

OXFORDSHIRE AA

MINUTES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 4TH NOVEMBER 2016 AT EXETER HALL, KIDLINGTON

Present – John Sear, Lyn Hopkins, Kate Worrall, Paul Thomas, Neil Preddy (Woodstock Harriers), Gary Warland (Alchester RC), Dene Stringfellow (White Horse Harriers), James Charles (Banbury Harriers), Doug Scott (Banbury Harriers), Alan Vincent (Banbury Harriers), Noel Blatchford (Abingdon AC), Andrew Garner (Abingdon AC), Dave Martin (Rhondda AC), Joe Bibby (Radley AC), James Bolton (Woodstock Harriers), Will Atkinson and Iain Wakefield (Kidlington).

1. **Apologies** – Michael Collins, Miranda Cook, Richard Jegou, David Coates and Mike Shipway.
2. **Minutes of the last AGM held December 2015** – Agreed to be a true record of the meeting held.
3. **Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising.
4. **Chairman's Report** – JS reported –

The OAA Committee met 4 times over the past year, the venue being Exeter Hall. Overall, I would describe it as 'a difficult year' (not helped by your Chairman being unwell for much of the summer period – but now fully restored!).

The Cross-Country Championships were run in January 2016 at Horspath. Following these, county teams were selected which generally performed well at the CAU championships. This year athletes also competed in December to run in the SEAA Inter-Counties and Masters cross country races which were held at Shuttleworth, Bed. Again, there were some outstanding results at all these events.

In March 2015, the CAU XC championships were held at Cofton Park, Birmingham; while the SEAA and National XC Championships were held at Parliament Hill Fields and Donnington Park, Leicestershire. The county was represented at the CAU XC Championships with varying successes – some athletes failing when presented with the longer distances of races at these events.

The senior teams excelled – with the senior ladies 11/21 teams. The Senior Men were even better. They had the best result ever for both 6 and 9 athlete finish. Eighth finish for 6 athletes and third finish for 9 athletes (890 points); behind the two heavyweights of North East (272) and Lancashire (791). In the team for 6 finishers this was won by North East (78), Scotland East (239), Middlesex (294), Kent (297), Sussex (346), Lancashire (399), Avon & Somerset (431), and THEN Oxfordshire (447). The Oxon results were the most improved and best of the small counties, and for this we received a perpetual team trophy and plaques for each of first six athletes.

There were also good results during the field and track year with winners at the England Schools (Ben Claridge, SB 400m, and Amy Herrington SG Hammer; while Emily Thompson was 2nd in IG 800m and Seb Hartwell 5rd in IB 400m). Emily followed this by coming second in the Home Counties Schools International. In the early autumn, there were two further successes – Jade O'Dowda (OCAC) won the IG heptathlon, and Tim Stephens (OCAC) the SB Decathlon.

In the National championships, Nathan Douglas (OCAC) won the TJ; Hannah England (OCAC) 5th in 1500m; Kyle Ennis (Banbury) 8th in 200m and Kathryn Woodcock (Radley) 7th in Discus.

The County-based Local Athletics Network (OAN) has continued with the channelling of funding towards the development of athletics in the County through club and coaching developments. However, the Network must decide how to continue supporting these activities as the national LAN funding finished in April 2015.

As in recent previous years, the track and field championships were held in conjunction with Buckinghamshire held at Horspath. The numbers of competitors increase each year, with 8 CBPs.

Although a success, there were some important issues raised by the entries at the County Championships – increased number of junior athletes but a noticeable reduction in Senior and Masters entries. The large numbers of these junior athletes extends the duration of several field events and in turn impinges upon the recommended 8-hour maximum day. We need to somehow decrease the number of events held on the Saturday and Sunday (the 5K championships are already held in conjunction with the Town vs Gown fixture). Suggestions include reducing the number of attempts in some field events (which was adopted in 2016) or having entry standards or having preliminary heats held beforehand. There was however a 10K race this year (in conjunction with the SEAA race held in September at Stoke Mandeville).

