

OXFORDSHIRE AA

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON ZOOM 13TH NOVEMBER 2020

Present – Will Atkinson, Lyn Hopkins, Hugh Morris, Doug Scott, Mike Shipway, Claire Lacey, Kay Reynolds, Alan Vincent, Daniel Bremner, Joe Bibby, Kit Villiers, Jackie Breslin, Noel Blatchford and Andrew Garner.

1. **Apologies** – Neil Preddy, Miranda Cook, Dene Stringfellow and James Charles.
2. **Minutes of the previous AGM held November 2019** – Agreed to be a true record of the meeting held. Proposed by CL and seconded by AV.
3. **Matters Arising from the 2019 AGM** – There were no matters arising, no action points.
4. **Chairman's Report** – WA reported

WA said he had been on the OAA Committee long enough that this is the second time he has seen club training seriously disrupted and lots of events cancelled because of a disease epidemic. But last time it was the 2001 epidemic of Foot and Mouth disease. As you all know Covid crisis has been a lot worse.

Some athletics took place before the lockdown on 23rd March. The XC County Championships took place at Adderbury in January and the Oxfordshire XC League was completed just in time. WA said he remembered after the prize giving whether he should have shaken quite so many hands. Sportshall also had a full season.

Since March clubs have struggled to provide activities for their members, but he has been impressed with their ingenuity. A quick tour of their websites yielded a virtual road race league at Witney, a virtual Time Trial series at Headington, home training sessions for all age groups at Bicester, and a virtual T&F Championships at Oxford City, which featured the two-footed toilet roll jump. And almost all clubs managed to arrange safe, socially-distanced sessions between the lockdowns. Lots of Oxfordshire athletes took part in the virtual London Marathon in October, but he was a bit startled to see that one 'athlete' had taken over 11 hours.

Sadly, Alan Corfield died in February. He served both Oxfordshire and Middlesex athletics for the best part of 50 years as an official and treasurer. He mentored WA into timekeeping and was an amiable companion on some freezing winter afternoons. On a happier note Jill Slatter, founder member of Radley AC, and for many years a coach and official was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Finally, WA wanted to thank Lyn Hopkins for everything she has done for the Committee as Secretary. WA thought she might have seen 4 different chairs in her time on the Committee and many of us have cause to be grateful for her attempts (some of them successful) to keep the meetings short. Her efficiency as secretary goes without saying, but what WA most appreciated is her unflappability and good humour, thank you Lyn.

5. **Correspondence received since September Committee Meeting**
 - a) **SEAA/EA/UKA/OAA** –
 - EA AGM to be held virtually on 10th October 2020.
 - EA – Club Support latest – guidance for all outdoor competitions for athletics has not changed. Indoor activity for Under 18's can take place with larger numbers in a Covid-secure environment. Indoor training for athletes over the age of 18 is restricted to groups of 6 (1 coach to 5 athletes). Over the next few weeks, they will be running webinars focusing on general changes to activity guidance and how these may affect clubs, and also a specific webinar focusing on the Cross-Country

guidance which will also include details of the latest Cross-Country Pilots.

- EA Board statement – several communications have been circulated by individuals who have strong views about our sport. A reminder that there is no room for personal attacks on individuals and for circulating offensive, misleading and inaccurate information.
- EA – Club Support – 14th October 2020 – decision being made on the Volunteer Awards. Changes to indoor running, Webinars and Training opportunities. Time to Listen courses to be held via Zoom.
- Club Support – 21st October 2020 – Further updates to our return to activity guidance, Coach & Leader education plans for autumn / winter, Sport England Return to Play Fund.

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

Regional Council meetings have been online during the CoronaVirus period. We have seen considerable downsizing of the EA support staff. We lost Tania Spurling, but retain Amy Frith as our Club Support Manager, but she has a very large region to cover. Joanna Coates, the new CEO at UKA, addressed the virtual EA Whole Council Conference last month, when she outlined the organisation's plan through to 2032. Personally, AV welcomes the new set of aims, with more emphasis on depth and an all-event approach rather than medals at elite level, as well as on participation generally.

AV said that he will be standing down from the EA Regional Council next spring, but he is hopeful that we will retain Oxfordshire representation.

c) **Local Athletics Network** – KR reported –

This will be the last time this will appear on the agenda, as the LAN has now been wound-up. KR said that there were talks about a year ago as to whether we should continue with increasing difficulties with organising activities as well as own club events. The decision was made to dissolve the Network, it has now been finalised and funds have been distributed to clubs and the Oxon AA.

WA gave thanks to Kay for her work with the LAN and for keeping it going.

d) **Website** – JB reported –

It has been a quiet year and a small amount has been contributed, JB thanked those that had sent him items for inclusion.

New site going live soon, it can be previewed, it will work the same as the old one. When it is up and running a mailing list to be set up. JB has copied the content over, all asked to keep an eye on and let JB know if anything is out of date.

