

Oxfordshire Athletics Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting which took place on Friday 24 October 2025 at 7:30pm via Zoom.

Present Will Atkinson (HRR, Chair), Hugh Morris (Eynsham, Treasurer), Annie Fernandez-Jones (Radley, Secretary), Alan Vincent (Banbury,) Emma Gould (Bicester, XC Rep) James Charles (Banbury), Paul Groves (Bicester AC), Kit Villiers (Headington), Steve Thomas (Thame Runners)

1.Apologies Claire Lacey (Radley), Jackie Breslin (Radley),

2.Minutes of the previous AGM held in 2024. Agreed as a true record

3.Matters arising: Webmaster WA, AV & HM all have access to and can update the website. WA to draft a job description for a volunteer webmaster – this is ongoing. Calendar is now on the website but they are separate. WA & AF-J to look at a combined calendar.

4. Report from the Chair (WA):

In this year's report I thought I would concentrate on an important area that we have, perhaps, neglected in the past, but where we are becoming increasingly successful. When I first started competing locally in the 1980s it was very hard to understand or find out about what Oxfordshire AA did for athletics in the county. I think it would be a very different story if I was coming into athletics today. First of all, thanks to Joe Bibby, who designed and created it, we have, for many years now, had a professional looking website with good up-to-date information on almost all aspects of our sport. All the information you need about us is there, but perhaps not in the most friendly and attractive format. For the last 4 years the information on the website has been supplemented by our increasingly lively Facebook page. After a slow start, when the page was dominated by my posts about the Road Race GP it has become a vital resource for anyone following any aspect of athletics in Oxfordshire. In the 12 months since the last AGM there have been 101 posts split almost equally between XC, T&F and Road. The posts have included emergency notifications of event cancellations, entry dates and deadlines, coaching sessions and celebrations of the successes of our athletes and teams.

These posts have a real audience, with over 70,000 views in the past year. One recent highlight was Kay's post, earlier this month, about the Oxfordshire winners in the EA Volunteer awards which has had 2,300 views.

So, many thanks to those of you who have been posting to the website and Facebook page, especially to Annie who is responsible for about half the posts. I would encourage you all to think of sending in your news so it can be broadcast to our wide audience. Finally, if any of you know anything about TikTok and how we could use it to reach out junior athletes, please let me know.

5.Communications Task Group -

a) Secretary's report.

I'd like to start by thanking the committee for being so supportive during my term so far as Secretary of the Association. I would like to reaffirm my commitment to making Oxon AA an inclusive association for athletics in the County. I will do my best to circulate and promote Cross country activities, road races, trail races, fell running events, Sportshall, track, field and track & field events.

I will continue to direct any requests for surveys, sponsorship and product endorsement to the Website where they can find details of all of the clubs and also point to our social media pages where they can post – this ensures that as a county organisation we remain unbiased.

Please do continue to use the Facebook page to share successes, celebrate achievements in athletics. Events you would like us to promote I'm happy to do so via email to the secretary, or by sharing on social media. Please continue to update us with club contacts, I'm happy to send updates to more than one person at the club if appropriate any ideas please contact the Secretary or Chair; it doesn't need to wait for a committee meeting to raise new ideas.

b) England Athletics/UKA matters to report.

The major point affecting the clubs is probably the change in the age groups and the transition towards full implementation, still not fully sorted. Monitoring and implementation of the 8-hour competition rule is also a significant aspect for our senior officials in particular. Webinars from EA continue to be held regularly on these groups and attendance is encouraged for all our athletes, parents, coaches and officials.

c) School's Report

The year began very well when we had an individual winner at the JB ESAA X/C: Leo Blyton (Bicester). The County Schools T&F meeting was held on 14 June. It was generally successful and enhanced by having Photo Finish for the first time. However, the standard of competition was not great and there is perhaps a question mark over the usefulness of this event. There was also an unfortunate incident with a coach objecting to officials' decisions but not observing the process laid down within the rules. This was later resolved, but it is hoped that action can be taken to avoid any similar incidents in the future. The Oxfordshire team performed exceptionally well at the ESAA Track & Field Championships at Birmingham on 11/12 July. The team took five individual medals including two Gold, one Silver and two Bronze and three athletes went on to represent England in the Home Countries International for the Inters category.

