

OXFORDSHIRE AA

MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD FRIDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2005 AT TILSLEY PARK, ABINGDON

Present – Alan Vincent, Lyn Hopkins, Alan Corfield, Will Atkinson, Mike Shipway (Woodstock), Alan Roche, Dee Hailey (Hook Norton), Mick Hailey (Hook Norton), Ian Robinson (Banbury), Richard Jegou, Charles Kear, Eileen Kear, Jill Slatter, Andrew Garner (Abingdon), Noel Blatchford (Abingdon), Barrie Strange, Michael Collins (Kidlington), Catherine Parkinson (PADO), Lorraine Waknall (Radley), Steve Flynn (Bicester), Alan Woodland, Pete Chivers, Christine Benning (RDC) and Thornton Greenland (Abingdon).

1. **Apologies** – Kay Reynolds, Colin Mitchell and Jon Wheatcroft.
2. **Minutes of the previous AGM held 29th October 2004** –
 - a) Item 11(a) – should read ‘Bletchington’ and not ‘Begbroke’ Mota-vation races.
There being no further amendments the minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting held. Proposed by CK and seconded by NB. All agreed.
3. **Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising.
4. **Chairman’s Report** –

AV reported that the Committee had met seven times since the last AGM, with an average attendance of 10 people (more or less identical to the previous two years). AV gave his particular thanks to our President, Barrie Strange, for chairing the last two meetings in his absence.

We have continued to give high priority to the UKA Modernisation developments. AV attended a consultation meeting at Eton in February and a One-Stop Plan workshop at Milton Keynes in June, feeding back to the County Committee on both events. We are reasonably optimistic that the present proposals are in the best interest of the sport and that the counties will be encouraged to continue their work under the new regime.

We have continued to work closely with the AAAoE Regional Development Co-ordinator, Christine Benning, who has in turn been very supportive of the Association. One aspect of this collaboration is the Regional Advisory Panel and South Region Coaching Committee, where Oxfordshire has been represented by Rob Done, Lyn Hopkins, Colin Mitchell, Catherine Parkinson and AV himself.

Catherine has put in a very good year’s work and has latterly produced a County leaflet on club provision across the County.

Last year AV reported on the demise of one of our clubs, Exel Gosford. AV is pleased to say that the closure was effected appropriately earlier this year. And we have recently seen a new initiative aimed at starting a new club in an area that has lacked provision in the past.

We have continued to enjoy a good relationship with the Schools’ Association, although he said that they were less than happy at the need to pull out of next year’s Southern Schools’ Inter-County Championships because of the clash with the Oxford Mail League. It would be nice to think this issue could be resolved to mutual satisfaction in the longer term.

AV left it to others to report on the County and Inter-County fixtures that took place during the past year.

Finally, AV paid tribute to the work of the other Officers. Our President has continued to be very 'hands-on', wherever his help was needed. Notably he picked up lead responsibility for raising the so-called Oxford team in the new UK Indoor Cup competition. Lyn Hopkins and Alan Corfield have continued to do their crucial jobs in the roles of Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Alan Corfield has given us notice that this will be his last year as Treasurer, so we need to start thinking about his successor – and AV hopes that it won't put possible candidates off to say that he will be a hard act to follow. AV thought too that there is widespread acknowledgement and appreciation of how much we owe to Lyn for her continued effectiveness in the pivotal role of Secretary. We have also been fortunate to have excellent people in the other main postholder roles, including Will Atkinson, Peter Chivers, Colin Mitchell and Peter O'Keefe. And then there are the people who do much appreciated work outside the Committee itself, including Mike Sandford with the County Website and Diane Mitchell with the County rankings. AV gave both his and committee thanks to them all. Proposed by EK and seconded by BS all were in agreement.

5. Secretary's Report –

LH reported that it had been a busy year once again, although the paperwork side seemed less involved. LH made the decision not to give reports on her attendance at various meetings as these would be covered by other members.

