



OXFORDSHIRE AA ZOOM MEETING 1st SEPTEMBER 2023

Present – Will Atkinson (HRR, Chair), Emma Gould (Bicester & XC), Kit Villiers (HRR, Minutes Secretary), Alan Vincent (Banbury & T&F), Steve Frame (Hook Norton), James Charles (Banbury & T&F), Noel Blatchford (Abingdon), Andrew Garner (Abingdon).

1. **Apologies** – Hugh Morris, Alex Kirkman, Claire Lacey, Jackie Breslin, Doug Scott

2. Minutes of the previous Zoom meeting held on 9th June 2023

Agreed as a true record (thanks to AV for the minutes).

3. Matters Arising

Regarding point 7(a), WA has spoken to Kidlington, the organisers of the Mota-vation Series, regarding the traffic and marshalling issues at Bletchingdon. Kidlington report that the issues at Bletchingdon have worsened over the last few years, and they are reviewing the whole set-up at this venue.

WA asked how the Photo Finish operation is going following the change in ownership. AV said that matters were proceeding very well: there are bookings to the end of the season and a new operator has been recruited.

4. Communications Task Group

a) Secretary's Report and Correspondence Received

We are still looking for a new secretary following Daniel Bremner's move away from Oxfordshire. Daniel continues to forward correspondence to the relevant parties.

b) England Athletics/UKA matters to report

AV said an official died today, making EA/UKA more shorthanded than ever. Otherwise nothing to report.

c) Schools Report (AV)

The Oxon team enjoyed considerable success in the ESAA Championships in July. Gold medals were won by Charlie Evans (SB JT), Matthew Ajayi (IB 100m) and Divine hemi (JB 100m), while the Junior Mixed Relay team won Silver.

Pete O'Keefe and AV attended an EGM of the OSAA on 8 August. The main focus was changes that the Schools plan to make to their Championships next year. There will be no obligatory Area Trials, though we think that one or two Areas may continue with them. Instead, it is intended that the County event in June will be open to all athletes of a standard and it is hoped to raise the quality of this event.

EG remarked that there is still a communication problem and that some parents did not know that the championships were taking place.

d) Website

WA advised that he is now more familiar with the website: he has full access, and while he has not yet done anything, he has mastered the basics. Joe is still doing the job, and is very responsive to any requests.

5. Officers' Task Group

a) Treasurer's Report

As previously indicated, HM is abroad and had circulated his report in advance of the meeting. The only point raised was by AG who noted that we earned a little more than usual with the rise in bank interest rates.

6. Track & Field Task Group

a) Officials (AV)

Oxfordshire now has 117 Officials on the database, of whom 8 are Endurance only. Four trainees have qualified since our last meeting: Helen Davis and Simon Jenkins are now Level 1 Field Judges, Adele Timbs a Level 1 Timekeeper, and Bryan Walker a Level 1 Starter and Starter's Assistant. In addition, Annie Fernandez-Jones has been upgraded to Level 2 Track Judge. We have also had one trainee deactivated during this period, ie she has not completed qualification [probably not completed DBS].

AV mentioned that Oxford University have some qualified officials and seem to be keener to work together with the County than in the past. The meeting agreed that this was a welcome development.

b) Coaching in the County

Nothing specifically on T & F, but it was noted that Ros Kelling (the OXL treasurer) plans to carry out training for our XC team again, and is wondering whether there are OAA sweatshirt tops. This led on to a wider discussion of OAA clothing, and what if anything OAA should subsidise. EG thought there could be a kit page on the County website. JC advised that he and Peter O'Keefe are reviewing clothing and expect to report to the next meeting, including proposals for better alignment between schools and the county.

c) County Championships (AV)

Basically, little to report. On a question about the suitability of Tilsley Park for future county events, AV did say though that it is not ideal. With American Football taking up one end of the infield, only the other end can be used for field events. On the other hand, Horspath does us proud.

7. Road & Cross Country

a) Cross-Country

EG reported post the OXL AGM following the 2022/3 season. Dan Wymer was confirmed as the new Chair. The new entry system had proved successful and there had been positive feedback from the clubs. Charges will remain the same for the new season. Five venues have been secured: Cornbury Park (new), Cirencester, Horspath, Cotswold Farm Park and Henley. Horspath again will double up as the County Championships, and EG and WA will finalise details with the OXL.

There are also positive vibes from the Chiltern League on the new season.

b) Road (WA)

There have been 13 licensed races since the last meeting, two of which I attended as Event Adjudicator.

The Hornton 6 did not take place this July and it's not clear if it will be revived in future. The Hanney 5 is also off this year after Oxford City failed to find a new race organiser. WA has been told Headington are very interested in taking it on, but not this year.

Seven rounds of the Grand Prix have been held this year. The Hornton 6 was replaced in the schedule by the second Combe Motivation race. After the Headington 5, Abingdon men and Headington women are leading the team standings.

Although the County Long Course race, the White Horse Half, had to be called off this year because of flooding, we have the Short Course race at Eynsham and the marathon at Abingdon coming up. WA will be presenting the County medals at those events rather than having a separate presentation ceremony as done last year.

8. A.O.B.

EG raised the question of specialist training, rather on the lines Ros does for XC, and wondered whether clubs could better utilise any specialist coaches they might have, especially for higher level athletes. JC suggested possibly sending an email around.