



ESTD 1911

Berks, Bucks and Oxon Cross Country Association 2024 AGM Minutes

Venue: Online Meeting

Host: BBOCCA

Date & Time: Thursday 6th June 2024, 7:45pm

Present were:

BBO Officers

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

Others in Attendance

Tom Baker (*Eynsham Roadrunners*), Daisy Lougher (*Abingdon AC*), Julie Rayfield (*Reading AC*)

Apologies received from:

Sarah Davies (*Oxford City AC*), Shirleen Higgins (*WSEH AC*), Kelly Lehman (*Oxford Tri*),
Jacky Pinnock (*Eynsham Roadrunners*), Nichola Poulton (*Harwell Harriers*), Dave Sandy (*Kidlington RC*),
Ray Stevens (*Reading AC*)

Welcome

Dene Stringfellow (*meeting Chair*) welcomed everyone, thanking them for coming to the BBO AGM 2024.

Apologies

Prior to the meeting apologies (*as shown above*) were received, Lynne read them out to the meeting.

Review of 2023 AGM Meeting Minutes

Dene told the meeting that there were three actions outstanding from the minutes of the previous AGM, held on 21st August 2023.

- **Pricing Increase** - This has been actioned by the Committee as increases for both teams and individuals were put in place for the 2023 Championships.
- **Permanent Venue for Championships** - Following the 2023 Championships at Henley Showground Dene was told by those managing the site that we would not be able to secure the venue for future races in November as they would now be closing the site for events of this nature during that month.

- **Winding up Procedure** – This has been looked into by Benedict. He has already circulated a document to the Committee which his Accountant thinks mostly covers everything. The Accountant asked if there is a Constitution for the BBO? Dene does not think that there is, just a set of rules. Dene highlighted the importance of having a Winding up Procedure in place and the Committee need to continue to work on this.

Review Finance Report

Jess gave the meeting the following information.

BBO 2023 Championships Finance Summary – June 2024

The BBO XC Association made an overall loss of £201.59 for the year of 2023-2024, compared with a loss of £788.92 the previous year. The bank balance currently stands at £2,289.18.

Revenue from the 2023 Champs entries was £1,329 from a total of 39 teams from 7 clubs and 15 individual entries. This was an increase from £852 in 2022. The increase is mostly reflective of the increase in entry fees by £10 per team and increase in individual fees by £2, though there were 5 additional teams entered for 2023.

Costs for the year 2023-2024 were £1,530.59, down from £1,840.92 the previous year. This was despite expenditure on trophy repairs in 2023. The drop was due to a lower venue fee and no need for toilet hire.

The outlook for the 2024 Champs is positive. If the Champs go ahead at the proposed venue, the letting fee will be around half the fee of Newbury Showground and there will not be a need for toilet hire. There is also potential secured sponsorship income. Now that the Champs has re-established itself again, we would hope for higher entry levels for 2024, in particular from Buckinghamshire based clubs. However, even if entry fees and numbers were to remain the same for 2024 we forecast a projected net income of £1,783.46. As mentioned, we hope to receive higher entry numbers for this year which would give us a greater surplus. This is important as the Association will need to build up its bank reserves in anticipation of expenditure to restock its medal supply within the next few years.

Dene highlighted that the biggest concern cost wise is the cost of the medals. Whilst we have enough medals for the 2024 Championships we will need to buy more for 2025.

Election of Officers

Dene thanked the Committee for their continued support. He told the meeting that whilst all other Committee members are prepared to continue to stand he will be standing down as Chairman at the end of the meeting. He went on to say that Benedict has offered to stand as Chairman.

The following Committee members were unanimously voted into their respective roles. and we welcome Tom Baker to the Committee for the first time.

Benedict Pollard – Chairman

Lynne Nike – Secretary

Jessica Gibbon – Treasurer

Phil Marshal – General Member

Andy Tuttle - VP

Dene Stringfellow – General Member

Tom Baker – General Member

Tom introduced himself to the Committee, he is Men's Captain of Eynsham Roadrunners, a keen cross country runner and has some experience helping to organise race events. Dene then handed the meeting over to the new Chairman, Benedict Pollard.

