



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

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

St Augustine's Hall, Cadogan Terrace

**20th October 2016 at 8:30p.m.**

**Members present:**

Rodney Mushanganyisi	Susan Leese	Cheryl Evans	Joyce Berry
Annie Trihan	Faye Jeacocke	Vicky Fabbri	Neil Cook
Joe Feltham	Andre Dahlkamp	Paul Gaimster	Any Withstandley
Mark Sciberras	Sue Bint	Jo Singer	Philippa Cockman
Declan Phelan	June Barrow-Green	Kelly Clark	Aminah Francois
Marlis Haase	Andrew Baranowski	Brenda Peuch	Sam Duggan
Nick Chidley	Ebolum Mordi	Bruno Mustone	Mick Cairns
Frank Merrigan	David Wilkey	Kate Burgess	Joe Dale
Naomi Bourne	Kelvin Richards	Alf Vickers	Richard Cherrett
Paul Mee	David Shortridge	Malachy Wolohan	

**Directors:**

David Robinson	Ian Warren	Simeon Bennett	Laura Morgan
Tony Macdowall	Rachel Morison		

**1 Apologies for absence**

Gemma Dunlop	Major Carr	Cornelia Minale	Rupert Rowling
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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 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

### 3 **Matters arising from previous minutes**

None

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

The draft accounts and finance report were presented to the membership by **Ian Warren**. The financial statements are to be approved in principle and the authority for finalising them to be delegated to the board.

He drew attention to the following significant items:

- Income has grown over the year. Member subscriptions are up; the cottage rent is higher at about £3,000; higher income from letting out rooms upstairs (see pg 2 of finance report)
- Expenditure is in line with the prior year. There was an increase in club kit costs. We engaged a new supplier and made bulk order.
- The club has been cash positive over the past 7 years, bringing in an average of £16,000 a year. He drew attention to projects outlined where member feedback is welcome. He underlined that the board is open to other ideas on ways to spend money to the benefit of club.

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

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

There was no proposal to raise fees.

**Alf Vickers** noted that the club is still in credit on each member.

### 6 **Awards and trophies**

#### **Boswell League, presented by Simeon Bennett**

Gave thanks to **Duncan Steen** and **June Barrow-Green** for compiling the results last year

Men:

3<sup>rd</sup> Gary Bagnall (vet winner)

2<sup>nd</sup> Sim Bennett

**Winner: David Jones**

Women:

3<sup>rd</sup> Cheryl Evans

2<sup>nd</sup> Mandy Dohren (vet winner)

**Winner: Jo Singer**

**Spirit of Cross Country, presented by Simeon Bennett**

Men: **Frank Merrigan** turned out whatever the weather, marshalling, now coaching

Women: **Joyce Berry** rejuvenated x-country team

**Most improved**

**Road + X-country Male, presented by Simeon Bennett**

Paul Gaimster

Sam Duggan

Anthony Withstandley

Al Myers

Tony Macdowall

**Winner: Chris Brammer** was nominated in 2014, 2015 and continued to improve. He took 15 seconds off mile time, 45 seconds off his 5k time and 6 mins off his half marathon.

**Road + X-country Female**

Rachel Thomas

Mandy Dohren

Joyce Berry

Annie Trihan/Brown get honourable mention as very close 2nd

**Winner: Vicky Fabbri** has taken taken chunks of time off across all distances

**Track Senior Male, presented by Tony Macdowall**

Columba Blango 400m

Chris Zah Junior 400m

**Winner: Ramone Rodney Martinez** (800m) improved to 1:56:59 from 1:58:3 and achieved a 10 sec PB over 1500m \*\* Winner

**Track Junior Male**

Michael Shonibare 200m

Wale Olatunji 200m

Luca Minale 800m

**Winner: Adjobola Adremi** won last year, became nation champion – head and shoulders above =

**Track Senior Female**

Charlotte Nicholls

Rachel Thomas

**Winner: Charlie Mailing** good season ended up injured

**Track Junior Female**

Nayanna Dubarry-Gay 100m

Kia Dubarry-Gay 200m

**Winner: Claudimira Landim TJ** won everything - English schools, London schools, National Championships. PBs in almost every event last year

## 7 Directors' reports

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

He gave big thanks to everyone: to the board, coaches, volunteers and everyone who puts time into club. It has improved and grown year on year which is a massive tribute to everyone who puts time into it.

He paid tribute to four young members who died this year: Nana Quawson, Hamim Lubega, Thomas Crosby and Mary Mills. It is with great fondness that we remember these members and give our sympathies to their friends and families. John Daniels also died aged 84. He was a track athlete and track captain in late 1960s and life member.

**Alf Vickers** noted that Paul Janko, previous club secretary and a life member died this year.

**Kate Burgess** suggested having a trophy named after Nana.

**7.2 Sim Bennett** confirmed that there is one vet woman's prize which doesn't have a trophy which could be suitable for a Nana memorial.

He highlighted that it was a strong year for individual races and performances and also the team spirit. He thanked those who have given time to get members out, transport people to races and participated. He outlined that the main focus of this year will be Met League and said it represented the strength of the club to be up with top men's and women's teams.

He noted that the club missed the 12 stage relays last year because of lack of organisation and that it would be good to get it back in the fixtures (it's usually in March). **Al Meyers** put his name forward to organize. SB drew attention to the non-club race like the Harry Hawkes that has been won by the women every year. This year the club won both team prizes for men and women. It was a great year for fell running in the Isle of Wight with nearly 40 runners participating. Thanks to **Neil Cook** for organizing.

