

BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT INVITATION CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE
(1926 - 1989)

Minutes of the 64th. Annual General, held at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham on Wednesday the 13th. September 1989 at 7:30 p.m.

The absence of the League President Peter Lisseman due to a bereavement, the Hon. Secretary suggested that the meeting elect its new President in order that the meeting could be conducted. This suggestion met with the approval of the delegates. Ken Dare on behalf of the Leagues executive, proposed that the President elect Dave Johnson became the Leagues new President; the meeting whole heartedly endorsed this proposal.

Dave is a very long standing Official with the League having refereed all Divisions with the exception of the fifth. His association with the League goes back further, to the days when he was a competitor. His unselfish service to the League makes him a worthy successor to the Presidency.

David thanked the meeting for the honour of electing him as the new President of the Birmingham & District Invitation Cross Country League. He promised that he would see the outgoing President at his earliest convenience to give the meetings condolences and present him with his Presidents Plaque.

Obituary

The meeting stood for a few moments in memory of Past President Alf Wheeler who had passed away in the past year. He had been a great stalwart of the League.

Apologies

These were received from : Peter Lisseman (President), Tom Talbot, Bill Carr and Ted Powner (Past Presidents), Dave McNamee (Hon. Auditor), Rita Bradley, Joan Bodsworth, Betty Downes and John Mountford (Officials), Bob Allen (M.C.A.A.A.), Ken Buckle (Cheltenham) Burton A.C., and Northampton Phoenix.

Present

D.Johnson (President Elect), B.Heatley, J.Skidmore, K.Walklate C.Grant, K.Dare, E.Hutchings, (Past Presidents) D.Bacon, D.Conn, M.Conn, B.Ewington, G.Heeley, J.Heminsley, P.Hockley, A.Hemsley, K.Oldfield, M.Johnson (League Officials) C.B.Franks (Hon. Secretary) D.Freer (Droitwich), A.Carter (Evesham), R.Hookes (Rowheath), D.Blackburn (Dudley King), R.Wills, N.Wilson (Nuneaton), D.Eades (Dudley & Stour), I.Gower, R.Arnold, B.Carley (Sphinx), J.Murphy, R.Awcock (Northbrook), R.Tomlinson, C.Raybould (Oak Park), S.Harris, B.Acford, T.Annem (Rugby), K.Hopton, J.Tate (Rugeley), R.Tilling (MCAAA/Birchfield), P.Powell, D.Jones (West Brom.), V.Harry, J.Robinson (Brom. & Redditch), K.Wooldridge, R.Fletcher (Stourbridge), A.Simpson, K.Bagnall, S.Broom (Potteries), R.Lynch, P.Taylor, G.Wheeler (Centurion), T.Machin, B.Begin (Borough of Sandwell), N.Hamish, T.Brown (Massey Fer.), N.Thompson, J.McCall, P.Goodfellow (Newcastle), M.?, J.Rowling, M.Wood (Royal Doulton), M.Walton (Gloucester), J.Thornbury, E.Bradley (Wolves & Bil.), D.Sprason, N.Appleby (Birchfield), I.Atkins (Worcester), P.Miller, B.Adcocks, P.Ramsden (Coventry), R.Hodgkins, S.Williams (Bridgnorth), B.Madelin (Goodyear), P.Bacon (Solihull & S.H.), D.Taylor (Telford), R.Bunn (Halesowen), R.Rogers, P.Richardson, G.Hall (Tamworth), K.Morgan, R.Ashwood (Stourport), R.Potter (Sutton Cold.), R.Hughes, I.Connelly (Cann. & Staff), D.Stephens (Stafford), P.Muddeman, M.Montgomery (Leamington), J.Mumford, H.Allsopp (Sandwell V.), J.Reynolds (Michelin). (88 members present).

Minutes of the 63rd. A.G.M.

The minutes of the above meeting held on the 14th. September 1988 had been circulated and were passed as a true record after a proposal by R.Tilling and seconded by G.Heeley.

Matters Arrising

It was agreed that the Universities registering their athletes with the League as well as with the M.C.A.A.A. had been well worth while; the secretary reporting that he had not come across any discrepancies throughout the season. The meeting agreed that the registering of University athletes with the League should continue.