AV had received a list of clubs in the County, he will check and send to DB/LH/JB. LH had recently emailed all her club contacts for up to date details, only received about one third back. **ACTION** – AV

JB suggested that maybe each group/person could be responsible for the update of their own section on the website. Liaise with JB for logging in details.

e) **School's Report** – JB and AV said there was nothing to report as nothing was taking place at the moment.

6. **Treasurer's Report** – HM reported –

HM had sent out the audited accounts for the financial year by email. The accounts have obviously been impacted by Covid 19. HM thanked Mike Shipway for reviewing the accounts.

General Accounts (Unconditional) –

Overall, the Unconditional Accounts has a surplus of £1,048.38 for the financial year.

This is mainly due to –

- A surplus on the XC, more entrants that modelled for.
- A bigger surplus on the Sportshall due to curtailment of the later events.

- The affiliation fees and Grand Prix fees paid in 2020.

Some pertinent comments are reported –

Affiliation – 22 clubs affiliated last year.

Road Racing – Grand Prix – 12 clubs paid the annual fee request, events curtailed.

Road Relays – not held, small loss due to medal costs.

Track & Field – Not held, small loss due to medal costs.

Cross Country Championships – Held January 2020, surplus £448, as indicated entrants exceeded costing model and many of those did not run.

Sportshall – Curtailed after Round 4, no Regional Final or costs, so surplus of £661. One venue hire remains to be invoiced.

Medals – We purchased this year’s medal and medal centre stock, and a few shields. All the 2020 unused medal centres will need to be replaced for 2021 or 2022 when events restart.

Clothing – No restocking of kit occurred in 2020, but will be needed in 2020/21 for both runners and Official’s kit.

Conditional Accounts –

Photo Finish – Activities curtailed over year so income and costs down, some of the income in this year’s accounts was for 2019, so the surplus has increased by £397.

EA Tech Grant – No activity in the year.

Barrie Strange Fund – One grant was made earlier in the year.

LAN – The LAN has been wound-up and the reserves distributed according to the LAN’s instructions. Part of that gave Oxon AA £1,000 for local training initiatives, so this reserve is now reformed in that light.

MS complimented HM on very good accounts and in good order, it did not take him long to audit.

To finish HM said that at the last meeting it was agreed that the Grand Prix fees would be carried over to 2021.

It was agreed at the AGM that the Affiliation fees to the OAA would also be carried over to 2021, as it was not felt appropriate to ask clubs to pay when no activity had taken place in 2020. HM will write to clubs to let them know.

ACTION – HM

HM – Daniel Bremner as the new secretary of the Oxon AA to be a new signatory on the bank account to replace Lyn Hopkins who has stood down from the Committee.

7. **Expenses** – HM reported –

HM presented a draft proposal for ratification at the AGM as nothing had previously been annotated. Now we have a Policy put together, reimbursement of expenses for eligible persons representing or acting on the association’s behalf. These rules are to compensate for limited out of pocket expenses. Who can claim and for what? This will make it simpler for claimants to follow. HM had attached a copy of the proposal along with the accounts previously emailed out to the Committee.

Proposed by HM and seconded by WA.

There being no objections, the proposal has been agreed.

8. **Track & Field** -

a) **Fixtures 2020** –

JBR reported that not a lot had taken place in the County this year. The Track and Field Sub-Committee agreed that as no tracks were able to hold meetings that we could not hold any Track and Field events, therefore all were cancelled.

Some clubs individually held training, and some competitions outside area took place and some athletes from Oxfordshire took part in some of these events.

We do not know going forward what will happen and if anything will be able to take place.

KR asked if we should start some early planning for 2021 to give clubs an idea of what may happen? Whether we anticipate running events normally or in a different way. WA asked if it would help talking to the tracks?

JB said that the majority of events taking place were by clubs who owned the tracks, but around Oxfordshire most were owned by the Council or privately run. Horspath track is run by Richard and therefore probably easier to run an event there. Possibly an officials meeting should be held to discuss who is available and who is prepared to help.

b) **Officials** – AV reported –

Oxfordshire database – Oxfordshire is now down to 112 technically active officials (8% down on last year's figures). 7 of these are Endurance only (no change), with 16 total in Endurance (excluding those who remain on file, but who have chosen not to renew their qualification online). There are 92 qualified registered Track & Field officials and 12 on trainee or assistant status. Despite the very limited activity, the past year has seen 2 new Level 1 qualifications in the County, plus 2 significant upgradings – Andrew Clough is now a Level 4 Race Walk Judge, while Kay Reynolds is a Level 4P (in Track & Field, Level 4 is initially awarded on a provisional basis, with all candidates serving a two-year period before their new status can be confirmed).

SEAOA Conference – The Conference and AGM are taking place 'virtually' on Sunday 22nd November. All details are on the SEAOA Website.