LH hoped that all the relevant people were now receiving important information since the decision last year to send out mail shots as well as emails.

a) Correspondence Received since last Committee Meeting –

i. SEAA/AAA/UKA

- Moving on: Athletics in the UK – Poll of Athletics Clubs in the UK. Four questions for clubs to discuss and return Poll by 25th October 2005.
- SEAA Memorandum information of the Nationwide Club Poll.
- SEAA General Committee agenda for 5th October meeting.
- SEAA Memorandum – Modernisation, copy of letter sent from George Bunner, Chairman of the AAA of England to clubs.
- SEAA Information Update No. 92 – September 2005 –
 - Confirmation of Didcot Great Western Runners name change to Didcot Runners.
- Athletics Development/Performance Update No. 36 – September/October 2005 –
 - South Region Coaching Development Days information.
 - Coach Education Courses
 - Officials Education Courses
 - County Development meeting in Oxfordshire – next meeting 10th October.
 - County Officials Evening 30th September 2005 – remember the venue is now Stratfield Brake not Exeter Hall.
- SEAA Draft Minutes of the Management Group meeting held 3rd August 2005.
- SEAA Minutes of the General Committee meeting held 7th September 2005.
- AAA 'The Future of Athletics in England' from George Bunner.
- SEAA U15 and U20 Inter-Counties Championships results.
- SEAA Minutes of the Eligibility Committee meeting held 26th September 2005.
- SEAA Road Running Management Committee meeting minutes of the 13th September 2005.
- SEAA Minutes of the Track & Field Management Committee meeting held 14th September 2005.
- England Athletics Membership Scheme Draft Proposal – copies were available at AGM.
- Draft Terms of Reference – Regional Councils of England Athletics – copies were available at AGM.
- Cheque from AA for £2146.00 for unattached levies 2005 – sent to AC.
- AAA Notice of EGM to be held on 29th October 2005 at Birmingham University/details/Explanatory Notes/Proxy Voting Form – needs to be sent off by Monday. **ACTION - LH**

ii. **OTHER**

- Letter from Hampshire AA – New Officials Courses – 16th November and 23rd November.
- Invitation from Oxfordshire Community & Voluntary Action to attend a day of workshop, training and networking at Witney Methodist Church Hall on 2nd November 2005 from 9.30 to 14.00.
- Receipt from Bicester AC for Sportshall Grant 2005.
- Match fees from Abingdon Amblers for Sportshall at Banbury in October.
- Letter from ABAC – Foster Report Independent Poll and Membership Application Form – copies have been sent out.

iii. **RACE ENTRY FORMS**

- AAA English Road Running Association – NIKE Senior Women's 4 Stage National Road Relay Championships – Saturday 22nd October 2005.
- 2006 Inter-Counties Fell Running Champs – 1st July 2006 at Settle in North Yorkshire.
- SEAA 2006 Indoor Championships forms – Sutton Arena, Surrey 8th January 2006 and Brunel University, Middx 21st and 22nd January 2006.
- SEAA London Cross Country Champs 2005 – Parliament Hill Fields, 19th November 2005 at 1.40 pm for women and 2.10 pm for men.

iv. **Schools' Report** –

Jon was unable to attend the meeting, but sent in a report and asked that the following information be known to clubs – The selection procedure for two of the Schools' teams has been changed for 2006. For the Cross-Country it will be first 8 past the post on 7th (tbc) February. 'All known form' will be used to inform the selection of reserves only. We will not be sending a team to the Inter-counties competition.

The Track & Field team will be selected immediately after the championships on 11th June, and not a week later as previously, i.e. athletes will not have an additional week to achieve qualifying times.

b) **Proposal for changes to the Oxfordshire AA Constitution put forward by Lyn Hopkins** –

LH proposed and Alan Vincent seconded, that the following amendments be made to the Oxfordshire AA Constitution to bring them in line with current set-up –

- Paragraph 2 – item (e) – To be changed from *To ensure the observation of British Athletic Federation (BAF) Rules of Competition at all registered Athletic competitions in Oxfordshire*
To read *To ensure the observation of UK Athletics (UKA) Rules of Competition at all registered Athletic competitions in Oxfordshire*.
- Paragraph 3 – Item (c) (iii) – To be changed from *Other organisations which are affiliated to the BAF and which promote athletics or whose members take part in athletics competitions*
To read *Other organisations which are affiliated to UKA and which promote athletics or whose members take part in athletics competitions*.