The ‘Iffley Miles’ meeting organised jointly by the University Athletics Club with the British Milers Club continues to flourish (although there are no plans for its occurring in the season 2017).

County teams took part in the various age group events of SEAA for track and field competitions. Of particular praise again this year was the continued success of the County team at the ESAA T & F Championships; where many of the 25 selected athletes reached their finals. Well done to you all. While the performance of county teams in the U13 and U15 competitions was first rate (with many athletes achieving PBs), the future of our competing in the U20 and Senior events must continue to be questioned. Again, the County failed to provide teams for the SEAA Senior Inter-Counties this year, and the interest among U20 athletes for their fixture (which was held at Horspath) was poor.

Part of the problem stems from a conflict of Club vs County with many of the U20 athletes opting to compete the previous day for their clubs in the Senior Leagues. This is not only a feature of Oxfordshire clubs. But it can be viewed as a rather negative approach with competition at inter-counties fixtures generally being far superior to that in club competitions in the SAL. Unless there is a change of dates, and a change of heart of senior athletes, it seems unlikely that Oxon will continue to maintain our involvement in these events.

In the annual Town vs Gown track and field fixture, the Town retained the trophy for the 4th year in succession and Tom Binnie won the ‘Robinson’ One Mile trophy event. I am grateful to the clubs who considered this a worthwhile fixture for their U17 and U20 athletes (rather than those suggesting that their athletes would be better training!).

Although Endurance and Cross-Country activities continue to flourish within the county, there is an ever increasingly problem of firstly finding venues, and which then provide adequate parking facilities. Indeed, as I write this report, the five Oxford Mail XC venues for 2016-17 are only just confirmed. To maintain these cross-country fixtures, there is a definite need for the involvement of more clubs in the organisation of these events.

As I mentioned in my last report, there are some changes needed for our management of county teams; more volunteers to act as team managers (the CAU recommends that they be DBS checked), and there is a need to appoint a County Welfare Officer. I am grateful to Emma Gould (Bicester); Ann Workman, Felicity Dawes and James Charles (Banbury) who all volunteered for team manager duties this year.

Sadly there was the death in May (2016) of one of the stalwarts of the County, and a Life Vice-President, Margaret Strange. She will be missed.

I finish by thanking those Officers and committee members who have supported the county this year; especially Lyn Hopkins (as Secretary), Kate Worrall (as Treasurer) and Alan Vincent who has supplied the answers on many occasions through his considerable experience. Other key players within the County include Will Atkinson (Vice-Chairman, and Road Race Chairman); Kay Reynolds (OAN); Paul Thomas, Alan Vincent (Officials Secretary).

I am also grateful to Joe Bibby for his willingness to act as webmaster for the County.

As I have recently indicated, I am prepared to stand for Chairman for one further year (if re-elected). I welcome any offers for people to serve on the Committee or help the county in one way or other! The County will only function optimally when all constituent clubs help.

Other Oxfordshire performances were:

SEAA Inter-Counties in December 2015:

U13G - 10th/13 teams [Beth Darwent ABD 31; Daisy Parker OCAC 35; Emily Haines-Gray OCAC 59; Hermione Jewell 65]

U13B - 12/13 teams [Max Nicolle - BICESTER 37]

U15G - 12/13 teams [Jamie Garry - OCAC 41]

U15B - 13/13 teams [Ben West – BICESTER 17]

U17W - 11/11 teams [Fiona Bunn - ABD 6th; Emily Thompson - BANBURY 39]

U20W - no team but Helene Greenwood KIDLINGTON 14th

Senior Women team – 8/10 teams [Hannah England - OCAC 4; Sarah Rendell - ALCHESTER 28; Jessica Webb - WOODSTOCK 36; Sarah Lackman - ABINGDON 54]

ESSA:

JG Hammer: Ella Lovibond – 46.85

JB Discus: 8th Adam Byles - 34.27

JB Javelin: 8th Daniel Kelly - 45.83

IG 80H: 8th Jade O'Dowda – 12.29 (wind -3.6) (11.45 in heat)

