

## MINUTES OF OXON AA COMMITTEE MEETING - Friday 9 September 2022

### Held via Zoom

**Present** – Will Atkinson (Chair), Hugh Morris (Treasurer), Jackie Breslin (Radley), Claire Lacey (Vice Chair), James Charles (Banbury), Doug Scott (Banbury), Paul Groves (Bicester), Kit Villiers (Headington) Andrew Garner (Abingdon), Noel Blatchford (Abingdon/acting minutes secretary), Steve Frame (Hook Norton), Alan Vincent (part).

Before the meeting started there was a minute's silence in memory of Queen Elizabeth II who died on 8 September.

- 1 **Apologies** – Daniel Bremner (Secretary), Neil Preddy (Woodstock), James Bolton (Woodstock)
- 2 **Minutes of the previous meeting** held 10 June 2022.  
Accepted as an accurate record
- 3 **Matters Arising**
  - (a) Re item 3 Communications Task Group: although Daniel had said he was stepping down as Secretary it transpires that he is happy to do the general admin but not be tied down to meetings. There had been no response so far to the advertised vacancy for a Secretary; it had included a job specification. The way forward now could be to update the previous action and to look for a Minutes Secretary rather than a full Secretary.
  - (b) Re second item under Matters Arising of 10 June meeting minutes: the committee was reminded that there were restrictions on the number of medals awarded to seniors. Further information was received which showed there are currently no restrictions on number medals awarded to juniors. Two entries = two medals awarded. As was said at that meeting the policy will be revisited at the AGM. WA will produce a discussion document. *Action WA*
- 4 **Communications Task Group**
  - (a) Secretary's Report and Correspondence Received  
SEAA AGM 4 Sept – assume no one from County attended.  
CAU AGM 26 Sept – AV will represent Oxon
  - (b) EA/UKA matters – AV reported there will be a Technical Advisory meeting next week Saturday 17 Sept.
  - (c) Schools – The County hosted the County Schools, and the Regional round of the English Schools' Combined Events team competition, providing the majority of the officials.
  - (d) KV asked whether an advertisement for a HRR secretary could be placed on the Facebook group. *Action WA*
- 5 **Officers Task Group**
  - (a) Treasurer's Report – HM reported
    - Accounts and Update circulated prior to meeting.
    - Medals to cover 2023 have been bought (£891). A stock check of medals in order to assess purchase requirements is required since the lack of activities during the Covid outbreak meant medals with dated centres were not used. A discussion followed on the design of the medal centres, and whether they should show the year. It was agreed to omit the year from the medal centres in future. *Action: HM*
    - Bucks have paid us their contribution of £1,123.80 for County Champs, and EA grant of £500 received.
    - Bank account is now set up with Lloyds but will not be live until November. CL reports it has now been signed, so is being progressed.
    - Mike Shipway will have a pre-audit look at accounts, and then meet HM. *Action HM*
- 6 **Track & Field Task Group** – AV
  - (a) Alan reported a busy late summer officiating: the County has hosted the County Schools, the Regional round of the English Schools' Combined Events team competition, the European Transplant & Dialysis Games and two Radley Open meetings. These largely fell on Oxfordshire officials. He added that the SEAA U17/U15 Inter-Counties on 10 September would go ahead, and again the County were providing some officials.
  - (b) Officials – there is one significant upgrade: Tracey Fernandez-Jones is now a Level 3 Field Judge, while there are three new Level 1 FJs, one new Starter and one new SA, plus four new Trainees, one of whom has attended in three separate disciplines.
    - Oxfordshire now has 115 Officials on the database, of whom 8 are Endurance only (including one new trainee – Nikolaos Kanellakis).

- Our officials AV, JB, CL, Kay Reynolds and Alison Jordan on duty at the Commonwealth Games had a good experience except for JB who contracted Covid there.
- As Regional CofSec AV hosted on Zoom a couple of meetings for CofSecs from the South East Region. These were well attended and a range of officiating issues was discussed, following a request for feedback from the EA National Council.

- (c) JB mentioned the need for a meeting of the T&F Task Group. *Action JB*
- (d) Photo finish system – We are buying new kit, and it is now possible to double-book if both Chris Parkinson and Mark Delgado are available. The wind gauge is being replaced. They are arranging a Zoom meeting early in October, together with HM.
- (e) Coaching in the County – JB reported that there would be a coaching course at Jackdaw Lane on which 2 people from Radley were enrolled. JC reported that today was the last day for bookings.

## 7 Road and Cross-Country Task Group

- (a) Road – WA reported
  - There have been lots of races since the last meeting, many of which he has event adjudicated. Attendance has been well down on pre-Covid levels. Such low Entries were disappointing, and he questioned whether people have got out of the habit to be active, even though clubs appeared to be vibrant. JB commented that Track & Field has experienced the same lower levels.
  - Grand Prix – there have been ten rounds so far, with HRR leading both the men's and women's races, but it is extremely close still, with 3-4 teams at the top. This is good to see since the competition has often been decided at this stage.
  - Road Relays – an enquiry had been made to Thames Water whether the Road Relays could be held on land around Farmoor Reservoir. A response is still awaited. Eynsham and Witney are possible co-hosts. A Fisheries contact had said that August would be the best time since the weather is too hot for fish then. WA reminded the meeting that we may have to move to August. Steve Frame then said that Hook Norton could possibly host the Road Relays and would like some information about the event and requirements. *Action: WA*  
HM said that Eynsham RR has asked if men's relay teams could be reduced to four to equalise men and women. WA commented that it would reduce time, but would be inconsistent with the regional and national road relays. We could consider this. *Action: WA & HM*
- (b) Cross Country – No report received in the absence of Dean Stringfellow, but HM and KV attended the XC AGM. Richard Hart had been voted onto the committee. Five venues and more than five hosts had been confirmed. Ox XC League is to host the XC County Championships. It had been hoped that the League would take County entries at the same time as the League, which would reduce admin all round, but the League were not happy for this to happen. The County will contribute £100 to the League, offsetting the cost against the Inter-Counties cross-country.
  - BBO X is apparently being revived and is scheduled to take place on 20 November at Henley, DS had reported.

## 8 AOB

- (a) Charges for meetings at Exeter Hall – WA reported that the minimum bookable time is now three hours, from the previous two hours minimum. Its central position in the county is convenient for people in both the north and south. Will made some suggestions: to have half of meetings on Zoom, or look for an alternative venue. Other suggestions to reduce costs were local pubs with a meeting room (JB), the Council-owned pavilion at Stratfield Brake (JC), the OUP-owned pavilion at Jordan Hill (AG), all to be followed up. *Action JB, JC, AG.*
- (b) Sports Hall – an event had been booked for November.
- (c) Sportathlon Weekend Banbury – advertised online and mentioning several different events. Andrew, Alan and Doug had all looked into this. Doug said they had done a lot of research, and conclude it was either a complete or part scam. Very little support or backing could be found, it was not authorised in any way, and had nothing to do with Banbury Harriers. It was very expensive, with no marshals mentioned, no timing and showed just 14 entries. The local council had published a 'Be Aware – Potential Scam' notice.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Friday 21 October 2022, 7.30pm at Exeter Hall, Kidlington