Individual achievements were reported at Committee meetings during the year. Divine Theme won the IB 100m in a new record time, while Isla McGowan won this 1500m. where Divine again won the 100m in a record time. Three athletes wanton to represent England in the SIAB event (the Home Schools International event for the Inter age group).

At the Regional Schools' Combined Events meeting, Oxfordshire teams finished 3rd in both the IG Heptathlon and the IB Octathlon. Elysia Chilvers was 2nd individual in the IG Heptathlon and Lola Williams 2nd in the JG Pentathlon. Nationals full team qualified or nearly 5 medals, 3 athletes at Schools International Bisan, Divine & Isla.

d) **Website and social media.**

The Facebook page continues to see great engagement, and I encourage athletes, coaches, officials and clubs to share successes, photos and videos with us. 90 days prior to the AGM saw 20,746 views up 28 from the previous period. 311 interactions from 323 followers. Activity is usually cross posted to Instagram and we are looking into a TikTok account as we continue to engage with our members. We are increasingly moving to sharing content on the website rather than emailing messages to clubs so we encourage bookmarking this a source of information.

6.Officers Task Group -

- a. **Treasurer's Report** –Thanks to Mike Shipway for our audited accounts. Full report, breakdown and the accounts can be found on the website.
- b. After a discussion it was agreed that the treasurer should investigate a high-interest deposit account for funds that are not required for immediate access.
- c. EG brought up the issue of our informal policy that each branch of the sport, T&F, XC and Road should try to cover its own costs. It was pointed out that XC had a particular problem in raising funds because the county championship was hosted by the league, so there were constraints on the entry fees. After some discussion, it was agreed that, while the balance between the different branches of the sport was a valid concern for the treasurer, it should not prevent the county from continuing to invest in areas where it could do most good.

7.Track & Field Task Group

- a) Fixtures 2025 – nothing to report yet. Fixtures will be published on the website when known.
- b) Officials. As at 1 October Oxfordshire had 110 active officials (compared with 107 in 2024). During the year there were 22 new L1s (27 in 2024); 5 new L2s (8 in 2024); no new L3s or 4s this year. 14 officials were de-activated over the year. We need to do more on encouraging upgrading, as well as further recruitment. A has announced that officials renewing their licence will now be required to complete a DBS and the new free Mandatory Online Training module consisting of Health and Safety, and Safeguarding sections. All officials are reminded of the need to complete the annual

Record of Achievement. For Levels 1 & 2, this should be sent to AV as the COFSec.

- c) Coaching in the County. JC is organising a session at Banbury; expressions of interest have been sent to all clubs.
- d) County Championships. The Joint Bucks & Oxon Championships on 11 & 12 May 2025, at Horspath Road again went well, including seven new Championships records. The review meeting did throw up concerns about the relatively low numbers of officials in some areas. We have done some statistical work on this problem and are following up further.
- e) Inter Counties Meetings Thanks to the work put in by James Charles, supported by other T&F Group, we were able to put out teams for the SEAA Inter Counties meetings at Horspath Road on 13/14 September. These meetings continue to be relatively poorly supported and a meeting has been called, to take place in London on 15 September to discuss the future of the meetings. I propose that we should send one representative at least to that meeting.

8. Road & Cross-Country Task Group –

- a) Cross Country – Report from Emma Gould. Clubs within the county take part in a number of cross-country leagues with much success. To those of you involved in the running of these leagues thank you for offering such opportunities for Oxfordshire athletes. I'd also like to thank all the officials from within the county that have been at not only league events but also further afield. Without you there would be no events.

Thank you to Ros Kelling of Banbury Harriers for the hugely popular county cross country training held at different venues within the county. Thank you to any clubs that offered a venue.

The county xc championships was another successful event held jointly with round 3 of the Oxon league. Thank you to all involved in the running of this event.

The county had athletes taking part in the BBO event, the Nationals at Parliament Hill, and the SEAA main xc championships. Well, done to all involved.

Ros team managed and selected teams for the SEAA event in December, unfortunately a repeat of the previous year happened and the event was cancelled as the team was travelling to the event.

