

BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT INVITATION CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE
(1926 - 1991)

Minutes of the 66th. A.G.M. held at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham
on Wednesday the 11th. September 1991 at 7:30 p.m.

Apologies

These were received from :- Joan Bodsworth, Rita Bradley, Dave & Mary Conn, Ken Evans, R.Farr, John Heminsley, Ted Hutchings, Dominic Keily, John Mills, John Mountford, John Perkins, Tom Talbot, Phil Walker, Ken Walklate, George Williams & Frank Wood.

Present

G.Heeley (President); R.Tilling (President Elect); K.Dare, D.Johnson, C.Grant, P.Lisseman, B.Heatley, A.Wright and E.J.Skidmore (Past Presidents); B.Adcocks, D.Bacon, A.Hemsley and T.O'Reilly (Race Secretaries); D.McNamee (Hon. Auditor); K.Oldfield, Mrs. M.Johnson, Mrs.E.Downes, Mrs.P.Pucci, C.Lockley & B.Ewington (League Officials); P.Miller (Coventry); J.Williams, G.Jones, J.Fernie (Shrewsbury); K.Buckle (Cheltenham); S.Williams (Bridgnorth); G.Aston (Worcester); J.Shaw, M.J.Pearce (Hereford Cour.); K.Smith, S.Harris, & T.Akiens (Rugby); R.Stanier, D.Loundes (Sneyd Striders); R.Tomlinson, R.Smith (Oak Park); J.Stott, D.Jones, P.Powell (West Brom); H.Mortimer (Leamington); E.Johnson (City of Stoke); J.Cooper (Telford); K.Wood (Tamworth); G.Hall, B.Guy (Peel RR); B.Wills, L.Bruce (Nuneaton); G.Lock (Wolves & Bil); R.Potter (Royal Sutton); B.Froggatt (Solihull & S.H.); D.Freer (Droitwich); A.Carter (Evesham); E.Hubbleday (Sparkhill); N.Piotrowski (Bor. of Sand.); P.Tonks, S.Taylor, D.Sullivan (Aldridge) B.Sissons, K.Goffon (Rugeley); R.Hughes (Cann & Staff.); J.Reynolds, I.Spedding, I.Cowie (Michelin); C.Fowler, J.Lewis (Rowheath); A.Nock (Halesowen); N.Jarvis (Massey Fer.); A.Townsend, R.Wagstaff (Sphinx); R.Barry, B.Awcock (Northbrook); G.Wheeler, P.Taylor, M.Ford (Centurion) G.Mumford (Sandwell V.); B.Madelin, G.Parton (Goodyear); J.Robinson, V.Harry (Brom. & Red.); T.Haines, S.McHale (Gloucester); W.Marsden, B.Campbell (Chase H.); B.Ashwood (Stourport); G.Allen (Stafford H.); R.Chrzan (Amazing Feet); M.Osborne (Dudley King.); D.Eades (Dudley & Stour.); P.Goodfellow, M.Hackney, K.Collin (Newcastle); B.Abbey (Birchfield) & C.B.Franks (Hon Secretary & Treasurer).

For the second year running 93 people attended the meeting, although I think, maybe there were a few more who did not sign the attendance record. A quick count from the front showed just over a hundred. 45 Clubs were also represented at the meeting, approximately three quarters of the affiliated Clubs.

Minutes of the 65th. AGM

The minutes of the above meeting had been circulated and were passed as a true record after a proposal by B.Adcocks that was seconded by D.Bacon.

Matters Arising

The Secretary informed the meeting that he had no matters arising that were not already on the agenda. There were no matters raised from the floor.

Statement of Accounts

The Treasurer gave an explanation of the accounts, that showed a working profit over the year of nearly £66. He also stated that the £500 that the League had put into the Building Society was building up nicely and he thought that this December the capital amount will have risen by over £100, not bad for just three years investment.

The Auditor David McNamee gave a short statement, saying that he had checked the accounts and had found all to be in order.

Graham Heeley the President thanked the Treasurer and Auditor for their work throughout the year. This was endorsed by the meeting.

Presidents Address

The President gave a short synopsis of the races that he attended, congratulating the host Clubs on their organisation on behalf of the League. He was impressed with the numbers competing and the enthusiasm shown by all participants. It had made his year as President a most enjoyable one.

With regards to the postponed fixture, due to the snow and poor road conditions, he had no regrets in acting with the Secretary in calling the fixture off. In retrospect, he would advise the same action again.

