



Oxfordshire Cross Country League

ESTABLISHED 1987

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2022 Draft AGM Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 29th June 2022

Time: 19:30hrs

Venue: Zoom Online Meeting

Present:

League Officers:

Dene Stringfellow (*League Manager*)

Ros Kelling (*Treasurer/ Banbury Harriers AC*)

Dan Wymer (*General Committee Member / Witney RR*)

Club Representatives:

Abingdon AC: Jen Swarbrick

Alchester RC: Gary Warland

Banbury Harriers AC: Ian Robinson

Bicester AC: Emma Gould / Tom Gould (*non-voting*)

Bicester TC: Debbie Gilbert

Cherwell R&J: Clare Curnow / Dawn Osborne (*non-voting*)

Didcot Runners: Theresa Lamble

Eynsham RR: Jacky Pinnock / Tom Baker (*non-voting*)

Harwell Harriers RC: Alice Gerlach

Headington RR: Kit Villiers / Philip Lister (*non-voting*)

Hook Norton Harriers: Steve Frame

Kidlington RC: Liam Hosier

Newbury AC: Andy Tuttle

Oxford City AC: Richard Hart

Oxford Tri: Kelly Lehmann

Swindon Harriers: Bryan Clinton

White Horse Harriers AC: Gareth Smith

Witney Roadrunners: John McCormac / Richard Stocking (*non-voting*)

Woodstock Harriers AC: James Bolton

plus:

Radley College Harriers: Dan Studley (non-voting)

Oxon AA: Hugh Morris (non-voting)

Voting Members: 19

Welcome

All participants were welcomed and thanked for attending the meeting. The League Manager handed the meeting over to Dan Wymer (*OXL/Witney Roadrunners*) to clarify the rules for the meeting including those for how voting would be handled. Dan clarified the rules for the meeting as follows:

- a. All participants other than the committee to mute their microphones.
- b. Participants to use the "hand up" facility to raise a question or make a comment.
- c. All voting delegates to use the same "hand up" facility to vote.
- d. The meeting would proceed on the assumption that everyone had read or had to hand to refer to the meeting documentation provided with the meeting notice and that the documentation would not be shared during the meeting to avoid unnecessary delays.

1) Apologies

The following apologies were recorded:

Benson Striders: Ken Swan

Bicester AC: Paul Groves

Great Milton AC: Pat Read

Highworth RC: Jason Campbell / Chris Carter

Radley AC: Annalise ?? / Rose Webb

Swindon Harriers: Bryan Clinton

Team Kennet A&TC: Nick Bull / Simon Gale

Woodstock Harriers AC: Neil Preddy / Mike Shipway

The following clubs were not represented at the meeting:

Highworth RC

Swindon Striders

2) Minutes of 2021 AGM, 2022 EGM & 2022 EGM Working Party

The minutes of the last AGM and EGM held respectively on 21st July 2021, 23rd February 2022 as well as those of the subsequent EGM Working Party meetings held respectively on 13th April 2022, 27th April 2022 and 18th May 2022 were unanimously accepted as an accurate record of those meetings.

3) Matters Arising (2022 EGM & 2021 AGM Minutes)

There were no outstanding matters arising from the 2022 EGM Minutes and subsequent EGM Working Party Minutes. The matter arising from the 2021 AGM

Minutes was the outstanding action to try and get an online entry system in place. The matter is to be reviewed later during the course of the meeting.

4) League Manager's Report

The following League Manager's report was summarised briefly to ensure the meeting proceeded in a timely manner.

2022 AGM Report

Given the recent pandemic that caused the cancellation of the 2020-21 season it was a great relief to all concerned that the 2021-22 season went ahead, albeit the turnout in terms of athlete numbers was inevitably impacted over the course of the season.

The first round fixture at Bicester Heritage, hosted by Bicester AC, once again was well-organised and well-attended, all things considered. The fine weather was also a bonus. The lower numbers of young athletes in the junior races was self evident. In addition, changes to race distances brought into effect following the approval of the equal gender race distances proposal at the previous AGM required some impromptu management of the race schedules in an attempt avoid clashes of races and difficulties for the marshals.

