

OXFORDSHIRE AA

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 22nd OCTOBER 2021 AT EXETER HALL, KIDLINGTON

Present – Will Atkinson (HRR, Chair), Claire Lacey (RAD, Vice Chair), Hugh Morris (Treasurer), Alan Vincent (BAN, Acting Minutes Secretary), Noel Blatchford (ABI), Jackie Breslin (RAD), James Charles (BAN), Steve Frayn (HNN), Andrew Garner (ABI), Emma Gould (BIC), Tom Gould (BIC), Peter O’Keefe (RAD), Neil Preddy (WOOD), David Sawyer (HRR), Doug Scott (BAN), Dene Stringfellow (WHH), Kit Villiers (HRR)

1. **Apologies** – Joe Bibby, Daniel Bremner, Lyn Hopkins, Kay Reynolds and Ian Wakefield.
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th November 2020** – Agreed as a true record.
3. **Matters arising** – All actions completed.
Re: 14 (a) The Bank had declined the request for a debit card.
Re: 14 (b) There were no volunteers as yet for the role of Welfare Officer. John Sear was willing to act as the named person in the first instance.

4. **Chairman’s Report**

WA reported that the County was in a much better position now than last year. Although there had been no T&F County Championships, we organised a successful county event in June and there was plenty of activity in the leagues. Road racing had picked up in the latter half of the year and cross-country had resumed with a Chiltern League match last week and the Oxfordshire League due to start in November.

The clubs had been central in keeping athletic activity going with virtual events, socially distanced training and communication through newsletters, websites, and social media. The County had tried to step up communications with the clubs, with thanks due to Joe Bibby for the continued success of the website and for the seamless move to a new platform. We had a new Facebook page, which needed more followers to make it a useful resource:

<https://www.facebook.com/oxonathletics>

WA thanked the officers for their efforts. Daniel had proved a worthy successor to Lyn. Hugh, our Treasurer had spent half the year trying to persuade our bank that we are not a front for the Mafia. Dene had continued to keep cross-country going on many fronts and to ensure that the Oxfordshire League hosted the County Championships, while the Track & Field Sub-Committee had provided leadership in this area of the sport.

5. **Communications**

- (a) Secretary’ report and correspondence
In the absence of the Secretary, WA said that DB had kept the Committee up to date with correspondence and been very efficient in minuting our meetings and in communicating with the clubs.
- (b) England Athletics/UKA matters to report
AV said that there was little to report from the governing bodies and that Kay Reynolds was now our representative on the EA South East Regional Council.
- (c) Schools’ Report
PO’K said that a team of 17 athletes had gone to the ESAA T&F Championships at Manchester in July, where three medals were won. We also fielded four teams in the Combined Events Championships, with the IB/SB team finishing 4th. Eloise Hind is ranked 2nd U17 in UK and leads the English team on 4th December. Next year’s Regional Round takes place in Banbury, with the National Finals again in Bedford.
- (d) Website
As reported earlier.

6. **Treasurer’s Report**

The audited accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that our standard affiliations were to England Athletics and SEAA. Within the County, it was agreed to keep affiliation fees at the current level for a further year. There was also some discussion of fees for the hire of Shotover, but this was inconclusive. The PF system had been back in action, and it was agreed that any expenditure within the ring-fenced funds should be signed off by Officers.

7. Track & Field

(a) Track & Field Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee, consisting of Jackie Breslin, James Charles, Claire Lacey, Kay Reynolds and Alan Vincent, has met on a number of occasions during the year. It had overseen the experimental County Graded Meeting, with Kay Reynolds acting as Competition Director. The event replaced the County Championships and the County Schools' event in a Covid-affected year. This was a single county event, rather than the joint Bucks & Oxon Championships of recent years. Planning had begun for the 2022 event, including discussions with Bucks AA on whether to run a joint event or not, but the Oxfordshire preference was for a graded meeting approach with medals for the first three in age group. Plans also included a separate Masters' Championships, with early identification of a suitable date seen as high priority.

