

**Subject:** Swanley - Kent Cross Country League 16th October 2021.

**From:** "Chairman KCAA" <kent.athletics@btinternet.com>

**Date:** 21/10/2021, 08:46

**To:** "David Ralph" <chairman@kcaa.org.uk>

**CC:** <daddy\_hills@hotmail.com>, "Brian Charlton" <kyalrecorders@kcaa.org.uk>, "Gill Freeman - UKA" <officials@kcaa.org.uk>, "Mick Paul" <treasurer@kcaa.org.uk>, <secretary@kcaa.org.uk>

Ladies & Gents,

Please see a statement jointly from myself as chair of KCAA and Paul Hills chair of the Kent Cross Country League, please share it as appropriate, it has been sent to league Team Managers.

### Statement from KCAA/KXCL

#### Swanley - Kent Cross Country League 16<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

It was great to get back to having competitive Cross Country in Kent again, after almost two years. On the positive side, plenty of good races, close competition, inter club rivalries, and in a Park where we were made most welcome. Apart from an unexpected heavy shower early on, even the weather was largely on our side.

However, a lot of our attention post-race, has sadly been focussed on more unpleasant, and very unexpected events. The Race Referee had to speak to one athlete about what one might describe as a "racing incident"; that was resolved subject to no repetition in future events.

More worrying were unpleasant attitudes and actions towards Funnel Officials.

One athlete tried to hold a discussion with a Recorder about something which had happened in the race. When told they couldn't discuss this while recording, were told they obviously weren't interested.

In a separate and even more serious incident, a Funnel Official was sworn at. The Race Referee intervened, and was prepared to DQ the athlete, as permitted under UKA rules, until the Official said they were happy with an apology, which seems to have been given grudgingly. The athlete was warned about their behaviour, and that it would be monitored for the rest of the season. Some feel that this action is not strong enough.

Unexpectedly KCAA and KXCL, in conjunction with Officials, now feel we are in a position where we must discuss sanctions and punishments. These would then be included in the Rules. We don't think we can do anything retrospectively.

We all love this sport, but some Officials are obviously questioning their continued support if they are so under appreciated. **Lack of Officials is a Very Urgent matter**, and this will not be helped when they face abuse and foul language. Apart from one cluster of recruits, there are very few people coming forward to offer their time and support. **No Officials – No Races.**

Yours,

David

David R Ralph

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