

OXFORDSHIRE AA

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 3RD NOVEMBER 2017 AT EXETER HALL, KIDLINGTON

Present – John Sear, Kate Worrall, Paul Thomas, Alan Vincent, Andrew Garner, Noel Blatchford, Dene Stringfellow, Neil Preddy (WH), Doug Scott (BAN), Trevor Langrish (KID), Joe Bibby (RAD), Dave Martin, Mike Suggate (DID), Dan Fisher (DID), and Miranda Cook (GT MILTON).

1. **Apologies** – Lyn Hopkins, Will Atkinson, Mike Shipway (WH), Michael Collins (KID), James Charles (BAN).

2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 4th November 2016** –
Agreed a true record of the meeting held. Proposed by Paul Thomas and seconded by Alan Vincent.

3. **Matters Arising** – none

4. **Chairman's Report** – John Sear reported –

“The OAA Committee has met 5 times over the past year in Exeter Hall. There have been a number of successes but also some issues over the past year which need addressing.

Cross-Country:

The year began with athletes competing in December to run in the SEAA Inter-Counties and Masters cross country races which were again held at Horspath. Once again, Oxon found strong opposition in the other teams present. Until this year, the County XC championships have been held in tandem with the January Oxmail XC meeting. However, the latter are having trouble finding venues which can accommodate both suitable race terrains AND adequate space for the increasing numbers of cars. As a result, the Cross-Country Championships run in January 2017 were held at Stowe School in conjunction with the Bucks and Beds championships. The number of Oxon entries was a little lower than in previous years. However, those athletes taking part found a challenging course in wet and misty conditions.

From these races, teams were selected for the CAU championships which were held for the first time at Prestwold Hall, near Loughborough. Overall the county teams generally performed well at these championships. 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

Track and Field:

The County-based Local Athletics Network (OAN) has continued helping the development of athletics in the County through club and coaching developments; as well as organising the composite U17/ U20 T & F team in the YDL. Following the cessation of national funding for the Network, it is now having to be self-supporting. Due to the limited numbers of athletes in these age groups, there is often difficulty in raising complete representative teams. The County would wish to thank Kay Reynolds and colleagues for the continued management of this team.

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 and many excellent performances on both track and field from the junior athletes. The success of the joint Championships was further assured by tremendous support from a very large body of officials and helpers from the two counties.

Following the County Championships, and the School event held in June, a team of 32 athletes attended the England Schools Finals. There were 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 Isobel Griffin-Morris (2nd SG Discus); with Ella Turner (3rd IG 300m); Katie Hetherington (4th IG High Jump); Ella Lovibond (5th IG Hammer); Rachel Burton (6th IG 1500 SC) and Seb Hartwell 5rd in IB 400m. In the Senior events, Luisa Chanter-Edmond was 4th SG Discus; and the Senior Boys Relay were 3rd. Overall 12 of the 32 selected athletes reached their finals. Well done to you all.

Emily Thompson followed her Schools placing by coming second in the **Home Counties Schools International**. In the early autumn, there were two further successes – Jade O'Dowda (OCAC) won the Schools IG heptathlon, and Tim Stephens (OCAC) the SB Decathlon.

Although the T&F championships must represent a success for the County, there are some important issues raised by the number of entries at these 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 by the University Athletics Club occurred without the help of the British Milers Club. A smaller field ensued, but there were good performances, and Oliver Paulin is to be congratulated on its organisation. It is unclear what may happen in 2018.

Due to a lack of interest, the annual Town vs Gown track and field fixture was not held in 2017.

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 2017-18 still need to be confirmed. To maintain these cross-country fixtures, there is a need for the involvement of more clubs in the organisation of these events. ***(A discussion took place in relation to the difficulty in finding venues for this season – as yet a venue for December's fixture is not confirmed. Clubs are asked to encourage car sharing).***

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.

We should also note with sadness the death of one of the County's long standing Life Vice-President, Vernon Blowfield.

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); Paul Thomas and Alan Vincent (Endurance and T&F Officials Secretaries). 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); but feel it time for others to take over team management on both the country and the track. 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."