Proposals for changes were agreed by all present. LH will send amended copies of Constitution out with minutes. **ACTION** – LH

6. **Treasurer's Report** –

AC tabled copies of the accounts for the year ending 30th September 2005.

- He reported that the surplus of £48.40 was an improvement on last year.
- 18 Clubs and one schools association affiliated.
- County relies on the income from the SEAA Race Levies - £2879.15.
- Road entry/travel fees down as not entered many this year due to lack of interest.
- Track & Field medical cover high - £528.75.

- Young Athletes Disco made a loss. Will think carefully before holding a similar event again. Not all clubs donated and only a few entry fees received.
- Sportshall hire of facilities up by £300.00.
- Due to race clock having problems, there was no income for hire of use.
- Total sales of Polo Tops - £61.50.
- £294.38 provision for invoices not yet received.
- AC will have the accounts audited for the first committee meeting. **ACTION – AC**
- Income far greater than expenditure for road running – this money subsidises other areas. May need to look at in future with new legislation and the possibility of levy monies drying up, but this is not confirmed.
- Horspath Inter-counties cost us £386, the question was asked if there was any income? No contribution from other counties, Host County bears the cost and each county takes it in turn to host.

Treasurer's report proposed by CK and seconded by IR. All in agreement.

7. **Christine Benning – RDC Update** –

Chris gave her report on South Region Coaching, Regional Advisory Panel, Regional Business Plan, Working with County Sports Partnerships, Clubs:Future, Clubmark, Facilities, Communication and Modernisation – see copy attached.

- WA asked about the Flying Squad sessions at Witney and Kidlington, they had gone well. WA will push the idea with clubs.
- Question - What benefits are there to individuals through registration and are UKA following the same as other sports? CB replied that UKA are looking at other sports and will try to copy the best one for athletics.
- Question – The recent Poll sent to all clubs, what does the £5 fee do to benefit clubs and individuals? CB replied that the governing bodies have expenses for courses and championships and has to raise the money somehow. Money is required to run their services. Discussion held as there are various views on what the Foster Report actually states. There is a draft proposal available for Athletics Membership Scheme as things have moved on since the Foster Report was sent out. General concern as to what the monies will cover and what we will get out of it. The point was made that our County is mainly road running rather than track & field. Concern that the £5 may not stand for long and may increase even higher.
- It was felt we need to gain ground over other sports, not many youngsters are coming in to our sport. CB did state that there is a rise in U17s in the County.
- It was also felt that if we do well at the Olympics in 2012, we will need to have a good structure in place. CB and CP are constantly producing figures to UKA and Sport England to assist them.
- The County hopes that all clubs have submitted their poll returns, but they have not tried to sway clubs to vote for or against.

8. **Catherine Parkinson – PADO Update** –

CP gave her report, see attached copy.

9. **Cross Country Report** –

BS reported – County Cross Country Championships were held at Lambourn, near Wantage on Sunday 16th January. The County wishes to convey their thanks to White Horse Harriers, especially Jason and Gareth, in promoting the meeting. Woodstock Harriers provided additional marshals on the day.

The weather was reasonable for the time of year. The courses were ideal for cross country running, especially where it was over the same areas as the 'horse gallops'. Parking was only available about ½ mile from the start, and the majority of people adhered to it. We had use of the memorial Hall in the Centre of Lambourn. Numbers were issued from here. The results were quickly done by Kate and Lyn using a laptop. This enabled the presentations to be made with the minimum of delay. All medals were either presented to the individual, or given to a

club colleague. Certificates were given to all U11s, U13s and U15s, unless they received medals. Soft drinks and refreshments were available.

We continue to have the times, and combined races, the same as the Oxford Mail League. Also, clubs have the option of paying for those who compete. The number of entries is still disappointing compared with the League.

