

OXFORDSHIRE AA ZOOM MEETING 5TH JUNE 2020

Present – Lyn Hopkins, Will Atkinson, Alan Vincent, Joe Bibby, Daniel Bremner, Hugh Morris, Claire Lacey, Jackie Breslin, Kit Villiers, Kay Reynolds, James Charles, Dene Stringfellow and Neil Preddy.

1. **Apologies** – Mike Shipway, Doug Scott, Paula Walter (OCAC), Iain Wakefield (KID).
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting held April 2020** – Agreed to be a true record of the meeting held.
3. **Matters Arising** – Tania Spurling sent out an email to clubs – National Sports Council.
4. **Communications Task Group** –

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

SEAA/EA/UKA/OAA –

- Email from Linda Whitehead Director of Competition SEAA – Statement of SEAA Competition in respect of the 2020/21 Championships.
- Email from Club Support Team EA – Virtual Club Forum to be held 20th May at 11am and 6pm. Forwarded to Committee.
- Email from Tania Spurling, Clubs Support Team, EA - Nominations NOW open for the England Athletics Volunteer Awards 2020. Go to EA Website to find out more. Virtual NIG Quiz nights and Webinars and Virtual Club Forums – all information on EA Website.
- British Athletics Home Straight – Keeping up with the Athletes – routines and drill that can be carried out at home. Donna Fraser workout, Dina Asher Smith – How many block busters can you do in 45 seconds?
Home Schooling – colouring for kids and adults and more.
- British Athletics Home Straight – Podcasts and virtual things to get involved in.

b) **Secretary's Vacancy** –

LH stated at the AGM in 2019 that she would be standing down at the AGM in November after 18 years as Secretary. Therefore, a replacement is required. At this point Daniel Bremner volunteered to take on the role. LH will send a job description to DB and any other details necessary. **ACTION** – LH

c) **England Athletics / UKA matters to report** – AV reported –

AV had attended two UKA Technical Advisory Group meetings and one EA Regional Council meeting (all video meetings). Points emerging interest included –

1. UKA Track & Field Rules of Competition 2020 now published.
2. New Steeplechase specs deferred for most venues until April 2021.
3. 2020 National Officials' Awards agreed.
4. UKA Survey on officials' willingness to return to officiating if competition restarts in July 2020. Outcomes indicate 72% willing to return, while remainder have a range of reservations about conditions that prevent them from saying yes.

d) **Local Athletics Network** – KR reported –

Gathering final finance details to get the full picture, as there are assets as well to take into account. Meeting held with current Network Clubs. They have come up with a plan, checking at the weekend that EA are happy with it. As far as they are concerned the balance of funds belongs to the County. If all OK with EA they will present proposal to the Oxon AA Committee. The proposal will explain the procedure to fold and the distribution of monies.

The Network is completely separate to the Oxon AA, but the County are involved in the proposal.

WA noted that Coaching arrangements will be lost as LAN has provided a lot of co-ordination and brought clubs together. We will need to bring this back in to the County. KR said this will be discussed briefly in the proposal.

It was suggested at this point, that maybe clubs could arrange joint coaching and the County help with the finance of expenses. KR said that the administration was a headache.

AV said that maybe we could involve Tania Spurling in her role as Club Support Manager, she can source the experts. We could do with a group working together, we would not want one person to be solely left to do this.

Coaching to be added to the next agenda. **ACTION** – LH

Could Coaching Co-Ordinators in clubs work with the County? Direct contact at clubs for coaching, to liaise with the County. Has been difficult in the past getting Oxfordshire Coaches together, getting external coaches in to the County worked better.

Zoom sessions could make meetings easier, so that they would not have to always go to a track for meetings.

Is there any action required now? To be discussed at the next meeting.

e) **School's Report** – AV and JB said no report as the schools are closed.

DS said that schools' sports in Berkshire are cancelled until the New Year. AV said nothing in Oxfordshire until January.

Also closures and lack of activity and if Social Distancing continues, this could impact on XC Competition.