IG 4 x 100 Relay: 5th – 48.75

IB 400: 8th Matthew Coleman – 51.29 (50.80 in heat)

IB 800: 5th Will Crisp – 1:54.70

SG 100H: 6th Alice Hopkins – 14.50 (14.46 in heat)

5. **Communications Task Group** –

a) **Secretary's Report & Correspondence Received** –

SEAA/UKA/EA/OAA

- EA eBulletin – September 2016 – Issue 1.
- Email from Simon Walker, details of the Bucks, Berks & Oxon XC Champs 2016 – sent to JS.
- EA Club Affiliation and Athlete Registration update winter 2016-2017.
- EA eBulletin - September 2016 Issue 2 – EA club affiliation and athlete registration update. JS reminded all that youngster's U13s need their EA numbers to compete in XC. There are problems that EA have issued numbers yet. Some schools send their athletes to XC and they are not members of clubs and therefore not EA members. We should encourage the schools to send their athletes to clubs to become members. JS should inform the schools of the EA rule. **ACTION JS**
- EA eBulletin - September 2016 Issue 3 – various topics.
- EA Notification of AGM, 15th October at the Hilton Metropole Hotel in Birmingham. Proxy form completed and returned.
- EA eBulletin – September 2016 Issue 4 – EA Guide to Social Media for athletics clubs.
- EA eBulletin – October 2016 Issue 1 – Give your Volunteers a Chance to Shine – BBC Get Inspired Unsung Hero Awards 2016.
- EA – Coach & Officials Education Programme South – October 2016

- EA eBulletin – October 2016 Issue 2 – various topics.
- EA eBulletin – October 2016 Issue 3 – various topics.

- EA eBulletin – October 2016 Issue 4 – London Marathon 2017 club places can now be applied for.
- Email from Andy Barber, Media Manager EA, County XC Championships Publicity – forwarded to JS.
- EA – Guide to 2017 Fixtures.
- SEAA Information Update, November 2016.

OTHER –

- Email from Simon Walker – Berks, Bucks and Oxon XC Championships, 20th November Prospect Park, Reading.
- English Schools Cross Country Association Championships 2016-2017 Handbook.

b) **England Athletics** – AV reported –

AV attended a Regional Council meeting on Tuesday 20th September. Main points / outcomes of potential interest to Oxon AA –

- **Consultation event** – The late inclusion of one South East venue in this year's round of consultation – and this at Crawley, did not help any sense of involvement for Oxfordshire clubs. The Crawley event was not very well attended in any case. There was a call for more volunteer input in future years. We may have to find other ways of feeding in our views to the process in future.
- **Portfolio review** – More emphasis being placed by EA on the role of portfolio holders. We are being asked to submit regular reports.
- **CAU Inter Counties** – Problems of calendaring this event, also of entry standards if to be regularly combined with EA Championships.
- **SEAA** – Frustration over the lack of transparency over governance and finance may be reaching a head. This year's AGM appears to have been particularly bad and there have been suggestions of calling an EGM, with the main barrier being finding a group of people willing to lead a reform programme. The recent survey by SEAA seems to be an attempt to bring clubs behind a call for financial support for SEAA from the national governing bodies.

c) **Awards** –

- Jill Slater won South East Services to Athletics Award. The presentation took place at the Radley Club Championships.
- Margaret Coombe won Community Official of the Year Award at the Sports Officials UK Dinner, at Chesford Grange, Kenilworth.

JS thanked Alan for his representation on behalf of the County at National and Regional Council.

d) **Local Athletics Network** – Kay Reynolds was unable to attend meeting, no report received.

The Network has generated £100 more than it has spent.

A couple of courses held had been well attended.

JS to contact KR and ask for a report and a forward plan. DS said a meeting was held last week and KR will send a report. **ACTION** – JS and KR

e) **Website** – Thanks to Joe for all his hard work on the website.

JB said that plenty of items are being sent to him for inclusion.

f) **Schools** – AV attended schools AGM, they have taken on board our suggested changes.

6. **Officers Task Group** –

a) **Treasurer's Report** – KW tabled the latest accounts as at 30th September 2016.

