

OXL 2023-24 AGM Minutes

Date 26/6/24 19:30

Present

Committee:-

Dan Wymer

Ros Kelling

Matthieu Marshall

Richard Hart

Theresa Lamble

Clubs:-

Abingdon AC	Daisy Lougher
Alchester RC	Lewis Long
Banbury Harriers AC	Ian Robinson & James Charles
Benson Striders	<i>No representative</i>
Bicester AC	Emma Gould
Cherwell Runners & Joggers	John Paul Hamilton
Didcot Runners	Mike Suggate
Eynsham Roadrunners	Tom Baker
Great Milton AC	<i>No representative</i>
Harwell Harriers RC	Tammi Williams
Headington Roadrunners	Kit Villiers
Highworth RC	<i>Apologies received</i>
Hook Norton Harriers	Steve Frame
Newbury AC	Phil Marshall
Oxford Brookes R&AC	Toby Firkins
Oxford City AC	Sarah Davies & Duncan Lawrence
Oxford Tri	James
Radley AC	Annie Fernandez-Jones
Swindon Harriers	Courtney Chessel & Mike Beard
Swindon Striders	<i>No representative</i>
Team Kennet T&AC	<i>Apologies received</i>
Woodstock Harriers	James Bolton
White Horse Harriers AC	Neil McColl & Alan Davies
Witney Roadrunners	Regina Johnys & John McCormack
Reading AC	Julie Rayfield
Thame Runners	Charlie Pughe
OAA	Will Atkinson

1. Apologies – Jason Campbell (Highworth) Simon Gale (Team Kennet Tri)
2. Dan started the meeting at 7.35. Appreciated everyone coming. Lots to vote on so will cover everything else quickly.
3. 2023 AGM Minutes & Matters Arising – name should be Alan Davies, Regina’s surname should be Johnys not Lally

4. Manager's Report – Dan's first season as League Manager, taking over from Dene. Thanked everyone for their support – every single person who gets involved. First fixture was a new venue - very wet so original parking field couldn't be used so made the best of it. Thank you for patience. Lessons learned in terms of communication. Generally positive feedback. R2 real team effort as both Dan and Theresa missing due to ill health. Missed wet Cirencester Park – may have one last crack at Cirencester before lose venue. R3 – thank you to Oxford City – they had a cancelled event soon before our fixture, but great team effort to put it on. Last field was a bog! R4 Witney RR organised a great fixture. R5 thank you to everyone for getting involved in the relay, and lot stopping for the prize giving. Matthieu and Dan worked hard to produce final standings. Thank you to the team who did the prize giving. Fantastic first season. Involved host clubs in de-brief which has been a big success. Unusual situation WHH picked up the senior women category and meant they had won senior women 3 times in a row – only been done before which was WHH in the '90's. WRR had 3 generations of the same family running in the same fixture – well done!
5. Treasurer's Report - Ros explained that Joe Lynes from Headington RR (Qualified ACA Chartered Accountant) had audited the accounts for the first time – as stated in the constitution. Small piece of advice was to have 2 signatories on the account rather than 1, which would be put in action. Ros ran through the accounts, and where there were increases and savings. A deposit account was opened for security reasons, not leaving too much in the current account, which also provided interest income. Surplus for the year was £9,519 giving a bank balance of £22,674. Kit questioned why lost numbers income was not a round sum – due to being paid through the Sum-Up machine which takes a small percentage. John – accounts show a 'profit' of £22,000 – what happens to that? Dan – it's a surplus rather than a profit to cover any unexpected costs. Target was to have a £10,000 surplus within 2 years – have done better than that due to keeping costs down and popularity of the League. Dan will go over the budget later, but may need to pay more for venues to secure them going forward. Entry fees will not be increased in the short term.
6. Entry & Results Report – Matthieu explained this is the second year we have been using Open Track for entries and results – satisfied with how it works. Queries sorted quickly. Hopefully team managers happy. A few issues with results – didn't sort standings until R3 – had issues with the age categories. We will continue with entry system. May change to doing standings ourselves. Participation – up again compared to previous 2 years. Back to pre Covid participations numbers. Majority of people entering do more than one race. Entries increased to R3 – county champs. Gender split was 39% female 61% male.