John Sear has intermated that coaches and adults could be kept apart, but it would be difficult to keep athletes apart. What would be the liability to the event organiser if someone contracts Covid 19 and died? It would have to be proved that they caught it at the fixture.

If Social Distancing continues, then none of our sports could continue. It would be difficult to overtake other athletes during the event, funnels would be impossible to keep athletes apart.

Coaching can now be 1 coach to 5 athletes, but still Social Distancing.

5. **Officers Task Group** –

a) **Treasurer's Report** – HM had sent out the accounts to all the Committee, he reported –

This is the second update of the new financial year and the detail covers 1st April to 31st May. Overall, for the year to date –

- £1,415 more in the "unconditional" accounts and

- £1,348 less in the conditional accounts

HM said that there had not been a lot of movement since the last meeting due to Covid 19.

General Accounts (Unconditional)

Affiliation – 22 clubs affiliated; Great Milton paid early in April.

General – we paid Exeter Hall for our 2020 Committee meeting bookings. He has not heard back from them regarding a refund, but he has not paid for the Road Race AGM meeting in November.

Road Racing –

Grand Prix – Only 12 clubs have paid the annual fee request, Kidlington paid in early April. No financial update. Paid up clubs – Abingdon AC, Banbury Harriers, Bicester AC, Cherwell RC, Didcot RC, Eynsham RR, Harwell Harriers, Headington RR, Hook Norton Harriers, Witney RR, Woodstock Harriers and Kidlington.

Road Relays – As indicated at the January meeting there were issues with a venue, medals and medal centres had already been ordered, so we have a stock of medals, but need to replace the centres for 2021. Small loss expected.

Track & Field – no financial update, however the event is OFF and no costs other than medal centres have been incurred. Small loss expected.

Cross Country – We entered 6 teams in the CAU, expenses that have been claimed have been paid, £440. The issue of expenses is a fuzzy issue. The potential claimants' numbers seem unknown and the practice/expectation to claim inconsistent.

We paid expenses, so far, for 2 officials' cars, 5 runners' cars (8 runners) and 1 runners train fare. We entered 6 teams, 20-30 runners, so not all have claimed, but HM does not see the athletes list, so does not know who could claim.

We pay 25p per mile, plus 5p per passenger, so an athlete driving with 3 athlete passengers gets 40p per mile. One claimant seemed to only want petrol money, so less than 25p per mile he was paid. Petrol prices have fallen.

It only seems to be the CAU event that creates runners' expenses claims. What is expected to happen to our runners at the other representative events? Several points need clarifying –

- Are we being consistent?
- What events should attract runners' expenses?
- How do we publish the policy/practice?
- Should we pay 5p per passenger or an extra 5p if a car has passengers?
- Should this only apply to events outside Oxfordshire?

Not many are aware that they can claim, should it just be athletes representing Oxfordshire as part of a team?

We definitely need a policy for all to follow, HM to draft and be discussed before the AGM in November. He would need an idea on how many athletes are likely to claim. **ACTION** – HM JC will look into for the U13s T&F at Kingsmeadow. There would probably only be 3 or 4 officials at this event. **ACTION** – JC

CL will look into for the U15s and U20s. **ACTION** - CL

KR will look into for the Seniors. **ACTION** – KR

We should encourage car sharing in the future to help with costs and the environment.

Sportshall – Round 4 has been completed and income in from 6 clubs received. Abingdon have now paid their fixture fees.
One venue hire remains to be paid, Round 5 not held.

Medals – As mentioned we have ordered this year's medal and medal centre stock, and a few shields. Any unused medals will just need 2021 centres next year.

Clothing – Restocking of official's kit is still to happen but we did discuss an additional request to subsidise, by around 50% (£480-£576), the costs of the 48 Inter-Counties team sweat tops for December. JC was undertaking an information gathering exercise and the decision on that is still to be made, JC has put the information together and will send to HM.

ACTION – JC

Does the Sportshall come under the same rules/guidance?