Review of Income and Expenditure in the year –

Total funds stand at £29,622.97 at the year end. This breaks down as follows –

Unrestricted (i.e. ours to spend as we wish) funds	£12,348
LAN ringfenced funds	£ 7,303
Other ringfenced funds	£ 9,972
TOTAL	£29,623

Unrestricted funds show an increase of £2,534 in the year. There were surpluses on both the County Cross Country (£748) and Track & Field (£2,922) activity in the year. The latter includes a write back of track hire costs for the 2014 County Championships which has never been billed and the officers now feel is unlikely to be. This excludes the cost of providing medals/plaques to the events – which were £520 for Track & Field and £245 for Cross Country.

Sportshall Activity ran at a surplus of £276.

Road Race activity made a surplus of £59, before meal costs.

Cost of medals and trophies remains the largest single cost for the county. £1,825 was spent in the year on replacement stock. In addition to the issues mentioned above, Road Race championships used 245 medals, at a cost of £500. However we had stock remaining at the year end to a value of £926.

KW does not propose to increase affiliation fees. The last increase agreed was for 2012/13, which also saw an increase in entry fees to County events. We have now ceased the provision of coach transport to inter-county events. Mileage paid to drivers for i/c events totalled £433 for all events attended – compare this to the £475 cost of a coach per event!

The Network received £2,297 in income during the year – network subs and YDL match, kit and transport income and event fees. It paid out £1,397; £870 related to costs of the YDL competition, £250 were costs of coach and officials events, £123 was paid in bursaries to clubs for coach and official training.

The Photo Finish Equipment activity had another successful year; £7,755 in hire charges was invoiced. £733 was spent on a wind sonic unit. £1,086 was spent on operating costs. Funds of £9,722 are carried forward. If anyone is interested in being part of the technical team, they should contact Alan, as we do require more helpers. Thanks to AV and Bucks for making it a successful operation.

We have had our first enquiry for assistance from the Barrie Strange Fund, set up to assist young athletes. It was agreed that the County would top up the fund out of surpluses in general funds when generated. Given, the fund is now 'live', KW suggests that we consider a top up at this year's AGM as we have achieved a healthy surplus this year. The committee agreed to a top up of however much would keep the fund at £250.

Total income in the year was £20,298 –

Main sources of income:

Hire of Photo-Finish equipment £7,755

LAN income £2,297 (various sources – see breakdown on financial statement)

Affiliations £621

Bucks AA – share of CC £733

Sales of vests, polo shirts and fleeces £732

Commission on T shirt sales at the County Championships £733

County Clock hire £90

Main costs

Medals and trophies purchased £1,825
Officials' fleeces, vests and crop tops £793
Officers' claimed £13 of expenses, £180 was spent on room hire
LAN Expenditure, as breakdown on financial statement £1,397
Photo-Finish equipment £1,819

Track & Field

Entry fees for the championship and open events totalled £3,080
The cost of hosting the event at Horspath totalled £1,444, including track hire, officials' costs, medical costs and net of commission on t-shirt sales. £709 was billed to Bucks AA and £725 was written back for unbilled 2014 costs. Entries to and travel paid for our athletes and officials attending I/C events am to £233.

Sportshall

Income from entry fees and affiliations was £1,966
Costs of staging the events and entry to the UK Championships was £1,690

Cross Country

Championship entry fees totalled £1,569
Costs of holding the event totalled £335
Travel costs and entry fees for inter-county events cost £486

Road Running

11 clubs entered the Grand Prix for the 2016 season. Entry fees receive of £180
Trophies for last season cost £164
Road Relay entry fees were £475, cost of the event £432

JS thanked Kate for all her hard work.

7. **Track & Field Task Group** –

a) **Inter-County Meetings** –

We are concerned about the U20s and seniors, without team managers there is not a lot we can do. Clubs should encourage their athletes to compete for the county over their club events. We need to identify team managers who are prepared to get teams together. We need to persuade coaches / clubs that we are offering a better quality of competition for their athletes. Some clubs have more pressure to compete in other leagues. To be discussed at the next meeting, to be included on the agenda. **ACTION**
– LH to add to agenda.

b) **The Future of Tracks** –

There is some concern at some tracks over the use by other sports, this could impact on County events. Clubs should try to keep the County informed of bookings of track facilities.

c) **County Championships 2016** –

See Chairman's Report for details.

