



THE 33rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ONLINE BY ZOOM on Wednesday 16th November 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Cath Muth, (Chair of WCAA, Birchfield Harriers), Margaret Murphy (Rugby&Northampton AC), Dave Ashbourne (Leamington C&AC), Stewart Barnes (Coventry Godiva Harriers LM), Graham Heeley (Sparkhill Harriers LM), Tony Mackness (WCAA Treasurer, Northbrook AC), Katie Lea (Rugby&Northampton AC), Simon Reiter (Spa Striders), Ray Morgan (Leamington C&AC LM), Alan Edwards (Leamington C&AC LM), Rebecca Freeman (Solihull and Small Heath AC), Richard Carney (BRAT), Bob Carey (WCAA President, Sphinx), Sally Anne Tully (Sphinx), Eric Fowler (WCAA Hon Sec)

Item 1 Apologies for absence:

Mary Hodges, Olivia Lea (Social Media Sec), Rachel Berney

The meeting paused in silence in memory of three Warwickshire people who have served the sport but have sadly passed away this year. They are Barry Ewington of Nuneaton Harriers, Doug Paul of Birchfield Harriers and Norma Blaine who was a Life Vice president of the Association and had served Warwickshire for many years.

Item 2 Acceptance of the minutes of the (2021) AGM held on 17th November 2021.

The minutes were published on the County web site some time ago and we have not received any corrections since them. The meeting noted the subsequent appointment of Eric Fowler as Hon. Secretary. The minutes were accepted as a true record.

Item 3 The Annual Report by WCAA Chair, Cath Muth

The year started on a bad note when our County Cross Country Championships were cancelled by the venue at the very last minute. Despite all the hard work by Katie Lea and Ray Morgan assisted by many others the venue could not be persuaded that we did not pose a threat to their concerns over COVID.

We did everything possible to try to put the event on and England Athletics also supported us and tried to intervene on our behalf, but it was all to no avail. Following our attempts, we did lodge a formal complaint with a number of organisations who have a interest in the site at Newbold Revell but we feel it fell on deaf ears.

This was disappointing for all involved, organisers, athletes, and volunteers. To be fair to all we took the decision to refund most of the entry other than a small admin fee to cover the costs we had incurred. This of course made a major dent in our income for this financial year as alongside the track and field championships this is where most of our income comes each year.

Team managers for the Inter Counties Cross Country Championships had to use performances in other championships to select their teams. We had two top ten finishers with Freya Bennett 7th in the U20W and Jack Gray 9th in the Senior Men. Unfortunately, the lay out of this course yet again resulted in a nasty injury for one of our young athletes and the organisers will not accept the poor lay contributes to these injuries.

On a more positive note, thankfully we were blessed with good weather and a record turnout for the Track and Field Championships which ran very smoothly once more. There were 927 entrants across the 2 days. Thanks go to Katie Lea and Ray Morgan for their organisation and to Maggie Murphy for once again ensuring we had officials for the event. We are always grateful to the officials for supporting our events and hope they continue to do so.

As usual I would like to express my appreciation to Tony Mackness for the excellent work he does managing our finances and to all those on Committee who give up their time to ensure the County continues to put on quality events across all age groups.

I would like to welcome Eric Fowler who has taken on the role of Secretary and to Keith Burgess who has taken the role of team management. Elsewhere John Nash continued to give his time up to manage the U13/U15 track and field team who were very successful in winning the intercounties match in September.

On the track we did have representation at the World Championships, Commonwealth Games and European Championships. Andrew Pozzi was at all three championships and both Elliot Giles in the and Craig Murch were selected for England at the Commonwealth Games.

Looking to the future the Cross-Country Championships has moved to December, a move welcomed by athletes, coaches, and clubs as it takes out a fixture in a very busy January. This will take place at Welkin Farm and we are indebted to the Lea family and the Malt Kiln Farm Shop for sponsoring the event and allowing us to use their land. Once again and will be a joint fixture with Worcestershire.