Website – JB did research – sending out emails using website connections. There were web host conflicts, he had some rejections, although they are getting less. JB can move host for same price and it can be done overnight. He can discuss before rolling out emails. Specific emails for Committee – Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer would be first. Setting up automatically for all would not be a good move. To set up forwarders would need consent, can not be done automatically. This system would be very easy to handle if there is a change of position. JC said maybe for next year we should think about Track and Field reps and team managers and DS for Cross Country. Anyone who would like to consider please contact JB.

Conditional Accounts –

Photo Finish – no activity.

EA Tech Grant – no financial update.

Barrie Strange Fund – no new requests received.

LAN – The current position is that clubs have agreed to wind the Network up and have agreed in principle what to do with the remaining funds. As noted in the LAN report above, EA will be notified and await their comments.

Funds £4,417.23 and nothing else. Stock of official's shirts cannot be used for anything else to remain in the County.

6. **Track & Field Task Group** –

a) **Officials** – AV reported –

AV had contacted key players re: the possibility of some competition taking place in the County before the end of the summer, and how any such competition might best be managed. Some responses had already been received. We would need to consider first aid, venues, officiating numbers and higher age profile, average age of officials in Oxfordshire is 53. Some of our younger officials may have other issues. We cannot assume that we will have officials available, they do need experience and we need sufficient numbers. It will not be easy.

In discussion, there was a consensus around the belief that the OJL fixtures - the only ones remaining in the fixtures calendar – might not be the best sole solution, difficult to manage Social Distancing with the youngsters. AV was asked to convene a T&F Sub Group Zoom meeting to discuss further, 2-3 weeks' time. **ACTION** - AV

KR confirmed that the Southern Athletics League in July/August has been cancelled, suggestion to organising a local competition. We should maybe consider August dates.

JC confirmed that the Midland League cancelled.

Confirmed also that Tilsley Park is not in use at the moment, they are discussing next week.

JC said that Cherwell Sports Centre opens 6th July; Banbury opens 2 weeks later, 20th July. Cherwell has refunded fees for the unused months. There are a lot of issues in lots of areas.

Horspath is open for athletes only on a booking system, only 10 on the track at a time, serious concerns, all touching keypad for entry, no one there to manage it.

7. **Road & Cross-Country Task Group** –

a) **Road** – WA reported –

We have had no races since the last meeting at the end of April. Recent cancellations have included Run Jericho, Didcot 5, Hornton 6 and Hooky 6. The Alchester Summer 5k has not applied for a licence yet, so the first race still on the schedule is the Headington 5 on 30th August, might know for certain by the middle of July.

Three of the four County Championship races have been cancelled. Only the Short Course event at the Eynsham 10k is still on the schedule. If racing does resume, we might consider allocating the Long Course Championship to another race.

LH said a decision on the Cotswold Classic would be made in early July. Woodstock 12 to be decided in July also.

The Eynsham 10k need to make a decision in August whether to hold or defer.

Schools may not allow access for events.

We have only had one Grand Prix event so far. Seven have been cancelled, but there are 6 possible events that might take place, so we might be able to salvage something from the season.

If organisers decide to re-schedule races, they can use the existing licence as long as the local authority are happy and UKA are informed. This also applies to races being postponed to next year, he believes, he needs to confirm this. It has been confirmed that the Abingdon Marathon can use theirs, they just need to confirm the date for next year.

WA said that many virtual events have been organised by Oxfordshire clubs. If these are open to non-club members there may be insurance issues, but you can get a licence for virtual events. That will ensure you are insured, but you will require a risk assessment. All the details are on the RunBritain website.

HM asked if local Road Safety Groups are giving any guidelines as to what their thoughts are about approving races in this current climate? Eynsham 10k would like to make a decision in early August, not even sure the school will allow access. WA will look into the RSG. **ACTION** – WA

b) **Cross-Country** – DS reported –

DS has contacted the hosts of the first 3 rounds of the XC League. Positive response from Newbury for Round 1. There is the need for a lot of organisation to be in place for 1,200 people turning up, changes would be needed.

8. **A.O.B.** – There was no A.O.B.

Meeting closed at 9.09pm

NEXT MEETING – 11th September 2020 – possibly a Zoom meeting.

AGM – 13th November 2020 – whether a Zoom meeting or otherwise to be confirmed.