

**Minutes of the 96<sup>th</sup> AGM held by ZOOM 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.00pm**

**Birmingham & District Invitation Cross-Country League**  
**1926 – 2021**

The meeting started with a welcome from the Chairman & especially to Mary Hodges from the Women's Midland Cross Country League & Dave Newport as an observer from Weston Tempo who have applied to join the league.

**Obituary**

Before the start of the meeting the members were asked to have a minutes silence in respect of Basil Heatley ( Past President 1982/3), Dave Johnson ( Past President 1989/90) George Gandy ( Loughborough Students) & John Love ( Northampton) who have all passed away in the last year.

**Apologies for Absence** These were received from Ron Oliver (Kidderminster & Stourport AC), Terry Haines (Severn AC), Kay Adcocks (Past President), Bill Adcocks(Past President, Coventry Godiva), Alison Preece (Telford AC), Bob Hughes (Past President, Cannock & Stafford), Graham Heeley (Past President, Official, Sparkhill), Ray Morgan ( Race Secretary, Leamington AC) Richard Carney(BRAT) David Norman( Wolves & Bilston), Terry Haines ( Severn AC),Tom Holden ( Tipton)

**Present at the Meeting**

Martin Ludford (BRAT), Steve Howes (Solihull & Small Heath),Terry Alcock ( Referee Solihull & Smallheath) Ian Clarke (MCAA, Official), Rob Mulgrue (DASH, Referee), David Waldron (Worcester AC), Noel McKakly (President Elect, Referee ,Wolverhampton & Bilston), Daniel Connolly, (Race Secretary, Massey Ferguson), Noel Butler (Chairperson, Leamington), Chris Hitchman (Official, Leamington), Keith Perry, Bill Nock, Andrew Nock, Peter Dear( Halesowen),Mary Hodges ( MWCCCL), Neil Cressy (Kenilworth Runners), Gavin Harrison (Sneyd Striders), Dave Cresswell (Gloucester AC), Richard Sannwald ( President Dudley Kingswinford), Chris McKeown (Auditor, Spa Striders), Andrew Peat ( Birchfield), Vince Carroll ( Rugby & Northampton), Dave Long ( Race Secretary, West Bromwich), Peter Banks ( Coventry Godiva), Peter Ball ( Bromsgrove & Redditch), Gary Clifton ( West Bromwich), Chris Brown ( Severn AC), Kevin Hendricks (City of Stoke), Paolo Mattei ( University of Warwick), Paul Jollife ( Kings Heath), Craig Taylor (Newcastle Staffs), Simon Hudson ( Aldridge), Mark Warren Cobra & Tri), David Lee, Peter Paprcka), Andrew Kaighin ( Cheltenham & County Harriers), Lorraine Griffiths(Black Pear Joggers), Rob Colman(Stourbridge), Andrew Wright ( Tamworth), Malcolm Bowyer ( Stratford), Martin Smith (Droitwich), Steve Marklew (RSC), Steve Walker(Telford Harriers),Dean Miller (U of B'ham) ,Bob Adams (Northbrook),Chris Attwood( Black Pear Joggers),Caroline Edward ( Knowle & Dorridge), Ed Wallace, Andy Rae( Centurion), Seth Atkins ( COBS), Bryan Mills ( Webmaster), Daniel Jordan (Treasurer, Trentham), Carolyn Franks (Hon Sec, Past President).

**Minutes of the 95th 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 or the Executive minutes.

**Chairperson's Report**

This report will be much shorter than usual given the cancellation of the 2020/21 season. The Executive waited as long as possible before making that decision but, in the end, we were left with no alternative.

## BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT INVITATION CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

We are planning the AGM with the assumption that we will have a normal season with races in November, December, January & February but as we found out last season the virus can hit again when we thought we were past the worst.

What we don't know is how confident the owners of the land where we run are to allow large numbers from a wide area to congregate on their land for a race. We should know by the AGM as we need offers of hosts by then to agree the venues for the season's races.

Another unknown is how many of our officials are confident enough to make themselves available for the fixtures. Again, we should know this by the AGM.

This AGM will be a first as it is being held via Zoom and I will need the help of all clubs to make it a success. Carolyn has already informed you that there can be only one screen per club and that you have to register in advance. The accounts are now on the League's website so please review them and let us have any questions before the meeting so we can answer them and put the answers on the website. This will save time on the night.

The list of officials for the 2021-22 season will also be on the website and you will notice that Noel Mckakly will again be nominated as President because last season was cancelled. As I mentioned earlier, we are unsure how many officials we will have next season so if any officials in your club would like to work with the league next season, please let Carolyn know.

### ***Noel Butler***

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

This report was drafted during the first weeks of being confined to barracks during the Coronavirus crisis. The worst situation we have witnessed during our 21<sup>st</sup> century lives. I mention this partially due to the fact that the B'ham league season started in a similar vein.

