

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of  
The Oxford Mail Oxfordshire Cross-Country League  
held at Exeter Hall, Kidlington  
on 29 April 2015 at 19.30hrs**

**Present:**

*League Officers:* Luke McNeill (League Manager),  
Marie-Anne Fischer (Treasurer), Frank Briscoe (Results Service)  
*Abingdon AC:* Noel Blatchford  
*Alchester RC:* Vincente Bayliss, Gary Warland  
*Banbury Harriers AC:* James Charles  
*Bicester AC:* Emma Gould, Angela Welby  
*Cherwell R&J:* Michael Nevill, Dawn Osborne  
*Eynsham RR:* Tess Evans, Jacky Pinnock, Ben Pollard  
*Headington RR:* Philip Lister, Robert Logan, Andrew Munday, Kit Villiers  
*Hook Norton Harriers:* Tom Bradford, Sandra Heryet  
*Kidlington R&AC:* Michael Search  
*Newbury AC:* Andy Tuttle  
*Oxford City AC:* David Newhouse, Liz Scrivener, Mark Scrivener  
*Oxon AA:* John Sear, Paul Thomas  
*Swindon Harriers:* Simon Dill  
*Team Kennet:* Colin Price  
*White Horse HAC:* Ian Lambourn, Simon Leech, Paul Jegou, Dene Stringfellow  
*Witney RR:* Richard Stocking

**Apologies:**

Didcot Runners

**Voting Members: 15**

**1) Minutes of Last AGM**

The minutes of the last AGM held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2013 were unanimously accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

**2) Matters Arising**

The query from Manager's report regarding perpetual trophies: Luke contacted every club and only the U15 Girls' team trophy was found. From this arose the proposal to abolish perpetual trophies and replace with new shields every year.

**3) Manager's Report**

- a. Another successful season maintaining numbers of runners.
- b. Witney had no problems.
- c. Harcourt Hill was organised in 3 weeks by Luke who stated how easy it is and encouraged clubs to help out anybody wishing to take on the organisation in years to come.

- d. The Culham fixture doubled up as the County Championships.
- e. February saw a welcome return to Cirencester.
- f. Harwell proved again that it is an excellent venue for the final round of the season.

**However**, the venue is in serious jeopardy owing to runners of both sexes urinating in the hedges in front of private housing. This has caused serious complaints from the residents. Clubs must stop their runners from using the hedges as loos.

The following actions are proposed to prevent this from happening again: putting up barriers, an increase of marshals early on and moving the start away from the housing area.

- g. There was 1 successful appeal from Newbury after disqualification of a junior athlete.
- h. Frank added that the total number of athletes competing in at least 1 event exceeded 1200. This means that there was another small increase in the 2014-15 season.
- i. There were no questions or comments.

#### **4) Matters Arising**

- a. For the second year running expenses have exceeded income.
- b. No sponsorship has been received from the Oxford Mail.
- c. Suggestion from the floor to find somebody pushy to secure sponsorship from the Oxford Mail and this sponsorship should be increased from £150.

#### **d. Questions:**

- i. The results service cost was queried in the accounts.*

*Frank clarified the costs incurred in procuring the race numbers and producing the results.*

- ii. The £800.00 donation in 2013 to Sue Ryder was queried.*

*Luke confirmed that this was a result of a hosting club (Abingdon AC?) donating its car parking receipts.*

#### **5) Dates and Venues for 2015/16 Season**

- a. *November fixture:* Witney RR agreed to host.
- b. *December fixture:* Headington RR will most likely host. TBC.
- c. *January fixture:* The usual date of first Sunday in January cannot be used if Oxford Mail is to double up with County Champs. John Sear suggested moving the date to January 10th. Oxford City may host if asked to do so.
- d. *February fixture:* Cirencester AC are assumed to host again. TBC.
- e. *March fixture:* Harwell may continue provided the urinating problem is controlled.

## 6) Divisions for 2015/16 Season

<b>Women</b>	Division 1:	<b>promoted:</b> Woodstock A, Team Kennet A <b>relegated:</b> Abingdon A, Newbury B
	Division 2:	<b>promoted:</b> Kidlington A, Highworth A <b>relegated:</b> Newbury C, Cirencester B
<b>Men</b>	Division 1:	<b>promoted:</b> Swindon Harriers A, White Horse A <b>relegated:</b> Woodstock A, Abingdon A
	Division 2:	<b>no changes</b>

## 7) Discussion of the Future of the League/Proposals

A long discussion was held on the ethos of the League.

