

## **West Midlands Young Athletes Cross Country League**

### **Chair's report to the AGM 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

I think it is fair to say that 2022-23 was a very successful season. We had the full five fixtures with some excellent races throughout.

In last season's report I mentioned that we needed to recruit more technical officials if we were to ensure the future stability of the league. I am pleased to report that the work done by a number of officials in the Midlands including Noel Mckakly and Mary Hodges has meant that more officials have made themselves available for all the leagues in our area and this has meant we had sufficient numbers at each fixture. Another encouraging feature is that more officials are seeking to be upgraded and so to give officials the opportunity to gain experience the league, instead of having one referee for all five fixtures, appointed a separate referee for each meeting. This proved to be a great success and we will be repeating this for the coming season.

Our thanks for a successful season must go to the clubs that host the fixtures. Once again Birchfield and Royal Sutton Coldfield (jointly), Rugby & Northampton, Tipton, Nuneaton and Wolverhampton came to the party. No other club has hosted a fixture since Leamington in 2019 so the other clubs in the league need to understand they cannot always rely on these clubs. If you would like to consider hosting, then the league has experienced officers who are prepared to help you.

I am pleased to say that all the officers are prepared to stand for election again with the exception of me! I stayed on for last season because we had three new committee members and I felt that to change the Chair at the same time would put unnecessary pressure on the committee. After discussions with the committee on who could be Chair, I approached two people we thought would be suitable, but they were both heavily committed to their clubs and didn't feel they could take on this role as well.

The league needs a Chair, their main role is to guide the committee strategically and chair the committee meeting and AGM. Attendance at race meetings is not required but obviously preferred. I also negotiate with the league's sponsors, but this is historical and doesn't have to sit with the Chair. The committee is a very strong one and everyone pulls their weight, and they are a good group to work with. Please consider whether anyone at your club including parents could do this job. We have over 1,000 children running in the league so there must be at least one person involved with them who is suitable for the role.

Once again your league has been well served by the committee and thanks must go to all of them for the work they have done to make the season so successful, but I must specifically mention the three new officers Becki Beardsworth (Secretary), Donna Tompkins (Treasurer) and Eleanor Nabney (Trophies Secretary) who slotted into the league seamlessly.

Finally, I must thank our sponsor Vince Wilson of Sportswear Deals for all his support to the league over many years now.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

**Noel Butler**

**Chair**

**22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**