The second round fixture at Cirencester Park, hosted by White Horse Harriers AC and Didcot Runners, was again well-organised and despite the lower than usual turnout was completed successfully. An unsavoury spitting incident at the start of one of the races, however, was reported by a parent. The OXL Committee was left with no alternative but to issue the OXL - Spitting Notice highlighting the penalties for anyone witnessed spitting.

In addition, following complaints by residents of male runners seen visiting the woods with toilet roll resulted in the OXL - Defecating & Urinating Notice being issued with similar penalties being applied. How many times must the League issue notices and statements in relation to the actions of inconsiderate persons, athletes or otherwise, that can jeopardise the few venues the League has access to?!

The cancellation of the Round 3 fixture scheduled to be held at Horspath, Oxford at very short notice owing to a fixture clash at the venue was, it has to be said, a blow and should have been avoided. There had clearly been a lack of communication between Oxford City AC and the other venue tenants which will need to be addressed.

It was very disappointing to learn before Christmas of the loss of Bo Peep Farm as the originally scheduled venue for the Round 4 fixture. The loss of that venue and the real concerns about rising venue hire costs along with the collection of car parking fees no longer being viable led to the calling of an EGM by the OXL Committee at the end of January to address the future funding of the League, which has led to a proposal put together by the EGM Working Party to be presented later during the course of this AGM.

The League Committee were very grateful to Witney Roadrunners for stepping in to host the Round 4 fixture at short notice as well as hosting the rescheduled 2022 Oxfordshire Cross Country Championships at Cotswold Farm Park, Gloucestershire. All things considered the fixture was very successful and a great credit to the host club. The café raised the venue to a completely different level! A lot of positive

feedback was received despite some concerns raised about runner fees being charged as opposed to car parking fees.

The final fixture of the season returned to Henley Showground, hosted once again by Abingdon AC and Radley AC. This was another well-organised fixture. Concerns were raised by the venue questioned in relation to the venue hire fee that had originally been agreed, but thankfully that was resolved for this fixture. The season end presentations once again went smoothly, albeit a significant number of prizes remained uncollected.

The introduction of the trial mixed relay at the end of the fixture was well-received and supported with many younger athletes staying on to watch and support the participants. Thankfully, any issues in relation to clashes with the scheduled presentations were avoided. If this or a similar such event is to become a regular feature the OXL Committee feels that a club or individual will need to take responsibility for its organisation.

A full-scale trial season was completed using digital timekeeping and scanning of race number barcodes. It was largely successful and did highlight that the original manual timekeeping and number recording system and the new, digital system were both prone to errors/inaccuracies. Having to check through both sets of results data inevitably took longer to deliver reasonably accurate results. The intention will be to continue with both systems for at least another season before switching to a wholly digital system.

There were three clubs that applied to join the OXL and completed their trial season during the course of the 2021-22 season. Those clubs were Abbey RC, Radley College Harriers and Swindon Striders. A review of how the clubs fared will be covered later during the meeting.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues, Ros Kelling and Dan Wymer, for all their support and counsel over the past couple of seasons. It has been greatly appreciated particularly as the League is reliant on a such a small team of committee members.

5) Treasurer's Report

- a. Ros Kelling reported on the League accounts which were included in the associated documentation notified to member clubs prior to the AGM.
- b. The membership fee income received for the 2021-22 season remained reasonably consistent with previous seasons.
- c. A big plus was the sponsorship income received from Fit2Run that covered the cost of the race numbers.
- d. The runner fees collected as a result of the Round 4 fixture held at Cotswold Farm Park were itemised under income in the 2021-22 accounts summary, and the amount paid to the venue under expenses. A small surplus was made on the fixture due to some athletes not turning up who had paid in advance.
- e. The cost of the trophies and race numbers was slightly down in comparison to the previous season, however, the rest of the expenses incurred during the course of the season remained fairly standard.
- f. The League started the season with a balance of £1,725.96 in its bank account, and having made a profit of £1,447.70 over the course of the season

closed the period with a bank balance of £3,173.66. It was felt this would stand the League in good stead going forward.

