



Oxfordshire Cross Country League

ESTABLISHED 1987

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2022 EGM Working Party Comments Received

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I think Tom Gould's points were very good and well put across.

To increase the income to the league to pay for venues and medical cover it does make sense to charge the runners a fee with a discount for bulk entry in advance (along similar lines to the Motavation series).

I think all the runners paying say £15 for the series (so £3 a race) instead of a car park charge would be about right.

Overall that should raise more money than the £4-5 currently charged per car as many car share.

Maybe for individual race entries or any entries after the 2nd round the entry fee is £5 per race.

Not that applicable to our club, but juniors U9 and U11 (whose races are less than 10mins) could be a nominal £1 per race or free for a 'family entry'

if a parent/carer/foster has entered the senior series but this might be getting unnecessarily complicated.

Advance series entries have the advantage of payments upfront being available for the league to bulk book medical cover, toilets and order race numbers etc.

Initially at least, to help boost the league's bank reserves, maybe the club affiliation could be increased.

After a year or 2 of the new charging structure for clubs and runners the 'health' of the league and its funds can be reassessed.

If profit looks too high then clubs could always be refunded a proportionate amount to what they've paid and then the club can decide if they refund their runners or subsidise them in future XC races.

I strongly think that the Oxon AA should help much more particularly with the County Champs round which they now no longer host as a separate race and have hijacked the OXCL race and then even have the cheek of charging club's runners to run in a race they have already paid to enter.

Best regards,

James [Bolton (Woodstock Harriers AC)]

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If the entry fees go to an amount for the season per athlete (motivation style), will there be a way to enter 1or 2 races only?

Thanks

Clare Curnow [(*Cherwell Runners & Joggers*)]

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My colleagues at OCAC have asked me to feedback some thoughts on the proposal for fees to be paid by clubs.

What follows represents our collective view.

1. We understand the need to move to a different and sustainable fee structure.
2. We support the suggestion of charging a fee to every club for each athlete who enters, and for this fee to be set somewhere between £3 and £5 per athlete per season. There was however some confusion - would this be a fee for the whole season, or a fee per race? If it is proposed that athletes should be charged £3-5 per race then we would need to reconsider our position.
3. We would feel hesitant about paying this fee at the beginning of each season, based upon the number of athletes who enter at the start of the season. I don't know how other clubs manage, but we get many athletes registering who then don't race (for a variety of reasons). We think a fair method would be for the league to invoice us, ideally at the end of the season, £3 for any athlete who has competed in up to 2 races, and £5 for any athlete who has raced 3+ times. We don't think we should have to pay for anyone who has not raced at all.
4. If this presents an insurmountable cash flow problem for the league, and you need the cash at the start of the season, then we would be happy to pay £3 for all athletes registered at the start of the season (October), provided that there is a mechanism for reconciling at the end of the season the number of athletes who have actually raced (perhaps based on the fee structure suggested in 3 above), and refunding us for any overpayment by the end of April.
5. We think we can manage the additional cost to the club by asking cross country runners to pay a small XC supplement (though it would be a significant supplement if the league decides to charge £3-5 per race).

I hope that this makes sense, and that it helps to inform the League's deliberations.

With kind regards

Richard [Hart (*Oxford City AC*)]

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I presume the next working group meeting is going ahead Wednesday? I did not receive any email following the last meeting re: minutes but fortunately I have found them on the website.

Below are my inputs and thoughts in preparation of the next OXL fees working group meeting. I am happy to expand on these on Wednesday where needed. Will a link be forwarded closer to the day?
All points which require a decision are highlighted in yellow.

Before anything else, I wish to clarify the leagues position on venues for 2022/23 so I can actually help in Wednesday's discussions. Is Bicester heritage not needed until 2023/24? Do you have your 5 secured venues for 2022/23 then? How can you be sure of this before budgets and fees have been decided?

Only 2 proposals should be offered, with both rejected resulting in no change.

