



OXFORDSHIRE AA COMMITTEE MEETING - Friday 8th April 2022 DRAFT

Present - Will Atkinson (Chair), Claire Lacey (Vice Chair), Alan Vincent (Acting Minutes Secretary/T&F Officials), Andrew Garner (Abingdon AC), Kit Villiers (Headington), James Charles (Banbury AC), Jackie Breslin (T&F Official), Tom Gould (Bicester), Paul Groves (Bicester), Emma Gould (Bicester)

Apologies – Daniel Bremner (Secretary), Hugh Morris (Treasurer), Dene Stringfellow (XC coordinator), Noel Blatchford (Abingdon AC), John Sear (ex-Chairman/T&F Official), Kay Reynolds (Radley)

1. Minutes of the previous Zoom meeting held 28th January 2022

Under Apologies, it should read Theresa Lamble (Didcot Runners). Otherwise, agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

2. Matters Arising

Re: item 6 a) Road Relays. Lack of volunteer clubs means no Relays this year. Chris Price (OCAC) is looking at possibilities for 2023, with Banbury interested.

Re: item 6 b) Cross Country Championships. Refunds made.

Re: item 7 AOB. High-definition graphics now available for the County logo, but no difference for the medal inserts.

3. Communications Task Group

a) Secretary's Report and Correspondence Received

SEAA/EA/UKA/OAA

Surrey holding their regular U13 inter county match on Sunday 24th July at Kingsmeadow track. James Charles has confirmed Oxon entry.

b) British Inter-Counties Senior Mountain Race and Junior Hill & Fell Championships

Details received of the 2022 British Inter-Counties Senior Mountain Race.

c) England Athletics/UKA matters to report -AV reports

- New rulebooks distributed via Officials' Associations. Summary of important changes have been sent out to Officials.
- Recent clarification on two aspects of Rules (additional information):
 1. Reporting for an Event where there is no Call Room. At competitions where a Call Room is not operated, it is the athlete's responsibility to arrive in the vicinity of their event at least five minutes before the scheduled time of their event and remain within earshot of the Technical Officials managing that particular event. If an athlete fails to respond when their race is called by the responsible Technical Official, and thus misses the opportunity to compete, he/she shall be shown in the results as 'Did Not Start'.
 2. UK Anti-Doping and UKA Eligibility Rules in relation to Endurance. Rule G2 S1(vi) states that Unattached entrants and club members competing as individuals in certain endurance disciplines are "excluded from these regulations". The intention here was to exclude these entrants from the requirement to be registered with a National Association but has been interpreted by some to exclude them from all UKA Rules for Competition. The rule will be amended to clarify that the exemption is exclusion from the registration condition and nothing else.

d) Schools Report - AV reports



Arrangements are in place for the various Schools' Area Trials (North 4 May, City 11 May, South N/K, County Schools 11 June). Oxon is also hosting the Regional CE on 25-26 June and the ESAA Cup Final on 2 July.

4. Officers' Task Group

Treasurer's report

In the absence of the Treasurer, it was reported that England Athletics was pressing clubs for updating on policies and procedures and would be requiring counties to do similar updating in due course. There were considerable outgoings for the photo finish system, as a new camera had been purchased, along with some other kit and recertification.

5. Track & Field Task Group

a) County Championship Weekend – AV reports

Planning was generally well advanced, but the timescale for entries had slipped and there was an urgent need for action and probably to set up Roster arrangements specific to Oxon. **Action: Track & Field Group**

We might also need another joint planning session via Zoom. **Action: AV**

The need was also noted to advertise Inter-County meetings.

Planning was also in hand for the mid-week OCAC/Bucks/Oxon Graded meetings, starting on 27 April.

b) Officials – AV reported

At the beginning of April, Oxfordshire had 116 Officials on the database, of whom 109 are qualified in Track & Field – an increase of 7 on the figures reported in January.

A current fixture list for the T&F season is on the website.