The Secretary reported that the larger disc envelopes had met with the approval of the Race Secretaries and the Executive. Delegates also expressed their approval.

Attention was drawn to the following items in the Executive minutes :-

i) Promoting Clubs were asked to take note of Rule 12 with regards to First Aid cover at League promotions. It is important that First Aid cover is available at ALL League Promotions.

ii) Due to a change of Secretary Goodyear R.C. had not recieved notification of their membership of the League and therefore missed the first League Race. First thing they heard of the League was reading the results of the first race in the local newspaper. With regards to this the Executive recommended to the A.G.M. that Goodyear remain in the League without reapplying. After some discussion the delegates present accepted this recommendation.

iii) The Secretary asked Promoting Clubs to remember that they must inform both the Leagues President and himself as to the where-a-bouts of ALL League fixtures and to the nature of the course. As well as Division Officials.

iv) The Executive had been informed that the ECCU were bringing the National forward yet another week. (As it turned out this was not the case). However the Secretary was instructed to write to the ECCU secretary complaining of this new date and to forcibly express the views of the 1988 AGM regarding the return to the old Cross Country dates except for the County Championships which the meeting preferred at its pre-Christmas date.

Matt Frazer (ECCU Secretary) had replied accusing the Secretary of regarding League fixtures as more important than Championships. This was not true; as the Secretary pointed out to Matt in an amicable telephone conversation his letter stated the following "This League and its member Clubs have always whole heartedly encouraged and looked forward to the 'Nationals' as the culmination of their Cross Country season." As a result of this exchange of correspondence the Secretary received a questionnaire that had been sent to some Clubs (not all Clubs received the questionnaire, although they were supposed to have.) As a result it was filled in with regards to the 1988 AGM recommendations, excepting for the National Cross Country Relay for which the Secretary took it upon himself to recommend a date in October/ November.

Statement of Accounts

The Treasurer went through the statement of accounts for the benefit of the meeting, these showed that the League had made a slight loss over the season.

However the meeting was informed that the Treasurer had deposited a sum of £500 into the Leeds and Holbeck Building Society in order to accrue interest. This interest does not come into the accounts until the end of November; when, as the President, informed the meeting it would more than make up for the loss suffered over the past season.

The Accounts were accepted by the meeting, proposed by K. Walklate seconded P. Ramsden; with a vote of thanks to the Treasurer and Auditor.

Presidents Address

Due to the absence of the President, no address was forthcoming. However the Secretary informed the meeting that Peter Lisseman had informed him that he had enjoyed his year as President and wished to thank the meeting for electing him.

Secretary's Report

1st. Division

Once again, the League Championship proved to be a most exciting competition, with Coventry Godiva Harriers finishing on top. The season proved to be one of two halves with the Coventry club winning the first two League races; at this stage Birchfield were lying second and Wolverhampton & Bilston held the third spot.

Wolverhampton, who had been the Bridesmaid in the past two seasons, made yet again another great attempt to take the Championship over the final two races; but yet again, despite winning these races, found themselves just 30 points adrift of Godiva. Birchfield finished third and Tipton having a quiet League season, coming through in the last fixture to snatch fourth place.

Congratulations to Coventry Godiva Harriers in winning their first League Championship Title since their halcyon days of the early sixties; their last win I believe coming in the 1965/66 season. Although this was not Tiptons year with regards to winning the League our congratulations go to them for winning the National Cross Country Championship and with the fore-mentioned Clubs kept this Leagues name to the fore in the National Championships. Stourport too did well, to take the National Cross Country Relay title.

Despite Adrian Passey winning two of the races and Dave Moorcroft and Mark Dalloway taking the other races the Individual title went to the ultra consistant performance of Alan Jackson of Stourport who finished 7th., 5th. and two 4th. places.

2nd. Division

Cannock and Stafford A.C. looked as if they were to have a run-a-way victory until the third fixture when Halesowen came back to briefly go to the top of the League. However Cannock pulled out all the stops in the final race to just overtake the Black Country Club who had had a marvelous season. A mere 5 points separated these two Clubs at the end of the season. Rowheath ran solidly throughout to finish third.