The results were emailed to all clubs and individuals on the same day. The Oxford Mail gave us a good coverage with almost a page. The results were in the next edition of Athletics Weekly.

Cross Country County Championships 2006 –

Abingdon Amblers are hosting next January's Championships at Buckland. Thornton Greenland gave a report –

Permission obtained to use the pavilion at St. Hugh's School, Buckland, near Faringdon and the adjacent field on Marriage Hill. TG stated that both the headmaster and the farmer who owns the field are concerned about the insurance situation. BS stated that once the Risk Assessment done and permit received, we are covered. Letter to be sent to the school and farmer clarifying the situation. TG will send details to County.

Assuming the insurance is satisfactory we will be able to use the four school car parks, which can hold a total of about 200 cars. There is no other parking. The school pavilion, which has toilets and electricity, will also be available, although unsuitable for spikes.

A proposed route has been decided, although they do not know exactly where we can run in the field, so some modifications may be necessary.

10. Track & Field Report –

a) Track & Field Championships –

BS gave his report –

The County Track & Field Championships were held at Tilsley Park on 14th and 15th May. The 1500 metres and 2k walk were held at Horspath on Wednesday 18th May, which also incorporated an open meeting. The 10,000 metres was held at Tilsley Park on Wednesday 14th September.

The weather was fine, and except for a few minor problems, it was a good Championship for athletes, officials and spectators.

Our thanks to Peter O'Keefe who once again did the main task of sending out and receiving entries, doing the timetable and the results.

Medals were presented at various intervals at the Championships. The best performance trophies/plaques were decided at the June committee meeting, and presented to the athletes soon after.

The number of entries in the seniors and U20s continue to disappoint, but this is a national trend. There was a good veteran entry again, especially now due to being in 10 year age categories.

In past years the 1500 metres has been held on the Sunday of the main Championship weekend. This year it was held in conjunction with the Open Meeting. We need to decide whether or not to revert to the Sunday.

The 10,000 metres was held in September. In discussion with some of the runners they would prefer April or early May.

The relays were held on the Sunday of the main Championships, with entries on the day. The number of entries was disappointing.

A few comments –

- Issuing numbers on the Saturday – Margaret and Barrie did this with little assistance; this stopped them from doing other duties.
- Child protection – photographic forms, BS suggests when a form filled in that a 'sticker' is put on the user's photo bag. Ideally we need a child protection officer to oversee.
- Athletes who do not compete in finals after qualifying from heats. 3 instances, 2 able to inform before finals, but 1 told unable to participate further. Suggest highlight this ruling on the entry forms, and inform all clubs before the Championships.

- Suggest alpha lists of entries be put on County website, in addition to the timetable. This should ease enquiries to the person receiving entries, and should avoid a problem BS had on the Saturday.
- Next year's Championships will probably be a week later, so we will definitely lose entries from Oxford University. (Note the CAU Champs. Held at the end of May, may be held later in the year.)
- Hammer Vets/Senior men – moved at the last minute, time changed – youngsters in the paddock throwing rounders ball and therefore a long delay for the men. Should not be a problem in future.

b) **Inter-County Cross Country** –

- South of England – 11th December – only a few athletes competed, mainly due to lack of team managers.
- CAU at Nottingham – 6th March – various team managers, good overall results. Melissa Hawtin 3rd in U13 girls.

c) **Inter-County Track & Field** –

- CAU at Bedford – 29/30 May – 9 athletes entered, but only 3 competed, Kevin Sheppard won the steeplechase. (Note – This meeting will probably be held later in the year in future.)
- Oxford University v County at Iffley Road – 1st June – Kay selected teams – good meeting with a few problems. Will become an annual fixture.
- U13 Boys and Girls at Kingston – 24th July – team managers Mike Miles and Alan Millbank. 13 Counties took part; boys were 11th with 246.5 points. Girls excelled in 4th place with 305 points, only 9 points behind the winners.
- Senior men and women – 14 August hosted by Middlesex – Kay was the women's team manager. Men 8th and women 7th.
- SEAA U20 and U15 men and women at Tilsley Park - 28th August. BS was team manager, assisted by John Sear on the day. Some good performances, but the only winner was Carolyn Plateau who easily won the U20 800 metres.
- U20/17/15 men and women at Horspath – 11th September. Hosted by Oxfordshire. 5 Counties took part, with Dorset replacing Avon. Dorset were 1st in the men, and won overall. We were 1st in the women, and were second overall.

