



ESTD 1911

Berks, Bucks and Oxon Cross Country Association 2023 AGM Minutes

Venue: Online Meeting

Host: BBOCCA

Date & Time: 21st August 2023, 7:45pm

Present were:

BBO Officers

Graham Bridges (*BBO Results & Web*), Jessica Gibbon (*BBO Treasurer & Reading AC*), Phil Marshall (*Newbury AC*), Lynne Nike (*BBO Secretary & Reading AC*), Benedict Pollard (*Eynsham Roadrunners*), Dene Stringfellow (*Chairperson*), Andy Tuttle (*Vice President & Newbury AC.*)

Others in Attendance:

Daisy Gladstone (*Abingdon AC*), Theresa Lamble (*Didcot Runners*), Ray Stevens (*Reading AC*), John Styles (*Abingdon AC*)

Apologies received from:

Kelly Lehmann (*Oxford Tri*), Mark Moore (*Burnham Joggers*), Julie Rayfield (*Reading AC*),

Welcome

Dene Stringfellow (*meeting Chair*) welcomed everyone, thanking them for coming to the BBO AGM.

Apologies

Prior to the meeting apologies were received from Kelly Lehmann (*Oxford Tri*). Mark Moore (*Burnham Joggers*) and Julie Rayfield (*Reading AC*) had hoped to attend but were unable to on the day.

Review of 2022 AGM Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the previous AGM, held on Monday 31st October 2022, were reviewed and accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Review Finance Report

Jessica informed the meeting that the account's balance is currently £2,395.58 and that prior to the BB&O Championships 2022 the balance had been £3,279.69, meaning that the event recorded a loss of £884.11.

Jessica commented that this loss is largely the result of two factors, namely the limited number of entries and the committee's agreement not to increase entry fees for the 2022 Championships. The smaller than normal number of entries was perhaps due to the fact that the Championships had not taken place for the two years previous (*– owing to the Covid 19 pandemic*) and so the BBO Championships had perhaps lost momentum. Entry fees had not been raised as the committee was conscious that doing so may have put clubs off entering.

Jessica confirmed that income from entries in 2022 had been £852 whilst our outgoings had totalled £1,640.

Dene mentioned that the costs of holding the Championships had increased, Ray and John agreed that the cost of holding events had increased generally.

Daisy asked how much the entry fees had been last year, they were confirmed as follows:

- Senior Men - £32 for the first team (*12 to run, 6 to score*) and £16 per additional team;
- All other teams - £22 for the first team (*Ladies – 8 to run, 3 to score / Juniors – 6 to run, 3 to score*) and £12 per additional team.

Dene asked for opinions on increasing the entry fees. Daisy felt that last years' fees seemed very low.

Dene suggested that perhaps the entry fees could be increased as follows: Men's team entry fee to £40 for the first team and the Ladies/Juniors could go to £30 for the first team. Additional teams could pay £15-£18 per team.

Daisy suggested that the BBO Committee could review how that would have affected the income for last year's Championships.

Phil wondered if there was any value in looking at clubs just entering their athletes individually, rather than paying a team entry fee they pay per athlete then the individuals make up the teams on the day.

Dene confirmed that individual entry fees were £8 for the Men and Ladies and £6 for Juniors.

Phil said that it looks like the Committee need to crunch the numbers looking at last years' entries. Jessica agreed and said she would do this. – *Action Jessica*

Ray commented that it was important that the event covers its costs this year.

Dene asked, given that Reading AC have been very supportive of the Championships and enter quite a few athletes, whether or not Ray thought an entry fee increase would have a negative impact upon the club's entries. Ray felt that it would not. He added that he would rather enter teams and hope that people can run on the day. He felt that entering individuals can be a bit tricky.

Dene agreed and said that there would be considerably more administrative overhead involved if athletes entered individually.

John also agreed that he prefers to enter by teams and said that you can rustle up interest over time ahead of the race.

Phil said that this was a fair point and that looking at increasing team costs seemed like the best way forward.

Dene also felt that the focus in terms of prizes was on the team trophies and therefore keeping the focus on team entries was important. Jessica confirmed that she would run a couple of costing scenarios.

The cost of venue hire was also discussed. Jessica confirmed that the cost of hiring Henley Showground for last year's Championships was £600. Phil informed the meeting that Newbury Showground is about £60 cheaper to hire and that as there are toilets on site at Newbury Showground there wouldn't be the expense of hiring toilets if the 2023 Championships were held there. Jessica confirmed that the cost of toilet hire was £516 last year.