- g. No questions were arising from the accounts summary as presented for the 2021-22 season.
- h. The accounts for the 2021-22 season were unanimously accepted.

6) Sponsorship Update

- a. Dan Wymer presented the sponsorship update, confirming that Fit2Run had agreed to sponsor the cost of the race numbers for the 2021-22 season, hence the specific amount of £851.04 sponsored.
- b. Fit2Run are keen to sponsor the OXL again. However, Fit2Run will not be able to provide the same amount of sponsorship.
- c. Negotiations are currently ongoing and an update will be provided once the sponsorship arrangements have been confirmed.

7) Entry & Results Secretary's Report

- a. Dene confirmed that numbers were down over the course of the 2021-22 season when compared to the previous season across all fixtures, that highlighted the impact the pandemic has had upon entry numbers
- b. Entries were down by approximately 250 in comparison to the 2019-20 season.
- c. It provides an indication of how the League had grown prior to the pandemic, with entries typically increasing by 50-60 year on year.
- d. Three clubs were accepted for a trial season: Abbey RC, Radley College Harriers and Swindon Striders. Of those clubs Radley College Harriers and Swindon Striders were given additional dispensation to enter more athletes than normally allowed, in the first instance to help the College to promote the League and encourage participation among its pupils and, in the second instance, having been a former member club.
- e. Over the course of the 2021-22 season entries were accepted for 5 Unofficial Guests (*– those member club athletes whose entries had failed to be submitted by the initial entry deadlines or whose entries had failed the licence checks*) and 23 Official Guests (*– those non-member club athletes whose entries had been submitted by the initial entry deadlines and whose entries had passed the licence checks*).
- f. The usual season on season-on-season statistics were supplied in the supporting documentation ahead of the meeting along with the table of runners that ran at least once, as well as historical statistics relating to junior only, senior only and combined clubs. Those statistics have been helpful for the EGM working party meetings.

8) 2021-22 Changes Update

a. Equal Gender Race Distances Update

- i. Last season saw the introduction of equal gender race distances. Generally, the feedback was positive, albeit concerns were raised by

some women regarding the increase women's race distances on the one hand, and by some men in relation to the reduction of the men's race distances.

- ii. Some of the U15 and U17 races were known to have suffered from overlapping that caused confusion for the marshals in terms of being able to correctly distinguish the runners in different races and direct them accordingly.
- iii. It was confirmed that race timings had been adjusted over the course of the fixtures to try to mitigate against the issue. In addition, there had been the suggestion for the runners to call out their category when approaching a marshal.
- iv. Emma Gould (*Bicester AC*) confirmed that the issue had still not been properly resolved as runners had been misdirected during the course of the final fixture.

v. **Possible Resolution Suggestions:**

- 1. Different colour race numbers for the U15 and U17 categories
 - a. Issues: *Additional cost and administrative overhead.*
- 2. Change the race timetable
 - a. Issue: *If the U15 and U17 races are rescheduled to take place among the races for the younger athletes, the same problem could arise.*
 - b. Issue: *It would be important to make sure that older athletes don't barge or impede the younger ones. With already limited marshal resources that could present a problem.*
 - c. Issue: *It would be necessary to make sure that one race has finished before the next one starts. This would lengthen the fixture schedule.*
- 3. Separate signage for U15 and U17 races
 - a. Issue: *The courses comprise a number lap variations so it was felt that won't work.*
- vi. It was agreed that the OXL Committee would review the fixture timetable with the host clubs.

b. **Digital Barcode Scanning/Timing Update**

- i. The 2021-22 season saw the completion of the first full-season trial of digital timekeeping and race number barcode scanning of race numbers alongside the traditional, manual recording methods.
- ii. The League was very grateful to all those that volunteered their time to support the initiative and who provided valuable feedback.
- iii. One aspect that had not been considered was the need to be aware that those recording digitally may need to take a comfort break.

