

## OXL 2024-25 AGM Proposals

### A. New member club applications

Kidlington Running Club have asked to re-join the OXL. As an Oxfordshire club they are automatically entitled to be a member club and are therefore welcomed to the league.

No voting is required.

### B. Race schedule adjustments

This proposal aims adjust the race schedule to improve race separation, whilst bringing all junior races into the combined race format.

There have been occurrences where some races have overlapped causing confusion for athletes, marshals and finish funnel officials. This has been a particular challenge between the U17 & Men's race, as well as between the U15 and U17 race.

By combining the U11 Girls & Boys races, like all the other junior age groups, an extra 5 minutes can be made between the U15 & U17 races as well as the U17 & Men's races. The start times as follows:

Age Group	Current Start	Age Group	Revised Start
U9 Boys & Girls	09:55	U9 Boys & Girls	09:55
U11 Girls	10:05	U11 Boys & Girls	10:05
U11 Boys	10:15		
U13 Boys & Girls	10:25	U13 Boys & Girls	<b>10:15</b>
U15 Boys & Girls	10:40	U15 Boys & Girls	<b>10:30</b>
U17 Boys & Girls	11:00	U17 Boys & Girls	<b>10:55</b>
U20/Senior/Masters Men	11:20	U20/Senior/Masters Men	11:20
U20/Senior/Masters Women	11:50	U20/Senior/Masters Women	11:50

The U11 races had not previously been combined due to concern over the ability to manually time & record so many athletes in a short space of time. Following a successful season with chip timing, manual timing & recording is not required so this is no longer a concern.

Vote for or against the change to race schedule.

### C. Encouraging participation

This proposal is aimed at providing senior & masters runners with a less-rigorous option that keeps them in the sport of cross-country and at the same time encouraging more U17 runners to participate by creating a larger, more diverse field so the race is not so lonely or intimidating.

Whilst overall entry numbers have been healthy there is still low participation within the U17 age group as well as the upper Masters categories. Feedback from U17 runners has reflected on a lonely race and decent runners being put off by a smaller, faster field. We have also seen older masters runners reluctantly stop racing due to the rigours of the senior races.

The proposal is to adjust the U17 race to create an “open” category in the same race, allowing any senior or masters runner to run in the U17 race.

There would be no prizes (individual or team) on offer for any senior or master categories, both to avoid devaluing the main adult race categories and to protect the integrity of the U17 category competition. The senior and masters runners would not score points, essentially being treated like guests to ensure they don’t impact the U17 scoring. The U17 individual and team prizes would continue as currently.

Any senior or masters runner opting to run in the open category of the U17 race would do so for the entire season, thereby being unable to run in the main senior & masters races.

There could be some added complication when marshalling the overlap of this new format U17 race and the following men’s race, although it’s anticipated to be minor (especially if the race schedule proposal has been voted for) and outweighed by the potential to attract more participation from U17 runners and seniors & masters who might otherwise stop cross country running altogether.

Vote for or against proceeding with adjusting the U17 category to include an “open” category.

#### **D. Host reward amount**

This proposal is aimed at recognising the effort host clubs go through to ensure the league comprises of five fixtures each season.

There has been some feedback that when the fixtures were funded by car parking some clubs used to more money than the current reward of £500 and that when two clubs co-host sharing the amount is not much of an incentive.

Given the financial health of the league and the reliance on host clubs to put on fixtures the proposal is to increase the host reward amount from £500 per fixture to £800 per fixture.

Vote for or against increasing the reward amount.

#### **E. Senior team divisions**

This proposal is aimed at creating fairer and more engaging competition across all senior team levels by placing all teams from the same club—A, B, C, etc.—into the same division, based on the performance of the A team. The goal is to foster more meaningful rivalries between clubs at every level, making races more motivating for alternate teams and ensuring that A teams in lower divisions are competing against their peers, not simply stronger B teams from larger clubs.

By aligning alternate teams with their club's division, B and C teams are more likely to compete against equivalent teams from other clubs. At the same time, it allows smaller clubs—whose A teams may currently face mostly alternate teams in lower divisions—to race against genuine peer clubs, leading to a fairer and more rewarding competitive environment. Overall, this approach aims to support both depth and diversity in league participation, while keeping the structure simple and club-focused.

I understand there is a disadvantage of this in that the lower alternate teams may not have direct competition. And that some clubs will have many alternate clubs within a division without much competition. However, at the end of the day, it is a proposal and can be tested for a season and changed again if it doesn't work. I'm also open to other suggestions to compensate for some of its drawbacks.

Vote for or against changing to a new division structure.