



OXFORDSHIRE AA ZOOM MEETING 9th JUNE 2023

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

1. **Apologies** – None notified

2. Minutes of the previous Zoom meeting held 14th April 2023

Agreed as a true record. (Thanks to Kit for the minutes)

3. Matters Arising

All items could be taken within the rest of the agenda.

4. Communications Task Group

a) Secretary's Report and Correspondence Received

Daniel had continued to pass on relevant correspondence to those who needed it.

b) England Athletics/UKA matters to report – (AV): UKA has had to make drastic cuts because of its financial situation. Services for Officials have been particularly severely affected, with Paula Gowing leaving (although she retains some responsibilities for the present). Andrew Hopkin is still there and doing sterling work on the IT side and in some other aspects, but formal communication is intended to go through Chris Moss, who has had his own contract reduced to 3 days per week. Several areas of work are being transferred to England Athletics. Both organisations are likely to move out of the Alexander Stadium – or retain only a small office presence. There has been a revival of the debate about a change in age groups, with a further virtual meeting being held on 16th June.

c) Schools' Report: AV reported that the County Schools event was being held the following day, at Horspath Road, with a small band of officials. Emma Gould said that there had been a major problem with some school athletes not knowing the arrangements for this year's district trials and County event. AV thought that only two district trials were held this year and some schools had not supported those trials that had been held, but the County Event had been opened up to include those with any sort of chance of achieving ESAA standards. Perhaps more should be done to communicate the relevant dates to the clubs, so they could try to ensure athlete participation.
HM said that the Schools Association had not paid their affiliation subscription this year and AV agreed to chase up.

d) Website - WA is now able to exercise the Administrator role, so on way to not being quite as dependent on Joe.

AV is planning to update the list of Championship Best Performances within the next few days.

5. Officers Task Group

- a) **Future of Photo Finish System** - HM reported that the change-over of ownership had been successfully completed, to the satisfaction of all parties. AV expressed his thanks to our Officers and to Bucks AA for enabling the change of ownership to go ahead very smoothly. Running2time is now active and already attracting some extra work, eg for the National Rowing Regatta at Dorney Park. It had also covered the BMC and Festival of Miles meeting at Iffley Road the previous weekend and would continue to prioritise our local clubs whenever possible.
- b) **Treasurer's Report (HM):** HM had distributed papers prior to the meeting. There had been many transactions in the previous quarter, mainly around the PF changes and the County Championships. During the PF negotiations the possibility of a loan to Running2time (in the event of new kit being needed) had been discussed. HM sought guidance on whether any notional sum should be ring-fenced or just taken from general funds. WA suggested no ring-fencing and this was agreed. Andrew G asked about the expense on road relays. This was for medals.

6. Track & Field Task Group

- a) **County Championships:** JB said these went off very well on 13/14 May, with no significant problems. There had been 599 paid entries 317 athletes for Oxfordshire, which represented a few more athletes but slightly fewer entries than the previous year. The Bucks numbers were significantly down. The event organisation went paperless on the Track and largely so on Field. This meant medals were awarded more quickly, with results available more quickly. AV added that we ran to a Level 2 licence in the end, but did not secure World Athletics registration in time for any outstanding performances to be included on WA rankings. Three new CBPs were achieved: Divine Ihome 11.21 in the U15 Boys, Charlie Evans 67.70m in the U20 Men's JT; and Emma Thrall 47.21m in the SW HT. A mop-up review was held the previous Friday, where the group agreed the event had gone very well, while identifying some areas for continuing improvement. Paul Groves agreed the event had gone very well. He felt there could have been better communication on starting heights and on information about heats and finals. The organising group had identified the need to synchronise information in the Prospectus and the athlete information letter.
- b) **Track & Field Officials:** AV reported that we have 121 active officials on the UKA database (up 4 on April's figure). Of these 38 did one or both days at the County Championships.

7. Road & Cross Country

- a) **Road (WA):** There have been 8 licensed races since the last meeting, none of which WA was able to attend as Event Adjudicator. We have not managed to find a replacement for the White Horse Half, which was the County Long Course Championship. Only two rounds of the 2023 Grand Prix have taken place. After the Charlton Motivation race, Abingdon men and Alchester women are leading the team standings. Sadly, we have lost another of this season's GP races, with the cancellation of the Hornton 6 due to lack of entries. At the last Motivation race, at Bletchington, there were reports that marshals had received quite a lot of abuse from motorists. Andrew Garner said it tends to be the worst race from that aspect. Emma was spectating and confirmed it was pretty bad. There had been some bad driving but also one area did not seem well controlled/marshalled. Course management needs review. WA will talk to organisers.



JC reported that the Banbury 5 had been back to pre-Covid numbers and was the best race for several years. But WA said that the Hornton 6 has gone because of low numbers and numbers are generally down.

- b) **Cross Country** – Emma Gould reported that the County League X/C would be holding its AGM on 21st June via Zoom AGM. Dene was standing down, so they were looking for more volunteers, with at least one already coming forward. Dan Wymer is Chair, Ros Kelling Treasurer, with Theresa Lamble also now on the Committee. A good job had been done on the website. The organisation was in a strong financial position, eg able to offer host clubs a substantial sum (£500) for hosting. WA will try to attend the AGM.

8. A.O.B.

HM will be abroad for the next meeting on 1st September, but will send out a report in advance. SEAA have an Inter Counties event (Sr/U20) at Horspath Road next month and are charging £500 for County entry, though it was hoped that this sum might be reduced if entries went well. Team managers for the inter counties events were still needed.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Friday 1st September 2023

This will be hosted on Zoom.