



Victoria Park Harriers & Tower Hamlets Athletic Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

St Augustine's Hall, Cadogan Terrace

6th November, 2014 at 8.30pm

Members present:

Dean Scorfe	Scott Richardson	Phil Kanner	Gary Deaturidge
Joe Feltham	Gemma Dunlop	James Bewley	Charlotte Maile
Chris Reid	Ken Hunter	Frank Massingham	June Barrow-Green
Brenda Puech	Chris Lopez	Ben Wickham	Marlis Haase
Mary Murphy	Susan Leese	Finlay Gall	Charlie Mailing
Tim Amor	David Shortridge	Naomi Bourne	Rob Pitkethley
Richard Cherreti	Keith Lamerton	Kevin Wing	Zak Severn
Vincent O'Kane	Anthony Withstandley	Bjorn Browatzki	Catherine McLaughlin
Major Carr	Richard Newbold	Dave Leigh	Gary Donald
Kelly Clark	Dean Kosoko	Kelvin Richards	Alf Vickers
Jacob Eisler	Duncan Steen	Mark Sciberras	Neil Cook
Enrique Casarrubios	Mick Cairns	Victor Sarramian	Jo Singer
Tony Bunbury	Rachel Morison		

Members present:

Directors:

Dave Robinson
Ian Warren
Simeon Bennett
Laura Morgan
Cornelia Abe-Minale
Tony Macdowall

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Charlotte Nichols

2. Minutes of the 2013AGM

No matters were raised.

- The minutes were approved and adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 17 October 2013.

3. Adoption and approval of accounts

The annual accounts and finance report were presented to the membership. Ian Warren stated that the financial accounts (provided alongside the AGM pack) had been circulated and reviewed by external accountants.

He drew attention to the following significant items that were mentioned in the finance directors report:

- Strong year for the club due to increased income from subscriptions (£4,000), a full year of rental of cottage, and grants that were received. Grants had been received for the redevelopment of Mile End gym
- Large surplus of cash this year; expenditure was low after club house renovations last year, reducing maintenance costs
- Looking to grow hire of small room above the bar, currently hired for yoga and pilates; main hall only hired for personal training and running events. Total hire income for the year was £2,700

Scott Richardson requested breakdown of hourly fees for hall hire. **Tony Bunbury** requested that description of hall hire in accounts be changed to give more detail on income from hire of the hall and old gym.

Richard Newbold noted that getting the local community to use the facilities is important if the club is trying to get council tax exemption from Hackney.

The accounts were adopted and approved. They will be submitted to Charities Commission and Companies house in due course.

4. Membership Fees

England Athletic costs will be maintained at £10 for the next 12 months (Dave Robinson)

Simeon Bennett noted Neil Cook's work in computerizing member sign up, progress in tracking

new members and increasing sign ups. Raised proposal to change membership wording to make sure that second claim members pay more if they are using club house regularly.

Neil Cook reported that 98 new members have signed up in past 12 months taking total to about 500 members. Noted that one area that needs improvement is tracking senior members at the Mile End track.

Simeon Bennett confirmed in response to query from **Vincent O'Kane** that the club would not be issuing new membership cards as Neil's system allows satisfactory tracking of members attending sessions.

5. Most improved athletes award

Track and Field, presented by **Tony Macdowall**.

Junior Female:

Nnenna Eronini - thrower, added 3m to take her PB to 41.75m

Michelle Mamudu - fastest in the country over 300m, improved PB massively and holds club record in 300m and shot put

Winner: **Michelle Mamudu**

Male Juniors:

Jamal Mamudu - broke 2mins this year with 1'59

Nile McKenzie - ran 2'06 and 2'03

Agibola Aderemi - ran PBs in 400m flat and hurdles. Improved hurdles by more than 3s

Winner: **Agi**

Seniors:

Tom Heslop - ran loads of PBs that are really fast. Improved 1,500m PB by 1 sec from 3. 57 to 3.56, narrowly missing out on club record.

Darren Morson - improved from 6m 92 to 7m 13 in long jump. Narrowly missed out on club record

Winner: **Darren**

Men's Road and Cross Country, presented by **Simeon Bennett**

Sam Humphrey - represented club in Berlin marathon. Took about 8 mins off marathon time to 2.26

Al Myers - worked hard did similar 8 mins off marathon time at Abingdon, came 3rd

Paul Gaimster - improved a lot

Daniel Mutlow - nominated last year and has made significant strides this year with 9% improvement last year in times, 4% this year and more to come.

Paul - new member.

