



Oxford University Cross Country Club

Annual General Meeting: Minutes

Date: 07/03/2021

Meeting commences: 18:05

1. Call to order

2. Apologies

- a. None

3. Reports

a. Women's team

- i. Ella Sharrock (ES): very different year! Very disappointed but still very proud of everyone. Lots of promise in training and starting to feel like old times. Some new faces! Lots of love for the team and for the sport shown this year. Hop ewe all remember this in years to come. Has been lovely to see people continue to make big efforts. Not many performances to report but have been some great time trials and recoveries form injury. Hope we can take this resilience forward.

b. Men's team

- i. Joe Morrow (JM): running has been a great outlet this year. The people in the club h ave made the year much better than it would have been. Not many official performances. Dan Bundred's 5km PB and Milan's half-marathon. Excited to see improvements going forward.

c. Treasurer's report

- i. Will Shardlow (WS): A bit worried losing sponsorship. Just under £2500 in account. Teddy Hall Account sorted!! Over £14,000 in that. Only outgoings is paying Kyle: normal charge but fine to cover it. Encourage sponsorship rep to get sponsor because will need the money when stuff starts up again.

d. Secretary's compliance report

- i. Belinda Dow (BD): This is to report on whether the club has met the compliance criteria in the constitution and that everything is running as it should. To my knowledge this has been the case. We are registered as a University club and follow the rules and regulations associated with this, and the code of conduct. We are registered with England Athletics and are covered by their insurance. There have been no trips so registration of those has not been required. Finally, we have a club website that the University Proctors have the details of, with a designated committee member keeping the it up to date and in compliance with the IT services, rules and regulations.

4. Motions

- a. ES: explains “polys” voting system. One vote per person. Instant results given.
- b. Motion to elect Ella Sharrock and Joe Morrow to Life Membership of OUCCC (proposed by Belinda Dow, seconded by Will Shardlow)
 - i. **Motion passes**
- c. Varsity announcement
 - i. ES: exciting announcement! Hopefully some sort of Varsity, April 10-11 or 17-18. Needs to be approved by Sportsfed and Wimbledon common. No other details at the moment as not sure what format will be used at the moment. Likely to be informal. Will look at practical issues involved. More updates to come! Very exciting! Hopefully unofficial blues.
 - ii. Tim Harrison (TM): why not official?
 - iii. ES: not proper selection process. Will talk more as details come through. There is absence of certainty, but Joe and I will stay behind to here any questions or concerns. Do stay after to chat.
- d. Approval of minutes from last year’s AGM
 - i. **Motion passes**

5. Elections

Maximum time for husting shown in minutes in (), after this time questions can then be asked from the floor

- a. Club Captain
- b. Tom Wood
 - i. TW: good evening, know most of you well but will be some that don’t. Corona been major issue the club has had to deal with and have had major respect for captains. Will be great to take club forward with cohesion. Hard to maintain cohesion. Most important resolution is to bring the cohesion back. Standard club runs big highlight and good way to bond with other members. Want to optimise the times of training to get the most amount of people. Ella moving run to Tuesday has helped participation. Want to find out what suits everyone. Simple survey on stash the other day has been great to get opinions. More communication between captain and members. Fundamental in creating strong team. Level of outreach has been another big challenge. Some come to uni from running background but a lot of people don’t have that advantage. Past year not seen as a right off but instead once we move into new year we want to encourage all years to participate. Same opportunities to other years as freshers. Great opportunity to encourage same cohort to come to training camp at the start of next year. Would also like club members that are leaving this year coming.
 - ii. Tom Renshaw (TR): did you learn anything in the kit rep role?
 - iii. TW: most will remember how much I spoke about Anne’s kit rep. Qualities needed to run stash rep have some similarities to captain. Administrative qualities similar. E.g. emailing, outreach etc. have also had to be more adaptable this year.
 - iv. Aiden Smith (AS): new committee takes over in a week, the new varsity will be your job. What would you like it to look like? Selection?
 - v. TW: Joe and Ella honorary captain role for the varsity. Allow them to select teams. More to think about in Trinity. Put them in control of how much they want to do for Varsity. For selection, people will be under pressure and

didn't sign up for summer varsity. Looked at EA site, should occur after 12th April. Host some time trials on the coppers so people can sign up to when suits them. Allows people flexibility to the trials. Important to get Wimbledon common on board but otherwise look for other locations.