Due to problem finding team managers numbers of participants are low. Credit to team managers for excellent results from a small county.

11. **Road Race Secretary's Report** –

WA gave his report –

Road racing and M/T continued to be very healthy this year with 29 major permit races scheduled in the county, good numbers in most of the races, and many over subscribed. The Headington 10k was staged for the first time this year as a replacement for the Headington 5.

WA is constantly impressed by the professional approach taken by all the volunteers who organise these races. Traffic conditions make safety the number one requirement and he has not seen any race that does not take its responsibilities seriously in this area. BARR make regular spot checks on our races and we are fortunate in our local scrutineer Mike Burgoyne, whose reports have been helpful and constructive. The police and local authorities, while not actively supportive, are much more cooperative in this county than in some of our neighbours.

The County Race Clock was in regular use despite needing a service; the committee gave WA permission to send the clock for repair. **ACTION** – **WA**

Road racing depends on a small group of officials, timekeepers, starters, referees and course measurers. Those within the county are all doing more than they should have to, but we have had one or two new recruits recently to ease the load.

The County Road Relays were again held successfully at Hook Norton. Many thanks to Hook Norton Harriers, to Rose Webb who dealt with the entries, and Gary Harris and his results team. There is some concern that several county clubs did not send teams this year and we hope to do more to recruit teams next year. It is also important that all clubs provide 2 marshals, so runners from the host club get a chance to compete.

The Grand Prix has been closer fought in the men's division this year than in previous years, but it looks as if Woodstock and Headington will emerge winners again.

We did not enter any Inter-Counties teams this year. WA tried to raise interest through his mailing lists, but got very little response. We need a team manager who is prepared to get on the phone to potential team members, to get this going again.

Colin Gostelow organised a useful meeting of county permit secretaries at SEAA HQ early in the year. He is trying to get the bureaucracy streamlined and coordinated with the other regions so we are in a good position before any reorganisation.

The Oxon distance mailing list now has 45 members from across the Oxfordshire clubs and is a useful forum for publicising races and disseminating results. The web site for registration is – <http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/oxonaa/distance/>

The Road Race AGM will be at 7.30 pm on Friday 25th November at OXSRAD in Oxford.

It was noted that the Road Relays and Sportshall usually clash. LH to send Sportshall dates to WA. **ACTION – LH**

12. **Coaching Co-ordinator's Report** –

Colin Mitchell was unable to attend the meeting, but sent his report in after the meeting.

2005 saw the continuation of last year's successful Coaching programme.

Chris Benning has been the driving force behind the Regional Coaching Committee, and Chris has been very successful at applying for funds to various Charity Organisations, to fund the Regional U17/U20 Squad Days and run the new much needed 'Coach our Coaches' days throughout the Region, including a Jumps Day at Tilsley Park run by 2 Oxfordshire Coaches. On these days, much needed technical training for Coaches in some of the disciplines, where we are weak, is carried out to help improve the quality of Coaching being delivered at club grass roots level.

This will also help to upgrade the knowledge of Oxfordshire Coaches without having to travel too far and help them to gain credits to revalidate their coaching accreditation.

UKA Coaching Education policy is now well under way, attracting more Level 1 Coaches into the sport, which we must have in place. CM feels we will see more interest in our sport from youngsters as 2012 gets closer.

UKA has also gone out of its way to help current coaches to revalidate by making Home Study Packs available and put on far more courses all of which carry Coaching Credits.

CM said his only complaint is that he still does not have a complete list of Oxfordshire Coaches, but he is assured that this will happen in the near future.

Our Athletics Development Officer, (PADO), Catherine Parkinson, has started to promote athletics within schools in collaboration with local clubs, which has seen an increase in the number of children going into clubs across the County. Also, she has, with the help of County coaches, started to run lots of taster sessions and after school athletics clubs in areas within the County not covered at present by existing clubs, Faringdon and Wallingford.