The sub-committee was working on attracting new officials and on encouraging active officials to seek upgrading. There was ongoing work on the co-ordination of coaching courses with an Assistant Coach Course being secured locally. There had also been discussion on inter-county competition, to inform a meeting that SEAA has called for November.

(b) COfSec Report

AV reported that Oxfordshire now had 117 technically active officials [an increase of five on last year's figures]. Seven of these are Endurance only (no change), with 19 total in Endurance (excluding those who remain on file, but who had not renewed their qualification online). There are 97 qualified registered Track & Field officials and 14 on Assistant Official or Trainee status only. The past year had seen 4 new Level 1 qualifications in the County, plus 7 upgrading's. Both Jackie Breslin and Claire Lacey are now Level 4(P) Field Judges.

The SEAOA Conference and AGM were again taking place 'virtually' on Sunday 28 November, with all details on the SEAOA Website.

The number of Record of Experience returns to date was low and further returns from Levels 1- 3 would be welcomed by AV.

Photofinish bookings had recovered substantially this year and the joint county system had covered 23 meetings (compared with only 5 in 2020 and a norm of around 30). We were looking to add an electronic start system to the kit, as part of the ongoing development of the system

8. Road & Cross-Country

a) Cross Country

DS reported that about 20% of the clubs had sent their entries for the X/C league, with the deadline this coming weekend. Some race distances had been changed and a barcode system would be in operation. It was agreed that measures would need to be taken at Horspath to protect the rugby pitches.

b) Road

WA reported on a year when road racing began to emerge from the difficulties of lockdown. No licensed races took place before the last week of May, only two before the start of July, but thereafter things began to approach normality. By the end of the year, it looks as if we would have had 18 races and 21 cancellations. That compared with only 3 races last year. Sadly, among the races that were lost this year were the White Horse Half and the Abingdon Marathon, both events with a long pedigree and both county championship events. It was hoped they would return next year. Happily, the county short course championship should go ahead at the Eynsham 10k in November.

The Road Race Grand Prix is back in an abbreviated form, with only 6 races compared to the usual 15. It looked as if Witney and Headington will win the men's and women's team prizes at the last race at Eynsham. A venue was sought for the 2022 County Road Relays: WA planned to check whether Didcot were still interested in hosting. **ACTION** – WA

9. Election of Officers and General Committee for 2021/22

President	Eileen Kear
Life Vice- Presidents	Alan Corfield
	Eileen Kear
	John Sear (newly elected)
	Jill Slatter

	Alan Vincent
Chairman	Will Atkinson
Vice Chairman	Claire Lacey
Secretary	Daniel Bremner
Treasurer	Hugh Morris
Officials Secretary (T&F)	Alan Vincent
Website	Joe Bibby
Road Race Co-ordinator	Will Atkinson
XC Champs Co-ordinator	Dene Stringfellow assisted by John Sear – entries to be co-ordinated by DS
T&F Subcommittee	Jackie Breslin James Charles Claire Lacey Alan Vincent
Schools Reps	Joe Bibby Peter O'Keefe Alan Vincent
Welfare Officer	Vacancy [John Sear as named contact in interim]
General Committee	Andrew Garner Dene Stringfellow Gary Warland

10. **Provisional date for the AGM 2022** – 21st October 2022, 7.30pm at Exeter Hall, Kidlington.

11. **Date for first Committee Meeting** – 28th January 2022, 7.30pm at Exeter Hall, Kidlington. Further dates: 8th April, 3rd June, 2nd September

12. **A.O.B.** –

- a) JB referred to the County's duty of care on DBS renewal and the lack of a defined role in coaching, compared with officiating. It was agreed to discuss further in the T&F Sub-Committee and seek further clarification and/or guidance, possibly via UKA or EA SERC. **ACTION** – KR/AV
- b) JC reported that an Assistant Coaching course had been organised, via Zoom, for 7th November, with the practical session at Banbury on 14th November. He advised that this would best be run as a closed course, as the County should be able to fill the 20 places available.

All will be held at Exeter Hall, Kidlington at 7.30pm.