

## **Minutes of the WMYACCL AGM**

**Held on 23/5/2022 at Sutton Coldfield**

### Attendees

Ray Morgan (Leamington), Jackie Maull (Leamington), Noel Mckakly (Wol&Bil), Bob Hughes (Can&Sta), Steve Smith (Kid&Sto), Paul Horton (Wol&Bil), Debra Horton (Wol&Bil), Lee Woodward (Rug&Nor), Tim Hill (Rug&Nor), Jo Homer (Birchfield), Robert Pinton (Sol&SH), Donna Tomkins (Can&Sta), Marc Kirston (RSCAC)

### (1) Chairman's opening remarks.

Ray Morgan explained that Noel Butler is not available for the AGM and so Ray would take the Chair. Ray thanked Jo Homer and RSCAC for hosting the meeting.

### (2) Apologies

Paul Hawkins (Stratford), Barbara Shepherd (DASH), Sam Hale (Tipton) Karl Lewis (Tipton,), Pete Bryan (Kenilworth), Rachel Berney (LAA), Eleanor Nabney (Coventry Godiva), Noel Butler (Leamington), Ben Evans (Tamworth), Bob Carey (Sphinx)

### (3) Acceptance of the minutes of the 2021 AGM and matters arising.

The minutes were accepted unanimously and there were no matters arising.

### (4) Chairman's report on the 2021/22 season.

Noel Butler's report follows the minutes (below).

### (5) Sponsorship

Vince Wilson of SportsWearDeals has offered £500 sponsorship to be paid in two parts - £250 on 1/10/2022 and the rest after the first fixture. Event Apparel had offered £700 but the League Committee decided to return the loyalty that SportsWearDeals has shown the League by retaining them.

### (6) Treasurer's report (Mark Bullock)

The League's financial year finishes at the end of May so it is not possible to close the accounts yet. Once the accounts for 2021/2022 have been completed Mark will hand over the Treasurer's role. Mark and/or the new Treasurer circulate the accounts and Treasurer's report as soon as possible.

### (7) Propositions for rule changes

We have had no propositions for rule changes.

(8) Nominations for Officers.

Ray explained that Noel Butler has been standing in as “Acting Chair” and was prepared to continue for another year because we have three Officers positions to fill and a new Chair would find it very difficult to take over at this time. Noel will definitely stand down at the next AGM.

Ray thanked Mark Bullock (Treasurer), Bob Carey (Trophies Secretary) and Paul Hawkins (chair) for their service to the League.

The meeting unanimously re-elected the following people.

- a. Chair: Noel Butler (Leamington C&AC)
- b. Registration Sec: Bob Hughes (Cannock & Stafford AC)
- c. Results Sec: Ray Morgan (Leamington C&AC)
- d. Officials Sec: Noel Mckakly (Wolverhampton & B AC)
- e. Website Manager: John Constandinou (Birchfield Harriers)
- f. Social Media Sec: Danny Sedgley (Tipton Harriers)

The meeting unanimously elected the following to fill vacancies.

- g. Trophies Secretary Eleanor Nabney (Coventry Godiva Harriers)
- h. Treasurer Donna Tomkins (Cannock & Stafford AC)

Note that the Referee(s) is appointed by the League Committee for his/her technical skills rather than elected by the AGM.

Many thanks to all the above for their contribution to running the League.

That leaves the League with a Vacancy for Hon Secretary. Ray pointed out that asking one of the existing Officers to double up and take the Secretary role in addition to their current duties is not an option. Ray asked that the Clubs all help find a suitable candidate otherwise, without a Secretary, the League will be suspended.

(9) Applications for membership from Accelerate - Youth RC

Accelerate expressed an interest in joining the League before the 2021/22 season but too late to be included. The Club has now formally applied and fulfilled the necessary criteria. Noel Butler has explained to them what is involved and the commitment that will be expected of them in terms of participation and volunteers. The meeting unanimously accepted the application.

(10) Dates and venues for the 2022/23 season

The meeting accepted the dates recommended by the Governing Body and agreed the following hosting.

- 16/10/2022 Walsall Arboretum hosted by Birchfield and RSCAC
- 13/11/2022 Newbold Revell hosted by Rugby & Northampton AC
- 04/12/2022 Warley Woods hosted by Tipton Harriers
- 15/01/2023 No offers to host as yet
- 12/02/2023 Aldersley Stadium hosted by Wolverhampton & Bilston AC

Ray thanked the host clubs for hosting last year and next and noted that the two new venues used for the 21/22 season (Newbold Revell and Walsall Arboretum) were both very successful and well received by all.

