



Victoria Park Harriers & Tower Hamlets Athletic Club
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
At Committee Room, St Augustine's Hall, Cadogan Terrace

25 October 2012, 8.30pm

Members present:

1	June Barrow-Green	26	Philippa Cockman
2	Mick Cairns	27	Gesine Junker
3	Major Carr	28	Al Myers
4	Martin Evans	29	Andy Hutson
5	Dave Shortridge	30	Jakob Villumsen
6	David Wilkey	31	Alex Lewis
7	Roger Daniels	32	Will Hall-Smith
8	Tony Lashmar	33	Charlie Ladyman
9	Rodney Mushanganyisi	34	Rob Pitkethly
10	Cate Boyle	35	Jacob Eisler
11	Sue Bint	36	Wes Clarke
12	Duncan Steen	37	Jo Singer
13	Kelvin Richards		
14	Alf Vickers		
15	Naomi Bourne	38	Directors Dave Robinson
16	Marlis Haase	39	Simeon Bennett
17	Neil Cook	40	Ian Warren
18	Tori Poole	41	Susan Leese
19	Laura Morgan	42	Tony Macdowall
20	Cornelia Abe-Minale	43	Emily Mosedale
21	Chiona Simonetta Ifeji		
22	Frank Merrigan		
23	Stephen Shanks		
24	Chris Lopez		
25	Julian Hazeldine		

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Andrew Wadge, Mel McCure, Holly Gilbert, Brenda Puech and Tom Heslop.

2

Minutes of the 2011 AGM

One member mentioned the attendees recorded at the meeting seemed to be lower than the actual. All members were asked again to sign in on the list in the room to record who had attended. No other matters were raised.

The minutes were approved and adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 20 October 2011.

3

Adoption and approval of accounts

The annual accounts and finance report were presented to the membership. Ian Warren stated that the finance directors report contained detailed explanations on movements in the year. In general there had been little that had changed in the activities of the club and the same income and expenditure streams remained in place as in prior years. Ian Warren mentioned that coaching income from schools had decreased significantly due to cuts in schools funding.

David Wilkey asked whether it was known if schools funding would increase in the near future, Alf responded that the cuts were severe and he could not see any increase in funding currently.

The accounts were adopted and approved.

4

Membership Fees

Dave Robinson explained that EA had imposed increases in fees paid by all clubs for member registrations and despite protests against the increases looked to be going ahead. Dave Robinson added there was no choice but to pass on the increase through a rise in subscriptions. Alf Vickers mentioned that the extra cost to the club could be £3,000 p.a.

Ian Warren discussed the proposal put forward and the rationale behind have two fee levels for senior athletes, those competing on only road and cross country and those also doing track.

Gesine Junker asked why not just have one fee level for seniors (i.e. the higher level). There was some discussion on the merits of this idea including how feasible it would be to work out which members would race road/XC and not track.

Susan Leese asked if the rises proposed would make the juniors too expensive. Alf Vickers responded that generally the junior fees were viewed as very good value, but those who couldn't pay would not be turned away.

Mick Cairns asked if the excess fee not used for EA could be gift aided. Ian Warren stated that subscriptions were not subject to gift aid. Donations were preferred in one off amounts rather than monthly to reduce administration. There was discussion around how best to ensure any excess fees went to the club if a flat rate was applied for senior subs.

Major Carr mentioned that post-2015 it looked as though EA would be expecting athletes to register directly with them.

Mick Cairns asked what was England Athletics' reasoning behind the increase? Simeon Bennett responded that EA have had their funding reduced and therefore needed to get more funds direct from athletes.

Dave Robinson asked if the members wanted to propose an alternative to the fee proposal put forward by the board. Cate Boyle proposed one fee rate of £96 p.a. (£8 per month) for seniors at HQ (other fees remain as originally proposed), Marlis Haase seconded the motion. Simeon Bennett clarified that a vote for the Cate Boyle proposal was effectively a vote against the board proposal. A show of hands was unanimously in favour of Cate Boyle's proposal. See addendum for further details.

5 **Most improved athletes award**

Emily Mosedale presented the award for Most Improved Female Track & Field to Sheila Amadasun.

Tony Macdowall presented the award for Most Improved Male Track & Field to Simon Basey. He also mentioned there was an award for BAL most improved athlete which would be going to Tom Heslop. Alf Vickers mentioned there had been a number of good performances by the juniors which were put forward for the award.

Simeon Bennett presented the award for Most Improved Male Road and Cross Country to Rodney Mushanganyisi.

Simeon Bennett presented the award for Most Improved Female Road and Cross Country to Catherine Mcloughlin.