Winner: **Darren Mutlow**

Women presented by **Laura Morgan**
8 nominations

Susan Leese, Jo Singer, new PB, Rachel Morison, Sue Bint, Sophie Donges, Naomi Bourne, Amanda Doran,

Winner: **Susan Leese** - lots of PBs this year.

6. Director's reports

Dave Robinson presented the directors' reports, which had been circulated earlier.

Praised hard work of board and expressed gratitude to all involved. Pointed out contribution by volunteers and those who help out at the track, clubhouse, races, catering, bar. Stressed the importance of people coming forward and helping out.

Laura Morgan highlighted women's progress over past year including increased participation in races. Pointed out vets team's achievements.

Cornelia Abe-Minale highlighted the juniors fantastic year with 20 new club records at the county championships. 11 athletes made it into the England school nationals with 2 making the finals. Pointed out that club has 8 athletes ranked in the U.K. top 10 with one girl ranked number one. Noted that club moved lower in the leagues through a mix up. Appealed for strong female middle distance runners who can race.

Simeon Bennett - Pointed to benefit of having Laura on the board and said her work is being reflected with attendance at races. Highlighted that men held their position in division 1 of the Met League. Pointed out that it was a good year for women in the Chingford league but the men lost their trophy to Orion. Boswell league was revitalized last year. Thanked **June Barrow-Green** and **Duncan Steen** for calculating 20 races. Thanked helpers at monthly handicap. Noted record turnout of over 70 runners. Club won assembly League summer road race series. More than 45 members in London marathon. Thanked **Major Carr** for keeping event Open 5 alive. Appealed for someone to take on the Open 5.

Tony Macdowall - Thanked **Major Carr** and **Richard Nebright** for organizing home match at mile end and noted that club narrowly missed on winning. Thanked to Cornelia and Kelvin for making sure athletes turn up. Noted that club is back in the regional leagues rather than nationals due to a lack of commitment from sprinters. Noted that distance events also struggle for numbers and that **Tom Heslop** and **Paul Martelletti** are often burdened with several events. Club needs others to run. Urged some of our 17 minute 5,000m runners could compete in southern league.

7. Retirement and election of trustees

Dave Robinson explained that one third of the trustees have to retire every year, but may stand for re-election. Noted that secretary position is still vacant.

Dave Robinson and **Tony Macdowall** both stood for re-election and carried by majority vote. Dave was nominated by **June Barrow-Green** and seconded by **Susan Leese**

Tony was nominated by **Richard Newbold** and seconded by **Mary Murphy**

Alf Vickers nominated **Major Carr** as secretary, seconded by **Neil Cook; Chris Lopez** volunteered to help as assistant. Carried by majority vote

8. Motions submitted

Proposal for a change to Rule 3.7 regarding the club kit

Alf Vickers presented and circulated drawings of new club kit that has been available at the track since the summer. Stated that he had researched web and found a supplier from whom club members can order kit directly. Highlighted that current club kit doesn't suit members at track and that the new kit is fitted and a different style. Explained that new fit doesn't work with diagonal stripe.

Dave Robinson acknowledged that there has been request from the juniors to have something that fits better. Pointed out that the juniors have already bought the new kit even though it hasn't been sanctioned by board. Stressed that a new kit needs to be brought before AGM before being worn in competition. Brought up issue that there may not be a universal desire to abandon stripes. Acknowledged that other clubs have different kits so it could be possible to separate road and track. Pointed that colours on new design are not the same.

Richard Newbold: Pointed out that new track suit is very nice. Praised work in bringing two kits together. Pointed out that club stripe is very noticeable and won't date. Said he was disappointed that the club can't find better supplier. Noted he would be sad to lose stripe but new kit accessories look good.

Chris Lopez suggested club could accept the new kit for track events and review in couple of years.

James Bewley noted that, apart from the competition vest, the new kit looks good. Raised point that diagonal stripe is easy to spot in big races like the London marathon. Agreed that the kit needs a revamp but that it would be a shame to lose the stripe. Suggested he could speak to some more suppliers and see if it could work.

Alf Vickers said the mock up of the kit from the new supplier with diagonal stripe looked terrible. Stressed that the track athletes need a vest that fits and it doesn't work with stripe. Mentioned that the supplier didn't have the jade colour of current kit.

Dave Robinson raised the issue that new kit is needed for road and x-country as well. Suggested that it might be possible to create two parts of the club and have two kits but that both divisions need a better competition top.

Colin Reid pointed out that Tower Hamlets joined Victoria Park Harriers and said he can't see losing stripe.