Dene explained to assembly that it had been confirmed that Henley Showground would not be available this year and that the Committee are waiting to hear if Newbury Showground is an option instead.

Election of Officers

Dene thanked the committee for their support and input in what has been a difficult 12 months. He felt that, despite making a loss in 2022, it had been good to get Championships back into the race calendar and that generally there had been positive feedback on the venue and courses, albeit one or two clubs had

suggested that the course set for the younger athletes was very challenging. However, Dene felt that as this is a Championship event it is important that, where possible, challenging courses are preferable.

Dene informed the assembly that all current Committee members had stated that they were happy to continue in their roles for another term. and also stated that more Committee members would always be welcome.

The following Committee members were unanimously re-elected into their respective roles meaning that there will be no change to the ongoing BB&O Cross Country Association Committee.

- Lynne Nike – *Secretary*
- Jessica Gibbon – *Treasurer*
- Graham Bridges – *Webmaster*
- Phil Marshal – *General Member*
- Benedict Pollard – *General Member*
- Andy Tuttle – *Vice President*
- Dene Stringfellow – *Chairman*

At this point Dene invited Benedict to explain what he had been doing in respect of speaking to Major John Hamilton. Benedict explained that Major Hamilton is a war veteran and is 105 years old, he used to be a cross country athlete and still continues to focus on health and fitness. Benedict intends to interview him with respect to his approach to fitness and his experience as a cross country athlete. The hope is that parts of the interview could be put on social media by way of generating interest in the Championships. The committee has agreed that the Major will be an Ambassador for the Championships and will be presented with a certificate to acknowledge this.

Dene said that the committee will also discuss doing something similar for Max Cowling given his 50 years of service to the Association.

Voting Proposals

a) Permanent Venue Proposal

Ray said that he felt it is nice to change the venue from one year to the next, however finding clubs willing to host it is difficult and finding venues with adequate parking is also not easy.

Daisy commented that athletes often like to compare their times from one year to the next to changing locations isn't ideal in this respect. Daisy added that the important thing is that the BBO Championships survives and that this is more important than the location of the Championships.

Dene asked the meeting to vote regarding the suggestion that he approach Henley Showground and ask them if we can book it for the next 5 Years? The meeting voted in favour of the suggestion.

Jessica said that the cancellation policy would need to be looked at. Dene agreed and said that if we go this route we may need to look into getting insurance. Dene commented that perhaps by booking for 5 years they may agree to a reduced fee and that it is worth at least asking the question. – **Action Dene**

b) 3 Co-hosting Clubs Proposal – One Club from Each County per Championships

Dene explained that this was a proposal put forward at a previous committee meeting by Benedict and that the suggestion was made in respects to reducing the pressure put on any one club to host.

Benedict felt that the BBO Committee had now probably decided that this was not a good idea. Last year worked well with just 14 marshals provided from various clubs.

It was agreed that, overall, this proposal has been rejected.

Arrangements for 2023 BBO Championships Progress Update

a) Proposed Date

The date for the next BBO Cross Country Championships was confirmed as Sunday 19th November 2023.

b) Proposed Venue

The venue is yet to be confirmed. Hopefully, it will be Newbury Showground but this is dependent on the agreement of Newbury AC at their next committee meeting. Andy said that the date of the meeting has not yet been set. Dene stated that Newbury Showground would not be confirmed as the venue until Newbury AC had held its committee meeting and the committee had agreed its support. Andy added that he has a team of willing volunteers from Newbury AC who would help him setup the course, which is really helpful.

Winding up Procedure Update

Dene explained that if the BB&O Cross Country Association folds it would be his preference for any money in the bank to be split between the clubs most recently affiliated to the Association. However, this is complicated from a legal standpoint. It was agreed that the committee would approach their various clubs in the first instance to find out if any of their members have the appropriate knowledge to be able to advise in respects to this. – *Action BBO Committee*

AOB

Dene explained that he and Benedict were intending to develop the social media presence of the BB&O Championships with the hope of generating more support.

Meeting Closed

Dene thanked everyone for attending the AGM and thanked the committee members for agreeing to continue in their roles.

Meeting brought to a close at approximately 9:15pm.

Summary of Actions

- Price increase scenarios investigation – *Action Jessica*
- Investigate booking Henley Showground for the next 5 years – *Action Dene*
- Winding up procedure – Investigate if any club members can help advise on this – *Action BBO Committee*

Lynne Nike

Secretary

Friday, 6th October 2023