Finally he thanked all the Promoting Clubs for their hard work and all the Officials who give up their valuable time no matter what the conditions. He also thanked the secretary for his continued work on behalf of the League. He ended by thanking the delegates for electing him to the post of President which he considered a great honour and one that he had thoroughly enjoyed.

Secretary's Report

1st. Division

Tipton who as far as the League is concerned had had a very lean period of four years, made an excellent start placing six athletes in the first 27 finishers gaining a comfortable win over Loughborough Students and Wolverhampton & Bilston. The defending Champions Coventry Godiva had a poor start to the new season finishing 7th.

Wolverhampton who over recent years have shown such great consistency in the League, but usually ending up as the bridesmaid, showed that they were yet again a force to be reckoned with, gaining a narrow victory in the second race over Godiva, who had a much better fixture. Despite finishing third the Green and Whites of Tipton, only 17 points behind W & B held onto the League leadership with a 38 point advantage over the Wolverhampton club. Coventry making a remarkable recovery pulling up to third overall in the League table.

Godiva made it clear in the third fixture that they were not going to give up their League title without a fight. Continuing their fight back Coventry won this fixture placing six in twenty-four to score 69 points. Tipton who although 10 points down on their Coventry rivals managed to place their six scorers in the first twenty-one, keeping a buffer at the top of the League for the final race of 44 points over Wolverhampton & Bilston. Coventry, despite their win remained in third spot, but closing.

Due to inclement weather and dangerous road conditions the final race had to be rearranged. As could be expected this had a drastic effect upon the size of the field participating in this fixture. However, this was not to deny the Tipton Club of regaining the League Title that they last won four years ago. They won the final fixture in style, beating the ever-more promising Stourport Club by a comfortable margin and hence gaining the League Title by the easiest margin for some six or seven years. Wolverhampton & Bilston were yet once more doomed to the runners up spot with Coventry Godiva never really able to overcome their disastrous first fixture finishing in the end a creditable third.

Royal Sutton and Cannock and Staffs never managed to finish higher than last or last but one in all four fixtures and were the obvious candidates for relegation throughout the season.

Mike Cadman gave Wolves & Bilston some consolation in winning the individual title with two first places, a third and an eleventh place. Tony Milovsorov of Tipton was runner up.

Once again the Young Athletes races were poorly supported.

2nd. Division

Halesowen who had been rather unlucky to be relegated the season before, got off to an excellent start to the new season, by winning the first two fixtures. This gave them a narrow lead over Telford who were only 17 points behind at the half way point of the season, indeed Massey were also close behind being just 10 points down on Telford.

However things did not go Halesowens way after Christmas with Telford comfortably winning the third race, from a rejuvenated City of Stoke, to go top of the Division. Halesowen finished 6th. but still managed to hang on to the second promotion spot, with Massey Ferguson breathing down their necks.

City of Stokes late charge continued when they had an easy win over Telford who despite finishing second took the Division Title and earn promotion. Halesowens fortunes improved when they beat their close rivals Massey to take the second promotion spot. Leamington and Worcester both struggled throughout the season and were relegated.

D. Hollins ran consistently to take the individual title finishing 3rd, 2nd, 4th and 3rd.

The one glimmer in all the Divisions, for the Young Athletes Races, were in this Division where all races provided good competition on an individual basis. However it must be said that only two teams closed in all four fixtures.

3rd. Division

Rugby & District A.C. showed great consistency and strength in winning all four races comfortably, in so doing, taking the first promotion spot. The second promotion spot was more keenly contested between Cheltenham, Bridgnorth and Centurion with the latter Club showing the greater determination and gaining the promotion berth.

With Shrewsbury not completing a team in the final fixture, they were automatically relegated and were joined by Dudley Kingswinford

E. McGrath of Centurion finished 2nd, 2nd, 3rd, and 3rd to take the individual award.

The Young Athletes races were again poorly supported with fields that struggled to reach double figures. Only one team closed in all four races.

4th Division

Despite Dudley & Stourbridge finishing 1st in two of the four races they narrowly failed to gain promotion. Newly promoted Hereford Couriers once again showed their all round strength to gain the first promotion spot, just 3 points ahead of Burton A.C. who also gained promotion. Burton have since written resigning from the League. With this knowledge the AGM decided to promote Dudley and Stourbridge.

M. Wortley of Burton was the leading athlete gaining two first places and two second place. an excellent piece of consistent running.

The Young Athletes Races were not well supported, struggling once again to reach double figures. No team closed.

5th. Division

Omega proved far too strong for their rivals and look as if they will charge up the Divisions, possibly straight to Division One. They are to be joined in Division Four by Stourbridge R.C. who narrowly beat Michelin for the second promotion spot.