Benedict thanked Dene for his considerable efforts whilst as Chairman of the BBO which have culminated in Dene essentially saving the Championships.

Voting Proposals

- a) **Inclusion of U11 Races** – Dene told the Committee that there has been fairly limited feedback on this from other clubs. Daisy (*Abingdon AC*) asked what the minimum age of this race category would be? Dene told the meeting that it would need to be the same as the Oxfordshire League which would require the athletes to be 9 on the 31st August.

Daisy commented that whilst she was not at the race last year some club members had mentioned that there seemed to be a big gap between the Senior Men's race and the start of the Junior races. Dene explained that last year the field was much faster than previous years so this is something that you can't really prepare for. Benedict said that the Committee intends to review the race schedule once we know if the U11 race category is going to be included.

The meeting voted on the U11 Race Proposal – It was agreed unanimously so will be included in the 2024 Championships.

- b) **Permanent Venue Proposal Update** – This had already been discussed and ultimately due to Henley Showground no longer being bookable in November, having a permanent venue (*which was to be Henley as it covers all three Counties*) is no longer being considered.

Benedict told the meeting that it feels good to try to circulate the location of the race around the three Counties and Dene agreed. Phil also commented that as Henley is no longer an option there is no reason to continue considering one permanent home for the Championships at this point.

Tom was also in favour of varying the site of the race and asked if we have any other possible venues in mind. Benedict explained that he has recently been to Englefield Estate, a 14,000 acre estate near Reading and on speaking to the owner discovered he is a keen sportsman who welcomed the idea of us using Englefield for the Championships. Phil has also been to the site and agreed it was a great option. Tom said he would be happy to help with venue ideas moving forward.

The meeting discussed the problem of persuading Buckinghamshire clubs to get involved with the Championships and there had also been no response from them with regard to our suggestion of potentially using the Championships for County selection. Phil said he would chase Buckinghamshire XC to try to get a response.

Arrangements for 2024 BBO Championships Progress Update Proposed Date & Venue.

Proposed date for the BBO Championships 2024 is Sunday 17th November 2024, proposed venue is Broughton Castle near Banbury. Benedict will send out suggested dates in July for the Committee to visit the venue.

Winding up Procedure – Update

(Already discussed in review of 2023 AGM action points.)

AOB

Phil told the meeting that now that the venue has been agreed he will start thinking about posting on the Instagram account which he has set up. Jess asked if anyone has seen the ‘Sunday Plodcast’ that was set up by Matt Seddon (*Bracknell athlete*). Jess was wondering if she should approach him to ask him to get involved in promoting the Championships in some way. Tom suggested that we need a social media strategy and it was agreed that he, Benedict and Phil would get together and work on this together.

Dene suggested that he and Benedict get together in July in order for him to give Benedict a proper hand over.

Benedict suggested that the Committee should review the rules that are posted on the website to ensure that they still meet our requirements.

The BBO have secured sponsorship for the first time. Benedict explained that his company, ‘Mighty Fine Oaks’ will be sponsoring the Championships. Phil told the meeting that a Newbury AC member is also keen to be a sponsor and he will be catching up with her to discuss her sponsorship soon. Dene said we should get the logo’s of the sponsors organised and put them on all future correspondence for the BBO Championships 2024 as well as putting their details on the website. Dene said he will continue to be webmaster for now until he hands this over to Benedict.

Meeting Closed

Meeting brought to a close at 9:04pm.

Summary of Actions

- **Winding up procedure – Action All Committee Members**
- **Review of race schedule – Action All Committee Members**
- **Chase Buckinghamshire XC – Action Phil**
- **Arrange site visit – Action Benedict**
- **Social Media Strategy – Action Tom, Benedict and Phil**
- **Chair hand over – Action Benedict and Dene**
- **Review of BBO rules – Action All Committee Members**
- **Discuss sponsorship with Newbury AC member – Action Phil**

Lynne Nike
Secretary