UK recommendations are 8 hours maximum competition time, preparation time does not count in these hours.

1 / 2 events, U13s and U15s have large fields – LJ, JAV – some athletes have never tried these disciplines before, they do not have any PBs and they admit to not having tried before, this is all time consuming, and therefore takes longer than it should.

2016 we limited the number of attempts to 4, a few complaints were received from parents.

Maybe the first 2/3 rounds could be qualifying rounds, then qualifiers could progress to 3 more.

We could put all who have competed before on a reserve list and then only allow them to compete if there is time and space.

We could insist that all entries must provide a PB and have achieved a qualifying standard, although not all get on the Power of 10, as not all athletes are members of clubs.
County Track & Field Championships date for 2017 – 13th and 14th May.

d) **Team Managers** –

Team managers are required for the winter and summer seasons.
Emma Gould will help at the SEAA meeting at Horspath, James and Felicity are willing to assist.
Thanks to all for their efforts.

e) **Officials** – AV reported –

- **Oxfordshire database** – As of this month, Oxfordshire now has 115 active officials (compared with 109 in September). 9 of these are Endurance only (no change), with 25 total in Endurance (1 down). There are therefore 106 qualified (or trainee) registered Track & Field officials (up from 100).
- **SEAOA Conference** – The Conference and AGM are taking place on Sunday 20th November at Wimbledon College. All details are on the SEAOA website, and attendance is free for members or a nominal charge for non-members. Agenda items for the AGM include a proposal to change the membership period, subscription due date, and the election of a new Treasurer, for which post they are looking for volunteers.
- **Record of experience form** – AV has received returns for 27 Level 2 and 3 Track & Field Officials for last season, compared with 30 last year. AV believes a small number are still in the pipeline and would much like to receive others. The new online facility will probably mean that officials will have to save their annual return to their own computers and then email it to their CofSec.
- **Education Courses** – The Health & Safety module planned for 14th October had to be cancelled, due to low take-up. However, there were 22 attenders at the Field, TK and Starter courses on 24th October, at Horspath Road. We plan to hold L1 courses in the other disciplines, as well as in H&S, next Spring.
- **2017 Season** – All clubs are invited to send details of their home track and fixtures for the 2017 season to Alan ASAP.

f) **Photo Finish** –

- Our joint county system was used on 38 days this year, an increase of seven days over last year and by far our record commitment.
- On four occasions we were unable to take two separate bookings, through hiring in additional equipment and thanks to the availability of both our technical operators. It is unlikely that we will be able to take on as many bookings next year, as one of our technical operators will have his availability curtailed by additional work demands. We really need to recruit one or two additional operators.
- We continue to take advantage of additional income by re-investing in the system: this year we have purchased a wind sonic wind gauge.

8. **Road & Cross Country Task Group** –

a) **Cross Country**-

Thanks for various people for their efforts, otherwise the XC league would not take place this season.
All five venues are now confirmed –

1. Newbury
2. Adderbury
3. Cutteslowe Park – only just set in motion, needs to be finally confirmed.
4. Harwell
5. Farmoor

Thanks to Gary Warland for his assistance.

Meeting attended at Earth Trust Centre – Wittenham Clumps for the 2017/18 season, starting proceedings for a fixture.

2018 – February confirmed at Swindon.

Also looking at Stratfield Brake, needs a year's notice.

DS said that they are hoping to put two years fixtures in place.

County Champs XC – Park and Ride car park at Water Eaton. Proposal to have people taking donations at the entrance. We could also increase the County entry fee by £1 to help cover the costs.

DS said that Newbury had lost their Club President and may consider holding a minutes silence before races.

It has been decided that the men's race will be before the ladies at all fixtures.

