

BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT INVITATION CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE
(1926 - 1990)

Minutes of the 65th. A.G.M., held at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham
on Wednesday the 12th. September 1990 at 7:30 p.m.

Obituary

The President asked the meeting to stand in silence for a few moments in memory of Frank Davis who had passed away during the past year. Frank had been a great stalwart of the League, having been President on two occasions and also secretary for a number of seasons.

Apologies

These were received from : Tom Talbot, Ted Clifford, Cliff Grant, Joan Bodsworth, Ted Powner, Joe Gripton, Dave & Mary Conn, Arthur Wright, Ken Walklate, Ted Bradley, Peter Blackburn, John Andrews, Rita Bradley & Paul Muddeman.

Present

D.Johnson (President), G.Heeley (President Elect), E.J.Skidmore B.Heatley, J.A.Mills, K.Dare, P.Lisseman (Past Presidents), D.McNamee (Hon. Auditor), Mr. & Mrs P.Ramsden, D.Bacon, Mrs. M.Johnson, T.O'Reilly, A.Hemsley, B.Ewington, J.Heminsley (League Officials), W.Adcocks, P.Miller (Coventry Godiva H), I.Connelly (Can. & Staff.), J.Tate, K.Hopton (Rugeley), P.Bacon (Solihull), A.Carter (Evesham), M.Powell, D.Jones (Hereford C.), N.Cowley (Dunlop Cov.), R.Fletcher (Stourbridge R.C.), M.Rogers (Brom. & Red.), K.Buckle (Cheltenham), J.Reynolds, I.Cowie, I.Spedding (Michelin), G.Laurie, J.Love (Northampton) P.McNulty, R.Stanier (Sneyd), H.Mortimer (Leamington), G.Hall, R.J.Rogers (Tamworth), R.Tomlinson (Oak Park), D.Jones, P.Powell, K.Westley (West Brom.), A.Grant (Halesowen), E.Hubbleday (Sparkhill), R.Wills, N.Wilson (Nuneaton), D.Freer (Droitwich), I.Atkins (Worcester) R.Chervan, G.Barnes (Amazing Feet), R.Tilling, N.Appleby, D.Sprason (Birchfield), R.L.Ashwood (Stourport), R.A.Potter, K.L.Swadkins (Royal Sutton), P.Moseley, D.Gillick (Stone Master M.), A.Jarvis, V.Glenahan (Massey Fer.), J.A.Murphy, R.O'Shea, R.Alcock (Northbrook), R.H.Owen, G.Mumford, T.W.Allsopp (Sandwell V.), P.Goodfellow, M.Hackney, N.Thompson (Newcastle), E.Langford, P.Taylor, E.Wheeler (Centurion), R.Farr, G.Carcareu (Burton), E.A.Herbert, G.E.Parton, B.Smith (Goodyear), M.Osborne, D.Withington (Dudley King.), C.Fowler, H.Jenkins (Rowheath), J.Heaton, K.Bagnall (Potteries), T.Amenz, K.Smith, J.E.Harris (Rugby), A.R.Townsend, R.Arnold, B.Coney (Sphinx), G.Locke (Wolverhampton), R.Allen (MCAA) C.B.Franks (Hon. Secretary). (93 members present, or at least signed the book.)

Minutes of the 64th. AGM

The minutes of the above meeting held on the 13th. September 1989 had been circulated and were passed as a true record after a proposal by K.Dare and seconded by R.Tilling

Matters Arising

The only item arising from the minutes was that of sponsorship, as could be seen from the executive minutes the League had been offered £500 sponsorship from Reebok - this money would basically have to be spent on numbers with the sponsors name on, with such things as start and finish banners added in. In return for this the name of the League would be required to change to the 'Reebok Birmingham League. The Executive recommended to the AGM that this sponsorship was turned down; this was unanimously supported by the meeting.

Some discussion on sponsorship of the League was held by the AGM, the main points from this were as follows :-

i) That £500 for the sponsorship of the League would be getting it far too cheaply; five times this amount was mentioned as a more realistic minimum sum.

ii) The League should keep an open mind on sponsorship, but should not sell its soul in its efforts or in its dealings with potential sponsors.

iii) It was agreed that the cost of putting on races was increasing due to such things as L.M.S. in schools, however, as yet these had not become too out-landish and there was not a need for the League to go chasing sponsorship.

iv) The most important factor, that the meeting agreed, was that it should keep its identity and integrity, much emphasis was placed on these two points.

