



OXFORDSHIRE AA ZOOM MEETING

14th April 2023

Present – Will Atkinson (HRR, Chair), Claire Lacey (RAD, Vice-chair), Hugh Morris (Treasurer), Noel Blatchford (ABI), Andrew Garner (ABI), Jackie Breslin (RAD), Trevor Langrish (KID), Alan Vincent (BAN), James Charles (BAN), Emma Gould (BIC, XC Coordinator), Paul Groves (BIC), Kit Villiers (HRR, Minutes Secretary), Iain Claxton (Wood)

1. Apologies – Mike Shipway (Wood)

2. Minutes of the previous Zoom meeting held 20th Jan 2022

Agreed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

No actions to report and no matters arising.

4. Communications Task Group

a) Secretary's Report and Correspondence Received – Dan Bremner continues to send stuff out, but he still has not been replaced.

b) England Athletics/UKA matters to report – Nothing to report (AV).

c) School's Report – Nothing to report.

d) Website – WA said that the website is working well. He is talking to Joe with the aim of becoming a co administrator.

5. Officers' Task Group

a) Future of Photo Finish System.

WA summarised the current situation. A very successful photo finish operation has been run and owned jointly by Oxon AA and Bucks AA since approx 2008. It has been managed by 3 people, 2 of whom now feel it's time to retire. This would leave one operator, Mark Delgado. Mark (and his company) are prepared to take over all the equipment. For this he would pay a nominal sum, but would undertake to continue to provide services on the current basis to the two counties and their member clubs for the next 5 years. The £9,000 cash currently in the bank would be divided equally (i.e. 3 ways) between Mark and the counties.

The agreement requires the consent of both counties, and the meeting duly approved the proposal on behalf of Oxon. Next steps will be to await Bucks' approval and finalise the contract (now in draft).

b) Treasurer's report – audited accounts

HM had previously circulated his report. £3,000 had been spent in the last quarter. A few clubs have still not affiliated see the website for details.

c) Expenses

All bills for the County XC championships have now been paid, including the agreed sum to the OXL to compensate them for hosting the championships together with the Horspath round of the OXL.

6. Track & Field Task Group

a) Officials

AV reported that we have 117 active officials on the UKA database. Of the 109 T & F officials, 30+ returned availability forms for the summer.

b) Coaching in the County

Nothing to report.

c) County Championships (AV)

We are well on target with planning for next month's joint County Championships. We have decided to revert to a traditional County Championships this year, rather than the graded meeting approach of recent years. This was a marginal preference from a survey of athletes and others involved. We have an ongoing discussion on trying to fit in additional events, especially S/Cs and Walks.

We have a Level 1 licence from England Athletics. They have suggested we go for a Level 2 licence which would enable athletes to qualify for WA standards. This may not be a sufficient advantage to outweigh the need to raise our officiating numbers a little more. We do have all Chiefs and Referees in place and overall officiating support is looking pretty good.

AV has also put in an initial application for the EA £500 grant.

7. Road & Cross Country**a) Cross-Country (EG)**

Emma Gould has taken over as our cross-country co-ordinator in place of Dene Stringfellow.

The county championships were held at Horspath on 8 January – see the report on the website. The website also contains Ros Kelling's report on Oxon's successful Inter-Counties – the women's team were 9th and the men were 15th. Ros carried out some successful training for our team prior to this event.

b) Road (WA)

There have been just 3 licensed races since the last meeting, the Woodcote 10k, Goring 10k and Banbury 15, the first two of which WA attended as Event Adjudicator. The White Horse Half, which was the County Long Course Championship, was cancelled due to flooding on the course. Witney have been approached to see if they will host the county championships at the Cotswold Classic.

The first race in the 2023 Grand Prix was the Banbury 15 when Cherwell and Alchester won the team competition.

At the last meeting there were fears for the future of the Abingdon Marathon which was looking for a new Race Director and a new Course Director. Happily, those positions have now been filled and entries are now open.

8. A.O.B.

Nothing new raised.

