



Oxfordshire Athletics Association

Minutes from the committee meeting which took place on Zoom. Friday 30 Jan 2026

Present: Will Atkinson (HRR, Chair), Hugh Morris (Clare Lacey (T&F and Radley), Jackie Breslin (T&F and Radley), Alan Vincent (T&F and Banbury), James Charles (Banbury), Paul Groves (Bicester), Emma Gould (Bicester), Kit Villiers (Headington & XC).

1. **Apologies:** Paul Groves (Bicester), Andrew Garner (Abingdon)
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting.** Agreed as a true record
3. **Matters arising**
Calendar combining road, XC & T&F – WA continuing to explore this.
4. **Communications Task Group -**
 - a. *Secretary's report and correspondence received.*
SEAA Outdoor dates and venues
SEAA Indoor Track & Field prospectus
Request for independent athlete / guest to compete in Sportshall
Royal Mail – loose medal found in the post
OUAC Request for Officials
Coaching Course – Banbury Sunday 22 February 2026
Request for a County Championship for U12's and / or all Quadkids
Level 1 Field Officials Course – Horspath 15 March 2026
Portaloo hire up to 50% discount (not circulated)
Request for Oxfordshire records
TCS London Mini-marathon
Inter-Counties Mountain Race 3rd May in Cumbria
Tilsley Park TrackMark 15 January 2026 – restricted events for competition
Level 1 Officials Courses in Racewalking, photofinish, timekeeping, track judging, field judging and starter/starter assistant at the Alexander Stadium – Saturday 11 April followed by an open competition (Birchfield Harriers)
Level 1 Officials Course timekeeping & track judging at Lee Valley weekend of 21 & 22 February followed by a BMAF competition
 - b. *Website and Facebook page*
Website problems following a software update were resolved with the help of Joe Bibby. WA posted entry criteria for schools XC at Cokethorpe.

Facebook - 385 followers. 7 days to yesterday 22,068 views Up 658% on December 2025. 1,527 engagement up 649% on December. Post on Ros's XC session 10% of those 2,258, XC County Champs 4,539.

c. *England Athletics/UKA matters to report.*

The last Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting was held on 15 January. Main points of potential interest:

1. Technical team appointments remain a problem at National level
2. Some progress has been made with the issue of Endurance upgrading
3. Improved cover of Para Athletics and Job King (Paralympic Pathway Manager at UKA) now a member of TAG
4. Review of UKA website now underway
5. Power of Ten has been fully maintained (all performances logged) during its period off-line.

d. *School's Report*

The Schools County X/C Championships were held on Tuesday 20 January at Cokethorpe School. Thanks to Emma for publicising Schools XC to independent athletes. Bicester athletes attended mainly supporting by parents who accompanied. Discussion around whether we should be actively promoting this in 2027. There was a strong contribution from eight Oxfordshire officials. There were 483 finishers across the six races (eight age-groups). Results on the County Website.

5. **Officers Task Group -**

a. *Treasurer's Report*

Accounts and financial statements on the website.

6. **Track & Field Task Group –**

a. *Officials Report from AV*

We've held two meetings of the T&F Group since October. I'll include the main items and subsequent outcomes in my CofSec and County Championships reports.

CofSecs will receive an update on 1 February, but at the beginning of the year Oxfordshire had 109 T&F Officials on the database. A few upgradings since AGM:

Tom Gould (who has dual affiliation with

Warwickshire) is now a 4P Field, Grace Curtis FJ2 and Theresa Lamble RWJ1). Three officials were de-activated, ie had their licences lapse, during the same period, including Daisy Gladstone and Jess Lacey.

A Summer fixture list was sent out, minus the Vets' League which is again late in being finalised. Response rate is rather low to date (Though marginally better than at the same stage last year), with 25 Officials making a return.

Kay Reynolds is running a practical Field course towards Level 1 at Horspath Road on 15 March and has contacted the clubs to promote this event, while I have contacted Officials to support its promotion. She is also planning an EDM play day prior to the T&F season.

b. *CofSec Report – nothing to report*

c. *Coaching in the County – contact Kay Reynolds hurdlerkay@btinternet.com*

15 March Level 1 Officials Course at Horspath

21 March EDM play day at Tilsley Park

d. County Championships

The Bucks & Oxon Joint Championships are being held on 9 & 10 May 2026, this year at the Stantonbury Track in Milton Keynes.