Option 1: Club affiliation and athlete entry fee model

Clubs will pay affiliation in line with previous years, with a small increase in fees to reflect the increase cost of fixtures. (The affiliation fees need to be decided and stated here).

Athletes will enter at the start of the season for all 5 fixtures. The entry fee per athlete will be charged at £12.50 per child (Under 17 and under) and £20.00 per adult. Athletes entering after the start of the season will pay a reduced entry reflecting the number of remaining fixtures and guests/ new trialling clubs will... (TBC?)

Option 2: Athlete entry fee only model

All league funds are raised through athlete entry only, with no club affiliation fee.

Athletes will enter at the start of the season for all 5 fixtures. The entry fee per athlete will be charged at £20.00 per child (Under 17) and £25.00 per adult. Athletes entering after the start of the season will pay a reduced entry reflecting the number of remaining fixtures and guests/new trialling clubs will... (TBC?)

An introduction to the proposals should outline:

- An introduction to the current position of the league and what it needs changing
- A total season budget justified by existing and predicted costs on administration and cost per fixture. (Essentially share the current spreadsheet)
- Explanation of the key principles on the proposals:
 - Paying a reward to host clubs of £400
 - Operating on a rough budget (TBC)
 - The league paying all costs for each fixture
 - What is done with spare funds from cheaper fixtures/ when a fixture costs more than the budget?
 - Details on late entries paying for remaining fixtures
 - Details on guests/ new trialling clubs etc.
 - Logistics of ensuring clubs are affiliated before individual athletes are entered
 - Note on either individuals entering and paying for themselves and/ or clubs entering mass club entries and paying 1 lump sum.
- Further details on how the change will effect existing and future host clubs:
 - How are each seasons fixtures decided?
 - How does costings effect which fixtures go ahead each season?

- What effect does having a much more expressive venues have on the other fixtures, is this reducing the available budget?
- What control does the league have over fixture costs/ toilets and first aid providers vs. the responsibilities of the host clubs who have found the venues.
- What is the available budget for new fixtures?

In the event of neither option passing:

It should also be stated in the proposal that in the event of neither proposals passing, then below will have to happen to next years season.

- The loss of Horspath and Cotswold farm park venues due to the inability to collect car parking fees
- In the event a host club fails to collect enough funds, no support can be provided from the league.
- The likely loss of other venues due to rising costs and reducing attendance.
- A subsequent and large increase in car parking fees

Budgeting and varying venue cost issues:

As mentioned last time, we need to provide an idea of what budgets are on offer to clubs, but we will struggle to specify when we have varying venue fees. It does make sense for the cheaper venues to subsidise the more expensive.

But for this to work, decisions on venues and the season calendar will be needed before the AGM so a budget can be made and fees updated. **I think a total budget per fixture of £2500 should be offered**, then before each AGM all current and prospective hosts meet. There you can asses the costs to decide which venues will be used that year/ if fees need to be updated.

For example, with a £2500 budget but several venues under £1000, you may have an average of £2000 per venue over the season. (Like in our current prediction). This would mean the current fee suggestion would be sufficient.

Alternately, with a £2500 budget you may end up with all 5 venues being £2000+. This will tell us before the AGM we need to replace a venue with a cheaper venue that season OR increase our fees OR use existing league funds that year.

I personally think only in special circumstances should venues costing more than £2500 be accepted as this is just too expensive and makes the budget too high and makes entry fees more expensive. Only in a situation where we have no venue options or found ourselves with several cheap venues that season could a venue costing over £2500 be used, ideally without needing an entry fee increase.

Of course if you feel venues under £2500 are few and far between, then this budget can increase to £3000 etc. But this will likely mean the average cost per fixture in a season will be over £2000 and our current predictions will need to be increased. (Note an increase in affiliation fees and sponsorship might cover such an increase)

Many thanks, I hope this helps and see you Wednesday

Tom Gould [(Bicester AC)]