Thanks to Dene for all his efforts.

b) **Road** – WA reported –

40 road race licences will have been issued by the end of this year; one less than last year. We lost the Finstock 10k this year.

The County Road Relays at Abingdon Rugby Club, organised by Abingdon AC were again a great success, with good numbers competing again. Many thanks to Abingdon AC, and to Rose Webb and Dene Stringfellow who dealt with the entries and results. Many thanks also to other races that hosted County Championships during the year.

The licencing process seems to be working well and, as a member of the Southern Regional Panel, WA has been able to sort out problems with applications where they occurred. Race organisers should let him know if the system doesn't issue their licence the same day. WA can usually see what the problem is and get it fixed. It's particularly important to check the licence conditions when preparing your entry forms.

Unusually, the main Grand Prix team competition for men has not been decided yet with one fixture, the Eynsham 10k, remaining. Headington still have a chance against perennial champions, Woodstock. The Road Race AGM last year requested that there should be trophies for the second and third teams, so WA would like to request the go ahead to spend the money.

c) **Officials** – PT reported –

Endurance officials have been in attendance at 42 road, multi terrain events and cross country in the county since last meeting.

All events went ahead with no substantial problems for the officials. No new officials again this year and basically the same crew as the previous year. PT has managed to provide adequate officials to every event, but as always would welcome some new faces to a very worthwhile job.

As previously some of us have officiated in excess of 20 events in the county and it should be remembered that officials also attend track events as well so are committed most weekends. PT hopes you all feel that we do a good job for you organisers and runners and he knows that Oxfordshire officials are highly regarded outside the County.

Also those of them who are Event Adjudicators were also appointed at out of county events in the last year as well as local races. He also reports that a number of them are still being invited to both national and regional meetings

It was his intention to retire as Officials Secretary at this AGM, but as nobody has come forward to take over the position, he has therefore decided to stay on until the 2017 AGM unless somebody else wants to take over at this time. If so he will be quite happy to stand down.

To conclude once again, Paul thanked the race organisers who throughout the year by their competence and consideration have made their jobs on the day so much easier.

Thanks to Paul from the Committee for his hard work throughout the year.

9. **Election of Officers and General Committee for 2016/17** –

President	Eileen Kear	Proposed AV and seconded NB
Life Vice-Presidents	Vernon Blowfield Eileen Kear Jill Slater Alan Vincent	
Chairman	John Sear	Proposed LH and seconded KW
Vice-Chairman	Will Atkinson	
Secretary	Lyn Hopkins	Proposed JS and seconded AV
Treasurer	Kate Worrall	Proposed LH and seconded JS
Officials Secretary (Track & Field)	Alan Vincent	
Officials Secretary (Road)	Paul Thomas	
Website	Joe Bibby	
Road Race Co-ordinator	Will Atkinson	
XC Champs Co-ordinator	John Sear	
T&F Co-ordinator	Vacant	
Schools Reps	Alan Vincent John Sear Joe Bibby	
General Committee	Andrew Garner Dene Stringfellow Dave Martin Gary Warland	
Non-Committee Roles		
Sportshall Co-ordinators	Clyde Goodwin Ann Workman Mike Miles	

We need to appoint a Welfare Officer, someone who has contact with junior athletes. JS to contact a few people. **ACTION** – JS

10. **Dates for 2016/2017 Committee Meetings** –

17th February 2017
7th April 2017
7th April 2017
9th June 2017
8th September 2017
3rd November 2017 – AGM

All to be held at Exeter Hall, Kidlington at 7.30pm unless otherwise advised.

11. **A.O.B.** –

- a) JS mentioned that the EA Youth Advisory Group is looking for recruits, anyone interested to contact JS/LH.

- b) AV – Portfolio report to region, has contacted main track and field on club management, also any coaching issues contact AV.
- c) NB – Road Relays – JB had mentioned previously that Woodstock would be interested in holding at Blenheim Palace in 2017, will this take place? JB said that it would not in 2017, therefore NB to arrange for Abingdon AC to host again. She will contact the Rugby Club for available dates, not to be held on Easter Sunday. **ACTION** - NB

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.