Dan – fantastic to see the League growing. Poses a challenge for venues and parking.

Motivation had good success with encouraging people to car share – we need to piggy back on their success.

7. Officials & Volunteers Report – Theresa – first year as co-ordinator of officials and volunteers.

Good support. Each round about 7 officials. County champs had 10. We have recruited 2 club members to become officials for 24/25 season. EA made it easier for club members to become officials – let Theresa know if you want to become an official. De-briefs have made it easier to problem solve if needed. Good communication. Thank you to all officials and volunteers. Keep stepping up! No questions.

8. 2024-25 Season

- a. Divisions – Dan showed a breakdown of the divisions and the clubs being promoted and dropping down. Well done to all promoted. Headington now have 3 senior ladies teams in division 1 – well done!
- b. Fixtures – 4 of the 5 fixtures for next year are ready to go, R1 not sorted yet, Cornbury are yet to respond and Bicester/Witney not able to host. Potentially we can get Cornbury with parking adjustments. Banbury would possibly co-host with another club. We do need more venues. Clubs need to come up with more venues. Oxford University owns a lot of land, Blenheim Estate, someone must know contacts. R2 Cirencester Park – building work is taking place, but Neil has been in contact with the venue. Neil went 6 weeks ago and met manager – can use same course as this year. Folly area is wedding venue – don't know what mid winter market is going to be. May be able to use a part of the estate nearer town centre – rolling rough ground and trees, water jump, hard standing parking. Just need 100% confirmation. R3 Horspath – they host 3 cross country fixtures/winter and would be good to have a year off sometimes. Good parking and course, but need another Jan venue. R4 Cotswold Farm Park hosted by Witney RR. Phil (Newbury) R3 combines with county champs – can we use same venue as them? No – it works the other way round – OAA relies on the League. Emma Gould – works well as when separate the entries for County Champs were low. Would the League consider venues where public transport needed to be used. Dan – we need to find the car parking and then find the course. Shuttle bus service maybe. We have more money than previously – we can offer more for venue hire which may open some doors. R5 Henley – great venue to finish season and good cover for prize giving. Harcourt Hill was used in the past using park and ride. Annie - Brookes University have sold the site. If we can get a venue we can then find host clubs. Neil – mapping of courses – changes were made

to course maps – what is the League’s position on course mapping. We don’t have Dene’s facilities, so clear communication of the courses is fine. Committee will work with the host club. Phil volunteered a Newbury club member who can help with mapping. Alan – spent time over summer looking for alternative venues to Cirencester, but car parking the problem. Good revenue in December, but having 500 cars on site in December is a problem. Removing car parking charge has seen an increase in car numbers. Whole league community needs to dictate car sharing.

- c. Budget – Dan went through the budget – less conservative. Entries same as last year. No increase in entry fees. No sponsorship budgeted, but hopefully Fit2Run will go again. Forecast £3,000 less than previous season. Costs – trophies and awards left the same. Most costs same as last season. Hopefully chip timing gets passed – numbers included in the cost. Fixture costs same as previous year – may have some additional costs. Will use some of our surplus if costs rise. Neil – is there a plan for the surplus? Dan – need to deliver quality races. We may need to use the surplus for additional costs in the future. We need to have at least £10,000 surplus sat in the bank. Neil – hosting fee – more than £500 was generated pre-Covid. R5 was always less attended so a real mix of financial success previously – host reward evens this out. Emma Gould – at least now host clubs know the costs are going to be covered – no uncertainty. Mike – could guidelines for suitable courses be given.

9. Proposals

- a. New member club applications – Thame Runners are entitled to join the League as within Oxon. Dan welcomed them to the League. Reading AC have also asked to join the League – joined R5 last season – 30 runners. Committee see no reason to deny them membership. Julie – particularly keen on U11 races. Different day for racing. Forward looking league. Phil – will you still compete in Hampshire League? Yes for next season. Kit – we should keep an eye on car parking. Julie – ave 30 per fixture currently. New senior teams start in Division 3.
No against and no abstaining. Passed unanimously.
- b. Chip timing – would reduce volunteer numbers. Reduce time and effort doing results. Tempo – do a lot of races in our area and competitive price wise. Emma – will they deal with missing numbers? Think will plug them straight into the system. Would there be a back up? Yes – parallel system and video back up. Impact county champs? Works the same. Steve – HNH use Tempo and are amazing. James Charles – has the League given any thought to buying chip timing system? Retails about £4,000. Dan – don’t want the committee to take on anything else. James Bolton –

League looked at buying chip timing some years ago – too complicated to go ahead with. Regina – worth having the expertise. Mike Beard – use DB Max – they have 2 offerings. Dan – all 3 offer chip finish.

