



**Victoria Park Harriers & Tower Hamlets Athletic Club
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
At Cadogan Terrace**

28 October 2010

Members present:

1	June Barrow-Green	21	Jon Shillito
2	Elaine Battson	22	Dave Shortridge
3	Anthony Bunbury	23	Jo Singer
4	Mick Cairns	24	Phil Tsang
5	Michael Carden	25	Katie Ward
6	Pats Carden	26	David Wilkey
7	Major Carr	27	Jane Willdigg
8	Gary Deathridge		
9	Daryl Elliott	Directors	
10	Ben Elsdale	28	Simon Butler
11	Martin Evans	29	Spencer Walker
12	Stanley Greenhalgh	30	Louise Vacher
13	Matt Harrison	31	Simeon Bennett
14	Phil Kanner	32	Philippa Cockman
15	Simon King	33	Ian Warren
16	Tony Lashmar	34	Susan Leese
17	Jon Medcraft	35	Nana Quawson
18	Niall Murphy		
19	Rodney Mushanganyisi		
20	Declan Phelan		

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Brenda Puech.

2 Minutes of the 2009 AGM

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 29 October 2009, proposed by June Barrow-Green and seconded by Katie Ward.

3 Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

4 Adoption and approval of accounts

The annual accounts and finance report were presented to the membership. Ian Warren explained that a change in Charity Commission rules had necessitated a change in accounting procedures and the format of the accounts. As our annual income is over £25k there is now a mandatory external review of the accounts, and the independent examiner's report is included.

Both income and expenditure have increased since last year, with a positive net fund movement once depreciation to the building is taken into account. The club's cash reserves now stand at £82k.

David Wilkey asked about the cost of the independent assessment. This was £1700 this year, but will be £1000 in future years.

The independent examination process should be quicker in future years and it was agreed that the accounts will be made available earlier next year so that members can see them before the AGM. The Board is happy to take queries on this year's accounts after the AGM.

Matt Harrison queried whether the value of the clubhouse building should be included given that it is not a realisable asset, and thus could give the impression that the club is wealthier than it really is. Ian confirmed that it is required to be included as it is, and that the value shown is the insured value.

Tony Bunbury queried where bank charges appeared. These were £500, as last year, but the bank has agreed to change the status of our account so that we will be exempt in future, for as long as our income stays below £100k.

A motion for the AGM to adopt and approve the annual accounts for 2009-10, as presented to the meeting, was proposed by Mike Carden and seconded by David Wilkey.

Major commended the work of Ian and Pats in putting the accounts together.

The accounts were adopted and approved unanimously by a show of hands.

5 Roger Daniels' Most Improved Athlete

Men's award: The winner is Stuart Holliday who had improved his marathon PB by 44 minutes.

Women's award: There was a clear winner – Linda Ingram, who has improved her half marathon time by around 30 minutes.

6 Director's reports

Questions were invited on directors' reports, which had been circulated earlier.

Men' Track and Field Report

- Major Carr pointed out that in addition to the achievements listed, the Young Athletes had won their division.

Road and XC:

- Dave Robinson queried whether the Met League was still the priority. Philippa Cockman explained that the Met League had previously been allocated more Boswall League points for the men (while the Chingford League was allocated higher points for women), but that a decision has been made to allocate equal points to the Met and Chingford Leagues in future. It was agreed that it would be good to make the Met League a priority, although the

difficulties of getting a full men's team out to those venues which are further afield was acknowledged. The Men's and Women's captains will continue to encourage participation.

- Tony Bunbury asked about the rules for London Marathon places. The same rules as in previous years will be used for entry into the ballot. The ballot will be held when the places have been received, which likely to be in early December.
- Dave Shortridge asked whether the Boswall League results were available. Philippa has recently completed this for last year and announced the 2009/10 winners as Gary Bagnall and Jo Singer: full results will be circulated. Thanks were expressed to Jon Shillito who will be updating the spreadsheet in future.
- Matt Harrison said how much he enjoyed the relays.
- June Barrow-Green commended the club flag.

Publicity

- Daryl Elliott asked what the timescales were for getting articles into the local paper. Susan Leese said generally a week's notice was required, ie articles need to be provided on a Friday for inclusion in the following week's edition, but that sometimes they may be included if sent in on a Monday.
- Dave Shortridge asked about the website. Simon Butler explained that a new group of members with relevant skills will be taking it on. Some updates have been made and we hope to have a new website early in 2011.
- Tony Bunbury asked who held the personal information (name and email address) which had been required to log into the previous forum. David Wilkey explained that the previous website had been hacked into and had not been continued as the interest of the developer (an ex-member) had diverged from those of the club. From now on administration of the website will be kept within the club.