He mentioned the Open 5 that **Joe Feltham** resurrected, organizing a race for 1<sup>st</sup> time. Joe noted that the race didn't make as much money as he hoped. He'd like to get back up to 500 members participating. He said he's looking at April 1 for next year and encouraged volunteers. **Vicky Fabbri** offered to help again this year.

**7.3 Laura Morgan** gave thanks to fellow board members and volunteers who make club work and thanked coaches, marshals, catering team. She noted that it can be difficult to comprehend how many volunteers are required to make club work. She urged anyone else who can to please come forward to help out.

She highlighted the Women's strong team performance this year, pointing to their place in division 1 in Met league. She needs to keep that up even with a few women with injuries and pregnancies. She noted that the team has maintained a decent turnout so far. She pointed to the Assembly

League where the same people turned up to each race to keep the team up the ranks.

**7.4 Charlotte Nicholls reported on behalf of Cornelia Abe-Minale.** The U13/15s have been promoted and four athletes won medals at the English schools. The club took 7 or 8 athletes. Alf Vickers felt the club underachieved. Charlotte noted that Claudimira won everything going and praised the good results for individuals.

**7.5 Charlotte Nicholls** noted it was the club's 1<sup>st</sup> year participating in the mixed league. In general the turnout has been better this year but it can still improve. She noted that there are some strong U15s coming up to U17 age group. The senior women could use more participation. She also highlighted the desperate need for helpers to officiate.

**7.6 Tony Macdowall** said that the team should have been promoted and won several matches but didn't have good turnout in 1<sup>st</sup> match because of the London marathon. The team still came 2<sup>nd</sup>, winning 3 matches in a row, but finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the last match against Serpentine missing out by a couple of points. He pointed to the number of new women taking part and praised their performances. He encouraged more people to take part in all events.

He gave thanks to the coaches at track and pointed to the amazing talent they get via the juniors. He said the strong performances are testament to time they put in on cold evenings and mornings.

**Alf Vickers** said it was great to see vets competing but that it has been to the detriment of providing officials. He said that the club is one of the worst for providing officials at competitions with coaches officiating as well as running teams that are competing. This means that coaches can't concentrate on athletes.

**Dave Robinson** acknowledged the point but said it was a tricky issue and not clear how to attract people to become officials.

## 8 Retirement and election of trustees

Retiring by rotation (and standing for re-election)

**Charlotte Nicholls**

**Simeon Bennett**

**Ian Warren**

**All carried** by majority vote

## 9 Items to discuss

### 9.1 Replacement welfare officer

Dave Robinson explained that the person would need to go on a training course and historically there has been more to do at track so it would be good to have someone familiar with track. He said the role was open to volunteers and the board would perhaps try to target some suitable people.

**Alf Vickers** pointed out that it doesn't matter where the welfare officer is based. If anything does

arise they would need to attend.

## 9.2 Creation of non-board positions

**Dave Robinson** explained that this was an extension of a similar proposal from last year which worked well for things that demand a lot of attention like the bar. He stressed that it helps to have a team every week.

**Neil Cook** outlined some of the roles people could take on like handling the fixtures - putting them into calendar, entering the club into leagues, helping out with membership. He pointed out that Sim has historically done most of this and the load is heavy. He explained that the idea is to formalize these roles a bit more and make positions more visible.

**Dave Robinson** suggested getting a team to help run handicap etc. He said Sim could pass on contacts for leagues.

**Sim Bennett** said that he is more than willing to hand things on. He pointed out that having more people involved makes the club more resilient. The club needs succession planning and more voices and more people with a say.

**Paul Mee** suggested making Thursday nights more formalized with people to welcome new people, call the runs.

**Dave Robinson** pointed out that already happens every week

**Laura Morgan** pointed to the rota for the beginners group. She said they put the rota on noticeboard.

**Sim Bennett** said it had been good year for getting volunteers and said that now the club is calling on those who can to take the lead on something.

It was **agreed** to list roles and open them up to people to come forward, will include officials for track

## 10 Any other business and meeting close

### 10.1 Bar and kitchen refurbishment

**Dave Robinson** reported that there is now a complex set of proposals including for fabric repairs to downstairs. The group involved have been trying to move forward with the plans. Dave reported that he has got costs and underlined that he's working within a modest budget but pointed out that the bar is only used on Thursday night and for the odd race. He offered to have the plans available for members to view on training evenings. He underlined that the club is hoping to get some volunteers, some muscle from members to save money on decoration and stripping out of the kitchen. He said the logistics of carrying out the work are tricky because we need to do it quickly as we lose the bar. There is an option to do it in phases.

**Ian Warren** pointed out that year-on-year the club has a surplus of £16,000 and have set aside £30,000 for the work. He highlighted that the bar does make money and over several years will make back the expense.

**10.2 Dave Robinson** stressed that the board is keen not to just spend money on clubhouse. As part of refurbishment of downstairs the plan is to have a meeting room and convert the current board room into a space to be let out to generate income.

He put forward the idea of assisting athletes to go to events. He outlined an idea from the board to have a fund to which people can apply for help.

**Alf Vickers** said there was no need and he was happy to keep asking for funding on an individual basis. He also pointed out that the club has gained more members at the track but quality has been poor. The club won division on numbers.

**10.3 Kelly Clark** asked about opportunities for club with world athletics championships in Stratford next year.

**Sim Bennett** said that he wasn't aware that club has been approached.

**Joe Feltham** suggested advertising during the world champs to capture some enthusiasm and attract officials.

**10.4 Mick Cairns** enquired about the warm up track at the Olympic park which will be open to the public and suggested having sessions there?

**Charlotte Nicholls** pointed out that Newham may use it and she would have concerns for juniors as it's a long walk through a park without parents.

**Meeting closed 10.05pm**