- iv. The trial went reasonably well, albeit it became increasingly obvious over the course of the season that both the digital and traditional methods were prone to error.
- v. The advantage of having both sets of results data meant that more accurate results were produced. However, the downside was that it inevitably took longer to produce the results.

c. Mixed Relay Update

- i. The trial mixed relay received a lot of positive feedback and was well-supported, with young athletes staying on to support the event.
- ii. A good, compact course allowed spectators to watch pretty well the whole of the race from one location.
- iii. There was feedback suggesting that equivalent mixed relays for the younger athletes would also be welcome.
- iv. If such an event is to become a regular feature, a group or club will need to volunteer to take on the organisation, as this is not something the League is prepared to organise.
- v. It was suggested that this might be able to be held as a separate fixture.

9) 2022-23 Season Notices

The following notices ahead of the 2022-23 season have been confirmed:

a. Dates & Venues for 2021-22 Season

All the fixtures are scheduled for the first Sunday of the month with the exception of the combined Round 3/Oxfordshire County Championships fixture which will be held on the second Sunday of January. The following venues and host club(s) are therefore confirmed for the 2022-23 season at this stage:

i. 2022-23 Fixtures:

Rnd 1: Sun, 6 Nov 2022 – Newbury Showground (Newbury AC).

Rnd 2: Sun, 4 Dec 2022 – Venue *tbc* (White Horse Harriers AC/Didcot Runners).

Rnd 3/Oxon XC Champs: Sun, 8 Jan 2023 – Horspath Stadium, Oxford (Oxford City AC/Headington RR) *tbc*.

Rnd 4: Sun, 5 Feb 2023 – Cotswold Farm Park (Witney Roadrunners) *tbc*.

Rnd 5: Sun, 5 Mar 2023 – Henley Showground, Greenlands (Abingdon AC/Radley AC).

ii. 2023-24 Provisional Fixtures:

Rnd 1: Sun, 6 Nov 2022 – Bicester Heritage (Bicester AC) *tbc*.

Rnd 2: Sun, 4 Dec 2022 – Venue and host *tbc*.

Rnd 3/OxonXC Champs: Sun, 8 Jan 2023 – Venue and host *tbc*.

Rnd 4: Sun, 5 Feb 2023 – Venue and host *tbc*.

Rnd 5: Sun, 5 Mar 2023 – Venue and host *tbc*.

Notes:

The possibility of a new venue is being currently explored for the 2022-23 Round 2 fixture by the host clubs, with Cirencester Park being a fallback option.

The venue for 2022-23 the combined Round 3/Oxon XC Championships fixture will not be able to be confirmed until July. Richard Hart (*Oxford City AC*) stated that an update should be forthcoming within the next week or so and confirmed that he will be the primary contact for the fixture.

Confirmation of the availability of the venue and venue fees for the 2022-23 Round 4 fixture is still being awaited.

Likewise, confirmation of the availability of the venue and venue fees for the 2023-24 Round 1 fixture is also still being awaited.

b. Divisions for 2022-23 Season

The following team promotions and relegations have been confirmed on the basis of the two-up-two-down ruling as voted on at the 2016 AGM.

As a consequence of the following teams not producing scoring results at some of the fixtures, the teams have automatically been relegated.

Women Division 1: **promoted:** Alchester RC A, White Horse Harriers AC A
relegated: *Oxford TC A, Radley AC A*

Division 2: **promoted:** Abingdon AC A, Woodstock Harriers AC A
relegated: *Newbury AC B, Oxford TC B*

Men Division 1: **promoted:** White Horse Harriers AC A,
Woodstock Harriers AC A
relegated: *Kidlington RC A, Newbury AC B*

Division 2: **promoted:** Headington RoadRunners B,
White Horse Harriers AC B
relegated: *Alchester RC B, Bicester TC B*

As a consequence of teams not producing scoring results at some of the fixtures and therefore not appearing the 2021-22 season end team standings, those teams were automatically relegated from both men's and women's Division 2.

c. Member Club Affiliation Fees Review

The review of the member club affiliation fees was closely tied to the Future League Funding proposal – see **Appendix E(c)**. The matter was therefore to be discussed and dealt with later in the meeting.

d. UKA Rules Update

i. Under 11 Age Group Rule Change

1. The new UK Athletics (UKA) rule applicable to cross country referred to in the AGM documentation stating that athletes now need to be 11 years of age as at 31st August before the start of the season and cannot be accepted as 11 on the day of a fixture should be applied across the board was discussed at some length. The rule directly relates to the youngest age category (*Under 13*) recognized by UKA and England Athletics.