We once again look forward to a very successful year delivering quality championships for the athletes in our county.

Cath Muth

WCAA Chair

Item 4 TREASURERS REPORT for year ended 30.9.2022

Tony Mackness WCAA Treasurer showed the accounts on screen and gave the following report.

The accounts for the period 1.10.2021 to 30.9.2022 show a net DEFICIT i.e. expenditure greater than income of £ 500.31 (For comparison during 2020/2021 we recorded a SURPLUS of £ 511.54)

Bank balances at year end were:

Lloyds Current Account	£189.80	
Lloyds Entries Account	£6,850.27	£7,040.07
Santander		£18,098.77
TOTAL BANK		<u>£25,138.84</u>

XC CHAMPIONSHIPS

Unfortunately, the 2022 XC championships were cancelled with less than 24 hours notice. We incurred costs of £150.00, this being gifts of appreciation to 4 suppliers who chose to waive their fees despite the very late cancellation. The Association would like to thank Medevent, Midland Toilet Hire, Farriers Fayre and Malt kiln Farm Shop for their understanding and generosity.

On the income side we had 707 entries in total. 700 entrants requested a refund and 7 requested that their entry fee was donated to charity. Accordingly, we gave £42.75 to The Motor Neurone Disease Association. A 10% admin charge was taken from the refunds which gave us a retention of £455.45. The surplus on the XC Champs was £305.45

It should be noted that £678.10 was spent on medals and awards for the XC during the year 2021/2022, but these costs have been treated as a "prepayment" and will be accounted for within the 2022/2023 accounts, in line with accounting practices.

TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Track and Field championships were held at Pingles, Nuneaton over the weekend of the 14th and 15th May 2022 entries were 927 (up 22% from 757 in 2021) which generated income of £6,489, an increase of £1,197 on the previous years £5,292

A grant of £500 was received from England Athletics and bib numbers were sponsored by Coventry Runner to the value of £232. The association would like to thank Coventry Runner for their ongoing support.

Expenses were pretty much in line with last year's event at £5,101.

	2020/2021	2021/2022
Equipment, Safety and Facility Hire	£1,870	£1,764
Bib Numbers (Sponsored by Coventry Runner)	£184	£231
Officials and volunteer Costs - Food and Beverages	£678	£716
Trophies and Medals	£1,670	£1,736
Commission paid on race entries to Entry 4 Sport	£530	£649
Printing	0	£5
	£4,932	£5,101

Overall the surplus on the event was £2,119.42 against £909 the previous year.

INTER COUNTY EVENTS

Costs of £778 were incurred for inter county events:

Prestwold XC (January) £396

Derby (September) £382

County vests purchased £1,710

CM clarified that vests are provided to athletes that are selected to represent the county.

With interest rates continuing to stall through most of the financial year, we only earned £8.37 in interest despite maintaining a healthy balance in our Santander account. From October 2021 to April 2022 we were earning 15p per month, but as from May, rates started to pick up and we earned an average of £1.47 per month.

We made charitable donations to The Salvation Army and Crisis of £25 each. Our auditor does not ask for payment, and we are more than happy to make these donations to his chosen charity in recognition of his services provided.

The accounts have been audited by Hargreaves - Ward Ltd and have they have made the following statement: *"The accounts have been audited by Hargreaves-Ward Limited, and I'm happy to say that there were no significant findings, and the accounts have been signed off as a true and fair view of Income, expenditure and surplus/deficit for the year reviewed and of the financial position at the year end."*

The full accounts are available on request.

For the forthcoming year the treasurer and committee propose the Club Affiliation fee remain at £20 per club and the WRRL Promoters fee at £30 per race.

- CM proposed the club affiliation fee of £20, seconded by RM. **Accepted by unanimous vote.**
- CM proposed the WRRL Promoters fee at £30 per race, seconded by RM. **Accepted by unanimous vote.**

A debate followed on the status of the Warwickshire Road Race League.