In the Individual competition Steve Willimott once again showed what a consistant athlete he is taking the individuals plaque by finishing 6th., 3rd., 3rd. and 2nd in the final race. Bill Nock Halesowen was runner up.

3rd. Division

Solihull made all the running over the first half of the season going into the third race with a 68 point buffer over Nuneaton. It was then that all went wrong for the Solihull & Smallheath Club with Nuneaton forging ahead followed by Wenlock and Newcastle. In the final race Newcastle pipped Nuneaton which was enough to take them past Wenlock and Bridgnorth for the second promotion spot. Nuneaton having a great seson to take the division title.

Steve Portman of Tamworth ran excellently to take the Individual title with three first places and one 2nd place.

4th. Division

With Centurion winning three of the four race they ran out excellent winners of the 4th. Division they finished second in the third race to the eventual runners up Shrewsbury who had a slight hic-up in the final race but hung on to the second promotion spot.

John Canavan (Alvis) ran very well to win all four races, therefore winning the individual title with the minimum number of points (4).

5th. Division

Newcomers Evesham showed what a strong force they are, winning all four League races in a comfortable fashion. Chase Harriers looked like they would be the team to take the second promotion spot, until Stone Master Marathoners came with a late charge in the final race to snatch the promotion spot. Both these Clubs have gained promotion in their first season of League competition.

T. McVicker (Royal Doulton) finishing 1st., 3rd., 2nd. and 1st. ran well to take the Individual title in this division

A vote of thanks must go to Third Division Tamworth who kindly offered their services in putting on the first of the Division 5. fixtures with their 3rd. Division promotion. This was due to the lack of a venue for the first race in the fifth division. It was a most successful promotion.

Young Athletes

Once again apart from the 2nd. Division these events were very sparsely supported. However it does provide competition on each of the League Saturdays for about 60 to 70 youngsters and is therefore valuable.

I end the report with thanks to the President Peter Lisseman for his unstinting interest throughout the year; to our hard working Division Secretary's for all the help that they give to the League and myself. Thanks also to our Referees, Judges, Timekeepers and others who step in to give us a helping hand. Finally thanks must go to all the Clubs who promoted League fixtures, we must all be grateful for your support.

Ken Dare proposed a vote of thanks to the Secretary for the full account and report of the past season this was seconded by Graham Heeley and was passed unanimously.

Wenlock/Bridgnorth Split

The Secretary informed the meeting that things had moved on since the Executive had discussed this matter. He had received a letter from Wenlock Olympians resigning from the League as they could no longer field a senior team in the League; virtually all their Seniors had gone with Bridgnorth when the two parted company.

A letter had also been received from Bridgnorth asking that they be placed in the vacant position left by the Wenlock and Bridgnorth team that finished third in their division last season. They stated that all of last years scoring team were now running under the new Bridgnorth colours.

It was agreed that no discussion could take place until a decision had been made on whether Bridgnorth were to be accepted as members of the League. Ray Bunn proposed that they should be admitted into membership of the League and this was seconded by Ken Walklate. The proposal was accepted by delegates present; they were then duly welcomed by the President.

Much discussion then took place, mainly based on whether a precedent would be set and could this be a dangerous establishment. However, it was agreed that such cases should always be decided and considered on their relative merits. With this matter decided Ken Dare proposed and Ray Bunn seconded that Bridgnorth A.C. be placed in the Third Division for the coming season.

Make-up of the League for 1989-90 season

After some discussion both Royal Doulton and Harborne Harriers were re-admitted into membership of the League.

Hereford Couriers, Amazing Feet and Sneyd Striders were also elected into membership of the League. However, at this stage Basil Heatley the Midland Counties Cross Country Secretary informed delegates that County Officers R.C. (Stafford) had not applied for membership of the MCCA and therefore were not eligible for membership of the League. Also that Goodyear R.C. and Harborne Harriers had lapsed their membership of the MCCA. Bearing in mind this revelation the meeting decided that if these three teams were re-admitted or joined the MCCA then they would accept their applications. Update all three teams were approved at a general meeting of the MCCA and are therefore accepted into League membership.

On arriving home from the AGM the secretary found another application in the post from Aldridge R.C. on discussion with a couple of Executive members he decided to admit this Club into membership as they did have all the requirements to be considered for membership.