- vi. Liam Smith (LS): mentioned flexibility of Monday runs, how would this work with advance booking needed for drills? Also fit around S&C?
- vii. TW: important to consider the things we can't change. Needs external coach. Changed club run day as drills didn't happen. Arrange to have cricket schools on different days if another day is better for majority of people. Based on people's opinions. Personally, wouldn't mind doing drills and S&C on same day but could be a lot doing all 3. Wouldn't be changing every week. Next term will be a time to trial stuff. Indoor coaching not happening until mid-May. Tuesday easy day for most people.
- viii. TH: what part of the role are you least prepared for?
- ix. TW: read through requirements, organising external talks not thought about so far. Would cope well with admin side of things. Went to talk last term from 2nd fastest marathon runner and her challenges as a woman in sport. Learnt a lot! Virtual or in person.
- x. Sam Brown Araujo (SBA): back to selection, should be able to organise stuff within the club?
- xi. ES: not fair to ask when no clarity.
- xii. LS: typically, OUCCC has been far better than Cambridge at linking with athletics clubs. How best to ensure given year apart given covid?
- xiii. TW: combined crew dates and events after varsity events not been possible this year. This aspect will depend on the covid state. Would like to see more collaboration. Were plans to have virtual beer mile event. Hopefully will be able to return to.
- xiv. LS: meant between our 2 clubs
- xv. TW: big problem because next term need decision to see how much put into track or cross. Could be both varsity in the same term. Clash of distances. Leads back to differences. Remember wondering why they are different when he first joined. Would like to see more things happen between them. Maybe some outdoor training.
- xvi. EW: not completely unlikely Michaelmas won't have corona, how will you encourage freshers?
- xvii. TW: same problem as this year, felt bad this year that many didn't have exposure to club, only virtual freshers fair. Would want more practical side. Big drive to advertise the club, more on social media. Practical things like freshers run would need to fit into corona restrictions. Hopefully we would be able to encourage more to join. If no sport at the moment, everyone can still run.
- xviii. AS: suppose Michaelmas normal, how would you select?
- xix. TW: depends on how things go, if things went wrong, the cross challenge event wouldn't happen but coppers would still happen. Ideal is that everyone is in perfect shape for the race. Coppers more similar to Varsity. Orienteering has scheme that big events are converted into ranking points.
- xx. TH: with new sponsorship difficulties, what is captains role and should we get alternate source?

- xxi. TW: how whole role for this so very important! Sponsorship is the way to go. Don't know much about sport England grants, lottery funding etc. If easy would have done already.
- c. Dan Bundred
- i. DB: good evening, I've heard enough about covid, take back to 2018. Went to training camp before start of his first year. Report on website. Felt like tight knit group of people at camp and then felt a bit lost. Felt inadequate. Felt competitive running out of reach at Oxford. Struggled to balance all. But stuck with it! Due to unrivalled friendliness from members. Attendance was patchy at best. People encouraged him and made him feel included. This community under threat due to pandemic. Been incredibly difficult for freshers. But we need them! Critical to do as much as we can to get them involved. Food after training and games to get everyone involved. Hopefully some more! What makes me qualified? Very aware of the great people come before. If I am chosen, will put responsibility first. Has been Teddy Hall rep for the last 2 years. Love for running is the most important thing. Hope the emotion not lost over teams. Friends, role models, rivals and team mates on this call. Thank you.
 - ii. AS: limited amount known but how would you handle possible varsity next term?
 - iii. DB: varsity for Ella and Joe! They both seem happy to take leading role. They will be in charge of team selection. If anything proved is that its very difficult to compare across races
 - iv. TH: what part of role least prepared for?
 - v. DB: hard to know how to approach selection.
 - vi. LS: really good relationship with OUAC, how would you restart this?
 - vii. DB: main obstacle is the clash of Varsitys. Speak to Sam (OUAC mens captain) regularly. Inter-club socials important.
 - viii. TR: anything you've learnt this year that you'd like to take forward?
 - ix. DB: value of everyone's insight can't be understated. Use everyone's opinions.
 - x. TH: what is role in sponsorship? Other forms of funding?
 - xi. DB: real problem right now, hard to ask for extra money right now. Build stronger ties with alumni
 - xii. LS: roles mainly around drills and Teddy Hall relays, how are you going to help knowledge transfer?
 - xiii. DB: make effort to help in handover of Teddy Hall, fairly qualified for drills.
 - xiv. TH: personal preference for road, does this come into balance of club?
 - xv. DB: done lots of road this year! Like to train against something objective. Otherwise can get in rut. Won't have problem committing to xc
 - xvi. Dan Bundred elected captain**
- d. Alternate Gender Captain
- i. Belinda Dow
 - ii. BD: Belinda, 3rd year biologist @ Pembroke. Secretary for the last year & JCR welfare rep. What role entails: Forming strongest team possible, want highest quality team on start line BUCS & Varsity. Helping individuals & teams get best possible results. Second area is ensuring inclusivity & depth in the club. Not everyone out there gunning for GB vest but everyone