5. **Communications Task Group –**

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

- Email from Sue Gardiner – Club Support Manager, EA – Club Gathering information. Any queries regarding, Club Affiliation, DBS renewals, membership queries contact Membership Services on 0121 347 6543 or use the contact form at <http://www.englandathletics.org/contact-us>
- EA eBulletin – September 2017 – Issue 1 – Free resources available to get more people involved in volunteering in clubs. Taster sessions available.
- EA eBulletin – September 2017 – Issue 2 – Club entries for the 2018 London Marathon open towards the end of November. LH will apply.
- EA eBulletin for Officials – September 2017.
- Email from Deborah Beresford, Education Coordinator, EA – Road Traffic Management Courses for Clubs and Race Organisers.
- EA eBulletin – September 2017 – Issue 3 – EA Notice of AGM, 14th October at Ricoh Arena, Coventry.
- Email from Rebecca Turford, Coach & Officials Education Programme – South – September 2017.
- Email from Tracy Green, Competition & Team Coordinator for EA – Competition Forum 28th October invitation for two representatives from the County to attend. Forwarded to JS/AV.
- EA e Bulletin – September 2017 – Issue 4 – Coach & Athlete workshops in the autumn and winter.
- Email from Simon Walker – Berks, Bucks & Oxon XC Championships 2017, 19th November at Prospect Park, Reading.
- EA email – reminder of the AGM 14th October at Ricoh Arena, Coventry.
- Email from SEAA Ltd – at the recent AGM all five of the resolutions were rejected.
- Email from EA – Information about the EA Affiliation and Registration fees for 2018/19. Athlete fees to rise by £1 to £15, club fees of £100 to remain the same.
- SEAA Invoice for the Oxfordshire entries into the SEAA Inter County Championships – sent to KW.
- EA eBulletin – October 17 – Issue 2 – various topics.

- EA eBulletin – October 17 – Issue 3 - EA Board Election results.
EA final consultation events – London, North East and South East, nearest one to us is in Slough on 6th December.
EA Affiliation fees for 2018/19 - £15 per athlete and club fees remain the same at £100.

- Email from AV – Sportshall National and Regional Final dates.
- EA Offers and Discounts – October 2017 – various offers on New Balance, Athletics Weekly etc.
- EA eBulletin – October 17 – Issue 4 – Review of England Athletics Council – expressions of interest sought.

b) **England Athletics / UKA matters to report** – AV reported -

AV has attended the four Regional Council meetings and the one teleconference held during the past year. He is now a co-opted member, since he has served the full term that he can constitutionally. AV accepted co-option earlier this year, in order to ensure that Oxfordshire continued to be represented, as well as in the interests of the Regional Officiating portfolio. However, it has been a disappointing and frustrating year. One Council colleague has recently resigned, citing the lack of tangible outcomes. The Council's role has certainly not become any more meaningful since the last England Athletics restructure. With the loss of the Area Manager, there is no longer an EA officer presence at our meetings and so far no representation from the CSMs either. Although there is now the potential benefit of having the Regional Chair also chairing the National Council, there have arguably been no signs of the Regional Council's voice being any more listened to by the governing body. In terms of tangible outcomes, AV sees nothing much beyond the slight influence in the attempt to achieve reform in the SEAA – and that attempt saw only limited success.

England Athletics has now finally announced one South East regional consultation, in Chalvey, near Slough on Wednesday 6th December.

At present, AV feels disinclined to seek further co-option in 2018. I would leave it to the County to determine whether they put up a candidate for the next elections.

c) **Local Athletics Network** – No report received.

d) **Website** –

JB requested clubs and athletes continue to send content and ideas for the site. Thanks were given to JB for his excellent work maintaining and updating the site this year.

e) **School's Report** – Nothing to report. AV and JS attended their AGM. A thin management structure is impeding organisation of events and development.

6. **Officers Task Group** –

Treasurers Report - KW thanked Derek Adams for once again auditing the accounts.

KW's report - Total Funds stand at £35,381.65 at the year end. This breaks down as follows:

	£
Unrestricted (i.e. ours to spend as we wish) funds	12,509
LAN ringfenced funds	
7,835	
Other ringfenced funds	15,038
TOTAL	
35,382	

Unrestricted funds show an increase of £161 in the year. There was a surplus on the County Championships this year (£3,401), including £574 invoiced to Bucks for their share of the costs. However, we made a loss on the Cross Country activities of £1,087 - due in part to the shared cost of Stowe (£1,062) - an indication of the benefit of using the Oxford Mail League to host the County Championships. Travel costs and entry fees for I/C events were also higher than last year, although entry fees were slightly higher. This excludes the cost of providing medals/plaques to the events - which were £583 for Track & Field and £228 for Cross Country.

Sportshall Activity ran at a surplus of £187.

Road Race Activity made a loss of £152, before medal costs.

Cost of medals & trophies remains the largest single cost for the county. £1,732 was spent in the year on replacement stock. In addition to the issues mentioned above, Road Race championships used 297 medals, at a cost of £606. However, we had stock remaining at the year end to a value of £1,057.

KW didn't 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 £811 for all events attended - compare this to the £475 cost of a coach per event!

The Network received £1,288 in income during the year - network subs and YDL and event fees. It paid out £755; £425 related to costs of the YDL competition, £330 were costs of coaching, training and officials events

The Photo Finish Equipment activity had another successful year; £7,775 in hire charges was invoiced £1,490 was spent on replacement radio transmitter and repair of the original and calibration of the equipment. £1,475 was spent on operating costs. Funds of £14,538 are carried forward

We made our first grant of £200 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 - and £450 was transferred in the year in respect of 2015/16 surpluses. The fund balance stands at £500.