2. This rule change would apply to the OXL Under 9 age category, if adopted by the League. The age qualification date for all other age categories (*Under 11 upwards*) will be 31st August before the start of the season with no age on-the-day entry facility.
3. The consensus among those member clubs with junior sections as well as the OXL Committee was that applying an equivalent rule to the OXL Under 9 age category would be detrimental to those young athletes impacted and could possibly turn them away from the sport.
4. The encouragement to participate was felt to be a priority as in this instance an athlete 8 years of age on the day of a fixture would only be competing against others at most one year older.
5. With no-one objecting to allowing the entry of those who are 8 on the day of a fixture being allowed to compete, it was agreed to continue with the League's existing entry policy.

ii. Hearing Impaired Athletes

1. To meet the new rule requirements it was agreed that a club official must make the starter aware of a hearing impaired athlete.
2. In addition to the standard race start procedure the starter's hand, as the agreed protocol, is to be raised when the race is starting.

e. Online Entries Update

- i. Ros Kelling (*OXL/Banbury Harriers AC*) gave a brief update on the meeting with **eventrac**.
- ii. The company works extensively with athletic clubs, and their representatives were confident they could put together an online system which would suit the League's needs.
- iii. A follow up meeting is scheduled with **eventrac**.
- iv. It was confirmed that Team Manager's would be responsible for submitting club entries en bloc.
- v. A facility for individuals to enter themselves would not be provided.

f. Future General Meetings

- i. In terms of attendance for general meetings it is evident that given the distribution of the member clubs and convenience for everyone concerned that online meetings would be preferable.
- ii. There were a number of attendees of the meeting who, for reasons of self-isolation or simply lack of time, would otherwise have been unable to attend the meeting.
- iii. Steve Frame confirmed that he would not have been able to attend the meeting had it not been held online. Dene also confirmed that at

least two of the assembly were in self-isolation that would have prevented them from attending an in-person meeting.

- iv. The consensus was that all general meetings going forward should be held online, but should not preclude face-to-face meetings where it is felt necessary.

g. Organisation Status & Liability Limitation

- i. The concern was raised during the course one of the EGM Working Party meetings regarding the liability of the OXL Committee, particularly in the likelihood of larger sums of revenue and revenue passing through the League's bank account.
- ii. The Committee is investigating what options are available in order that committee members are covered.
- iii. A discussion ensued about becoming a Community Interest Company (CIC), about which some of the assembly was already aware, that would involve submitting accounts to Companies House plus a report.
- iv. Becoming a CIC does not appear to be overly burdensome, but it is important to ensure whatever is decided is right for the League and its Committee members.

h. Combined Fixture Oxon AA Contribution Update

- i. The OXL Committee will be holding a meeting the representatives of Oxon AA to finalise any details going forward.
- ii. Member clubs will be advised of the outcome of that meeting in due course.

10) Proposals for Discussion & Voting

The remaining proposals were all discussed and voted upon during the meeting.

Appendix E(a) – Venues Constitution Amendment Proposal

The point had been raised at the 2022 EGM that League's Constitution was no longer relevant in respect of the requirement for a minimum number of venues to be within the county of Oxfordshire.

A lengthy discussion ensued during the course of which the following points were raised:

- Gary Warland (*Alchester RC*): There should be agreement at the AGM of where the 5 venues are so that it is outlined why the majority are not in the county. It is evident there are too few venues within the County as the League has been struggling to find venues for some time. Hopefully, new venues that are within the Oxfordshire may found as result of the Future League Funding Proposal going forwards.
- Tom Gould (*Bicester AC*): While it is appreciated that there is not a large pool of venues, the League Committee has selected venues that are not within Oxfordshire when Oxfordshire venues are available. Where is the accountability of the League Committee to ensure the best venues are chosen?