Statement of Accounts

The Treasurer went through, explaining, the statement of accounts. He explained that he was picked up on one point by the Hon. Auditor, and that was to do with the interest from the Building Society which he had not shown in the income column, however it did show on the total balance.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by K. Dare and seconded by G. Heeley. The meeting unanimously accepted this proposal and added a vote of thanks to the Treasurer and Auditor.

Presidents Address

Dave Johnson expressed his enjoyment at being able to watch all five divisions. He was greatly impressed at the hard work put in by the promoting Clubs and the Leagues Officials. Also at the superb sportsmanship and effort put in by all the athletes. He thank all the above for making the League unique. Finally, he thanked the AGM delegates for awarding him, the great honour of becoming the Leagues President, it had been a year he would always look back on with pride.

Secretary's Report

1st. Division

Each year it is reported how exciting this Division is and indeed the past season had been no exception.

Coventry started the season by showing that they did not intend relinquishing their title easily, winning the first race by two points from Loughborough students who were themselves only five points clear of the evergreen Tipton. Indeed, only a mere 58 points separated the first five teams.

The second race saw the green and white machine of Tipton slip into gear and to the top of the division by beating Birchfield by eight points. Coventry were a further 41 points back and had slipped to second in the League Table.

Pulling 28 points back on Tipton in the third race Coventry came right back into contention for the League Title. However this fixture saw the demise of Birchfields challenge when they finished last.

With only 14pts between Tipton (the leaders) and Coventry, going into the Final race; the championship race looked to be a cracker. However it was the Wolverhampton & Bilston squad that finished strongly to win the final race and pull themselves up to third in the table. In the battle that mattered most it was Coventry who narrowly beat the Tipton team by 16pts. to take the title by the narrowest of margins (two points) for the second year running.

Spare a thought for Halesowen who finished 7th. in the first three fixtures and 8th. in the final race, always having at least two teams below them and yet still ended up being relegated to Division Two with Gloucester A.C.

Alan Jackson of Stourport once again took the individual title with yet another year of consistent running; scoring a total of twenty points. The Young Athletes race turned out to be a non-event with only two of the races having fields of double figures.

Division Two

Royal Sutton Coldfield took the first two fixtures by the scruff of the neck and looked if they would be run away winners of this Division. However, Rowheath stormed through to win the third race and go top of the League Table, whilst a jittery Sutton faltered a little. At the same time Telford were making a steady improvement and moved into third spot, still just in contention for a promotion spot.

The fourth race saw Royal Sutton back to their best form securing the title by 31 points. Despite Telford beating Rowheath in this final fixture, the Birmingham Club hung on to the second promotion place.

Staffordshire Moorlands who did not send a team to any fixture were automatically relegated and were joined by Cheltenham & County who were well back on the other Clubs. Despite losing the Staffordshire Club the lowest field in any of the Senior races was 231 competitors. Nathan Price of Rowheath was the individual champion, winning two races and finishing 4th. & 8th. in the other two races.

The Young Athletes race are a viable proposition in this Division with bigger fields than in the rest of the divisions put together. Leamington won the team event and S O'Connor of Sutton taking the individual.

Division Three

Northampton Phoenix never finished outside the first two teams in any of the races and comfortably won this Division.

Main interest lay with City of Stoke who were 9th after the first race moved up to sixth after the next fixture. The third race saw them move up to fourth and needing to beat Solihull by 14pts. and Bridgnorth by 53pts. in the final fixture to gain promotion. This they did in style scoring only 78pts - giving them promotion over Solihull by 58pts.

Without winning a fixture H.Pitrowski (Borough of Sandwell) ran very well and consistently to take the individual title for this Division.

Yet again the Young Athletes races were poorly supported, with only 8 competitors in the third fixture and not many more in the other three. City of Stoke were the only Club to close a team and they also had the leading Young athlete in J.Morris.

Division Four

In winning the two middle races Dudley Kingswinford did just enough to snatch the Divisional title from Black Country neighbors Sandwell Valley by a mere 21 points. Northbrook made a valiant attempt to catch Sandwell in the final race requiring 80pts.; ending just 46 points short of the target required. Alvis and Milton took the drop to Division five.