In discussion. it was stated that there were a growing number of disincentives that worked against the retention and recruitment of officials, including the new £10 charge relating to the H&S module now obligatory for licence renewal and the inadequacy of travel reimbursement.

c) Coaching in the County

It continued to be a struggle to get courses set up. James Charles notified the meeting of a Sight Loss Awareness & Guide Runner Workshop at Wykham Park Academy on 18 May. It was thought that this would provide a first step on the pathway to guide runner status for both Endurance and Track & Field.

6. Road & Cross Country

a) Road – WA Reported

There have been three licensed races this season, the Woodcote 10k, Goring 10k and Banbury 15. I attended two of those as EA and was happy with the organisation, but attendances were well down on pre-Covid races.

The Banbury 15 incorporated the County Long-Course Championships. There was a slight confusion over county entries because the race entry form did not include the county tick box, but all race entrants were given the opportunity to enter the County Championships, which were won by James Bolton and Claire True, with Cherwell winning the Men's team competition.



I will present all the County Championship medals and plaques at the Road Race AGM at the end of the season. This is to avoid some of the errors caused by premature presentations on race day.

b) Cross Country – DS had sent a report (summarised here)

The County League completed the season at Henley Showground on 6th March. Four of the scheduled five fixtures were successfully completed. The original Round 3 fixture combined with the County XC Championships that had been scheduled for 9th January at Horspath had to be cancelled at short notice owing to an event clash. The overall number of participating athletes was significantly down on previous seasons due to the continuing pandemic. The number of competing athletes at the fixtures were down on average by 16% across the season. When comparing the early fixtures in the season with those towards the end of the season, the percentage discrepancy is higher for the later fixtures.

Concerns over future fixture costs and how the League is funded led the OXL Committee to call an EGM Aside from the major concern of rising venue hire costs, the car parking fees collection requires additional volunteers; the recruitment of volunteers being a constant battle for both the host clubs and the League. Viable alternative funding solutions are to be presented and voted upon at the next OXL AGM with a view to implementation ahead of the 2022-23 season.

The Oxfordshire Cross Country Team Managers managed to organise teams to represent the County at the SEAA Inter County Cross Country Championships held at Croydon on Saturday, 11th December and the CAU Inter County Cross Country Championships held at Loughborough on Saturday, 12th March. The county-wide cross-country training initiative lead by Ros Kelling has undoubtedly contributed significantly to the results and successes achieved by the Oxfordshire athletes and teams competing at higher level competitions over the past season.

Jessica Gibbon crowned a fine season with victory the in 2022 English National Cross-Country Championships held at Parliament Hill Fields. That followed on from her earlier regional and county championship successes, as well as team gold in the 2021 European Cross Country Championships held in Dublin in December in the 2022 South of England Cross Country Championships. Jessica's success has been a source of encouragement to the County's junior athletes. That has been evidenced by the successes of both Evey Powell (Abingdon AC - U15 Girls CAU Inter County Cross Country Champion) and Isla McGowan (Banbury Harriers AC - 3rd Junior Girls and team gold SIAB Schools Cross Country International).

A vote of thanks to Dene was passed for all his continued efforts to support Oxon cross country in challenging times. He had suggested that the County AA should consider some financial support to the County Championships. There were mixed views on this, but it was agreed there should be further discussions between the Chairman and the Treasurer, with the aim of producing suggestions for the way forward.

7. A.O.B.

- a) Special Need Support. Emma Gould said that the clubs were coming across more athletes who needed additional support. Sometimes there was no formal diagnosis (e.g., of suspected autism). James Charles thought that there were some UKA or EA courses in this area, but said he would research further. **Action: JC**
- b) Policy on medals. Jackie felt that we should be more generous in our policy on awarding medals and that there was risk of discriminating against older athletes. It was agreed we need to check existing policy and ensure that the T&F Prospectus was in line with existing policy. **Action: WA/T& F Group**

Meeting closed at 20:45.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Friday 3rd June at Exeter Hall, **Action: HM**