League Make-up for 1989/90 Season

<u>1st. Division</u>	<u>2nd. Division</u>	<u>3rd. Division</u>	<u>4th. Division</u>
Birchfield H.	Brom & Redditch	Bor. of Sandwell	Alvis R.C.
B'ham Uni.	Chelt & County	Bridgnorth A.C.	Dudley King.
Cannock & St.	Leamington	Burton A.C.	Evesham R.C.
Coventry God.	Massey Fer.	Centurion R.R.	Milton A.C.
Gloucester	Newcastle	City of Stoke	Northbrook A.C.
Halesowen	Nuneaton	Dudley & Stour.	Oak Park Pacers
Loughborough U.	Potteries Mar.	Northampton Ph.	Sandwell Valley
Stourport	Rowheath H.	Rugby & District	Sphinx A.C.
Tipton H.	Royal Sutton.	Shrewsbury	Stafford H.
Wolves & Bil.	Staffs. Moor.	Solihull & S.H.	Stone Master M.
	Telford A.C.	Sparkhill H.	Tamworth A.C.
	Worcester A.C.	West Brom H.	Warwick Uni.
<u>5th. Division</u>			
Aldridge R.C.	Amazing Feet	Aston Uni.	Chase Harriers
Cty. Officers	Droitwich A.C.	Dunlop Coventry	Goodyear R.C.
Harborne H.	Hereford Cour.	Michelin A.C.	Royal Doulton
Rugeley & Dist.	S.P. Fort R.C.	Sneyd Striders	Stourbridge

Dates & Venues for 1989-90 Season

	<u>1st. Div.</u>	<u>2nd. Div.</u>	<u>3rd. Div.</u>	<u>4th. Div.</u>
Nov. 4th 89	Wolverhampton	Leamington	B. of Sandwell	Sphinx
Nov. 25th 89	Cannock	Massey Fer.	Centurion	Tamworth
Jan. 20th 90	Coventry	Nuneaton	Northampton	Sandwell V.
Feb. 10th 90	Gloucester	Sutton Cold.	Rugby	Northbrook

5th. Division

Nov. 4th.	Nov. 25th.	Jan. 20th.	Feb. 10th.
Stourbridge	Tamworth	Droitwich	Rugeley

Note:-

Tamworth have once again agreed to put the second fifth Division fixture on with their fourth Division promotion. Please note that the Senior Fifth Division race will start at 14:00hrs.; with the young athletes race being combined with the fourth Division young athletes race at the normal time of 14:30hrs. The Fourth Division race will also be run at the normal time of 15:00hrs.

Election of Officers

Having selected the new President at the beginning of the meeting the first Office that came up for election was that of President Elect. The Secretary on behalf of the Executive committee proposed that Graham Heeley be elected to the post of President Elect and was seconded by Ken Dare he was unanimously elected by the Club delegates.

Hon. Secretary/Treasurer :- C.B. Franks prop. D. Johnson (President)
 Hon Auditor :- D. McNamee prop. K. Dare, seconded C. Grant.

Date and Venue of the 65th. A.G.M.

It was agreed that the next A.G.M. shall be held at the Alexander Stadium on Wednesday the 12th. September 1990 at 19:30hrs.

There being no further business the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the President at 21:34hrs.

DON'T FORGET YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE UNLESS YOUR AFFILIATION FEE HAS BEEN PAID BEFORE THE FIRST LEAGUE RACE. AFFILIATION THIS YEAR IS £20 AND IT MUST BE PAID BY THE 3rd. OF NOVEMBER 1989.

Please make cheques payable to the Birmingham & District Invitation Cross-Country League, and send to the Hon. Treasurer, C.B. Franks, 23 Salisbury Avenue, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL51 5BT.

John
12/9/1990.