Chair

- Dave Shortridge asked about security of the bar in the light of recent break-ins. The Board is getting quotes for potential security measures, including bricking up the window between the table tennis room and the bar, putting in a steel frame door and potentially a metal cage to keep the stock in. CCTV has been considered. The bar stock will also be kept lower.
- Major Carr made the point that two break-ins were from people with access to the club, and asked members not to give out access codes or lend keys. Major also pointed out that the bar makes minimal profit which is likely to make expensive security measures cost-prohibitive.
- Declan Phelan asked if the key codes could be changed. It was felt that this would be a challenge to communicate out to all members but could be considered.
- David Wilkey asked about working parties. A lot of work was done on the clubhouse prior to the Open 5, particularly by Major and by members via a working party. The next one was taking place the following weekend. Simeon Bennett explained that the upkeep of the clubhouse facilities involved a lot of work and that the more the load could be shared, the better.
- The Board extended their thanks to Major Carr for all the work he has done managing and improving the club facilities which was supported by the floor.

7 Retirement and election of Trustees

The following club Trustees stood down at the AGM, or during the year:

- 1 Louise Vacher (stepped down as Secretary)
- 2 Jane Silvester (stepped down as Director of Youth Track and Field)
- 3 Major Carr (stepped down as Director of Facilities)
- 4 Brenda Puech (stepped down (by rotation) as Membership Secretary)

The following were elected, or confirmed in position, as trustees:

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|---|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Secretary | Brenda Puech |
| 2 | Membership Secretary | Tony MacDowall |
| 3 | Director of Mens's Track and Field | Toleme Ezekial |

The **new board** therefore consists of:

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|--|------------------|
| 1.Chair | Simon Butler |
| 2.Director of Finance | Ian Warren |
| 3.Director of Men's Road and Cross Country | Simeon Bennett |
| 4.Director of Women's Road and Cross Country | Philippa Cockman |
| 5.Director of Youth Endurance | Spencer Walker |
| 6.Director of Youth Development | Simon Butler |
| 7.Director of Men's Track and Field | Toleme Ezekial |
| 8.Director of Women's Track and Field | Nana Quawson |
| 9.Director of Membership | Tony MacDowall |
| 10.Director of Publicity | Susan Leese |
| 11.Secretary | Brenda Puech |

8 Other elections

- **Peter McHugh**, nominated by the Board, was unanimously voted in as **Club President**.
- **Denis Ali, Emmanuel Brown and Mick Cairns** nominated by the Board, were unanimously voted in as **Club Vice-President**.
- **Phil Kanner**, nominated by Major Carr, was unanimously voted in as **Life Member**

9 Proposal regarding subscription levels

- The Board proposed that subscription rates stayed the same.
- Mike Carden asked how membership cards were circulated. It was agreed that this would be publicised in future.
- The Board's proposals were voted in unopposed.

10 Any other business

- David Wilkey suggested a bigger push to raise the profile of the club in the run-up to the Olympics, perhaps via a sub-committee. Susan Leese said she would be happy to lead this but would need volunteers. This will be considered at the next Board meeting.
- Roger congratulated Peter McHugh as Club President and said how much he enjoyed participating in Peter's training sessions.
- David Wilkey enquired about Alf Vickers. It was confirmed that he is back at home and on the mend.

- There was discussion as to whether the issue of Mike Wheeler's expulsion should be discussed at the AGM or at an additional meeting. Simon Butler gave a brief resume of the situation to date.
 - Declan Phelan pointed out that the matter has incurred a considerable cost in terms of the club's limited reserves of volunteer goodwill and had been divisive. Given that the Board had made its decision, he proposed a vote of confidence in the Board so that the matter could be put to rest and to allow the club to move forward.
 - Tony Bunbury suggested that the matter be looked at by an independent overseer. Major Carr pointed out that one of the complaints had been dealt with by an independent arbitrator, and that when the club had experienced a similar issue in the past the relevant bodies had viewed it as a club dispute which needed to be resolved by the club.
 - Louise Vacher pointed out that the issue had been ongoing for three years and had diverted Board time away from running the club.
- The results of the vote of confidence in the Board were 18 in favour and 6 against.