at least, one of their Officials has a certificate and attends with suitable kit. There would then not be the threat of cancellation. The Chair responded that this is a league procedure rather than a rule and the league would therefore review it and come back to the clubs before the start of the season

**Action: Noel Butler to discuss with Carolyn Franks**

See the attached new Document which was passed by the meeting.

### **Promoting Clubs**

Clubs were reminded of the need to get the permits, risk assessments & possibly the First Aid depending on where their course is. The Secretary will let host clubs know if they need to book their own First Aid or whether they are part of the block booking.

### **League Website**

The meeting was happy with the website but if there is anyone that would like to assist then to contact the Secretary.

### **Any Other Business:**

There was no other business.

### **Date and Venue of the 95th AGM**

It was agreed to hold next year's AGM on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020 hopefully at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham** due to the re building of the stadium for the Commonwealth Games (THIS WILL BE CONFIRMED NEXT YEAR) at 7.00pm. KEEP THE DATE THOUGH!!

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.37pm.

**AFFILIATIONS to be sent to:-**

CAROLYN FRANKS **BY 30TH APRIL 2019**

23 Salisbury Avenue  
Cheltenham  
Glos GL51 3BT

Email: cliffandcarolyn69@gmail.com

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.

I would be grateful if you could email me to inform me that you have paid it by bank transfer.

**AFTER 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019 ALL MONIES WILL BE DEALT WITH BY DANIEL JORDAN- DETAILS WILL BE SENT OUT TO ALL CLUBS.**

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

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