With County and Regional Statisticians in place, we can now track how well our U13s to U23s are doing at both County and Regional level, which helps us to support them and their coaches' development within their club by providing extra coaching support.

With all of the above actions in place it should ensure the increase in the number of youngsters coming into our sport and ensure they remain within athletics until they move into the senior ranks.

The end of season track and field rankings lists are now on the County website, please take the time to visit them, they are the envy of the Region. We are the only County in the region with one.

As for the Foster Report CM believes that it will help us to continue to improve the coaching base by putting more money into backing and helping to pay for the cost of Coaching Courses and travelling expenses which are two of the complaints he hears throughout the County.

13. Officials Secretary's Report –

AV reported –

About 57 Oxfordshire officials are now registered on the UKA database. Most of them have now received the new licences and passbooks.

The number of officials making availability returns for the season (just over 30) held up well, but we were still stretched on some of the County and Inter-County dates. AV was very grateful to all those who went beyond club loyalty and supported the County when needed.

We once again managed to service a large number of fixtures at club, county and inter-county level. Our thanks are due to all officials who did turn out. The Schools have again been very appreciative of the help our officials have provided at the various schools' fixtures.

The annual series of sessions for would-be officials was held in the Spring. The evening of mini-lectures on the specialist disciplines were poorly attended this year and only seven took the written exams, but with all seven candidates passing, we had three new Track officials, two Field Judges and two Timekeepers. Five Abingdon officials had previously sat exams elsewhere. So in all the County gained 14 newly qualified Field judges, 6 Track Judges and 1 Starter/Marksman. Special thanks to Ros Alterman and John Tanner for the part they once again played in this success and to Steve Avil for his role in managing the process – his last year of doing so.

We have had two officials promoted to Grade 3 and a Grade 4 Timekeeper pass his practical test.

AV has now qualified as a Course Tutor for both the new Level One and Level Two qualifications and ran his first Level one course at Eton in April, where he was pleased to have one Oxfordshire sixth former on the course. Unfortunately, another Level One course, scheduled for Horspath Road, had to be cancelled through lack of take-up.

Thanks to funding found by our ever-vigilant RDC, Chris Benning, we were able to run what he hopes was very successful social event for our officials last month, at Stratfeild Brake.

14. Election of Officers and General Committee for 2005/06 –

	Proposed	Seconded
President	Barrie Strange	Richard Jegou
Life Vice Presidents	Vernon Blowfield	Peter Chivers
	Charles Kear)
	Eileen Kear)
	John Makin) Ratified
	Jill Slatter)
	Barrie Strange)

	Ian Taylor)	
	Alan Vincent)	
Chairman	Alan Vincent	Charles Kear	Jill Slatter
Vice Chairman	Vacant		
Secretary	Lyn Hopkins	Noel Blatchford	Eileen Kear
Treasurer	Alan Corfield	Eileen Kear	Peter Chivers
Officials Secretary	Alan Vincent	Dee Hailey	Alan Roche
Press & Publicity Officer	Mike Shipway	Michael Collins	Richard Jegou
Coaching Co-ordinator	Colin Mitchell	Jill Slatter	Noel Blatchford
Road Race Co-ordinator	Will Atkinson	Michael Collins	Charles Kear
X-C Champs Co-ordinator	Barrie Strange	Richard Jegou	Noel Blatchford
T&F Co-ordinator	Peter O'Keefe	Andrew Garner	Ian Robinson
School's Rep	Alan Vincent	Dee Hailey	Charles Kear
General Committee	Mike Hughes)	
	Alan Woodland)	
	Alan Roche) Alan Vincent	Noel Blatchford
	Jon Wheatcroft)	
	Peter Chivers)	
	Jill Slatter)	

Meeting closed at 9.44 pm.

Date of next AGM – 20th October 2006 7.30 pm at Exeter Hall, Kidlington.

Date of first Committee Meeting – Friday 2nd December 2005 at Exeter Hall, Kidlington.