### Proposal 1:

Clubs are to be prepared to host/organise or co-organise a race every three years. ...

*Please refer to 2015 AGM Agenda for full details.*

Pros	Cons
An effort to try to get smaller clubs to communicate and get involved.	There is a concern that some clubs already contribute more than most in terms of organising/hosting events. It is felt there is only so much that can be asked of their club members.
Providing marshals should not be an issue.	The majority of clubs already contribute to either the summer or winter season.
Creating a buddy-system enables less experienced clubs to learn from more experienced clubs – e.g. two small clubs could co-host Harcourt Hill.	Need for clearly spelt out ideas of what is required.

### **Votes for proposal 1:**

In favour: 5

Against: 10

**Note:** There was a proposal to formalise a buddy-system through the new management of the league.

### Proposal 2a:

Recommend course distances to be changed ...

*Please refer to 2015 AGM Agenda for full details.*

### Proposal 2b:

Courses at the January fixture should more accurately reflect Inter-County competition

...

*Please refer to 2015 AGM Agenda for full details.*

<b>Comments/Feedback</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longer courses may discourage many runners due to later start times and an overall lengthening of race day. The league ethos is to promote an event for everybody and all abilities.</li> <li>• Clubs applying for Clubmark are required to provide races for all abilities.</li> <li>• Specific difficulties of each course need to be taken into consideration when selecting the course length.</li> <li>• At least one race needs to be in line with the Inter-County races to act as a selection process.</li> <li>• U9 and U11: add a back-runner to ensure safety of all runners.</li> <li>• Lower age limit to be set to 8 on race day.</li> <li>• To help with management of the U11 races, a small increase in distance from 1200 to 1500 m is desirable.</li> <li>• Frank proposed to check/increase the U11 distance at Ascot and Culham in particular as these courses do not appear to be even 1200m in length.</li> </ul>

***Votes for proposal 2a:***

In favour: 0

Against: 15

***Votes for proposal 2b:***

In favour: 15

Against: 0

**Proposal 2c:**

This was an additional proposal that was voted upon at the meeting **to set a minimum age limit for competing athletes of 8 years on the day of the race:**

***Votes for proposal 2c:***

In favour: 15

Against: 0

**Proposal 2d:**

This was an additional proposal that was voted upon at the meeting **to increase U11 race distance to 1500m for safer finish management:**

***Votes for proposal 2d:***

In favour: 15

Against: 0

**Proposal 2e:**

This was an additional proposal that was voted upon at the meeting **to increase U13 to 2500 m and voted upon:**

***Votes for proposal 2e:***

In favour: 15

Against: 0

***Notes:***

- a) It was agreed to make no adjustment to the race day timing schedule.
- b) It was agreed that the U15s and U17s will start together but will run different distances at the combined League/County Championships event in line with Proposal 2b.
- c) There was a query from John Sear (OxonAA): Are U9 and U11 athletes covered for indemnities as they are not age groups covered by UKA rules?

**Proposal 3:**

A proposal to change the current fee structure.

*Please refer to 2015 AGM Agenda for the original wording.*

The following amended wording for the revision of the fee structure was voted upon:

Up to 20 participants in the previous season: £50:00

21-79 participants in the previous season: £100.00

80 or more participants in the previous season: £150.00

***Votes for proposal 3:***

In favour: 15

Against: 0

**Note:** There was a strong feeling that the name 'Oxford Mail' should be dropped if sponsorship money doesn't come forward in the season 2015/16.

**Proposal 4:**

All perpetual junior team trophies are to be retired, and replaced with new trophies each year. ...

*Please refer to 2015 AGM Agenda for full details.*

***Votes for proposal 4:***

In favour: 15

Against: 0

**Proposal 5:**

The League's response to the UKA consultation on age groups.

It was agreed that this point should be discussed after the election of officials.

The discussion did not take place. However the new management team has responded.

**8) Constitution Review**

It was proposed to defer the review of the constitution until the next AGM as it might include details of the age group restructuring as asked for by SEAA.

***Votes for deferral:***

In favour: 15

Against: 0

**9) Election of Officials**

A vote of thanks from the floor was expressed to the leaving officials Luke McNeill and Marie-Anne Fischer.

The following new officials were proposed and voted in unanimously:

*League Manager:* Dene Stringfellow

*League Treasurer:* Richard Stocking

*Results Service:* Frank Briscoe

**10) AOB**

No other business was raised.

**Close**

The meeting was brought to a close at 22.30hrs.