Aston University and Merry Hill did not complete teams in all races

T. Fee of Omega won the individual title finishing 2nd, 3rd, 2nd and 3rd.

The Young Athletes races were non-existent.

The Executive agreed that the League should affiliate to the MCAA - it was thought important with the formation of BAF in sight and the importance that the MCAA will now take on as the governing body

for ALL athletics in our area. It was thought important that the League should have a say at this level on how Cross Country is organised in the area and nationally.

The secretary ended his report by thanking the following for their work and support over the past year :-

Promoting Clubs
Race Secretaries
All the Officials
Executive Committee

Finally his own personal thanks to the President for his support and backing.

First Aid Cover at League Fixtures

Once again it is necessary to remind Host Clubs of the need to provide First Aid cover at all League Fixtures. It seems that every year we get a report from one fixture or another complaining about the complete absence of First Aid Cover. Would all host Clubs take this message to Heart and PROVIDE FIRST AID COVER at their fixture.

Joint Promotions

After the mix-up last year between two Clubs who agreed to host a League Fixture between them, where Clubs were not sent travel and course arrangements and had to be telephoned at the last minute. It was decided by the Executive and endorsed by the AGM that the Club applying to put on a fixture would be the Club held responsible by the League for all arrangements for that fixture, whether or not the fixture is held as a joint venture between two Clubs.

Award for the Leading Junior Athlete

A proposal that had been put forward by Roy Tilling and taken up by the Executive was put to the AGM; the proposal was that an award for the leading Junior athlete in each division should be awarded at the end of each season, much in the same way as the award for the leading senior athlete is awarded.

This caused some discussion of which below are some of the points made.

i) Most delegates thought it was a good idea to encourage this age group when they step up to the senior level (realising that this is a difficult time for these youngsters)

ii) Difficulty in administering - thought could be got round by Team Managers placing a (J) against the athlete on the declaration sheet.

iii) agreed we should look how the individual award worked and for the Executive to discuss proposals based on this as to whether we bring a team competition as well for this age group.

The proposal was passed by a large majority with only one delegate against.

Young Athletes Races

The thorny problem of whether the League should continue with the Young Athletes races, caused some heated discussion in which the members from West Bromich thought we should be doing more to encourage this age grouping, this gained some support. On the other hand there were those present who thought that now there was a Young Athletes League running in the West Midlands, often held the day after a League Race, that it was now pointless to hold these Youngsters races.

However, when the vote came there was a large majority in favour of keeping the Young Athlete Races with only ten delegates against. In another proposal that there should be trophies for this age group failed to get very much support and was dropped.

Ken Dare made a plea that Athletes who reach the age of 17 during the season be allowed to run in the Senior Race also failed to get much support. It was agreed to keep the rule whereby Youths MUST run in the Young Athletes Race and MUST NOT run in the Senior Race.

Promotion/Relegation

The Secretary had recieved letters of resignation from the League from Dunlop Coventry and from Burton A.C., these were accepted. However the resignation of Burton caused some problems in that they had gained promotion to Division Three. It was agreed that we should keep twelve teams in the Third and Fourth Divisions and that third place Dudley & Stourbridge be promoted to Division Three and that Michelin be promoted to Division Four.

The meeting was also told that Merry Hill had written reapplying to join the League; they were accepted. However nothing had been recieved from Aston University. The secretary was instructed to turn down their application if it was to come in between the AGM and the start of the season. If they applied the secretary is to tell to reapply next year.

Peel Road Runners, Staffordshire Moorlands and Oadby and Wigston Legionaires A.C. had applied to join the League. All three Clubs were accepted. (Since the AGM Staffs Moorlands have yet again withdrawn.)

Make up of the League for the 1991 - 92 Season

1st.Division.	2nd.Division.	3rd.Division.	4th.Division
Birchfield H.	Brom. & Red.	Bor. of Sandwell	Amazing Feet
Birmingham Uni.	Can. & Staff.	Bridgnorth A.C.	Dudley Kingswin
Coventry Godiva	Centurion R.R.	Cheltenham & Cty.	Evesham R.C.
Halesowen A.C.	City of Stoke	Dudley & Stour.	Michelin A.C.
Loughborough St.	Gloucester A.C.	Hereford Cour.	Omega R.C.
Rowheath H.	Massey Fer.	Leamington A.C.	Shrewsbury
Stourport A.C.	Newcastle A.C.	Northbrook A.C.	Sneyd Striders
Telford A.C.	Northampton Ph.	Sandwell Valley	Sphinx A.C.
Tipton H.	Nuneaton H.	Solihull & S.H.	Stafford H.
Wolves & Bil.	Potteries Mar.	Sparkhill H.	Stourbridge R.C
	Royal Sutton C.	West Brom. H.	Tamworth A.C.
	Rugby & Dist.	Worcester A.C.	Warwick Uni.