These Championships will be accommodating the new age groups, U14, U16 and U18, as well as U20s, Seniors and Masters. It is hoped to run an U12 Championship event, separate from the main Championships weekend, this time in Oxfordshire. We are also a little more advanced with our plans for the 'additional events', those that cannot always be accommodated in the main Championships weekend and are reasonably optimistic that we will be able to offer 3Ks, 5Ks, Steeplechases and a 3K Walk.

Official availability is at an early stage and there are some concerns about numbers for Stantonbury, but of the 25 Oxfordshire returns mentioned above, 20 are positive for Day 1 and 18 for Day 2. Nick Folwell (the Bucks COFSec) and I will be doing our best to greatly increase these numbers over the coming weeks.

7. Road & Cross-Country Task Group

a. Cross Country

'Dan Wymer (Witney) is standing down as League Manager of the Oxon XC League (OXL) for work reasons; Dan has been the manager for 3 years since taking over from Dene, and has served on the OXL committee for 7 years in total. Dan's last duty will be to chair the OXL AGM which is normally around June. Matthieu Marshall has put himself forward as a possible replacement. Matthieu is already on the OXL committee so they will need more members - they're short anyway.

The OXL lost its Swindon fixture, and the committee plus OCAC are to be congratulated in re-arranging the December round for Horspath at very short notice. This meant that the league ran twice at Horspath (the other occasion being the combined event with the county championships on 4 Jan) and indeed clubs which are also in the Chiltern League had the pleasure of running over the Shotover hills three times this season.

Also, on the OXL the new arrangement whereby clubs' B, C, D, etc., teams now run in the same division as their A team seems to be working well; it means the OXL has reverted to the original intention behind introducing Divisions 2 and 3 which was to give smaller clubs a chance of winning something.

The County XC Champs took place on 4 January in conjunction with Round 3 of the Oxfordshire League match at Shotover. There was a total of 482 entries of whom 363 ran. This is a little down on last year. Arrangements for the day worked well and the coloured wristbands meant that we were able award all the individual medals within a few minutes of the end of each race. WA will distribute the team medals at the Oxfordshire League fixture on Sunday. All the U9 and U11 competitors received certificates to mark their participation.

Selection letters for the inter-counties championship were handed out to the leading runners. The team managers, John and Jeanette Ashton for the seniors and Ros Kelling and Emma Gould for the juniors have been assembling teams.

b. Road Racing

Since our last committee meeting, the two remaining county championship events of 2025 were held, with the Long Course at Woodstock and the Marathon at Abingdon. Matt Lock and Katherine Jones both completed a clean sweep of the three road county championships of the year.

The Road Race AGM took place in November. One major change in the diary was the loss of the Banbury 15 which has been a fixture in the calendar for about 40 years.

The county championship races for 2026 were agreed as the Thame 10k for the short course, the Cotswold Classic 10 for the long course and the Abingdon Marathon.

There was a useful discussion on medical provision and chip timing. Ros and James from Banbury are looking seriously at a course for the Road Relays

The Grand Prix culminated in the Eynsham 10k when Witney's men won by one point from Headington. Headington, as is traditional, took the women's team prize while Banbury and Woodstock took the men and women's small team prizes. The individual winners were Matt Lock and Katherine Jones, of course.

Potential venue and date for the road relays Saturday 18 April @ Banbury

8. **A.O.B.**

The lack of a formal affiliation notice being sent to member clubs or a notice on the website / media outlets. Noted by the Secretary and this will be communicated more effectively for 2026/27. Added to the agenda.

The letter at the bottom of the clubs page states affiliations are due as of 1st October, however the fees would not be set until the AGM, surely affiliation should not be due until after the AGM? I.e. 1st November. What would happen if a club affiliated before the AGM and fees were increased at the AGM? Fees are set at the previous years AGM. Website will be update to reflect this

County Championship for U12 / QuadKids. This is planned tentatively for the end of May. More details to follow

Committee meetings 2026

10th April 2026

3rd July 2026

25th September 2026

23rd October 2026 - AGM