(11) Any other business.

Two Clubs felt that the presentation of medals at the last fixture in February 2022 was chaotic. Ray accepted the point and explained that the weather had forced us to abandon the two League tents which are usually used for results and medals. We had to use the back of a car for results and the main building for awards but the two were some distance apart. The Committee must establish a better backup should a similar situation occur in future.

Ray told the meeting that we have deposited some League paperwork (results and programmes) with Birmingham University which has an athletics archive and museum. This is for safe keeping. That is less likely to be necessary in future because so much information is digital and we have multiple copies.

The Committee would like a Club to take on the responsibility for erecting the League flags before each meeting and taking them down afterwards. This would be in exchange for not having to provide volunteers through the season.

The League will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the 2025/2026 season. That is some way off but the time will pass quickly. Does anybody have any ideas on how to commemorate this achievement?

The meeting discussed the relative advantages and disadvantages of asking parents and guardians to register athletes individually rather than team managers registering a team. Further we could charge the individuals rather than the clubs. It was unanimously agreed that the current process is better and so the change is not desirable or necessary. One of the advantages of the change would be to enable direct communication with parents and guardians however that could probably be achieved by asking them to voluntarily give us their contact details in another way.

Jo Homer asked that we ask Clubs who are obliged to supply three volunteers for a meeting to name those people a week in advance. This should encourage Clubs to find them in advance or at least let us know that they have not at least a week before the event. Note that we currently have no sanction for when a Club does not meet its volunteer obligations.

The meeting closed at 20.35.

Ray Morgan  
24/05/2022

**The Chair's report follows below.**

**WMYACCL Chair's report to the AGM on 23rd May 2022 Season 2021 - 2022**

It was so good to get back running over the country last winter. Numbers were the lowest for many years, but this was to be expected as some people were still apprehensive about large gatherings and we had missed a whole year of new athletes in the under 11 age category. Nevertheless, those who did run had a great season.

There were times it looked as if we were not going to be able to have our usual five fixtures as some land owners were not keen to have large numbers from a large area congregate on their land but thanks to the host clubs we did get all five races in. Our thanks go out to those clubs and also to the officials who ensure the races are conducted correctly. Without them we would not have a league. Wendy Kane had an excellent first year as referee but has informed us that the five fixtures increases her workload during the season to a level that is unsustainable though she has offered to referee some fixtures next season. Your committee will discuss this and hopefully bring a solution to the AGM.

To ensure the league continues to thrive we need more clubs to host and to recruit more officials. All clubs should see what they can do to support this.

As you all know I took over as Acting Chair at the beginning of the season because Paul Hawkins was seriously ill. I had previously been chair for 7 seasons from 2009 to 2016 and the league is very important to me so I was delighted I could help.

I am pleased to advise that Paul is recovering but he has decided that he cannot do the job to the level he would want to, so will not be returning as Chair. I am sure you will all join me to place on record the league's thanks to Paul for all he has done for the League while he was Chair and wish him well for the future. In addition to Paul, Mark Bullock our Treasurer and Bob Carey our Trophies Secretary are standing down and again can I record all our thanks to them for what they have done to make the league a success. On top of this, we also need to find a Secretary as Ray Morgan has been doing this as Acting Secretary this season because Dani Sedgley stood down to concentrate of her Social Media role for the league.

Filling these vacancies is key if the league is to continue and I am pleased to advise you that we have found volunteers for all the positions. Tracey Cresswell from Wolverhampton & Bilston is standing as Secretary, Donna Tompkins (Cannock & Stafford) is standing as Treasurer and Eleanor Nabney (Coventry Godiva Harriers) is standing as Trophies Secretary. We are very fortunate to have filled these very important posts.

I was always going to be a short term replacement for Paul but as he is not standing again and we have three new officers in key positions I am willing to stand again next season to allow them to settle in before a new Chair is elected. Obviously, if there is a willing volunteer for Chair this year, I am more than happy to stand down.

Finally I must thank our sponsor Vince Wilson of Sportswear Deals for all his support for junior cross country which I know is dear to his heart.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

**Noel Butler**  
**Acting Chair**