Total income in the year was £19,784

Main sources of income (in addition to the detailed analysis of activity, below):

Hire of Photo-Finish Equipment £7,775

LAN income £1,288 (various sources-see breakdown on financial statement)

Affiliations £614

Bucks AA - share of CC £574

Sales of Vests, polo shirts and fleeces £181

Commission on T shirt Sales at the County Championships £806

Grant from England Athletics for the County Championships £500

Main Costs

Medals and Trophies purchased £ 1,732

Officials Fleeces, Vests and Crop tops £656

Officers claimed no expenses, £150 was spent on room hire

LAN Expenditure, as breakdown on Financial Statement £755

Photo-Finish Equipment £2,965

Track and Field

Entry fees for the championship and open events totalled £3,649

The cost of hosting the event at Horspath totalled £1,972, including track hire, officials costs, medical costs

£574 was billed to Bucks, net of share of commission on T Shirt Sales

Entries to and travel paid for our athletes and officials attending i/c events came to £155

Sportshall

Income from Entry fees and affiliations was £2,206

Costs of staging the events and entry to the UK Championships was £2,019

Cross Country

Championship entry fees totalled £1,062.

Costs of holding the event totalled £1,195

Travel costs and entry fees for inter-county events cost £953

Road Running

13 Clubs entered the Grand Prix for the 2017 season. Entry fees received of £195

Trophies for last season cost £342

Road Relay entry fees were £475, cost of the event £480

KW asked that clubs please promote the bursary. It is there to be used. She will send JB updated information to put on the website. **ACTION: KW**

KW gave notice that she wishes to stand down as treasurer but will stay on to make sure there is an effective handover. JS asked that clubs circulate this and ask for volunteers. Anyone wanting more information should contact KW.

DS proposed that the account be accepted; JS seconded.

7. Track & Field Task Group –

a) Inter County Meetings –

County teams took part in the various age group events of SEAA for track and field competitions; but these are not well supported by all athletes. 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 less than might have been expected.

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.

Do we send teams to the U15 and U20 events in the future?

b) County Championships 2017 –

JS thanked the officials and volunteers who had helped make the event a success.

County Championships for 2018 will be held on the 12 and 13 May, with the Varsity on the 19 May. OCAC now favour ERT from Henley for First Aid, which will increase the cost of the event. It is planned to condense the programme for 2018:

- Reduce the U13/U15 long jump / javelin numbers by raising the minimum standard.
- Programme will run for 8 hours each day and no longer. This will mean reducing the large numbers of entries in the U13 field events by holding preliminaries on the Wednesday evening with the finals at the weekend.

It has been raised that the minimum standard seen on field doesn't always correlate with that declared on the entry forms. This needs communicating to clubs and coaches to ensure more consistency.

The Open Track entry system will be used again.

Facilities - An upgrade is planned for Horspath and there are issues with under investment in the facilities at Tilsley which has been raised with the new manager, Andy Prendergast. JS suggested requesting an inspection by England Athletics. Abingdon School has also been approached and may pull out of competition there.

Banbury also report a continuing battle with the local council to maintain facilities.
It was agreed to keep pressure going at both club and county level.

c) **Officials** – AV reported –

- Oxfordshire database. As of this month, Oxfordshire now has 112 active officials. 9 of these are Endurance only (no change), with 25 total in Endurance. There are therefore 103 qualified (or trainee) registered Track & Field officials. This represents a small decrease from the previous year's figures. Further good news is that the past year has seen 14 new Level 1 qualifications in the County, 11 of them in Field. Additionally, 4 upgrading to Level 2 and one to Level 3.
- SEAOA Conference. The Conference and AGM are taking place on Sunday 19 November in Barnet, North London. All details are on the SEAOA Website, and attendance is free for members or a nominal charge for non-members.
- Record of experience form. I have over for over 40 Level 2 & 3 Track & Field officials for last season, compared with just under 30 last year. I would still be happy to receive others that have missed the formal deadline.
- Education courses. Once again, we had to cancel courses due to low take-up, on this occasion a Health & Safety module and a Level 1 Photofinish course. We hope to hold L1 courses next spring.
- 2018 season. All clubs are invited to send details of their home track & field fixtures for the 2018 season to Alan Vincent ASAP.

A plea for scheduling – there are issues when there are 2 county events on the same day! It is difficult to cover both. It was proposed that a calendar on the county website may be useful. To be considered at next meeting.

Photofinish

- Our joint county system was used on 36 days this year, our second largest number, though two days less than in 2016.
- As noted last year, we will struggle to sustain this level of commitment, unless we can recruit one or two additional operators.