The league has not yet held its AGM and workload pressures mean that a date has not yet been set. There is a need for a chairman of the WRRL to call an AGM in order that the necessary arrangements can be made, for example agreeing all the races that will be accepted for next year. A proposal was made to bring the administration of WRRL under the county association committee.

The meeting agreed with a proposal that Ray Morgan should consult with Dave Goodwin to find out whether the league clubs will put forward a chair and organise an AGM among themselves. If that route does not yield a suitable candidate, then RM will offer to take on the role. RM, with support of Becky Freeman as Secretary will organise an AGM and seek the constitutional change such that the administration of the league will transfer to the WCAA committee.

Item 5 Election of Officers, Officials, Trustees, Auditors, Vice Presidents,

The Chair did not receive any nominations so no positions were contested.

The following Officers and Officials were duly elected.

President	Graham Heeley
President elect	
Hon Chair	Cath Muth
Hon Secretary	Eric Fowler
Hon Treasurer	Tony Mackness
Hon Officials Secretary	Maggie Murphy
Hon Promotions Secretary	Katie Lea and Ray Morgan
Team Managers' coordinator	Keith Burgess
Website secretary	Ray Morgan and Cath Muth
Hon Trophies and Medals Secretary	Bob Carey
Social media Secretary	Olivia Lea
Trustees	Ian Riley and Maggie Murphy
Auditors	Matthew Hargreaves
Hon Endurance Secretary	Dave Goodwin

CM thanked Bob Carey for his work as President and Graham Heeley was welcomed into the position.

The following have previously been elected as Life Vice Presidents

Maureen Blore	Alan Edwards	Stewart Harris	Rebecca Freeman
Graham Heeley	Mary Hodges	Dyfrig Rees	Henry Mortimer
Ian Riley	Margery Ewington	Richard Carney	Bob Carey
Keith Richards	Les Barnett	Stewart Barnes	Ray Morgan

The following are Past Life Vice Presidents

Margaret Babbington	Ted Clifford	Ken Dare	John Walker
Marianne Lingen	Peter Milton	Norman Walker	Frank Kirby
Winnie Dalton	Janet Paul	Edna Walker	Mike Doyle
Ken Bull			

It was agreed that the President's chain of office will have additional badges added and be engraved to add the names of the most recent presidents (Action with Bob Carey). The chain of office will be handed over to Graham at the cross-country championships.

Item 6 Any Constitutional Changes.

None proposed.

Item 7a Team Manager's Report on U13/U15's Inter Counties Match at Derby on 10th September 2022

Another strong, all round, set of performances from our youngsters provided a rewarding day of competition and resulted in Warwickshire again retaining the Match Trophy. Since our first participation in this annual fixture in 1999, we have won on 17 occasions (a success rate in excess of 77%) with five matches being won by Leicestershire and Rutland (2002, 2001, 2012, 2013, & 2015) and two cancelled through covid (2020 & 2021)

This year the Warwickshire Team was composed of 49 young athletes drawn from 12 different Clubs. (Birchfield Harriers providing 6, B.R.A.T. 2, Coventry Godiva Harriers 2, Leamington C.&A.C./Leamington A.C. 7, Nuneaton Harriers 1, R.S.C. 2, Rugby & Northampton A.C. 12, Solihull & Small Heath 8, Stratford upon Avon A.C. 7, Charnwood 1, and Tamworth 1.)

The two from out of County Clubs qualify for Warwickshire through place of birth with their Club allegiance attributable to parental disposition. Both competed at the Warwickshire Championships in May and intend to continue in that vein in the future.

As usual, we had a number of last-minute withdrawals and had to 'shuffle our pack' to cover all match events. With several youngsters competing in their 'additional' event for the first time in a competitive format we were pleasantly surprised with their performance standards. We were, thereby, able to field athletes in all scoring events with the only gaps being in some of the supplementary 100m races.