C.Penny of Evesham ran exceptionally well to win all four races and take the individual award. - an excellent achievement and the only athlete in any of the Divisions to win all four races.

Marginally better turn outs in this Division by the Young Athletes saw Sandwell Valley coming out as top team. A.Pritchard of Sphinx was the leading Young athlete.

Division Five

New Club Hereford Couriers ran out easy winners of this Division, winning all four races. Sneyd Striders who finished second in all fixtures except the first took the second promotion spot, closely followed (if you will excuse the pun!) by Amazing Feet.

J.Childs who ran splendidly to win the final three fixtures and scored the low total of 7 points easily won the individual award. There were no Young Athletes who turned up to run in this Division.

The secretary closed his report by thanking all the Officials who did such great work throughout the season for the League. He also thanked all the promoting Clubs for their efforts on behalf of the League. Finally he thanked the President Dave Johnson who was very supportive and helpful throughout his term of Office.

First Aid Cover at League Fixtures

Once again Clubs were reminded that it was their responsibility to provide First aid cover for all League Fixtures. It is very important that Clubs do provide cover. The Secretary suggested that Clubs ask St. Johns to attend fixture, although this was countered by one of the Coventry clubs who informed the meeting that they were charged £45 by St. Johns in their area. This was met with some dismay. Ken Dare suggested that they try the Red Cross as he had found this organisation more helpful and reliable.

Information from Clubs to League Officials

The Secretary informed the meeting that for one fixture he had several Officials phoning him asking for the venue, none of these Officials had recieved information. The Secretary was not immediatley able to help as he also had not recieved information on the fixture. A lot of phone calls had to be made before the problem could be resolved.

Clubs are yet again reminded that they **MUST** let all the clubs in their Division, all the Officials in their Division, the President and Secretary have information on how to get to their venue. It is not the responsibility of Officials to phone round and find out where the venues are. One day, unless all Clubs abide by rule 15, we will find that a fixture will not have any Officials and have to be cancelled.

Amendment & addition to Rule 13

i) Change Fourth Division to Fifth Division - approved.

ii) A Club not completing a scoring team in at least one of the four fixtures, no matter which Division, shall forfeit its membership of the League. Any team in this position would then have to reapply for membership of the League; if re-admitted would take up its place in the lowest Division. - approved.

Addition to Rule 4

'This Committee shall have the power to co-opt members if it deems necessary. - approved.

Promotion/Relegation

Due to the resignation of Staffordshire Moorlands from the League some adjustment was required to the promotion/relegation for last season.

It was thought in some circles that Division One ought to be made up to twelve teams like divisions two, three & four. However it was thought that this would increase the fields too greatly in Division One. Despite this the Executive have been asked to look at the number of Clubs in each Division to see if there are any modifications that would improve the format of the Divisional structure. Executive to report to the next AGM with there ideas.

The decision for the coming season is that the top three teams in Divisions Four and Five will gain promotion for this year. In all other aspects the two up - two down rule will apply.

Make-up of the League 1990-91 Season

Staffs Moorlands and County Officers have resigned from the League.

Harborne and S.P. Fort have not reapplied to join the League. Aston University reapplied for membership and were accepted.

The following Clubs applied to be invited to take part in the League :- Merryhill Striders; Omega R.C.; Stroud A.C. & Wolverhampton R.R.. A vote on each of the Clubs was taken individually. All Clubs were accepted.

League Make-up for 1990/91 Season

1st.Division.	2nd.Division.	3rd.Division.	4th.Division
Birchfield H.	Brom. & Red.	Bor.of Sandwell	Amazing Feet
B'ham Uni.	City of Stoke	Bridgnorth	Burton
Cannock & St.	Gloucester	Centurion	Dudley & St.
Coventry God.	Halesowen	Cheltenham	Evesham
Loughborough	Leamington	Dudley King.	Hereford C.
Rowheath H.	Massey Fer.	Northbrook	Oak Park
Royal Sutton	Newcastle	Rugby & D.	Sneyd Str.
Stourport	Northampton	Sandwell V.	Sphinx
Tipton H.	Nuneaton	Shrewsbury	Stafford
Wolves & Bil.	Potteries M.	Solihull & SH	Stone M.M.
	Telford	Sparkhill H.	Tamworth
	Worcester	West Bromwich	Warwick Uni.