- Dan Wymer: The League is all of us. It is the responsibility of all the member club representatives to source suitable venues. Hopefully, once the Future League Funding Proposal has been voted upon, the resulting decision and future funding will lead to the possibility of more venues being put forward, thus allowing a selection process for the best/most suitable for a given season.
- Emma Gould (*Bicester AC*): There is some apprehension among those present that the League may not choose those venues that are put forward.
- Ian Robinson (*Banbury Harriers AC*): There is no great distinction between the existing and proposed new wording, so happy for new wording to be adopted. The clubs need to put their faith in those who have agreed to sit on the OXL Committee.
- Liam Hosier (*Kidlington RC*): Gary's suggestion is sensible. Is there any idea of the timescale in terms of how far in advance venues need to be booked?
 - Dene (*OXL*): In the case of the Lawns Park venue in Swindon, for example, a year's notice has been required. The intention, since taking on the League Manager role, has been to arrive at the AGM with the venues for next 2 seasons confirmed. That target has never been achieved. At each AGM there are always venues and host clubs that have not been confirmed despite best efforts.
- Dan Wymer (*OXL*): there are a variety of venues, and how each manage their venues is different. Whatever is decided it is imperative that a solution is arrived at that works.
- Kelly Lehmann (*Oxford TC*): How many of the currently available venues are located in Oxfordshire?
 - Dene (*OXL*): Currently, there are only three: Bicester Heritage, Henley Showground (*albeit it is located in two other counties as well!*) and Shotover Park (*Horspath*).
- Kelly Lehmann (*Oxford TC*): How many of the currently available venues are located outside of Oxfordshire?
 - Dene (*OXL*): Again, currently, there are just three: Newbury Showground, Cirencester Park and Cotswold Farm.
- Kelly Lehmann (*Oxford TC*): How many club members are there in the League?
 - Dene (*OXL*): Currently, there 24 member clubs.
- Therein lies the problem. A willing venue, willing host, and the money to fund the fixture is required.
- Kelly Lehmann (*Oxford TC*): Perhaps each club should be challenged to find a venue? See what we can do with them. Shared responsibility should alleviate the issue.
- James Bolton (*Woodstock Harriers AC*): The majority of member clubs are located within Oxfordshire, but it is good to see clubs from outside of Oxfordshire hosting fixtures, Newbury AC and Swindon Harriers, for example, which adds variety to the League.

On the basis of the discussion the proposal was put to the delegates as to whether or not to accept the proposed Constitution wording revision for voting:

Current wording:

6. Venues

6.1. ...

6.2. In any one season the target shall be for 3 of 5 fixture venues to be within the County of Oxfordshire.

Proposed revision:

6. Venues

6.1. ...

6.2. In any one season the aim shall be for the majority of the fixture venues to be within the County of Oxfordshire. Bearing in mind the requirement to ensure a variety of courses over the course of a season, that should not preclude the selection of venues outside Oxfordshire, if deemed necessary.

Votes for the proposed wording revision:

For:	10
Against:	6
Abstention:	4

Action: *On the basis of the above vote, the Constitution amendment will be made accordingly.*

Appendix E(b) – New Member Clubs Proposal

The clubs that underwent a trial over the course of the 2021-22 season were Abbey RC, Radley College Harriers and Swindon Striders.

The feedback received from Abbey RC was that the club is still finding its feet as a new club and therefore is not ready to commit to the OXL. Consequently, the club will not be put forward to join the League as a full member.

The feedback from Radley College Harriers was very positive. Unfortunately, no feedback has been received from Swindon Striders, and it is possible the club may no longer wish to join the League.

Both Radley College Harriers and Swindon Striders demonstrated a strong level of commitment to the League over the course of the season and therefore the proposal will be to invite both clubs to become members of the League.

On the basis of the above information provided and a short discussion the following proposal was put to the delegates for voting: Should Radley College Harriers and Swindon Striders be elected as member clubs of the League?