Birmingham & District Invitation Cross-Country League
RULES

1. That the name of the League be the Birmingham & District Invitation Cross-Country League.
2. That the objects of the League be the promotion of combined races, allowing any numbers of runners to compete.
3. That the management of the League be vested in a President, Presidents Elect, Three delegates from each Club, Hon. Secretary, Treasurer, also an Asst. Secretary & Treasurer, if the A.G.M feel that these Assistant Officers are necessary, all of whom shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting each year with the Past Presidents.
4. An Executive Committee shall be elected at the A.G.M. and will consist of the following:-
 - i) The President. ii) President Elect.
 - iii) Immediate Past President iii) The Hon. Secretary/Treasurer
 - iv) The Race Referees.
 - iv) One representative from each of the Leagues Four Divisions, (to be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting)This Executive should be instructed to meet once a year after the close of each season to discuss relevant matters from the preceding season. Duties of this Committee shall be to make recommendations for items of discussion at the coming A.G.M. if thought necessary. Also this Executive would have the powers of an Appeals Committee and as such could be asked to meet, at the discretion of the Hon. Secretary, if any problem should arise through-out the season.
5. That the Headquarters be a suitable venue in the Birmingham & District area, where meetings may be held.
- 6a. Races to be confined to FIRST CLAIM MEMBERS of member Clubs.

NO GUEST RUNNERS.

Athletes must have reached the age of Seventeen years by August 31st./September 1st. at the commencement of the coming Cross-Country Season. The rules of the E.C.C.U., M.C.C.C.A. and the M.C.A.A.A. shall apply.

- 6b. University Clubs **MUST** declare all eligible athletes at the beginning of each season to the M.C.A.A.A. and to the Secretary of this League. Failure to do this before the first race will make their athletes ineligible to compete.

7. That the League be divided into Five Divisions containing Clubs of equal strength. The two Clubs finishing first and second in the Second, Third Fourth and Fifth Divisions to move to the higher Division, and the two Clubs at the bottom of the tables in Divisions One, Two and Three to move into a lower Division. Winners and runners-up in each Division to receive League Awards respectively also the Individual winner, on points, in each Division to receive a League Award.
Awards may be purchased through the League Secretary, if Clubs require extra plaques. However, only those athletes that have scored in one or more fixtures shall be eligible for an award, purchased or not.
8. That the distances of races be from 5 to 7 miles, races to be decided on Championship lines.
9. Affiliation fee to be decided at the A.G.M. (at present £16 - 00.) per Club per Annum. Numbers and results sheets to be supplied by the League.
10. Any Club which fails to pay its Affiliation Fee prior to the first race after the A.G.M. shall have their invitation to compete in the League withdrawn.
11. Each race shall be in the charge of an appointed Referee whose decision shall be final. League Judges and Timekeepers for each Division shall be appointed by the A.G.M. and will be responsible for giving and recording the Official placings and Times at each Race. The races will be started by an appointed Starter.
12. The Hon. Secretary of the Promoting Club shall arrange for Marshalls, Officials and First Aid Cover for each Race. A Disc System of scoring shall be used. Each Club will provide its own Disc Steward.
13. Any Club failing to complete a team in all four fixtures shall automatically finish at the bottom of the League Tables in the final placings, and will therefore be relegated. Failing to complete a team in the Fourth Division shall mean that the Club must apply in writing (before the next A.G.M.) to the Hon. Secretary for re-election to the League, if it wishes to retain its membership of the League.
14. The dates and venues of all League Races shall be decided at the A.G.M. and those Clubs giving written application to stage a League Fixture shall be given preference when choosing venues for the coming season.
15. The Hon. Secretary of each Promoting Club MUST inform all Clubs in his Division, The President, Hon. Secretary, Race Secretary, Referee Judges, Timekeepers as to the Venue, Travel Directions and the type and distance of the Course at least FOURTEEN (14) DAYS before the Race is to be run. Host Club's will be liable to forfeit the Leagues promotion donation (£20) if they fail to comply with the above instruction.
16. Club Colours MUST be worn. The Referee will disqualify any athlete who does not comply with this rule.
17. Safety pins are not provided by the League for athletes numbers, this is the responsibility of individual Clubs to provide. The Leagues Officials would appreciate if athletes could pin their numbers on the sides, rather than top and bottom of the number.
18. The Young Athletes Race shall be for boys who are over 13 years of age, but under 17 years of age on the 1st. September prior to the first League Race of the season. The distance of the Races shall NOT exceed three (3) miles.
19. The responsibility for the up to date engraving of the Leagues Trophies, is that of the holding Club. Clubs MUST return League Trophies to their Division Secretary by the THIRD RACE of the season.