



Oxfordshire Athletics Association

Minutes from the committee meeting which took place on Zoom. Friday 3 July 2026

Present: Will Atkinson (HRR, Chair), Hugh Morris (Treasurer, Eynsham), Alan Vincent (T&F and Banbury), Paul Groves (Bicester), Emma Gould (Bicester), Kit Villiers (Headington & XC). Andrew Garner (Abingdon)

Before the meeting AV paid tribute to our President, Jill Slatter, who died recently. He highlighted her talent as a coach, particularly of hurdlers and her contribution as a track judge. She was a founder member of Radley Ladies and a very nice person. AV also mentioned the unexpected recent death of John Howe, a stalwart of Bucks athletics and a good friend of Oxfordshire athletics.

1. **Apologies:** Annie Fernandez-Jones (Secretary, Radley AC),
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting.**
WA apologised for the non-appearance of the April meeting. The minutes of the previous January meeting were agreed as a true record
3. **Matters arising**
Calendar combining road, XC & T&F – WA continuing to explore this.
WA reported that Power of 10 is back on line, but we can no longer link to it from our website to report the Oxfordshire results. He has emailed the organisers to ask for a solution.
4. **Communications Task Group -**
 - a. *Secretary's report and correspondence received.*
No correspondence reported
 - b. *Website and Facebook page*
WA reported that the Drupal software supporting the website has had to be patched several times recently. It is also due for a major version change before the end of the year. He will look for someone familiar with Drupal to share the duties of webmaster.
Our Facebook page has been great success with a lively following largely thanks to AF-J, who keeps up a stream of news about athletics in the county.
 - c. *England Athletics/UKA matters to report.*
The last Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting was held on 10 June. One new member. Main points of potential interest:

1. Technical management group aiming to put out standardised technical team materials for summer next year. Webinar later this year to showcase an example discipline, probably HJ.
2. Lot of work at UKA has been done on the records database
3. There was an update on the European championships and Commonwealth games, both due to be held in UK this year.
4. Rule book will be updatable every 6 months online

d. *School's Report*

We are taking a full team to the Birmingham National Championships. Following success as a minor county in previous years we are allowed 32 athletes instead of 25. The Regional Combined Events saw 8 Oxon athletes competing. Two finished 3rd in their events and qualify for the National Champs. Another two may qualify as wild cards.

5. **Officers Task Group -**

a. *Treasurer's Report*

Because we missed the April meeting, accounts and financial statements up to the end of March and up to the end of May are on the website. Cherwell have not renewed their affiliation. The new draft travel expenses policy has been posted on the website. It removes some ambiguities in who is eligible. Unless there are any objections it will be adopted on 1st August. A copy will go out with these minutes.

6. **Track & Field Task Group –**

a. *County Championships*

AV reported that the Bucks & Oxon T&F Championships were held on 9 & 10 May at the Stantonbury Track in Milton Keynes. It was a qualified success. Athlete participation was down substantially especially among Oxon athletes. Some suggestion that this has been observed at other meetings and may be down to the change in age groups. Support from the host club was not up to expected standards and we have reservations about returning there in future. Some additional events have also taken place, the flat 5000 and 3k walks were held at Banbury on 31st May.. The 3000 Steeple Chases are scheduled in the Midland League programme at Tilsley Park on August 29th. PG also reported on the Quad Kids U12 County Championships at Banbury, which received very good feedback.

AV has posted the consolidated championship best performances under the old age groups on the web site and is about to post the new age group records.

PG commented on the use of the Roster app for officials which had separate pages for the two count champs, making it very hard for officials in longer distances where the two championships were combined. He also pointed out that WiFi was very patchy, so Roster updating was delayed.

EG pointed out that the County Champs falls on the same weekend as the Town & Gown 10k and lots of schools enter their children in the junior 3k race. That may account for low entries in our event.

Road & Cross-Country Task Group

a. Cross Country

KV reported on the Oxon League AGM held this Monday. Dan Wymer stood down as League Manager and Matthieu Marshall took over as his replacement. Cirencester's application to rejoin the League was approved. They may be able to offer a venue in future and have a thriving junior section. The AGM also approved a change in the rules to allow the charging of car parking fees in the event that a venue provider required that. Venues pencilled in are Cornbury in November, Finmere in December, January at Horspath including the County Champs, Cotswold Fm Park in February and Henley Showground in March. Cornbury asking for a very large increase in fees to use that venue.

WA reported the position on the County XC Championship. Last year there was an email from the CAU secretary to county secretaries saying that the Inter-counties would be held in January 2027. That would have required us to hold our selection race in December or January. However, we have waited in vain for anything official to be posted about the date, so I emailed Joe Mower who said "As far as I know it is on the 13th March 2027 at Wolaton park. Nottingham". That's why we are aiming for Horspath in January for the County Champs.

EG reported on the Chiltern League AGM which she attended online. Not much to report.

b. Road Racing

Since our last committee meeting, there have been 14 licenced road races, about half of which I attended as Event Adjudicator. The general standard of organisation is excellent and significantly better than when I started officiating. In particular, races are taking the heat wave seriously and providing plenty of water. Kidlington are to be commended for postponing the Motavation because of the forecast heatwave

The short-course County Championship took place at the Thame 10k last Sunday. As many of you will know they were let down by their chip timing supplier who sent the race numbers with their chips to the wrong race. In the circumstances, Thame Runners did a heroic job of putting together an old-style finish funnel and paper recording system. Although a bit ramshackled, I've judged the results good enough for County Championship and Grand Prix purposes. I've asked for comments on that decision on our Facebook page.

The Grand Prix has had five races now and currently Abingdon lead the men's standings and Headington, the women's

8. A.O.B.

AF-J asked that we discuss the compilation of a set of county records including all performances by county qualified athletes. AV pointed out historically that would be difficult because athletes changes their county qualification from one year to another. However, it might be possible since the introduction of Power of 10. AV pointed out this would invalidate many fine performances from athletes such as Ron Harris, Hattie Dean etc. However, AF-J would be asked if she was willing to do something on the records.

Remaining Committee meetings 2026

25th September 2026

23rd October 2026 - AGM