Club Election Votes – Radley College Harriers & Swindon Striders:

For:	17
Against:	0

Abstention: 3

Action: *On the basis of the above vote, it was agreed that Dene Stringfellow is to contact the clubs to confirm their election to the League.*

Appendix E(c) – Future League Funding Proposal

Dan Wymer (OXL) opened the presentation of this proposal stating that the voting mechanism for this proposal would be different from the normal system. Each delegate would be able to vote for either or both of the options presented. If either of the proposal options received more than 50% of the possible vote the option for the existing funding system to remain unchanged would automatically be rejected. In the event both of the proposal option received more than 50% of the possible vote then the option with the higher number of votes would be carried. Basically, the delegates were being asked to vote for proposal A going forward, proposal B going forward, or for no change.

Dan explained that a great deal of time and effort had been invested in the proposal on the part of the Working Party that had resulted in the detailed 8-page proposal document.

The challenge is clearly that League is losing venues and finding venues difficult to replace, the cost of hosting fixtures is rising and car parking fees are no longer a viable option to fund the fixtures as explained in the documentation. The proposal options therefore looking to replace car parking fees with entry fees, and to incorporate reward payments for host clubs to remove the potential for fixtures to make a loss, as well as aiming to secure the future of the League.

- Gary Warland (*Alchester RC*) confirmed his understanding of the voting mechanism had been correct.
- Ian Robinson (*Banbury Harriers AC*): Asked what would happen if there was a tie. Would neither go option go forward?
 - Dan Wymer (OXL): In the event both proposal options each receive an equal amount of support and each more than 50% of votes, that would then require further discussion. It was stated that such an outcome would be an overwhelming vote for change. It was hoped that a tied outcome would be avoided.

Dan then went on to summarise and clarify the options prior to voting, distinguishing the key differences between proposal options A and B.

- Bryan Clinton (*Swindon Harriers*): Asked whether or not the entry fees would be pro rata (*i.e. entry fees charged based upon the number of the remaining fixtures*).
- Dan Wymer (OXL): Confirmed that athletes would be able to enter part way through the season and the entry fees would be charged on pro rata basis.

Dan then went on to summarise and clarify the options prior to voting, distinguishing the key differences between proposal options A and B, before calling the delegates to vote. The voting of the delegates for the proposal options as presented were as follows:

Future League Funding Proposal:

- Option A: 15
Option B: 8
No Change: n/a

On the basis of the above vote, Option A was the preferred route forward for the future funding of the League receiving 75% of the voting support and confirming the move to change the funding model. No further queries were raised.

Action: *The OXL Committee to implement the proposed funding method and introduce an online entry system to accommodate the move.*

Appendix E(d) – Winding Up Procedure Proposal

A short discussion followed a summary by the League Manager in which the reason stated for adding such wording to the Constitution being that there is currently nothing in place to say what will happen to League funds in the event the League were to be wound up. It had been suggested in the past that the funds should go to Oxon AA, but as not all member clubs are located in Oxfordshire and as all the League's funds have been derived from the member clubs, that was felt to be unreasonable.

The proposal put forward the following options that all current member clubs receive:

- a) An equal share of the monies left in the League's bank account.
- b) A proportional share based upon the current calculation used to determine a club's affiliation fee (*i.e. as to whether a club is categorised as being small, medium or large*).
- c) A proportional share based upon the number of seasons a club has been affiliated to the League (*– this would require some research as well as a record being kept*).

It was pointed out by Richard Stocking (*Witney Roadrunners*) that, if the League were to become a CIC as discussed previously in the meeting, this proposal would not be relevant as the funds could not be distributed to the member clubs. It was confirmed that the funds of a CIC that has been wound up can only be distributed to a charity or another CIC.

- Gary Warland (*Alchester RC*): Would an EGM be called by the League for the member clubs to decide whether to become a CIC?
 - Dene (OXL): Yes – an EGM would be called.

