

Oxford Mail Cross Country League AGM 7pm Friday 16th March 2007, OXSRAD

Present: Laurie Hurman (HRR), Andy Tilley (Didcot), Pippa Read (HRR), Pat Read (HRR), Paul Harris (Alchester), Jon Burgess (Alchester), Tony Lock (WRR), Lyn Hopkins (WRR), Richard Jégou (WHH), Paul Jégou (WHH), Ashley Fox (Swindon), Mark Hawtin (OCAC), Steve Handscombe (OCAC), Michael Search (Kidlington), Helen Turley (HRR), Andy Phelps (HRR), D M Hailey (Hook Norton), M Hailey (Hook Norton), Pam Smith (HRR), Andy Tuttle (Newbury AC), Sarah Fowler (Newbury AC), Mark Creasey (Eynsham RR), Bob Ferris (Cirencester AC), Fraser Howard (Results service), Marie-Anne Fischer (Treasurer), Luke McNeill (League Manager), Robert Logan (Deputy Race Referee)

Apologies: Cassa Messervy (Deputy League Manager), Paul Kelsey (OC), Geoff Smith (Banbury), Mike Shipway (Woodstock)

In attendance: Catherine McNeill (Minutes)

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Approved as a correct record of the meeting.

2. Matters Arising

- (i) Race referees – see Manager's report
- (ii) 3g – neutrality policy has been written and implemented (document is available from www.oxonxc.org)

3. Manager's Report

The Manager expressed his thanks to all involved in the League, with particular thanks to those clubs who hosted races, the race directors, marshals, timekeepers and the management committee. It has been a good season.

Race numbers – these seem to have been received positively from various quarters.

Race referee – this initiative appears to have worked well. Rules have been adhered to rigidly this season.

Goody bags – the aim is to repeat these for the juniors. Thanks went to Cadbury's, the Co-op, Chipping Norton Organics, and the Oxford Mail for the contents of the bags.

4. Treasurer's Report

This year's income was £550 from 25 clubs. Expenses were higher than expected this year because of the introduction of race numbers.

A discussion followed concerning the raising of club subscriptions.

It was agreed (*nem con*) to raise the subscription from £50 to £75 for clubs that had (based on 2006/7 membership) over 30 members. Those with smaller membership (30 or under) would pay £50 for the 2007/8 season.

It was noted that the Oxford Mail will be asked to increase their sponsorship of the League (currently £150/year), and discussions are under-way with another potential sponsor.

Issues of car-park charging were raised, but discussed fully under item 10.

5. Election of Officials

All Officials are willing to stand for re-election. Other nominations were sought, but none put forward.

2007/8 Committee remains as 2006/7 (Manager – Luke McNeill; Deputy Manager – Cassa Messervy; Treasurer – Marie-Anne Fischer; Results – Fraser Howard; Race Referee – Ivor Hopkins; Asst. Race Referee – Robert Logan)

The floor thanked the Committee for their work last year, and for continuing in their roles for the coming year.

6. Dates for Next Season

Dates are the first Sunday of the month: 4th November, 2nd December, 30th December OR 6th January, 3rd February and 2nd March.

Witney volunteered to host the first meeting (4th November), and both Banbury and Oxford City are willing to host the last race (2nd March).

Woodstock have a venue and are willing to host a race.

LMN to contact Banbury, Oxford City and Woodstock.

(Note that a source of electricity is needed at the last race.)

Please contact Luke McNeill if you wish to host a race (tel: 01865 768196).

7. Timekeepers Expenses

Point of information – the League has agreed to cover timekeepers' travel costs (as there are only 6 timekeepers to cover 38 events). The reimbursement rate will be 20p/mile (+ 5p/mile/passenger).

8. Divisions for 2007/8

Please see attached paper from Fraser Howard.

9. Proposals

Each proposer spoke for up to 2 minutes, and a debate followed each proposal.

(i) To increase the number in a ladies' team to 5.

The vote went **against** (1 in favour, 7 against) this proposal.

(ii) To cap the size of the league to safeguard venues and league ethos

After discussion, this proposal was dropped, but the following recommendations were made:

- Recognise that car-parking is an issue and look at ways to reduce pressure on car parking areas.
- Committee and members to actively research new, alternative venues.

(iii) *That the AGM should be no sooner than 6 weeks after the last race.*

Agreed (1 in favour, 0 against, 8 abstaining) with provisos that the date set should be outside school holidays and also before the Chiltern League AGM.

(iv) *To increase the junior girls distances (U15)*

It was recognised that because of the banding in OCC (U13 and U15 run together) the race distances are less than in other leagues, and that a balance has to be struck in maintaining the ethos of OCC (wide participation) and allowing juniors to fulfil their potential.

It was agreed (7 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention) that the Committee should look at the combinations of age groups and race lengths, and to analyse finishing data. The Committee should bring a proposal to the 2007/8 AGM for consideration.

Committee to action.

(v) *For raffle tickets to be distributed at finish line.*

It was decided **not** to implement this suggestion (1 in favour, 10 against).

(vi-a) *Those clubs not hosting a race should provide marshals at a meeting.*

There was agreement that this was a good suggestion. The vote went in favour (*nem con*), specifying that each non-host club should provide 2 helpers for their allocated race; these helpers could be marshals, but could equally well provide other assistance. Details should be agreed between the paired host and non-host clubs.

(vi-b) *Points deduction should be faced if help is not provided.*

It was agreed (8 in favour, 4 abstentions) that the penalty faced will be the deduction of the top 2 runners' points in each A team of all age groups should a team fail to provide their allocation of helpers.

10. Car Parking

Car parking is acknowledged as a growing problem. One venue has already been lost because of inconsiderate parking.

Charges made are at the host club's discretion (guideline is up to £5/car).

Ideas put forward included:

Encourage use of mini-buses (create reserved section in car park area).

Put car park a little further from event if this makes larger site available for parking (e.g. industrial estates near Banbury and Horspath).

Encourage car sharing – charge per passenger rather than per car.

A notice will be placed in the Mail reminding runners of the need to share cars.

Organisers will also be reminded that car-park charging is at their discretion, but that advance notice should be given.

LMN to action

11. AOB

(i) Officials will wear identifying bibs next season.

(ii) It was asked whether the OCC League has a Constitution, and if not, whether it should do. It was agreed (11 in favour, 1 abstention), that OCC should have a constitution, possibly based on another League's and incorporating policies

(grievances, neutrality, car park charges and safety) written during 2006/7 season, and that it should be drafted by the Committee for discussion at the next AGM.

Committee to action.

(iii) A request was made for fuller details to be placed on the website (e.g., to include directions, map, car park arrangements/charges, etc.)

Please could organisers forward this information to Fraser Howard.

Meeting closed.