No one voted against or abstention so passed unanimously.

- c. Second-claim entry restrictions – allow second claim to enter at any point during the season rather than before R1 (current rule).

No one voted against or abstention so passed.

- d. U9/U11 on the day entry – currently can enter on the day. Causes us hassle. Regina – support this. U11's EA registered. Annie – should we take out 'recommended'? Agreed to take it out. Ian – does that apply to all age groups? Dan – this paragraph is applicable to all age groups. Hopefully will encourage everyone register U11's with EA – saves committee manually entering them.

No one voted against, 2 abstentions so passed.

- e. Race schedule adjustments – races have overlapped previously. Changed timings of some races will prevent this. James Bolton – chip timing will help. Sarah Davies – reservations about combining the U13 girls and boys. Maybe combine U11's as well. Dan – large numbers racing in U11's – would end up with 100 in the race. Would like to observe this season and see if chip timing helps. Craig – female athletes enjoy watching the men race – can the races be flipped. Ros - as a female it's great to have the male support during our race. Dan – would need to bring as a proposal for next season. Regina – U17's often work so consider bringing races forward. Phil – would that cause an issue with females being out on the course for longer and slowing the whole schedule. Dan – we have looked at this and there is little difference between the slower men and women. Mike – one of our ladies got lost on the course – that wouldn't happen if they ran before the men. Dan – we have asked host clubs to provide a tail runner so this shouldn't happen again.

No votes against, one abstention so passed.

- f. Masters age categories – bring ladies age categories in line with the men. Steve – couple of ladies concerned as some races still have the old age groups. Dan – Run Britain have 5 year age groups so will not notice a difference.

2 votes against, no abstentions so passed.

- g. Senior team sizes – adjust senior womens team sizes from 3 to 4. Kit – rule says you have to have more than half of the team to appear as a team. Dan – half is fine. We need to look at adjusting that rule. Steve – small club, don't always have 3 let alone 4. Dan – penalty rule is same – score of last runner +1 is used. It's about getting

more runners involved. Emma – echo what Steve says – for first time had senior ladies team, so would impact them. How much impact would the change have on 3 teams from the same club in D1? Dan – haven't done the figures, but it's reflective of the ratio of male/female athletes. Annie – we are another club with small ladies numbers. Julie – in favour – looks demeaning on female athletes to have so few. Steve – will the mens team numbers drop? Dan – reflects the male/female ratio. 4 votes against, no abstentions so passed.

- h. AGM timings in constitution – we haven't been complying with timings so needs changing. Ian – what is the notice that is given? Dan – not to hand, but there is enough time. Kit – previously did have the meeting within the 12 weeks, but things were simpler.

No votes against, no abstentions so passed unanimously.

- i. Member club obligations & non-compliance

No votes against, no abstentions so passed unanimously.

- j. Purchase of walkie talkies – would be advantageous for communication on the day. James Charles provided different supplier. Banbury has a set which can be borrowed.

No votes against, no abstentions so passed unanimously.

- k. Non-scoring of guests – Matthieu explained the background of this. Regina – is this easy to implement? Matthieu – a bit of admin, but easier now chip timing agreed.

No votes against, no abstentions so passed unanimously.

- 10. Committee Officials – Dan pleased to say 4 committee members happy to stand again for the next season. No objections. We need additional committee members as we are a small team, and exposed if anyone leaves. 3 roles to be filled – secretary (zoom, minutes, team manager contact list), someone to help Matthieu with results (computer literacy), website up to date – mostly now, and bits through the season. James Charles – large clubs to co-opt someone? That has been discussed in the past, but we do want volunteers not those forced to do it who won't turn up to meetings.

- 11. AOB – Steve – thanked the committee for their time. Appreciate everything done. Regina – positive feedback on the entry system.

Meeting closed at 22:12