Ros also selected the teams for the InterCounties event in March. Notable performances were a win in the ladies' race by Jess Gibbons, a 2nd from Isla McGowan in her race, and a best team performance of 6th for the u13 boys. Thank you to Ros for all her work in the role of team manager.

Other notable selections this year are Jess Gibbons, Oliver Conway and Quinn Miell-

Ingram being selected for GB for the European xc event in Turkey. Isla McGowan selected to represent England for the Elgoibar cross country in Spain. Isla and Quinn were selected for England to run in the Energy Vision xc cup in Belgium. And Isla, Jess and Quinn were selected for England to run in the Home Counties International.

Many of the county's athletes ran at the English Schools xc. Congratulations to Leo Blyton who won the junior boy's race and went on to run for England in the schools international xc in Falkirk securing a silver medal.

I think these results and selections speak for themselves to show what a strong position the county cross country section is in. Numbers taking part in the leagues also show how popular cross country is. It is inclusive and encompasses all the age groups. I have been involved in cross country at Bicester AC for 18 years and this past season was probably one of the most successful I have known.

As I leave my post as OAA cross country co-ordinator, I remain hopeful that cross country will only become more successful in the county. I hope OAA supports athlete development and encouragement, and invests properly so all athletes and areas of the county feels valued. This is particularly important for the juniors as without them we don't have our senior athletes. Cross country also aids performances on the road and the track, providing important strength training during the winter months. Many of the athletes in the county take part in all aspects of athletic competition and I wish them all the best for the coming season.

Lengthy discussion regarding funds for County activities particularly relating to coach hire for the XC events which are out of County. Decided funds will be available subsidised by the T&F County Championships. To be reviewed in 2026.

- b) Road. By the end of the year, we should have had over 35 licenced races in the county. A couple of races did not take place during the year. Sadly, Cherwell Runners have cancelled the Hornton 6 for the foreseeable future because they have not had the numbers to make it viable. And the Hanney 5 seems to be cursed, with the race cancelled for the third year running. This time because of road works.

So far, we have held two of the three county championships for the year. The short course championship was successfully hosted by the Goring 10k again. Results are not yet finalised for last week's Abingdon Marathon, but we do know the county champions were Katherine Jones and Matt Lock, who is current champions at all three distances. Congratulations to Abingdon who for being awarded the England and Wales Masters champions. The final county event, the Long Course championship should have been held earlier this month at the Woodstock 12, but has been postponed to November because of storm Amy. All our county endurance events are now using women's masters categories going up in decades from w40.

I seem to say this every year, but we are still looking to reinstate the popular county road relays which haven't been held since 2019. Various people have investigated courses, but with no success so far.

The Road Race Grand Prix has been very closely contested among the men's teams this year. As the person who will have to announce the winner at the Eynsham 10k in November, I'm hoping the maths won't be too difficult on the day. I have heard a comment that the GP encourages people to compete too much and I will be consulting at the Road AGM on whether we should reduce the number of qualifying races.

The Road Race AGM will take place via Zoom on Friday, 28th November. The calling notices have been sent out. Let me know if you haven't received one and want to come

9. Election of Officers and General Committee for 2025/26

President Jill Slatter

Life Vice-Presidents John Sear and Alan Vincent

Chair Will Atkinson. Alan Proposed James Seconded

Vice Chair Claire Lacey. Alan Proposed and James seconded

Treasurer Hugh Morris. Alan Proposed and James seconded

Secretary Annie Fernandez Jones. Alan Proposed and James seconded

Officials Secretary Alan Vincent. Will Proposed and James seconded

Road Racing Will Atkinson. Alan Proposed and James seconded

Cross-Country vacancy. KV may be interested WA to discuss

School's rep Alan Vincent. Alan Proposed and James seconded

T&F Jackie Breslin. Alan Proposed and Will seconded

T&F James Charles. Alan Proposed and Will seconded

T&F Kay Reynolds. Will proposed and James seconded

General committee – Andrew Garner - Alan Proposed and James seconded (AF-J to confirm he still wishes to stand)

Welfare Officer John Sear is named contact. WA will approach and enquire if he wishes to continue

Webmaster vacancy

10. Proposed dates of Committee meetings

30th January 2026

10th April 2026

3rd July 2026

25th September 2026

23rd October 2026 - AGM