



**Victoria Park Harriers & Tower Hamlets Athletics Club**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

St Augustine's Hall, Cadogan Terrace

**19th November 2015 at 8:30p.m.**

**Members present:**

Major Carr	Declan Phelan	Philippa Cockman	June Barrow-Green
Sandra McHugh	Joe Feltham	Faye Jeacocke	Gemma Dunlop
Aminah Frances	Charlie Maling	Sam Humphrey	Bjorn Browatzki
Sophie Critchlow	Duncan Steen	Enrique Casarrubios	Andrew Baranowski
Susan Leese	Paul Mee	Carel Cronenberg	Brenda Puech
Marlis Haase	Rob Pitkethly	Mike Sheppard	Sue Bint
Jo Singer	Ebolum Mordi	Stanley Greening	Mick Cairns
Frank Merrigan	David Wilkey		

**Directors:**

David Robinson	Ian Warren	Simeon Bennett	Laura Morgan
Cornelia Abe-Minale	Tony Macdowall	Rachel Morison	

**1 Apologies for absence**

Alf Vickers	Philip Tsang	Richard Newbolt	Cate Boyle
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**2 Minutes of last annual general meeting**

The minutes were approved and adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

**3 Matters arising from previous minutes**

Dave Robinson provided an update on keys to clubhouse. He reported that everything is going well and that the club opening hours have been accepted by all members.

#### 4 **Adoption and approval of Annual Accounts**

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

He drew attention to the following significant items:

- Membership subs increased by more than £4,000 from last year - the largest source of income; earnings from the small space above the bar and hall hire is £5,500/y; slight drop in income from cottage amid vacancy in tenancy during refurbishment
- Main outgoing was refurbishment of cottage
- Club holds £100,000 in cash
- The Mile End gym has been finished

**June Barrow-Green** asked if there was room for more lettings of hall and space above the bar. **Brenda Puech** suggested using the surplus cash to make the bar more wheelchair accessible. **Ian Warren** responded saying that there was a fund of £2,500 for renovations of the bar but that no one had stepped up to run the project.

**Marlise Haase** suggested concentrating on renovating on the kitchen in the meantime as accessibility would be a longer term project.

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

#### 5 **Membership Fees for the new year to be agreed**

England Athletics has put up its fees for members but the club hasn't put up membership fees (**Ian Warren**).

**Major Carr** suggested that an increase should be postponed and considered for next year.

**Simeon Bennett** acknowledged the good work Neil Cook has done this year getting money flowing into the club's account. **Major Carr** and **Alf Vickers** have done the same for the junior subscriptions at the track.

#### 6 **Most Improved Athlete**

Senior track and Field, presented by **Tony Macdowall**

Senior Men:

Columba Blango

Ramone Rodney Marteniz

Dave Jones

Tom Heslop, keeps on improving

Darren Morson

Simon Butler

**Winner: Darren Morson** for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year after winning the England National championships

Senior women:

Leslie Delgado

Carolina Duarte

Charlotte Nicholls

**Winner: Charlotte Nicholls**

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

Senior women:

Sue Bint

Rachel Morison

Faye Jeacocke - improvement in marathon, hm

Sophie Donges

Mandy Dohren

**Winner: Rachel Morison**

Senior men:

Chris Brammer

Paul Gaimster

Steve Hobbs - ran 2.36 marathon in Chicago

Bjorn Browatski - great performance in London marathon

Finlay Gall - x2 PBS in 2015

Robert Hammond

**Winner: Paul Gaimster**, big improvements following some time off

#### **7 Nomination of Richard Newbold as a Life Member**

Proposed: Major Carr, recommended by the Board, agreed unanimously

#### **8 Directors' reports**

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

He 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. He said the board is aiming to get maximum use out of the clubhouse through renting for classes next year.

**Sim Bennett** - reported that the Met League has been a focus with both the men and women's teams in the top division and there has been a good turnout for the Chingford League. He reported that there has been a good turnout for the handicap races and the summer Assembly League. Thanked **June BarrowGreen** and **Duncan Steen** for keeping Boswell League standings updated. June B-G donated two trophies for 'Spirit of Cross-Country' that were handed out in the summer.

**Ebolum Mordi** added thanks to **Mick Cairns** for coaching on Tuesdays. **Dave Robinson** thanked **Sim Bennett** on behalf of the membership for all his work.

**Laura Morgan** - Pointed out that women's team is getting stronger and is prioritising the Met League but also top of the Chingford League. Echoed thanks to all volunteers, coaches, the board and Sim. Highlighted progress of Start to Run group that will restart in 2016.

**Tony Macdowall** - reported a decent year in the southern league, narrowly missing out on making the final, but that the club was relegated in the British League. The aim to get back in wasn't achieved. It will be the aim for the end of the summer 2016. Hopes that changing to southern mixed league would promote a team ethos. Urged men to come along and try out the track.

**Charlotte Nicholls** - lamented that there were not many senior women competing and urged more seniors from the road side of the club to join. The southern league means that fixtures will be more local.

**Cornelia Abe-Minale** - reported a good season. The club took its strongest team ever to the English Schools competition and had athletes in finals. The lower league did very well, narrowly losing to Newham. Pointed out that athletes are less strong in sprinting, better at distance in the lower league.

**Dave Robinson** highlighted the strong participation of juniors in the monthly handicap.

## 9 Retirement and election of trustees

Retiring by rotation (and standing for re-election) **Cornelia Abe-Minale**  
**Carried** by majority vote

The following positions were confirmed on Board of Directors:

**Laura Morgan** as Director of Women's Road and Cross Country  
**Rachel Morison** as Secretary  
Both **carried** by majority vote

## 10 Kit Update

**Dave Robinson** reported that **James Bewley** has worked hard with support to help find a new kit that has a better fit. One option currently being considered is a redesign. Outlined a plan to circulate samples and hold a 2-week consultation period where opinions of the membership will be sought before the best option is rolled out to both the track and road athletes. Pointed out that it will be possible to wear the old kit in conjunction with the new kit but no new orders of old kit will be made.

**Cornelia Abe-Minale** pointed out that research has lead to the conclusion that sublimation vest will be much better quality than a cut-and-sew version. The idea is to maintain the stripe so that vest still looks recognisable at a distance but new design has more going on close up.

## 11 AOB and meeting closure

**Joe Feltham** pointed to the Open 5 races that is being resurrected in 2016. Requested help from volunteers. Appealed for ideas for ways to celebrate 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VPH, 40<sup>th</sup> for THAC.

**Sim Bennett** commended Joe for his willingness to work on Open 5.

Meeting closed at 10:10p.m.