



Minutes of the January Committee Meeting of Oxford City Athletic Club

Date: Thursday 27th January 2022, 6.30pm

Venue: Zoom/online

The meeting began at 6.30pm

Apologies – received from Julie Walker-Smith, Jo Hunter, Paul Kelsey, Juliet Bennett

Present – Richard Hart, Katherine Sutcliffe, Mark Bristow, Bryan Walker, Debbi Carter, Gwyneth Hueter, Jennifer Cottrill, Emma Kentish, Susan Jones, Elton Jones, Anett Fegyveres-Nagy, Popsie Wootten joined at 8pm

Agenda:

- Membership
 - Finances
 - Horspath maintenance
 - Cross Country season
 - Track and Field Season 2022
 - Park Run
 - Coaching
 - Track & Pass
 - Any other business
1. Presentation night is on 18th March at 6.30pm to 9pm at the Harlequins Rugby Club. 60 % of the awards present themselves because they are done by best performance. Still have 40% of the awards still to give.
Team managers needs to nominate athletes very shortly. We should sort this out within a week or so.
Richard will invite our best national athletes to present the awards at the event. If they all are busy the presentations will be done by coaches.
 2. Williams F1 is filming 2nd February 6.30 to 9pm. They cannot make it public. They will need a section of the Track to be quiet. Richard nominated Jen and Bryan to be free to speak to contact when they turn up. It will need somebody to stay and wait for them to finish and switch the light off.
 3. Track and Passes
Debbi and Anett have been chasing parents about the need to purchase passes unless their children won't be able to train. Debbi checked last Monday night. Anett sent off reminder

emails to parents. During this week we received £5000. Coaches to keep reminding their athletes to purchase a Track Pass.

4. Membership

Susan`s presentation: The waiting list was sitting at around 260. Her focus is the U15s. Susan sent out 174 emails, and 61 emailed back and showed continuing interest. 156 still on the waiting list. We have lost contact with over a hundred people, they just disappeared. 25 have come off the list to be offered a trial session. Susan is working closely with couple of coaches already to find spaces.

Richard said that when the automated renewals occur, we may find that we get 10 or 30 more they saying “haven`t been training” therefore have left.

Around 1st March further spaces will become free.

Elton mentioned it would be great when we send off an offer little be more specific about type of offer if they willing to compete.

Richard asked if the coaches are pushing their athletes to compete. We need athletes who are willing to compete. Competition is part of our training programme. Coaches should be re-enforcing the message that competition is good and healthy, and “we want you to do it.”

Bryan`s presentation: They have a working group working on the waiting list with Susan, Elton, Mark Pitt, Jen and Bryan. The working group talked through the opportunities of being paid coaches. The focus for them would be on continuing to be “volunteer first” to the club. All coaches would be expected to commit a minimum number of volunteer hours. Coaches willing to take more hours and more groups would be increasing club membership and for them we would start a paid system for these “extra” hours. The existing coaches would all be offered the same opportunity to take on more groups and hours across the week if it was paid work. The working group thinks if they can bring athletes from the waiting list into the club they can make the scheme financially viable and sustainable.

Richard thinks that it is a brilliant way forward. This had to come. There will be some sensitivity about paid and unpaid coaches coaching alongside each other, but this is why it important make the same offer to all coaches: “volunteer first” followed by additional paid coaching.

Bryan and working group to provide a fully worked plan to be implemented asap.

Membership & Track Pass fee

Susan suggested to combine the Membership fee with the Track Pass fee monthly/quarterly or annually basis by DD system, as the club is struggling with parents paying the Track fee regularly.

Monthly, Quarterly, annual options - super easy for parents/members/club

Everyone pays what is due - fair to all!

Richard`s comments: There must still be two membership categories for those who use the track and those who don`t. If we go for this change now we must press the brakes on the current renewal system, cancelling every subscription and writing to all members saying “your membership being cancelled, do not panic we are moving to a direct debit system, please click on this link and sign up for DD instead.”

We can use DD collecting company to combine membership fee and track pass.

The present committee members agreed to make this happen. Susan will come back to a small working group with detailed recommendations,

5. Horspath maintenance

Try to get outside cage repaired. Mark has had electrical repairs done to the building, and some essentials safety checks for the building; we are paying out for that. We do have to renew the Track Mark certificate. Richard has been contacted by one of the companies that does this check.

6. Cross Country season

We are trying to hold a short meeting on 9th February to discuss how to avoid the problems hosting matches that we have had this year

7. Track and Field Season 2022

There is a comprehensive fixtures list which is on the website. If anybody would like a spreadsheet for this ask Richard or Anett and they are happy to email it to anybody.

We still try to find one Oxford Track and Field League meeting and need to find dates for the Quad kids meetings. And then Anett and Richard will get permits for these competitions.

8. Park Run

Richard would like the club to embrace Park Run as its own; it is right there, Horspath people use the cafe afterwards. If we can promote our own Park Run Saturdays, it would be good for the club. Please think about it.

9. Richard is keen to get disabled inclusive athletics section re-started. We have funding for it. This would be paid role.

10. Any other business

Once we have changed our membership renewal system we will have a remaining option for non-members to pay to use the track. We have to keep the daily and annual pass for instance. They can pay online anytime through our website.

11. Vets League will go ahead as Richard Davis and Stephen McCauley have offered to organise it. Stephen will do the IT and Richard will do the communication.

Next Committee Meeting is 24th March 2022 in person if Covid allows us.