Simeon Bennett praised the method of members buying directly from a website as a much better solution. Pointed out that the new colours don't match the old kit. Echoed point of strong preference for club keeping the stripe. Said that Wasp/Ronhill can do VPH's jade colour.

Laura Morgan raised the issue that splitting kit for juniors would affect seniors who would have to run in different kit for track and road.

Major Carr raised issue that in x-country/road championships everyone must be in same kit in the rules.

Neil Cook pointed out that only two items of the new kit are contentious, the vest and crop top. He acknowledged that other items like the tracksuit don't need a stripe. Highlighted that it would be shame to lose stripe on vest/crop top.

Mary asked for a vote on what members want to wear pointed out she couldn't see a problem with having two kits.

Richard noted that vest presented by Alf looks similar to other clubs and will date badly whereas stripe dates back to 1926.

Catherine McLaughlin, Naomi Bourne both pointed out that club should find a supplier that can fulfill its needs.

Ben Wickham said that new kit takes away from brand of the club. In agreement that the current kit isn't fit for purpose. Suggested taking the redesign away as a project.

James Bewley said he was happy to help find kits.

Alf Vickers highlighted that the juniors need to have only one vest for competition. Strongly criticizes the board for not making decision on kit before now. States that new kit will be worn by the juniors.

Neil Cook raises point that under England Athletic rules runners can't wear kit that's not club colours for competition. Suggested that the club could perhaps pay for vest for juniors if decision is made to have a new one.

Charlie Mailing put forward suggestion that juniors could wear new kit until another solution is found.

Cornelia noted that the new kit has already progressed so that juniors have it as a secondary kit. For distance races they could wear diagonal stripe. Acknowledges that it is important to be visible.

Kelly Clarke noted that the clear solution is to come up with alternative option.

Motion to change wording regarding club kit defeated by majority vote.

Dave Robinson said club will take James Bewley up on his offer to look into alternative designs for new competition top retaining the stripes and colours.

Ian Warren asked for new supplier to provide sample of one with diagonal stripe.

Three proposals, submitted by **Chris Lopez**

1> The removal and disposal of the blue multi gym

2> The removal and disposal of the broken fitness equipment in the main hall.

Dave Robinson said the AGM wasn't the appropriate forum to discuss these issues

3> Response time to proposals submitted by members to the board

Chris Lopez reworded proposal to say that the board has to respond to areas of concern put forward by club member by next board meeting.

Concern was raised by **Laura Morgan** that board members already have a lot to do. **Dave Robinson** said he was happy to take the proposal.

Vote was carried with 26 votes

9. Any other business

Dave Robinson raised issue of club hours. Explained that the club is moving away from having key holder access to club house. Explained that the sessions will be the only times that the club will be open for member use. Stated that people will be nominated to open and close doors and be responsible for making sure this happens. Stressed that club can't sustain 24/7 access. Dave will be point of contact for people to assist with opening. The board will set a schedule of club hours by end of year. Also raised issue of improving lockers and need for new ones. Explained that ways to secure building are under consideration.

Simeon Bennett echoed that the reason for the package of changes is security. Praised Dave's hard work in putting package together to meet needs of all members.

Phil asked for more clarity on reason for objection to certain members having keys

Dave Robinson said that it is in part a safety issue. Pointed to incident where a club member died on his own at the club house and wasn't discovered immediately. Stressed that the club cannot sustain that situation. Pointed out that a situation where some members come and go as they please can't be sustained in a club of this size.

Phil pointed out that it was a waste to have a building of this size empty when it can be used.

Dave Robinson replied that the current system was open to abuse. Underlined that the main principal is fairness and the club isn't more open to anyone one person than another.

Mick Cairns pointed out that it was a difficult decision which would not please everyone. Echoed that the principal of equity is important. Asked for more detail on his responsibilities for locking up on Tuesdays when he leads the session,

Dave Robinson pointed out that the new regular club opening hours would be similar from 5pm. Stated that there was no intention to change those. Said that board would be specific about who would be responsible for Tuesday session.

Laura Morgan pointed out that none of schedule has been finalized.

Phil requested to have hours of club published somewhere and stated that members need to know rules.

Kelvin raised point that no one should be in the clubhouse on their own and that there should always be two people present.

Tony asked for more meetings to discuss issue

June Barrow-Green raised request to have one of Chingford league races at the Olympic park rather than having two at hog hill, which is difficult to get to.

10. There being no further items, the Meeting closed at 22:53.