My plan for the season was to start off with the Big Guns of Div.1, who were competing at Malvern hosted by Worcester A.C. This is a super course on the side of the hills which I myself have run several times previously and I wanted to see how Div.1 runners would cope on this terrain. Next up would be a visit to Droitwich to view my own club Dudley Kingswinford in Div.3, followed in January to see Div.2 at Coundon Coventry, rounding off with Div.1 at Newbold Comyn to help hand out some well-earned medals.

As they say the best laid plans don't always happen and this was one of those seasons when the weather (rain) in particular was to cause much disruption to host clubs, race organisers, referees, secretaries, team managers and runners a-like. At this stage I would sincerely like to thank you all, especially course organisers and race referees for your unstinting efforts in the days leading up to races to make the season so successful and my experience so enjoyable.

Now back to venues. It was sometime early in the week leading up to the race at Malvern when the e-mails started flowing thick and fast. It finally transpired that the hills had been washed away and the flat lands of Coundon Park, Coventry had risen above the waters to host the Div.1 race at 11.30, followed by the Midlands Ladies League and finally the Div.3 race. It was therefore an early rise on the morning of 9<sup>th</sup> November to reach Coundon Park by 10.30ish. The course was easy to find with a Satnav and I duly parked up on the grass perimeter of the park. The course was excellently laid out and marshalled, with the undulating wooded section being removed due to a mini lake forming in this area. One of the advantages of this course is that it is spectator friendly and it is easy to see the runners from almost anywhere. The Div.1 race was well contested and took place in reasonably dry conditions with Will Richardson and Omar Ahmed of Birchfield keeping pace with each other for the whole of the race, with only 2 secs separating them at the end. I had the honour of starting this race as I did also the Ladies and Div.3, getting three for the price of one on my first Presidential outing.

## BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT INVITATION CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

By now my plans were changing, I had seen Div.1 and 3 at Coundon Park so it was off to Stratford for Div.2. I set off from home with some hours to spare not realising it was Christmas Fayre time in Stratford. I did, in the end, manage to arrive well in time for the start but not early enough to walk the course, which I usually like to do. Therefore I decided to walk the whole course while also watching the race. The course itself is very demanding, requiring runners to either be going up, down, through heavy mud or contouring on a slope. On the plus side though, for spectators, if you go that far, it is probably one of the most picturesque courses in the league. Unfortunately for the athletes themselves they don't see much of the view. The marshalling was excellent, with many individuals far out on the wilder parts of the course. Many thanks go to Stratford A.C. for putting on such a demanding and technical course.

As I mentioned earlier my original plan was to visit Coundon Park for Div.2, but now that I had been there earlier in the season and also seen Div.2 at Stratford I decided on a visit to Abington Park home of Rugby and Northampton. Arriving early I was not disappointed, I was able to walk the course before most runners arrived. The ground was again boggy underfoot but a strong wind blowing kept the course reasonably firm during the race. The course consisted of long uphill and long downhill stretches with several undulating areas through the woods. It is very spectator friendly with only a short walk from the start / finish to see all aspects of the race, and also a good test of all runners' ability.

Finally to Leamington, with the famous hill and water jump. The sun decided to make an appearance after the rains of the last four months and all seemed well in the world. Leamington C and A.C. had other ideas though, cunningly finding a whole new course, well one that I had never seen before. Luckily for the runners there was still "The Hill". This, however, on the new course was not quite such a horror as the athletes arrived at a much higher point on the hill after a very muddy and undulating section. I myself saw only one faller at the water jump, there may have been more. Omar Ahmed of Birchfield was the winner of this race and also had the lowest total score from the best of three races. I had the honour of presenting his shield and the many other rewards at Leamington Leisure centre later that day.

I would like to thank all those associated with the League for my most enjoyable year as President. Would I do it again, yes! I now pass the baton on to Noel McKakly and hope you enjoy your year off from being Race Referee!

Richard Sannwald.

**Statement of Accounts.** Daniel Jordan (Trentham) was firstly thanked for organising this Zoom AGM. He then explained that the Savings account had had a big drop in the interest, hence only £50.31 interest. With the Current account the League had received affiliations from most clubs & all clubs were happy for it to be carried forward to this coming season. There had been very little expenditure. We have invested in flags & cameras for all Divisions. Debtors was largely from host clubs sending in bills after the end of the previous season. As a result Daniel asked the meeting if it was alright to change the financial year **to run** from 1st April to the end of March. Chris McKeown seconded this. This motion was passed.

Noel Butler wished to express his thanks Daniel & Chris.