This year's Match resulted in Warwickshire victories in all four age/gender groups and, thus, achieving the overall highest aggregate score.

Our youngsters recorded 18 new p.b.'s (slightly less than in previous years). In the vast majority of cases they upheld or improved their respective rankings against the other Counties' competitors. None finished in 7th place in any event. The only 'down side' to the day was the fact that none of our youngsters were awarded any of the individual best performance trophies in the Match – even more surprising considering the comprehensive nature of the Team's victory.

In the Under 13 Girls category there were 5 wins, 3 second places and 2 third spots from the 15 Match events. Our sole entrant in the supplementary 100m also won her race. 5 new p.b.'s were established. The girls recorded a 9 point margin of victory over Notts and Sth. Yorks.

In the Under 15 Girls section there were 10 wins, 8 second places and 3 fourth spots from their 21 events. Our entrants in the supplementary 100m race claimed 1st and 2nd places. 2 new p.b.'s were established. The girls achieved a winning margin of 43 points over Notts.

In the Under 13 Boys category there were 6 wins, 4 second places and 3 third places from their 15 events. We had no representatives in the supplementary 100m races. 4 new p.b.'s were set. The winning margin over Leics was 3 points.

In the under 15 boys section there were 11 wins, 4 second places and 2 third place finishes from their 23 events. In the 100m supplementary race our entrants were 1st and 2nd. 7 new p.b.'s were recorded. The winning margin over Leics was 22.5 points.

Overall the Team won more than 43% of the total number of events on offer. They won all four Relay races. Taking account of the top four places over all events our youngsters achieved an astonishing success rate in excess of 90%. The final margin of victory over Leics was 111 points.

I should like to thank my colleagues, Rebecca FREEMAN and Jackie MAULL for their invaluable assistance on the day to keep the Team's wheels in motion.

Many thanks also to Ray MORGAN and his Team of officials who helped make the day so successful and without whom the fixture could not have taken place.

I should like to mention, too, the efforts of the various Club officials and coaches who assisted our endeavours and continue to unearth young gems. New avenues of communication and co-operation were explored and some old established ones revived – all point towards a more comprehensive and smoother pathway for our selection process in the future

I have already expressed my/our thanks to the Derbyshire organisers and to the site's ground staff who worked hard to make the event run so smoothly.

Finally, my gratitude to the Warwickshire County A.A. and its Committee for their continued support of what is, surely, the County's most successful Team.

John Nash Warwickshire County A. A. U13/U15's Team Manager.

Item 7b Report on the Inter Counties cross country at Prestwold Hall

Cath Muth reported that an athlete had received serious injuries at the cross-country and had needed hospital treatment. This was the 2nd time that a Warwickshire athlete has been seriously hurt due to the shortcomings of the layout of the start area where the course narrows too quickly. CM had written to the organisers but their response dismissed that the injuries were due to shortcomings with the course.

Ray Morgan had reported earlier in the day a concern. In subsequent email conversations it was discovered that other counties had also experienced injuries to athletes.

Following discussion regarding the escalation route for concerns it was agreed that CM would contact England Athletics as the event licencing authority to put on record the concerns prior to the next inter-counties championship.

Item 8 The Ellis Trophy and the Endurance Trophy – Bob Carey.

I have selected Andy Pozzi (Stratford) for the Ellis Trophy, for his 3rd place in the Commonwealth Games and 6th place in the European Championships. For the Endurance trophy I have selected Julie Emmerson of Godiva Harriers for her 12th place in the "National" and 7th place representing Warwickshire in the Inter Counties XC Championships. I am hoping to be able to present the Ellis Trophy to Andy at Stratford's presentation night. I have arranged with Julie to present her with the Endurance Trophy at the county XC Championships next month.

Item 9 Any other business - none.

Date of the 2023 AGM- Wednesday 15th November 2023