A vote was subsequently taken to determine whether or not the delegates were in favour of putting this proposal on hold until the outcome of becoming a CIC or otherwise has been agreed:

Votes for putting winding up proposal on hold:

- For: 20
Against: 0
Abstention: 0

Action: *No action to be taken and no changes to the Constitution to be made.*

Appendix E(e) – Committee Member Conflict of Interest Proposal

This proposal had been put forward in the light of Dene's involvement on the Oxon AA Committee which has resulted in some conflict of interest.

It was confirmed that the wording applies to all county athletics association involvement, not just Oxfordshire. The assembly was asked if there were any other questions.

- Gary Warland (*Alchester RC*): Stated that he would be abstaining as he is a current Oxon AA Committee member.

On that basis the proposal was put to the delegates for voting as follows: Should the following wording be included in the League's Constitution?

Proposed inclusion:

4. League Management

4.1. ...

4.2. ...

4.3. To avoid any conflict of interest no OXL Committee member shall be a currently serving member of their County AA.

4.4. ...

4.5. ...

Votes in favour of the proposed Constitution wording inclusion:

For: 15

Against: 1

Abstention: 4

11) League Constitution Review

Two amendments to the existing Constitution were voted upon and agreed in relation to the Venue Limitations Proposal – **Appendix E(a)** and the Committee Member Conflict of Interest Policy Proposal – **Appendix E(e)**.

Action: *Dene Stringfellow to apply the Constitution amendments accordingly.*

12) Officials for 2022-23 Season

The League Manager thanked his colleagues for their commitment and support over the past season. It was noted that no contact had been received from any volunteers offering to join the, despite member clubs having been informed in advance of the meeting, directly by email, via the website and via social media. From the Committee's perspective this was again very disappointing.

- a. Additional Committee Members Requirement
 - i. Voluntary
 - ii. Mandatory

Dan Wymer summarised previous discussions on the matter.

It was the consensus of the Committee that OXL Committee service being mandatory would not work, as it could potentially be more of a hindrance than a help.

Although the possibility of introducing a 3-year service limit for implementation had been put forward, it was felt that setting service limits would be counterproductive and would cause issues in terms of continuity. The consensus of the Committee was that willing volunteers would be preferable.

A Committee of at least 6 members is the target in order to keep the League running, otherwise there will be the danger of the League collapsing. There are a variety of roles that need to be covered. A League Secretary is urgently required, for example. It would help to spread the workload.

Dene confirmed that he would be standing down at the end of the next season, so the League needs to find a manager to step in to work with Dene over the coming season.

He also reiterated to point that a larger committee generates more discussion, a greater breadth of ideas as well as a healthier outcome for the future of the OXL. The point was also made that although long-term commitment of some officials is and has been laudable, it becomes more of a hindrance to the long-term future of any organisation.

As a result of Dan's summary and the ensuing discussion Richard Hart (*Oxford City AC*) volunteered to look at the online entry system and communications and Theresa Lambie (*Didcot Runners*) also volunteered to support the League and be part of the online entry system implementation.

It was stated that Ros Kelling (*OXL Treasurer*), Dan Wymer (*OXL Sponsorship*) and Dene Stringfellow (*OXL Manager & OXL Entries/Results Secretary*) had confirmed their willingness to stand for re-election.

The following officials were subsequently duly and unanimously voted in:

<i>League Treasurer:</i>	Ros Kelling
<i>League Sponsorship:</i>	Dan Wymer
<i>Committee Member:</i>	Theresa Lambie
<i>Committee Member/Online Entries:</i>	Richard Hart
<i>League Manager:</i>	Dene Stringfellow
<i>League Results Secretary:</i>	Dene Stringfellow

13) Advance Notice – League Manager Vacancy

Dene confirmed to the assembly that he will be standing down at the 2023 AGM.

14) AOB

Gary Warland thanked the OXL Committee on behalf of the clubs. It had been a testing year.

The point was raised by Dene that there is little interest/knowledge on road running and cross country within Oxon AA. The majority of the emphasis at the County committee meetings is on track and field.

Close

The meeting was closed at 21:35hrs.

Dene Stringfellow

League Manager

08 August 2022