



## **OXFORDSHIRE AA ZOOM MEETING 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023**

**Present** – Will Atkinson (HRR, Chair), Hugh Morris (Treasurer), Kit Villiers (HRR), Andrew Garner (ABI), Jackie Lacey RAD, (Vice Chair), Claire Breslin (RAD), James Charles (BAN), Neil Preddy (WOOD), Alan Vincent (BAN), Paul Groves (BIC), Steve Frame (HNN), Noel Blatchford (ABI) - Secretary

Alan asked everyone present to join with him in a minute's silence in honour of Ray Lacey, who died earlier this month, a stalwart. Most will know him as our most senior County official. Jackie recorded that his funeral will take place at 4pm on 8 February at Garford Crematorium.

1. **Apologies** – Mike Shipway (WOOD), and Doug Scott (BAN), Daniel Bremner (OCAC)

### **2. Minutes of the previous Zoom meeting held 9th Sep 2022**

Agreed as a true record. (Thanks to Noel for the Minutes.)

### **3. Matters Arising**

**Item 3b** from previous meeting, **plus item 12** from the 2022 AGM, that for seniors the gold medal is awarded for however low the number of entries is in a category; the silver medal is awarded only if there are at least 5 or more entries, the bronze medal is awarded only if there are 8 or more entries; but for juniors (U17s and below), medals would be awarded to all three if there are three. **Item 4d** - WA had advertised on Facebook for a new club secretary to replace Dan, though no one had come forward yet, but we will continue to field emails.

**Item 5** – Action for Hugh, who has redesigned the centre to say what the medal was for, without the year mentioned.

**Item 6c** – meeting of task group.

**Item 7a** Road Relays – Discussion of Team Sizes, Hugh/Alan – a bit academic – no club organising road relays. **Last one** – other places where we might meet, so stick to zoom meetings for the time being.

### **4. Communications Task Group**

#### **a) Secretary's Report and Correspondence Received**

- no correspondence received.

a) **England Athletics/UKA matters to report** – (AV) The National Outdoor selections had been finalised and would be shared with the Home Countries and English Regional representatives in the following week, then agreed by the UKA Technical Advisory Group. Release could be expected towards the end of the following week.

b) **School's Report** – (AV): The Schools' County Country Championships were scheduled for 24 January, at Radley College. The ESAA Track & Field Championships will take place on 30 June/1 July, at Birmingham. Area Trials & County Schools also organised.

c) Re Communications (WA) is concerned Joe is the only one to have admin access to the website. He is discussing this with him.



d)

#### **5. Officers Task Group**

a) Treasurer's Report (HM) prepared very recently. We have bought new medal centres, by event type, but without the year, as agreed at past meetings (cost £135). There are 21 clubs. There are a few still where affiliation fees are missing: Didcot, Hook Norton Harriers, Radley, Oxford Brooks, Thame, and Schools. We agreed to pay £500 to XC CC towards the cost of the 2023. After discussion with those present, it was agreed we would pay the £500 in future years.

**Sports Hall** – no attendance fees paid by Abingdon or Oxford City.

**Road Relays (WA)** – Nothing yet in from Hook Norton or Didcot, so will send a few emails. **Bank Account** – HSBC account is now closed and we are using Lloyds.

#### **6. Track & Field Task Group**

a) **County Championships:** (AV): The Track & Field group has continued to meet and recently met up with Bucks colleagues to do some initial planning on the joint County Championships. These will be held on 13/14 May at Horspath Road, with Bucks continuing to opt for a traditional championships programme. JL has written and is awaiting a reply. Oxfordshire will probably opt for a graded event approach, although this is subject to current consultation with athletes.

b) **Inter-County meetings**

c) **County Graded Meetings**

d) **Track & Field Officials** – (AV): The January database return from UKA showed that we have 115 active officials. Stephen Coulson is a new Level 1 Field Judge, while there were also two new trainees – Catherine Gallagher and Chimdi Okpalauko. CL also mentioned late 2022 upgradings. These included Stef Basykiewicz (FJ 1 and Trainee Starter/SA), Tracey Fernandez-Jones (Endurance 1), Tom Gould (FJ 3), Paul Groves (SA 1), Theresa Lamble (Endurance 2), Melanie Lewis (FJ 1), Colin Mitchell (TJ 1) and Alan Vincent (RWJ 2).

e) Photo Finish: - (HM) No activity other than outstanding hire charges have now been paid.

e) Coaching - CL and PG reported on a very successful Coaching course held at Horspath Road on 29 October 2022. There were 15 attendees.

The fixture list for County Officials' availability was almost complete and AV hoped to email out by the end of January.

#### **7. Road & Cross Country**

a) **Road**

There have been 7 licenced races since the last meeting, including the Abingdon Marathon and the Eynsham 10k, both of which I attended as Event Adjudicator. The Woodstock 12, which was due to take place on the weekend following the death of the Queen, was cancelled.

The Road AGM was held on 9<sup>th</sup> December, when I presented the 2022 County Championship and Grand Prix medals and trophies. I had hoped for a better attendance for the presentations, so it wasn't altogether successful. It would be better if we could do the presentations on the day of each race, but that has caused problems in the past, so I would welcome suggestions. At the AGM the



county championship races for 2023 were allocated to the Eynsham 10k (Short course), the White Horse Half (Long course) and the Abingdon Marathon.

The Grand Prix winners for 2022 were Headington in both the Men's and Women's team competitions, and James Bolton and Claire Court in the individuals.

The 2023 Road Race Diary has been published on the county website. Sadly, we have lost the Chalgrove 10k from the schedule, but the Didcot 5 should be back for the first time since Covid.

Worryingly, the Abingdon Marathon is looking urgently for a new Race Director and a new Course Director, with the resignation of Cliff Penton and Dene Stringfellow. Unless those positions are filled very quickly the marathon will not go ahead this year. Please ask around your clubs to see if anyone is interested.

#### **b) Cross Country – (WA)**

The County Championships were held on 8<sup>th</sup> January in conjunction with the Oxfordshire League XC at Horspath. In the absence of a county XC coordinator Hugh Morris and I took on the administration with considerable help from the League especially Ros Kelling and Dene. We charged £3 for adult entries, £1.50 for juniors plus a surcharge of £5 for runners who were not entered in the League. That surcharge will be passed on to the League. We had 481 entries, of which 373 ran. Thanks to Emma Gould and John and Jeanette Ashton we were able to identify all the county medallists in the junior categories and present the medals on the day. I will present the senior and team medals plus personalised certificates for the U9s and U11s, probably at the next League fixture.

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

- a) Kit - The wristbands used at the county cross country championship – could they be explained? Will – they were issued to county championship entrants, so the first three in each category could be identified and the medals presented immediately after the race. Where boys and girls were in the same race, boys had blue and girls, yellow bands. In the senior races U20s had yellow and seniors and vets, blue. We should use 3 colours next year so we can separate U20s, senior and vets.
- b) Paul Groves reported that Ros Kelling has been organising XC training sessions for potential inter-counties representatives. All agreed this was an excellent initiative.
- c) Steve Frame reported that Hook Norton were not able to organise the Road Relays at the moment, although they may be able to do them at some time in the future.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

This will be hosted on Zoom.