OXL 2023-24 AGM Proposals

A. New member club applications

Thame Runners have asked to join the OXL. As an Oxfordshire club they are automatically entitled to be a member club and are therefore welcomed to the league.

Reading AC have also asked to join the OXL. As a club from a neighbouring county their membership needs to be ratified by current league members.

The Committee see no reason to deny them membership:
- Constitutionally more than two-thirds of the league's member clubs will still be from Oxfordshire
- Club member obligations have been explained and accepted by Reading AC
- Members of Reading AC have taken part in the OXL as part of the Oxfordshire County Championships and also a large contingent of guests at Henley this season

Vote for or against Reading AC becoming a member club of the OXL.

B. Chip timing

Under the current funding model (via athlete entry fees) the OXL has succeeded in building a contingency fund more quickly than expected. Multiple people have asked whether this would allow us to introduce chip timing to the OXL.

There are several benefits of chip timing:

- Reducing volunteer requirement – reducing the requirement by up to a dozen people, making it easier for host clubs to find and allocate marshals
- Reducing time & effort to produce results – provisional results would be online on the day of the fixture, cutting down on manual intervention required & and allow standings to be compiled more quickly
- Reduce setup time & resources – chip timing doesn't require a finish funnel to control finishing athletes so setup & close down become simpler for the host clubs

The OXL committee approached 3 chip timing companies with OXL requirements and asked for proposals to gauge service levels and costs:

- DBMax (https://www.dbmax.co.uk/)
- Tempo Events (https://www.tempoevents.co.uk/)
- StuWeb (https://www.stuweb.co.uk/)

All 3 proposals were almost identical in services offered, although the costings and how they are built up were quite different. The costing proposals were based on the 2023/24 season venues and participants.

DBMax were most expensive, at just over £8,000, and considered unviable as it posed too big a cost. The other two proposals were around £4,600, with StuWeb being about £200 cheaper than Tempo Events.

Given race numbers are supplied by the timing companies there would also be a budget benefit from not having to source race numbers.

The OXL has achieved a surplus of over £9,000 in both of the previous seasons, since moving to the new funding model, therefore the OXL Committee would like to propose we instigate chip timing to achieve the benefits described above. The recommendation is to proceed with Tempo Events as preferred supplier as, whilst they are marginally more expensive than StuWeb, they have a much wider experience locally.

Vote for or against proceeding with chip timing based on the Committee's recommendation.

C. Second-claim entry restrictions

This proposal aims to adjust the rules to allow second claim athletes to be entered at any point through the season.

Currently second-claim athletes must be registered prior to Round 1 which can preclude legitimate second-claim athletes who join a club part way through the season from competing in the league.

Given that second-claim status is checked with the EA database only legitimate second-claim athletes would be allowed to enter so the proposal is to remove the restriction on entries.

Remove:

"A second–claim club member must be registered before Round 1 in order to be registered to run for his/her second-claim club in the League that season. A second–claim club member not registered before Round 1 may run at subsequent fixtures of the season, but must be entered as a registered 'Guest' athlete by the relevant entry deadline."

Replace with:

"Legitimate second-claim athletes can register at any point of the season, subject to all other league rules."

Vote for or against the change to second-claim entry restrictions.

D. U9/U11 on the day entry

This proposal aims to clarify the entry process for all athletes while removing the explicit ability to U9/U11 athletes on the day.

Prior to controlling entries through OpenTrack it was possible to enter U9/U11 athletes on the day of a fixture. This has caused some confusion and extra burden on the Committee on race day.

With the OpenTrack entry system, it is possible for a Team Manager to make entries online at any point so long as the athlete is registered with EA as first claim and synchronised with OpenTrack, and the club has spare numbers in their allocated range.

However in all other cases, entries require assistance from the Committee and/or OpenTrack so need to be made in advance.

Remove:

"On–the–day entries for athletes aged 8, 9 or 10 years only will be permitted using the club's 'spare' race numbers provided for that purpose"

Replace with:

"Team Managers can make online entries via OpenTrack for all EA registered first-claim athletes at any time, subject to the athlete being available in OpenTrack and the club having available numbers in their allocation. However, it is recommended to enter athletes by the entry deadline to ensure time is available for the Committee to work through any queries with the Team Manager."

Vote for or against the change to U9/U11 on the day entries.

E. Race schedule adjustments

This proposal aims adjust the race schedule to improve race separation & fixture completion.

Recently there have been several occurrences where some junior races have overlapped causing potential confusion for athletes, marshals and finish funnel officials. There is also concern over the length of time volunteers are out on course.