JS thanked all team managers and officials.

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

a) **Cross Country** –

Team managers are needed for the December IC and the CAU in March. The county can't send junior teams if there are no volunteers for these roles.

The first Oxford Mail League fixture is Sunday 5th at Newbury. There is currently no venue for December – which has implications for the junior inter-county teams – only Nov, Jan, local cross-country team event at Horspath on 10 December. It will need events outside of Oxfordshire for team selection. It was agreed to select teams on the basis of events held.

b) **Road** – WA was unable to attend but sent his report –

39 road race licences will have been issued by the end of this year; one less than last year. We lost the Candleford Canter 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, I have been able to sort out problems with applications where they occurred. Race organisers should let me know if the system doesn't issue their licence the same day. I 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. One new issue arose recently when the Abingdon Marathon organisers were asked to put in anti-terrorist precautions at the last minute. Something else for race organisers to be aware of, I'm afraid.

The Grand Prix team competitions have been tighter than usual this year with Headington and Eynsham fighting it out for both men's and women's trophies. With one fixture, the Eynsham 10k, remaining, Headington have secured the men's trophy, but not the women's. The AGM last year approved the purchase of trophies for the second and third teams, which were well received.

Finally, I would like to thank Paul Thomas for his many years coordinating the provision of officials for road and cross-country events in the county, taking on much of the officiating himself. He will be much missed.

The Road Race AGM will take place on Friday 24th November at Exeter Hall. Everyone welcome.

c) **Officials** – PT reported –

Since the last meeting there have been six events. Of these - four have required Timekeepers/Recorders to be supplied. This is a higher percentage than normal in 2017 where apart from XC and the Moto-vation back-up only 10 events in total require manual recording officials.

This will be my last report as I am standing down at this meeting as the Endurance Officials Secretary. I would like to thank everybody over the last few years that have made my job so much easier than it could have been - especially race organisers and the local officials themselves.

As stated in my previous report I have circulated the availability list to officials for the Winter 2017/18 and have asked them if they would be willing to have their email circulated to race organisers who still require officials if this committee decides the job has become marginal now that chip timing is so ubiquitous. Direct contact between the race organiser and officials is commonplace in other counties.

However if the Committee decide the job should continue then of course that action would not be needed. I of course would be happy to work with any new incumbent over a short period to assist them.

It was agreed that the role should be kept vacant and the process going forward operate at PT suggested. This will be reviewed before next year's AGM. PT will inform WA for communication at the Road Race AGM. **ACTION: PT**

JS thanked both PT and WA for their work.

9. **Election of Officers and General Committee for 2017/18** –

President	Eileen Kear
Life-Vice Presidents	Alan Corfield
	Eileen Kear
	Jill Slatter
	Alan Vincent (Could clubs please submit suggestions for any new VP's to JS)
Chairman look for volunteers)	John Sear (this will be JS last year – would clubs please communicate and
Vice Chairman	Will Atkinson
Secretary	Lyn Hopkins
Treasurer	Kate Worrall (until new treasurer appointed)
Officials Secretary T&F	Alan Vincent
Officials Secretary Road	Vacant – keep under review
Website	Joe Bibby
Road Race Co-ordinator	Will Atkinson
X-C Champs Co-ordinator	John Sear
Track & Field Co-ordinator	Vacant to be decided at a later date – clubs please communicate and look for a volunteer
Schools Rep	Joe Bibby/Alan Vincent / John Sear will cover
Welfare Officer	Miranda Cook
General Committee	Andrew Garner
	Dene Stringfellow
	David Martin
	Gary Warland
Non committee Roles:	
Sportshall Co-ordinators	Clyde Goodwin/Mike Miles/Ann Workman

All agreed by the AGM attendees' enbloc.

10. **Provisional date for the AGM 2018** – 2nd November 2018

11. **Date of the first Committee Meetings 2017/2018** – 9th February 2018, 13th April 2018. Both at Exeter Hall, Kidlington.

12. **A.O.B.** –

- a) **Road Relays** – this is now not an Oxfordshire event, so no county medals / plaques will be needed. It was agreed to discuss what should be awarded instead at the next committee meeting.

In addition; is there a volunteer club to host in 2019?

The date of the 2018 Road Relays to be decided – NB to check availability with the rugby club.

To be added to agenda. **ACTION: LH/JS**

- b) Clubs asked to help with junior athletes at Cross Country. 2 names of people to team managers.
- c) TL thanked clubs and athletes for their support of the Motavation Series this summer.
- d) Didcot Running Club raised a query regarding the Grand Prix – suggested this be directed at WA.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.

DATE OF FIRST COMMITTEE MEETING – 9th February 2018 at 7.30pm at Exeter Hall, Kidlington.