Division Five

Aldridge	Alvis	Aston Uni.	Chase H.
Droitwich	Dunlop Cov.	Goodyear	Merryhill St.
Michelin	Milton	Omega	Royal Doulton.
Rugeley	Stourbridge	Stroud A.C.	Wolverhampton R.R.

Dates, Fixtures & Venues

	1st.Div.	2nd.Div.	3rd.Div.	4th.Div.
Nov.3rd. 90.	Stourport	Nuneaton	Bor.of Sand.	Tamworth
Nov.24th. 90.	Wolves & B.	Massey F.	Northbrook	Evesham
Jan.19th. 91.	Coventry	Potteries	Sandwell V.	Sphinx
Feb.9th. 91.	Cannock	Newcastle	Rugby	Hereford

Division Five

Nov.3rd. 90.	Nov.24th. 90.	Jan 19th. 91.	Feb.9th. 91.
Tamworth	Droitwich	Rugeley	Michelin

Note:-

Tamworth have once again agreed to put the first 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 races being combined with the fourth division race at the normal time of 14:30hrs. The fourth division race will be run at the normal time of 15:00hrs.

Election of Officers

David Johnson as the outgoing President proposed Graham Heeley as the new President, this was seconded by Ken Dare and was unanimously agreed by the AGM delegates.

Graham has a long association with the League, firstly as a runner with Sparkhill Harriers and now as one of the Leagues Officials. He is a member of the M.C.C.C.A executive. Graham is also the secretary of the West Midland Police Cross Country Association.

His first job as the new President was to present the Presidents plaque to David Johnson the outgoing President. He thanked Dave for all his work on behalf of the League.

Graham then thanked the delegates for electing him President of the League.

The Secretary proposed Roy Tilling of Birchfield as the President Elect this was seconded by Dave Johnson and found unanimous support.

Hon. Secretary/Treasurer : C.B. Franks prop. G. Heeley (President)
Hon. Auditor ; D. McNamee prop. K. Dare, seconded D. Bacon.

	1st. Div.	2nd. Div.	3rd. Div.	4th. Div.
Race Secretary :	W. Adcocks	A. Hemsley	D. Bacon	T. O'Reilly
Referee :	K. Evans	E. Ewington	M. Johnson	J. Bodsworth
Judges :	P. Lisseman	K. Walklate	D. Johnson	M. Conn
	B. Downes	J. Mountford	K. Dare	D. Conn
	P. Ramsden	T. Taylor		
	Mrs. Ramsden			
Timekeepers :	C. Grant	A. Birt	G. Williams	J. Andrews
	K. Oldfield	E. Powner	P. Walker	J. Perkins
	T. Talbot	M. Ewington		M. Jones
		B. Hussey		
		Mrs. Hussey		
		Mrs. Powner		

Division Five

Race Secretary : J. Heminsley Referee : E. Hutchings.
Timekeepers : J. Skidmore Judges : J. Freeman
R. Bradley
Delegates to M.C.C.C.A. : D. Bacon, P. Lisseman, R. Tilling.

Affiliations

The Treasurer recommended that the Affiliation remains at its present rate of £20.

CLUBS PLEASE NOTE THAT THE AFFILIATION MUST BE PAID BEFORE THE FIRST LEAGUE RACE ON NOVEMBER 3rd. 1990.

Any Other Business

Phil Ramsden brought up the issue of First Claim Status and Clubs are asked to note that athletes from other countries, including Scotland and Northern Ireland must have residence in the area of the Club concerned for three months prior to each individual fixture.

The secretary told the delegates that only they could police the first claim rule and if they saw infringements to the rule, they should let him know.

Roy Tilling reminded delegates that entries for the area six stage road relay closed on Tuesday 18th. September.

Date and Venue of the 66th. A.G.M.

It was agreed that the next AGM should be held at the Alexander Stadium on Wednesday the 11th. of September 1991 at 19:30hrs.

There being no further business the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the President at 21:40hrs.

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 2nd. OF NOVEMBER 1990.

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.

Grah Heeley
11/9/91

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 proceeding 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. This committee shall have the power to co-opt members if it deems necessary.
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 Fifth 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. A Club not completing a scoring team in at least one of the four fixtures, no matter which Division, shall forfeit its membership of the League. Any Club in this position would have to re-apply for membership of the League; if re-admitted would take up its place in the lowest Division.
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.