6 **Director's reports**

Dave Robinson presented the directors' reports, which had been circulated earlier. He added that there was a report from Tony Bunbury which was not included on the initial distribution.

Dave Robinson thanked all coaches and officials for their hard work during the year. He mentioned a number of ongoing initiatives which would improve the club, including, website development, membership and clubhouse improvements.

7 **Resizing the board**

Dave Robinson introduced the proposal to the members. He explained he first raised this last year when elected to Chair. Further the directorships being removed would not mean that those performing the roles already but not on the board would cease to do so, everything should continue as it does currently. Dave Robinson explained that there in addition to the roles of Chair, Secretary, Finance and four Captains there would be the roles of Director of Youth (to be filled in the future) and Director with Special Responsibilities (to be a one year position only allowing flexibility in the reason for appointment). Mick Cairns suggested the Director with Special Responsibilities could equally be called Director without Portfolio. Dave Robinson suggested that as the role would be specific to a particular task the name Director with Special Responsibilities is more appropriate, he didn't want a director on the board without specific responsibilities.

David Wilkey asked if work was getting done anyway currently in those areas without director representation. Simeon Bennett said yes it was, for example Director of Entertainment was covered by Rob Pitkethly covering the bar.

Dave Robinson asked the members to vote on the proposal. A show of hands was unanimously in favour. The proposal was therefore adopted and the club rules would be changed accordingly.

Retirement and election of trustees

Dave Robinson thanked those trustees who had left the board for their contribution during the year, being Patricia Carden, Holly Wier and Spencer Walker.

David Wilkey nominated himself for the role of Company Secretary, June Barrow-Green seconded. There was no opposition. David Wilkey was thereby appointed.

Tori Poole was nominated for the role of Director of Women's Road & Cross Country by Rob Pitkethly and seconded by Simeon Bennett. There was no opposition. Tori Poole was thereby appointed.

Alf Vickers nominated Cornelia Abe-Minale for the role of Director of Youth, Kevin Richards seconded. There was no opposition. Cornelia Abe-Minale was thereby appointed.

Dave Robinson explained that Susan Leese had lost her role due to the rule change just adopted, he thanked her for her contribution on the board over a number of years. Duncan Steen asked if she would continue to do publicity work despite not being on the board. Dave Robinson stated it would be great if she would.

SB mentioned that volunteers were always welcome; he felt that momentum had been building recently with greater participation from more members.

9 Any other business

Al Myers asked if the board would consider changing kit supplier (he suggested Ron Hill). SM responded that a recent order had been placed with the existing supplier due to stock being extremely low, however other suppliers were being considered.

Major Carr mentioned there was an alternate supplier for training kit where orders could be placed direct without the club holding stock. He would post details on the website.

Roger Daniels read a statement expressing personal concerns and stating that he felt undervalued as his contributions at the AGM were not acknowledged or listened to. He mentioned he had no longer continued with running the most improved athlete award as he was unable to get sufficient information. He asked if the board would once again implement a policy of posting hard copy results on notice board at Mile End and HQ. Roger added he thought there was a damaged atmosphere at the club. Dave Robinson countered he did not believe this was the case. Duncan Steen stated he agreed results should be posted on the notice boards where possible. SB stated this was logistically a difficult task. June Barrow-Green requested the board consider printing fixture cards once again. Dave Robinson asked if there was a club notice board at the track. Alf Vickers replied it had been requested and was waiting to be fixed on the wall. DW offered to post results on the Mile End notice board.

Alf Vickers mentioned the rules and other information on the website was out of date. Dave Robinson said we were almost there with the new site. There would be a push for static data. Neil Cook added he would contact Alf directly to discuss which parts needed updating.

Major Carr thanked the board for all its work during the year. Cate Boyle and others added their thanks.

There being no further business, the meeting ended.

Addendum

Annual Subscriptions

Subsequent to the meeting it was brought to the board's attention by Alf Vickers that there was an inconsistency between the U17 fees being raised from £25 to £40 whilst fees for unemployed and full time students remained at £25, especially given nearly all U17's would also be in full time education. The board agreed to amend the fees accordingly. The final agreed subscriptions for the 2013/14 year are as set out below:

Category	Previous Annual Fee	New Annual Fee	Change	New Monthly Fee
Seniors				
Men/Women using HQ	80 / 84	96	+16	8
Men/Women at Mile End	25	40	+15	3.33
OAP's	50	50	-	
Second Claim and Associates	25	25	-	
Full time Students and Unemployed	25	40	+15	3.33
Youth				
Over 17 years	25	40	+15	
Under 17 years	10 / 25	25	+15	
Siblings of under 17's	1	16	+15	