looking to improve and get those PBs. Ensuring the club caters to all members. Creating atmosphere of cohesion and inclusivity. My aims for the role & the club. Been pretty horrific year and has been tough watching Ella, Joe and the rest of the committee not achieve many of the things they'd like to. Covid recovery will be key aim of club. Maximum opportunities & participation. Recruitment will be really important and not just for freshers! Big fan varsity team bonding, bring in more for BUCS & during normal term. Work with social secs to provide wide variety of events. Building strong women's team. Had exceptional team in recent years. Hard to tell current form but hopefully athletics season will give some idea. Really important to get people out racing before varsity. Also lack of varsity/BUCS specific experience. Important to ensure teams well prepared/familiar with what to expect. Great prospects in new and old members alike. Amazing to be at the forefront of this and see where the team could go

- iii. Milan Campion (MC): will there be pre-varsity socials for Blues teams next year?
- iv. BD: if possible due to covid, then yes. Otherwise, running together or virtual meetings are possible alternatives that will help to foster a team spirit.
- v. AS: what are your thoughts on the Blues Varsity race distance for women (should it be longer?)
- vi. BD: Prefer shorter distance because it presents less of a barrier to getting people involved with running, but important to gather opinions from the women in the club to inform any decisions to be made about it.
- vii. AS: what will be your selection policy for a Michaelmas Varsity, particularly the weighting between them if there are two?
- viii. BD: two selection races are important to ensure people can deliver a performance commensurate with their ability (in case something goes wrong). However, we want to avoid giving people special treatment as much as possible, so attendance will be mandatory (although exceptional circumstances can be accommodated for)

ix. Belinda Dow elected

e. Treasurer

- i. Carys Bill
- ii. CB: hi everyone, become more of a member over the last year thanks to the great people. Want to give something back. Like numbers! Do STEM and did further maths. Good at excel. Have finance experience in summer jobs and retail. Spent last year as president of Oxford Welsh society. Run through the year and through the pandemic
- iii. GM: any non-treasurer specific ideas?
- iv. CB: more freshers involved a whole committee role
- v. LS: what challenges have you faced this year?
- vi. CB: recruitment not been great, not allowed stall at freshers fair! Perseverance very important.

vii. Carys Bill elected

f. Secretary

- i. Lucy Thompson
- ii. LT: hi everyone, I'm Lucy, most no idea who I am! 1st year grad medic, from the "light" side... haven't experienced many of the things mentioned this

evening. Learnt a huge amount in the last hour. Have met lots of lovely people which is what has meant me want to run. What do we need from the secretary? Gives definition of secretary. Some funny jokes (enjoyed). Able to do admin good, wasn't aware of financial difficulties but would work to keep costs down. Really friendly community doesn't take life too seriously. Approachable! Happy to be on committee.