5th.Division

Aldridge R.C.	Alvis R.C.	Chase Harriers	Coleshill R.C.
Droitwich A.C.	Goodyear R.C.	Merry Hill St.	Oadby & Wigston
Peel R.R.	Royal Doulton	Rugeley & Dist.	Wolverhampton RR
Oak Park Pacers	Stone Master M.		

Dates, Fixtures & Venues

	1st.Div.	2nd.Div.	3rd.Div.	4th.Div.
2nd. Nov. 91.	Wolverhampton	Nuneaton	Wolverhampton	Shrewsbury
23rd. Nov. 91.	Rowheath	Massey Fer.	West Brom	Tamworth
18th. Jan. 92.	Coventry	Newcastle	Sandwell V.	Sphinx
15th. Feb. 92.	Telford	Royal Sutton	Northbrook	Michelin

Division Five

2nd. Nov. 91.	23rd. Nov. 91.	18th. Jan. 92.	15th. Feb. 92.
Rugeley	Tamworth	Droitwich	Michelin.

Election of Officers

Graham Heeley as outgoing President proposed that Roy Tilling be elected the new President of the League, this proposal was passed unanimously by the A.G.M. delegates.

Roy Tilling is one of the hardest workers for the Sport of Athletics. He is both the AAA and MCAA promotions secretary, which involves a considerable amount of work the whole year round; with both the outdoor and indoor promotions put on by both these bodies. Despite this he is deeply associated with Cross Country being involved as an athlete, indeed he has been running in the Birmingham League races for very many years. He has represented this League on the MCCA General Committee for at least the last dozen years and is indeed one of that bodies representatives on the 'first claims committee'.

Despite holding these and other exalted positions in the sport Roy's heart always remains with grass roots athletics and Club athletics in particular. He is the first Birchfield Harrier to become President of the League.

Roy's first job was to award the Presidents Plaque to Graham Heeley the outgoing President. In doing this he thanked Graham for all the work he had put in for the League over the past season and for all his past work on our behalf.

The new President then thanked the delegates for electing him to the Presidents Post he was greatly honoured to be chosen as President of the Birmingham League.

President Elect was Bill Adcocks of Coventry Codiva, who was proposed by Ken Dare and seconded by Derek Bacon. He was unanimously elected by the AGM.

Hon. Secretary/Treasurer :- C.B. Franks proposer Roy Tilling (President)

Hon. Auditor :- D. McNamee prop. D. Johnson seconded C. Grant.

1st. Div. 2nd. Div. 3rd. Div. 4th. Div.

Race Secretary :	B. Adcocks	A. Hemsley	H. Mortimer	T. O'Reilly
Referee :	K. Evans	B. Ewington	M. Johnson	M. Conn
Judges :	P. Lisseman	K. Walklate	D. Johnson	D. Conn
	B. Downes	J. Mountford	G. Heeley	M. Northall
	P. Ramsden	T. Taylor	K. Dare	
	J. Ramsden			
Timekeepers :	C. Grant	E. Powner	G. Williams	J. Andrews
	C. Lockley	A. Birt	P. Walker	J. Perkins
	P. Pucci	K. Oldfield	D. Bacon	M. Jones
	T. Talbot	M. Ewington		
		B. Hussey		
		P. Hussey		

Division Five

Race Referee :	J. Heminsley	Referee :	E. Hutchings
Timekeepers :	J. Skidmore	Judges :	J. Freeman
	R. Bradley		

Affiliations

The Treasurer proposed that the affiliation remains at £20. This was accepted by the meeting.

CLUBS PLEASE NOTE THAT THE AFFILIATION MUST BE PAID BEFORE THE FIRST LEAGUE RACE BY NOVEMBER THE 1st. 1991.

Any Other Business

Bud Baldaro had informed the Secretary that he may have someone willing to provide some prizes to leading athletes in the League. The Secretary to follow up.

Bill Adcocks made an offer to the other Race Secretaries of address labels of Clubs if they wished to have them.

The date and venue of the 67th AGM will be Wednesday the 9th. September 1992 at Alexander Stadium.

There being no further business the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the President at 21.35hrs.