Record of Experience Form – in the context of this CoronaVirus period, submission of the Record of Experience has been deferred for a year.

Athletics Award – Many will be aware that the last Queen's Honours list included a well-deserved British Empire Medal to Jill Slatter, one of our Life-Vice Presidents, for Services to Athletics and the community in Oxfordshire.

Officials' meeting – We are floating the idea of holding a virtual meeting for Oxfordshire official's, perhaps before the end of the year.

Photofinish – Due to CoronaVirus cancellations (24!), our joint County system was used on only five occasions this year.

9. **Cross Country** – DS was unable to attend the meeting and had sent in his apologies. WA has been in touch with DS and he very reluctant to hold any events.

Some events are taking place with runners being set off in small groups, with social distancing, but the events are too long time wise being run this way, thus making them impractical.

KR said that obviously DS is keen to run events as usual, but we do need to look at running them differently to be able to hold, because at the moment they are mainly unable to take place.

Suggestion of maybe certain age groups on one day and another age group another day, we do need to look at particularly with regard to social distancing, as a lot of people are being careless. WA would like to observe an event where it works well and then discuss with DS.

It was stated that the Chiltern League are hoping to run an event in the new year.

DB said that the Dorney Lake and Newbury 5k were set off in waves, it was well run, also a race series in Rickmansworth, athletes running in time slots and set off in groups of 6 with chip timing. Similar at Newbury as well, but it was carnage although athletes were happy to be racing again.

AV said that at Milton Keynes the Council have put in a complaint as the event was run in an open park where other users were.

It was suggested that Newbury Showground is not open to the public and could work well

KR suggested that we investigate how to organise a XC, WA agreed investigation needed. DB to send details of Rickmansworth event to WA. **ACTION** – DB

10. **Road** – WA reported –

Only 3 licenced road races took place in Oxfordshire this year, two of them on the 15th March, just a week before lockdown.

None of the County Championship races took place. The Road Relays were in doubt even before the Covid crisis made them impossible because Abingdon found it impossible to get a firm date from the Rugby Club where the event was hosted. WA thanked Didcot Runners who were looking seriously at hosting the event before the pandemic intervened. We need to find a new host club for next year.

Only one Grand Prix race, the Banbury 15 has taken place this year, so the competition has been suspended until next year. This year's entry money will also be held over to next year.

WA does not intend to hold a Road Race AGM this year, but will suggest to clubs that the races selected to host the County Championship events this year should be the hosts in 2021. They are the Eynsham 10k, the White Horse Half and the Abingdon Marathon.

AG mentioned that only one Race Walk event had taken place on a cycle track at Gravesend, 2 1/2K, not many there, it would not have worked if a lot of participants.

11. **Election of Officers and General Committee for 2020/21** –

President	Eileen Kear
Life Vice- Presidents	Eileen Kear
	Jill Slatter
	Alan Vincent

WA suggested that it would be lovely to ask John Sear if he would be prepared to stand as a Life Vice-President, all agreed, WA to ask him. **ACTION** - WA

Chairman	Will Atkinson
Vice Chairman	Claire Lacey
Secretary	Daniel Bremner
Treasurer	Hugh Morris

Officials Secretary (T&F) Alan Vincent

Website Joe Bibby

Road Race Co-ordinator Will Atkinson

XC Champs Co-ordinator Dene Stringfellow assisted by John Sear – entries to be co-ordinated by DS

T&F Sub-Committee	Kay Reynolds
	Jackie Breslin
	James Charles
	Claire Lacey

Schools Reps	Alan Vincent
	John Sear
	Joe Bibby

Welfare Officer Vacant

General Committee	Andrew Garner
	Dene Stringfellow
	Dave Martin
	Gary Warland

Press and Publicity and Newsletter A lot harder to get items in the press now, used to be big spreads.
If we keep as much information on the website for clubs to see. If anyone wants to hold this post, we would not say no.

Non-Committee Roles –

Sportshall Co-ordinators Clive Goodwin
Ann Workman
Mike Miles

All were confirmed on bloc.

12. **Proposed date for the AGM 2021** – a provisional date has been set for 12th November 2021, to be confirmed.
13. **Date of the first Committee Meeting** – the first meeting would normally be scheduled for January, but it was agreed that an interim meeting could be called if necessary.
Dates for committee meetings 2020/21 to be discussed by Officers and then sent out to all.
14. **A.O.B.** –
 - a) HM – he will apply for a debit card to be able to make payments online, all agreed a good idea. **ACTION** - HM
 - b) Welfare Officer – thanks to Miranda Cook who has been the Welfare Officer for the County but has now decided to stand down. We do need a replacement, WA to draw up a job description, there are EA courses for this position and we could ask other counties what their role comprises of. **ACTION** – WA

Meeting closed at 8.57pm.