iii. TH: have you held roles in Cambridge?

iv. LT: no, but was on JCR committee

v. Lucy Thompson elected

g. Women's Vice-Captain

i. Grace Molloy

ii. GM: 2nd year, social sec last year. Repay Belinda for uni parks incident... Want some more serious experience and want to give back to the club.

iii. Grace Molloy elected

h. Men's Vice-Captain

i. David Cruz Walma

ii. DCW: 2nd year DPhil, spent first part of first year in the US. Trained in the US and came here at an awkward time. Running with club has been only thing getting us through this. Want to give back to the club. A number of great contacts in the US got lots of great ideas. KB put in contact with a number of people. Bring new opportunities to club.

iii. LS: MK selection race part of the requirements, what problems could come up and how would you mitigate?

iv. DCW: a lot of entries at once, have had experience with coordinating last minute events. Want a nice platform that can be constantly monitored.

v. DB: how to help people get involved?

vi. DCW: broadcasting club to lots of people. People sick of sitting in front of computer, make a beneficial process to all involved and word will spread

vii. Milan Campion

viii. MC: 2nd year geography at Hertford, in reality racing is a huge part of xc. Been at OUCCC for 2 years, talked to most people at some point.

Unorthodox tactics at times but huge effort put into races and training. This could rub off across the rest of the club. Really honoured to take this position. Lots of time as geographers have nothing to do. Important to have race next term.

ix. DB: will you give us enough time as athletics social sec? How will we get new members involved in the club?

x. MC: not much cross over with social sec and racing and tenure will expire next term. Make people feel wanted and talking to people. Not always a fun and enjoyable sport. Genuine dialogue very important, approaching people at training.

xi. LS: MK selection race part of the requirements, what problems could come up and how would you mitigate?

xii. MC: experience dealing with large amounts of people with social sec. commitment can be an issue. Will be a case of chasing people up.

xiii. Tom Wood:

- xiv. TW: hopefully made clear in original hust, would like to add that him and Bundred had very similar goals and was good to work with him then and will be now. His extra organisational skills will be good.
- xv. DB: very interested in new members, how much of an issue and any ideas?
- xvi. TW: very passionate about, really wanted to resolve this. Missed out on lots of people this year. If corona still in place, smaller group runs key. Advertise the club more, might have negative attitude before uni
- xvii. LS: MK selection race part of the requirements, what problems could come up and how would you mitigate?
- xviii. TW: playing the stash card, lots of experience of taking people in and collecting money from lots of people. Done this is spreadsheet form and keeps a track of everybody. Needs correct entry and correct money
- xix. Tom Wood elected**
- i. Women's Mob Match Captain
 - i. Rebecca Walker:
 - ii. RW: wants to give back and help committee
 - iii. Rebecca Walker elected**
- j. Men's Mob Match Captain
 - i. No candidates
- k. Women's Social Secretary
 - i. No candidates
- l. Men's Social Secretary
 - i. James Morris
 - ii. JM: important to get freshers and 2nd years involved. Really important to get them integrated with the established members. Drinking and non-drinking events. Socials on training camp to get people integrated. Speed diversity
 - iii. LS: important to cater for drinking and non-drinking, would you keep come done with me?
 - iv. JM: yes! Hopefully covid become less of an issue
 - v. TB: clubs and pubs how will you lead in intoxicated state?
 - vi. JM: will keep it under control
 - vii. James Morris elected**
- m. Teddy Hall Relays/Cuppers Organisers (2 positions)
 - i. Olly Paulin
 - ii. OP: done this for last few years, definitely things to improve
 - iii. Joe Morrow
 - iv. JM: very experienced, here for another 3 years so hope to learn and pass on
 - v. Joe Morrow and Olly Paulin elected**
- n. Marathon Rep
 - i. Dave Cruz Walma
 - ii. DCW: just want to help out the team
 - iii. Dave Cruz Walma elected**
- o. Sponsorship and Access Rep
 - i. Zac Hudd
 - ii. ZH: spent all time at uni doing events for various societies and committees, good experience. Good a chance as any at sorting this out.
 - iii. Zac Hudd elected**
- p. Kit Rep