**Constitution** – no changes.

**BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT INVITATION CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE**

**Officials for the 2021/22 season**

The appointed officials for the season are:-

	<b>Division One</b>	<b>Division Two</b>	<b>Division Three</b>
Race Secretary	Ray Morgan (Leamington C&AC)	Daniel Connelly (Massey Ferguson)	Dave Long (West Bromwich Harriers)
Race Referee	Chris Hitchman (Leamington C&AC)	Rob Mulgrue (Dudley & Stourbridge Harriers)	Terry Alcock (Solihull & Small Heath)
Chief Timekeeper	John Vickers (Coventry Godiva Harries)	Bob Hughes (Cannock & Stafford)	Ian Clark (Stourbridge RC)
Officials Secretary	Vacant	Dave Pettifer (Kenilworth RR)	Graham Allen (Stafford Harriers)
Officials	Richard Carney (BRAT)	Keith Perry (Halesowen)	Graham Heeley (Sparkhill Harriers)
	Derek Cowdrey (Worcester AC)	Phil Pollock (Royal Sutton Coldfield)	John Aylmer (Massey Ferguson)
	Derrick Harding (Wolverhampton & Bilston)		
	Keith Richards (Coventry Godiva Harries)		
	Colin Stone (Gloucester AC)		

The Chair wished to record thanks to all our officials. These were proposed by the Chair enbloc and accepted by the meeting.

**Make-up of the League for the 2021-2022 Season.**

There has been 1 new application from Weston Tempo. The Executive recommended to the AGM that we accepted them and this was agreed by the meeting.

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

**Make up of Divisions 2021-22**

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

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		Sphinx AC
		Stourbridge RC
		Telford Harriers
		Trentham RC
		West Bromwich Harriers
		Weston Tempo

**Affiliation Fees**

The Executive recommended the affiliation fees remained the same as last season at £125. This was agreed by the meeting.

**Dates & Venues for the 2021/22 season.**

	Div One	Div Two	Div Three
13 November '21	Stoke AC. Betley Court Hosting all Divisions + Women's. Help from Newcastle Staffs.	Stoke	Stoke
4 December '21	Rugby & Northampton + Women Div 1*	Stratford + Women Div 1* * to be decided at the Women's AGM	Severn AC
15 January '22	Birmingham Uni Warley Woods	Burton Dassett (Spa Striders) + Women Div 1	Droitwich + Women Div 2
19 February '22	Leamington + Women Div 1	Bromsgrove & Redditch + Women Div 2	Sneyd Striders with Sedley Striders & West Bromwich

It was noted that it may be difficult if land owners will not give permission. Stoke assured the meeting they had permission, while Sneyd Striders are waiting for confirmation. Dean Miller (Uni of Birmingham) was keen to hold the women's race, but was not opposed if it provided an easy solution **to hold this at Burton Dassett**. Daniel Connelly thanked the University for so willingly offering to host a fixture as this has only ever happened once before.

**Election of Officers**

President:	Noel McKakly (Wolverhampton & Bilston)
Immediate Past President:	Richard Sannwald (Dudley Kingswinford RC)
President Elect:	Vince Carroll (Rugby & Northampton AC)
Chairman:	Noel Butler (Leamington C&AC)
Secretary:	Carolyn Franks (Cheltenham & County Harriers)
Treasurer:	Dan Jordan (Trentham RC)
Co-opted to Executive	Graham Heeley (Sparkhill Harriers)
Auditor:	Chris McKeown (Spa Striders)

## BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT INVITATION CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

The Chair proposed these enbloc and they were accepted by the meeting.

The incoming President was unable to receive his chain of office.

**ACTION:** CF to arrange with Richard Sannwald & Noel McKakley when to hand over the chain of Office.

### **League Website**

Bryan Mills has been doing a good job keeping this up to date.

### **Any Other Business:**

1) Terry Haines (Severn AC) had sent a letter in regarding the possibility of having more divisions in the hope it would help more clubs to offer venues - less numbers making it easier for parking, less wear & tear on the ground. It was pointed out that we would need more officials. It was felt that if Terry Haines wished to put it as proposal it needs to be submitted 8 weeks prior to next year's AGM.

2) Mary Hodges said that there had been a good take up from the clubs for getting folks to do the Officials Endurance course & thanked the clubs that had responded. Carolyn Franks asked if clubs would let her know names/ emails of those now qualified so they can be officially appointed to help the League.

3) Steve Howes asked why there was no effort to fill the vacant post of Officials Secretary in Division One. The meeting was told Ray Morgan feels he can cope with this as well as his job as Race Secretary.

4) The Chairman was pleased to announce that Coventry Runner are prepared to sponsor the numbers for the season.

5) The question of discs was raised. Daniel Connelly explained that the first fixture of the season last held it was extremely cold & wet & folks were dropping them & the envelopes became soggy & it was a complete nightmare! With the use of the cameras & the boards it was much easier. The Executive had decided to leave it as an option with the Race Secretary/Race Referee.

6) Daniel Connelly also asked whether we should re-adjust the number of clubs in each division. The meeting was informed that we had asked Weston Tempo how many athletes they are likely to bring as this was of concern, but we had felt with the clubs that have moved up & the numbers of new athletes it would not be a problem, but that we would re-assess at the end of the season.

7) Mary Hodges informed the meeting that the Women have their AGM next Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 7.00pm & she will forward the link.

8) The Chair thanked the Secretary for all her work.

### **Date and Venue of the 97th AGM**

The meeting was asked to leave this to the Executive.

NOTE ALL THE ABOVE DEPENDS ON THE SITUATION WITH COVID.

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.08pm.