AGM MINUTES 2023: CHILTERN CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Chiltern Cross Country League held remotely on 13th July 2023

Present:

Ian Robinson Banbury Harriers
Hayley Vinnicombe Bedford & County

Richard Could Bissetter AC

Richard Gould Bicester AC

Nicky Pittam Bearbrook Running Club

Justin Spencer Bracknell AC
Trevor Brawn Chiltern Harriers
Matt Hamilton Dacorum AC

James Lowe Leighton Buzzard AC Richard Inchley Leighton Buzzard AC

Mick Bromilow MMKAC
Jim Bennett MKDP

Mark Exley Northampton AC
Becky Honour On the Run Aylesbury

Bill O'Connor Queen's Park Andy Collins Redway Runners

Fiona Turner St Albans AC Paul Durbin St Albans AC

Lloyd Cross Shenley Striders

Thomas Galliford Stevenage & N Herts

Hilary Needleman Tring Running Club Claire Shelley Tring Running Club
Pat Card Vale of Aylesbury Robin Barrett Vale of Aylesbury

Stuart Ingham Watford Harriers

Jess Wynn-Wernick Wellingborough & DAC

Duncan Griffin Wycombe Phoenix

Apologies (before/after meeting):

Ellie Morris - St Albans Striders Emma Gould – Bicester AC Tricia Thorp - Daventry

Charlie Pughe - Thames Runners Paul Gooding - Bedford & County

Last Year Minutes: Re-circulated before meetings & accepted.

Reports: These were circulated to clubs before the meeting for pre reading & review. Anyone who missed the AGM, is advised to read the reports in conjunction with these minutes.

Chairman's Report: Accepted as a good report of the 2022-23 season.

Match Attendance: Mick Bromilow highlighted some key facts from the supplied reports – reduced number of athletes participating in the league but those who took part attended more fixtures. Given the low cost of entry for club's v's commercial running events and the huge effort to host fixtures we hope all clubs will look at ways to encourage attendance – maybe by including some Chiltern League fixtures within your club championships etc.

ACTION: ALL

Treasurer's Report & Finance Plans:

Accepted as an accurate report of the costs of running the league overall finances.

There is no proposed increase in the charges to clubs for the forthcoming season – in order to hopefully encourage greater participation and avoid placing greater financial burden on clubs. Given the projected costs this will reduce the financial reserves. It was stressed that the league is run on a not for profit basis but the predicted reserves at the end of the 23-24 season is felt to be adequate. Clubs should plan on the basis of a potential cost increase for the 2024-25 season.

ACTION: ALL

Both guest fees and lost numbers will be charged at £5 each for this season. These can be paid in cash or electronically – either prior to or at the fixture.

ACTION: ALL

Election of Officers for 2022 - 2023:

There was again discussion on the desire of the existing committee to have some new members join – this could be to take on any of the existing roles or share or assist in these – or indeed create their own role – such as Website Manager or Social Media & Communication. While the league is heavily indebted to the host clubs, the entries and results are very much managed by Mick and we need people to learn this process so they could provide a back-up if ever necessary. Richard advised the Treasurer duties are not complicated or overly burdensome – and requires only a basic level of accounts understanding. Richard briefly explained his role as Fixture Coordinator – liaising with potential host clubs and agreeing the fixture calendar.

Robin Barrett of Vale of Aylesbury agreed to help Mick with results this season. ACTION: MB & RB

Trevor from Chiltern Harriers will discuss the Fixture Coordinator role with the club. ACTION: TB

In the absence of anybody else coming forward, the officers were reappointed:

Chair: Bill O'Connor Queens Park Harriers chair@chilternccl.co.uk

Treasurer: Richard Inchley Leighton Buzzard AC treasurer@chilternccl.co.uk

Fixture Coordinator: Richard Inchley Leighton Buzzard AC

Competition Results Manager: Mick Bromilow Marshall Milton Keynes AC results@chilternccl.co.uk

Plus new Results Assistant: Robin Barrett Vale of Aylesbury

Secretary: Fiona Turner St Albans Athletic Club secretary@chilternccl.co.uk

Website & Communication / Social Media Vacant – could be 2 roles

Roles & succession planning

All clubs agreed to go back to their committees and ask people to come forward to help with any of the above roles during this season and potentially join the committee in the future.