- i. Jared Martin
 - ii. JM: one of the much talked about Freshers and wanted to put himself out there. Really enjoyed the session he has been involved in. works in a running shop in Belfast so does know the kit deal. In charge of making and arranging purchase of yearbook.
 - iii. LS: what bit of kit would you choose to bring?
 - iv. JM: doesn't know full repertoire, partial to beanie
 - v. Jared Martin elected**
- q. Publications and Website Rep
 - i. Ella Sharrock
 - ii. ES: still wants to be on committee, wants to start youtube
 - iii. Ella Sharrock elected**
- r. Social Running Rep
 - i. Isaac Adni
 - ii. IA: fresher at Queens, love that xc is super inclusive, was slowest in the group and progressed up, want club to cater to everyone
 - iii. Isaac Adni elected**
- s. Recent Alumni Rep (Leaving Legend)
 - i. Tim Harrison:
 - ii. TH: Oxford English dictionary definition, some funny jokes, really work on alumni engagement. Especially with sponsorship looking bad. Expand annual dinner. If some donate, others more likely to. Will contact other ex-members.
 - iii. Liam Smith:
 - iv. LS: 5th year PhD, been part of the club for 4 years. Organised teddy Hall and drills, most horrible award, want to keep alumni involved. Main responsibilities are to organise meet ups with alumni
 - v. Tim Harrison elected**
- t. ES: end of the meeting, pleasure to captain to the club, looks like fantastic committee.

6. Any other business

- a. Varsity discussion
- b. GM: what if people can't come?
- c. ES: this is why unofficial blues might be used, not quite sure what this entails.
- d. AH: gone through honorary blues, can have all except competing in varsity
- e. ES: would need to go through anything and put through blues committee. Strongly convinced full blues unfair
- f. TH: blues should be happy with allowing
- g. AS: is this just replacing blues?
- h. ES: hope that races should have 16 people, make selection easier. Or keen to have multiple waves of 8 but not currently limit on the numbers of waves we could have. General lack of clarity but this being looked at. Get as many involved as possible.
- i. LS: safer to do multiple waves
- j. ES: won't be able to run standard route so as to avoid public
- k. TW: when is planned date April or May?
- l. ES; April
- m. TW: people might be starting to return for practical courses, 12th of April seems to be time to return

- n. ES: any Varsity race selection on those proposed dates, have to go on these dates due to athletics, can't run in Oxford as many people won't be back. Main option at the moment is that it will be a flat time trial. Of course, lots of issues with this so another reason no official blues
- o. LA: is there potential to go for end of summer race? MOB match style?
- p. ES: haven't considered but could be good idea, wouldn't be our varsity. Point of this is to be fun so don't stress about selection! Don't be overly concerned about this.
- q. FS: hybrid, relay maybe? Shorter hilly course? 4km? More people included
- r. ES: was in favour of shorter distances, but overwhelming feedback is that they wanted the traditional varsity. Not concerned about track it would seem
- s. TH: shorter race means it
- t. ES: time trial distance probably 6km
- u. JM: don't want too long as it becomes a skill in time trialling
- v. TH: prefer longer race, maybe 10km
- w. ES: race time controversial
- x. LS: main issues that seem to be having is selection criteria and not interfering with track. Might be harder for transition that it can't be later in the summer. Mass run?
- y. ES: difficult that the ball is rolling, what do people think?
- z. GM: won't be back and won't be able to travel, many will be in the same
- aa. TW: is this legal?
- bb. ES: yeah seems to be fine, later date would be the one we use as changes happening on the 12th
- cc. AH: after the 12th having a competition is fine but has to fit with rules. Minimising travel is key, could get tricky once people not in Oxford. With athletics the old committee was going to run alternative varsity
- dd. TW: question something about blue selection?
- ee. TH: in theory no limit, but if word blue in it the blues committee will want say
- ff. ES: difficult to answer when we don't know the format, will do poll on option for later race, potentially hold another discussion

Meeting adjourns: 20:58