To do this, it is suggested to combine the U13 Girls & Boys races, similar to U9, U15 and U17 age groups, and then shuffle start times as follows:

Age Group	Current Start	Age Group	Revised Start
U9 Boys & Girls	09:55	U9 Boys & Girls	09:55
U11 Girls	10:00	U11 Girls	**10:05**
U11 Boys	10:10	U11 Boys	**10:15**
U13 Girls	10:20		
U13 Boys	10:30	**U13 Boys & Girls**	**10:25**
U15 Boys & Girls	10:45	U15 Boys & Girls	**10:40**
U17 Boys & Girls	11:00	U17 Boys & Girls	11:00
U20/Senior/Veteran Men	11:20	U20/Senior/Veteran Men	11:20
U20/Senior/Veteran Women	12:00	U20/Senior/Veteran Women	**11:50**

Vote for or against the change to race schedule.

F. Masters age categories

This proposal aims to adjust the masters women's age categories to match the men's.

The use of different masters categories for men and women has been noted by both athletes and the committee. This proposal adjusts the masters women categories to use categories based on full decades rather than split decades, as per the men:

Seniors run from 20 to 39 years of age, then masters categories run from 40 to 49, 50 to 59, 60 to 69 and finally 70 years of age and above.

Vote for or against the change to masters women's age categories.

G. Senior team sizes

This proposal aims to adjust the women's team size to reflect participation more proportionately.

Despite fewer senior women than senior men, there were 19 women's teams in Division 3 this season compared to 13 men's. This season coming will also see three teams from the same club (Headington RR) competing in the senior women's Division 1.

It is acknowledged that some smaller clubs may find it harder to field a 4th athlete but an increased team size could be used to encouraged more female participation in these instances.

Currently senior women's teams are made up of 3 people compared to 7 men, a ratio of 30%:70%

Proportion of 2023-24 league finishers: 110 v 184 … 37% v 63%
Proportion of 2023-24 race finishers: 838 v 1395 … 38% v 62%

Increasing the women's team size to 4 would be a ratio of 36%:64% which more closely represents current participation.

Vote for or against the change to increase senior women's team size to 4.

H. AGM timings in constitution

This proposal aims to adjust wording in the constitution around certain timings to reflect the AGM timeline that has been in use and provides improved visibility of potential proposals.

Change item 6.1 from:

*"6.1. An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held **not earlier than six weeks and not later than 12 weeks after the date of the last race in the preceding season**."*

To:

*"6.1. An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held **between seasons, following completion of the preceding season's accounts and ideally no later than 4 months prior to the following season**."*

Change item 12.2 from:

*"12.2. Proposals to change this constitution may only come from member clubs and shall be sent to the League Secretary not less than **14 days** before the meeting."*

To:

*"12.2. Proposals to change this constitution may only come from member clubs and shall be sent to the League Secretary not less than **28 days** before the meeting."*

Vote for or against the two wording changes.

I. Member club obligations & non-compliance

This proposal aims to introduce a process to enable the league to handle issues with clubs not complying with their obligations.

Whilst there are no current issues to deal with, it was noted by the Committee that there is no provision in the constitution to handle a situation where a club fails to meet its obligations to the league.

The proposal is to add an item to the constitution within section "5. Membership" as follows:

"5.5 Where a club is deemed to have failed to meet it's obligations to the OXL, a proposal will be tabled at the end of season AGM for member clubs to vote on whether to allow the club to continue as a member of the OXL."

Vote for or against the introduction of the wording into the Constitution.

J. Purchase of walkie talkies

This proposal aims to get member clubs approval for OXL to purchase walkie talkies to aid communication on race days.

At a number of fixtures it was felt it would have been beneficial to have had easier and quicker communication between the League Committee, Race Officials and the Host Club Organiser & key volunteers.

Some host clubs have access to walkie talkies but numbers vary and others do not have any at all so it was felt that the OXL having their own set would allow a consistent approach to be had at each fixture.

It is suggested a suitable model would be the Motorola T92 which is waterproof, rugged, has a reasonable range and doesn't require any licence. It's anticipated that 12 units would cost in the region of £500-600, e.g. https://ligo.co.uk/products/motorola-tlkr-t92-two-way-radios

Whilst the committee consider this good value, it is a reasonably large expenditure so would like member clubs agreement before purchasing.

Vote for or against the proposal to purchase walkie talkies.

K. Non-scoring of guests

This proposal aims to reduce the skewed effect of higher guest participation in the third round that is shared with the Oxfordshire Cross Country Championships.

Due to the shared fixture, the number of guests running is higher and this contributes to the tendency for individual scores in this round to be higher than others. This year there were 61 guests competing in round 3, compared to 7 in round 1, 1 in round 2, 4 in round 4 and 33 in round 5 (also due to Reading AC tryouts).

The proposal is therefore to amend the rules from:

"A 'Guest' athlete is non–scoring in that they and will not appear in the team results, but do take the score of the place they finish in their respective race category."

To:

"A 'Guest' athlete is non–scoring in that they will not appear in the team results, or take any score in their respective individual race category."

Vote for or against the proposal to change the guest scoring rule.