ACTION: ALL

Website / Communications & Social Media

There is a need for people to fulfil the role(s) of Website Manager & Social Media / Communications. Currently Mick manages the website and Richard social media alongside all their other duties.

The website urgently needs a facelift - there have been no changes for years and it could work better for people. Isaac Buchanan on behalf of St Albans has done a lot of excellent work developing a website framework and demonstration — but this now needs someone to take it forward, add the historical data, work out an annual maintenance plan and get it up and running.

On communications & social media – Facebook needs to become a better functioning method of distributing information. Email would remain the primary mechanism for questions and responses from the committee. None of the existing committee have much expertise in this area and would welcome someone taking this on to raise the profile of the league and aid better communication with clubs and their athletes.

Could clubs please discuss if they could help with these roles. Do you know a student who could do this as a project, a college tutor who might know someone or is there anyone in your club who could help? The League has some reserves we would consider invest using and we need to understand what budget would be needed annually for maintenance, as we are currently paying anything annually other than hosting.

ACTION: ALL

Future of the League:

We are indebted to the six/seven clubs in recent years who have been so accommodating in hosting our races. Finding venues with adequate parking or access to nearby town parking has been problematic. We need the participating clubs to look for more venues and consider hosting a match. This doesn't need to be every year – especially if more clubs come forward! We would encourage clubs to pair up with other clubs close by to share hosting. On the Chiltern League website is a briefing document outlining the requirements in terms of parking, toilets and courses plus the financial and human resources available. and Richard is happy to discuss this in more detail. The dates and approx. distances are fixed by UK Athletics and are generally the same Saturdays and weeks each year. We will liaise with the potential hosts to agree a calendar that best suits availability.

2023-24 Season

It were thinking we might have only 4 matches this season, but we are very pleased Watford AC have agreed to host at Cassiobury Park, if they are guaranteed support from other clubs in terms of marshalling, equipment and course marking and clean up. We hope that the larger clubs that don't currently host a match, will look to support Watford as needed. Watford AC will advise the league committee the number of marshals and other help they need and we will then be contacting the larger non hosting clubs. As per previous years all non-hosting clubs are required to supply marshalling support for one fixture.

ACTION: NON HOST CLUBS

Fixtures & Hosts

14th October: Keysoe Equestrian Centre, near Bedford
 11th November: Teardrop Lakes, Milton Keynes (not XC Challenge)
 2nd December: Stopsley Common, Luton
 13th January: Cassiobury Park, Watford
 10th February: Horspath, Oxford
 H: Bedford & C
 H: LBAC & MKKAC
 H: Luton AC
 H: Watford AC
 H: Oxford AC

Could all clubs, who do not currently host a fixture please discuss if they could host a fixture in the 2024-25 or future seasons and look at potential venues.

ACTION: NON HOST CLUBS

Any Other Business:

- 1 The portal system will be updated and ready in mid-September for all Clubs to clean up remove people who are no longer members or unlikely to participate, check members UKA numbers are valid and register new participating members. Add UKA numbers for any of your members who have moved up to U13.
- 2 Please check your email & telephone contact details with the league as the officials need them, to keep you updated. You may have more than one official nominated if it helps your club. Please send them to secretary@chilternccl.co.uk Make sure you state your club & the full name of the representative. If people don't wish to use their private emails, they could ask their club website manager to set them up a Chiltern League club contact email address (including the club's name) which is forwarded on to them.
- 3 We will inform you before the first fixture which will be the one fixture where you need to provide marshals to help the host clubs. Each club are to provide one marshal, larger clubs two, to cover the whole day including course set up and take down. This can be a combination of people sharing the role but they will need sufficient overlap and share contact details to get to their marshalling point.
- 4 Awards please continue to look in Club store cupboards & cabinets or ask members, if they have the perpetual cups or shields, as many of these have gone missing since before covid! Please bring them to the next fixture if you find them!

Minutes: Fiona Turner / Bill O'Connor August 2023