

Oxford Mail Cross Country League AGM
7.30pm May 15th 2008, Stratfield Brake, Kidlington

Present: Laurie Hurman (HRR), Michael Search (Kidlington), Colin Price (Team Kennet), Andy Tilley (Didcot Runners), Robert Ferris (Cirencester A.C), Tony Curry (Cirencester A.C), Andy Smith (Goring and Wallingford A.C), Tony Lock (Witney Roadrunners), Graham Pickup (Oxon A.C), Chris Hobson (Newbury A.C), Andy Tuttle (Newbury A.C), Anita James (HRR), Jon Burgess (Alchester R.C), Richard Jégou (White Horse Harriers), James Bolton (Woodstock Harriers), Fraser Howard (Results Service), Marie-Anne Fischer (Treasurer), Luke McNeill (League Manager), Cassa Messervy (Deputy League Manager), Robert Logan (Deputy Race Referee).

Apologies: Geoff Smith (Banbury), Ivor Hopkins (Race Referee), Paul Kelsey (OCAC)

Voting Members: 11

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Approved as a correct record of the meeting.

2. Matters Arising

Item 4: Treasurers report - fees were raised to £75.

Item 4: Oxford Mail have increased funding to £150.

Item 7: Timekeepers' expenses were paid.

Item 9.iv: Committee have brought distance proposals for consideration

Item 10: Car Parking – some effect has been seen with encouragement for car sharing, expansion of car parks at venues etc. LM reported a problem at Ascott and apologized to Witney RR.

Item 11.i: Bibs were not worn at all races. Identifying signs for the results service were bought.

Item 11.ii: Committee has brought a constitution for consideration

Item 11.iii: Fuller details were not placed on website as the manager did not chase the race directors. A suggestion was made to forward details directly to team managers.

3. Manager's Report

The Manager expressed thanks to all who are involved in the league for another good season. He apologized for an issue with the entry forms and information meaning that some clubs did not receive this information until later. The report was short as most of the contents of the report would be covered in the rest of the meeting. LM will be standing next season.

4. Treasurer's Report

Fees were raised last year. £150 in sponsorship was received from Oxford Mail. The League made a small profit. The League said that it would pay for First Aid but only one club took that up. It is proposed that the fee should stay at £75 for larger clubs; no objections were received from the floor.

Race numbers may be a way to save money - Fraser will only do 4 lots instead of 5 next year.

5. Dates for Next Season

Subject to proposal 8.3 and the county championships:

November 2nd, December 7th, January 4th, February 1st and March 1st.

Cirencester volunteered to host February 1st. Witney volunteered to host November 2nd. LM expressed thanks to both clubs.

Action : LM will investigate new venues

6. Divisions for Next Season

Top 8 from 2006/7 season will be in division 1, the next 8 in division 2 and so on. FH apologised for not bringing the division lists along. They will be posted on the website.

7. Election of Officials

All of the committee will stand again. FH will definitely be leaving at the end of this season - the League will try to find someone to take over.

Action: Committee will find a replacement

The floor thanked the committee.

8. Proposals

A debate followed each proposal. The voting format was explained. LM has casting vote.

- (i) Options on alterations to race day format. History of the proposal was explained. The combination of boys and girls race was discussed, but reservations were expressed regarding difficulties for marshals and referees. The reason for the increase in distances in option 3 was explained. Concerns were expressed that the increase in boys' distances were too large and would give timetabling problems.

The vote: 1 voted for option 1
6 voted for option 2
1 voted for option 3
2 voted for option 4

Majority vote for option 2 (6 for - 4 against - 1 abstention) thus it is adopted.

Action: LM will talk to officials about timetable.

- (ii) Proposed Constitution. Constitution was created by RL and LM. LM explained the name not mentioning the Oxford Mail as sponsorship may change in future. LM explained article 2 as aiming to ensure the league does not expand beyond the capabilities of the committee. Member clubs should help with the league and courses from further afield may be too far away for the majority of athletes.

- § LM reported a request from Tewkesbury AC to join the league and explained that he was of the opinion that they should not be allowed due to distance from Oxfordshire. TL asked if League Manager only should decide if new clubs should be accepted. There was a debate regarding the decision-making process for the acceptance of new clubs. LH proposed that out-of-county clubs must be approved by AGM, with potential members being invited to come along to justify their membership. Seconded by TL. Accepted *nem con*.

- § It was asked if the season could be extended to allow October races. LM explained reasoning behind the current wording (normally November to March). It was agreed to leave the constitution as is.
- § Article 2, line 2 LH asked that 'which' be changed to 'that'.
- § The situation regarding 1st and 2nd claim runners will be covered in the rules.

Constitution was accepted with above alterations *nem con*.

Action : LM to alter constitution before publication.

- (iii) Newbury AC proposed a calendar change for 2008/9 season only. They have county and school championships in early January, thus young runners would have to race every weekend - could the first fixture be changed to October?
 - § It was felt that moving the date would have problems with the existing road race calendar.
 - § Momentum would be lost over two months.
 - § The congestion around Christmas/ New Year happens every year.
 - § Oxfordshire County Championships could be the same weekend as Berkshire.

Action: LM will coordinate league fixture and Oxon county championships with Barrie Strange.

Vote: 2 for - 7 against - 2 abstained. There will be no fixture in October.

9. Any Other Business

- Guest runners for Kidlington - could they have run with no scoring? Guest runners should register with results service; if they are a fast runner they should have a special number.
- Cross Country permit forms have been amended – see UKA website.
- England Athletic Association - are schools affiliated? Or do they need to be? Members can run if they are not affiliated but clubs should be.

Action: Robert to find out and send round rule.

- Concern was expressed regarding the safety of the Culham venue, in particular with the children's races running by the river and the distance from there to the first aid facilities. LM said a risk assessment was in place but accepted the suggestion of running the children's races on the plateau away from the river. LH (as HRR chair) reinforced LM's comments and confirmed the experience of the race director..
 - Action: LM to speak to HRR and race directors.**
- Results recording - race directors need to inform volunteers what is expected of them. A job description for recorders was requested. It is the race directors responsibility to ensure that volunteers understand their role.

Action: LM to speak to race directors. Fraser to do job description on the website.

- It was noted that the entry fee for next season had not been set. There was a proposal to leave it as the previous season. Passed *nem con*.

- Abingdon Amblers made a proposal about having a short and long course for men and women. It was felt that insufficient detail was presented and that it will have to go to next years AGM.

Action: Abingdon to bring this to next year's AGM.

Meeting closed 8.45pm.