



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

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting St Augustine's Hall, Cadogan Terrace 19th October 2017 at 8:30p.m.**

#### **Members present:**

|                      |                 |                  |              |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|
| Alun Myers           | Samuel Humphrey | Neil Cook        | Vicky Fabbri |
| Gavin Lau            | Cheryl Evans    | Chris Brammer    | Alf Vickers  |
| Kelvin Richards      | Craig Robertson | Vesa Lindberg    | Kelly Clark  |
| June Barrow-Green    | Sophie Donges   | Chris Hawksworth | Major Carr   |
| John Campbell        | Charlie Mailing | Rachel Thomas    | David Wilkey |
| Susan Leese          | Aminah Francois | Sophie Critchlow | Ewan Cameron |
| David Shortridge     | Philip Chapman  | Julian Burke     | Mick Cairns  |
| Catherine McLaughlin |                 |                  |              |

#### **Directors:**

|                |                 |                          |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| David Robinson | Tony Macdowall  | Faye Jeacocke/Ian Warren |
| Simeon Bennett | Cornelia Minale | Rachel Morison           |

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

|             |              |              |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Joe Feltham | Gemma Dunlop | Naomi Bourne |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|

#### **2. Minutes of last annual general meeting**

The minutes were approved and adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

#### **3. Matters Arising from previous minutes**

Simeon Bennett gave an update on the memorial trophy for Nana Qwason, a valued and long-standing member of club who passed away last year. Given the time she dedicated to

the track and to the juniors it was decided to assign it to a junior track event.

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

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

She reported that the accounts remained broadly similar to last year. Notable was £30k spent on bar renovations.

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**

Alf Vickers noted a £1 increase in England Athletic fees. He suggested perhaps changing fees by next October in line with next increase.

Neil Cook pointed out that the club has 400 EA-registered members so costs have only increased by £400. He highlighted the administrative burden of increasing fees.

#### **6. Awards and trophies**

##### **Most improved**

##### **Track Junior Female, presented by Tony Macdowall**

Kai Dubarey gave PBs over 100m and 200m. English schools winner, schools international winner

##### **Track Senior Female**

Hazel Robertson PBs in all throws

##### **Track Senior Male**

Neil Kirkham PB over 400 and 800 (6 seconds)-

##### **Track Junior Male**

Yusuf bizimana PBs over 800, 1500 and 5000 English schools champion

##### **Road + X-country Female, presented by Simeon Bennett**

Rachel Thomas. Rachel has pulled put all the stops to dedicate herself to training

##### **Road + X-country Male**

Matt Walker worked very hard this year. 7 mins off half marathon, time off his parkrun, time off 10k.

##### **Spirit of Cross Country, presented by June Barrow-Green**

June gave the trophies to club in memory of her brother who loved cross country and the marathon. He loved being part of a team and the trophies are dedicated to those who revel in being part of the team.

Women: Alison Tay;  
Men: Mordi

## 7. Director's Reports

7.1 **Dave Robinson** expressed his thanks to everyone: to the board, those who volunteer and take on extra roles like Joyce and Neil. Thanks to coaches and officials. He noted there are many coaches at track as well as Mick Cairns on road side whose session has grown to colossal numbers.

He noted the departure of former Finance Director, **Ian Warren**, to Australia. Ian has left the club in great position and has handed over to Faye Jeacocke. Big thanks to Ian for all his work over the years.

**Tony Macdowall** is stepping down from the board as men's captain for track and field after 12 years. He will continue to help with the Southern Athletics League (SAL). Big thanks to him.

**Laura Morgan** is standing down after four years as women's captain for road and cross-country. She has been brilliant and a sound person on the board for various decisions.

He stressed the importance of the club keeping up to date club hand highlighted that since the last AGM, when the call went out for a new welfare officer, **Sam Duggan** has come forward. He is a social worker and works with children and so is the ideal candidate. The club will be adopting England Athletics safeguarding policies and it's important to have someone who can be approached by parents and athletes.

He highlighted the issue that there are no dedicated VPH-only sessions at the track. **Alf Vickers** noted that it would be difficult to hire track for sole use because cost would mean having to charge the juniors. The issue of the gym at Mile End was also raised where there is a lot of VPH-owned equipment that is used generally. It's a big problem.

He summarised income from the use of club premises. There has been good income from use of Pilates room, Fabien and various hiring. Some work in the bar still needs to be finished, hopefully this year.

**June Barrow-Green** thanked Dave for all his work.

7.2 **Sim Bennett** said that his report captures only a part of this terrific club. We had a great cross-country season last year and have added to the enthusiasm by developing the spirit shown at the Claybury fixture. The club has moved on and is a bit stronger. He gave thanks to **Neil Cook, Mick Cairns and Steve Hobbs**. He highlighted that the number of volunteers has come through and that is really good.

7.3 **Laura Morgan** thanked the board who put in a lot of time, particularly **Dave Robinson**. She picked out the volunteers who help out regularly saying that the club relies on every individual to keep the organization alive and the great place that it is. She is stepping down but it creates a good opportunity for whoever takes over. Her work commitments and baby coming have taken over and she has to stand down. She felt there was a lull but now numbers and enthusiasm have come back stronger. Sophie Donges and Rachel Thomas were part of the women's team who came 4<sup>th</sup> in the London marathon. Good season coming up.

**7.4 Charlotte Nicholls** reported that it was a good achievement to get promoted in SAL. There are a new crop of U17s that have come through as seniors this year. Promotion means there should be better competition over distances. She hopes the club gets promoted again and can compete in division 1.

**7.5 Tony Macdowall** noted that the club was unlucky to miss out on promotion. He highlighted the need to have more people coming out. Turning up can pick up points. Need people in B stream to pick up points. Need more people to compete. He expressed thanks to coaches at the track – without them wouldn't have youngsters coming through. Good crop competing now.

**Charlotte Nicholls** noted the need for officials. The club lost points this year for not having enough time keepers. Massive thanks to **Major Carr** who volunteered doubling up as track and field official.

**Sim Bennett** noted **Major Carr** triples up here behind the scenes with Tower Hamlets. Does it for the love of the sport. Thanks to him.

**7.6 Cornelia Minale** highlighted that the juniors have moved up and found strong competition. They ended the season middle of league which was ideal. Met League – won it last year but were struggling for numbers U16, U17 but now good crop moving up. Highlight of season was the English Schools and an athlete coached by **Alf Vickers - Kai Dubarey** who came 2<sup>nd</sup> in English Schools, International Schools and Manchester Schools.

**7.7 Faye Jeacocke** reported that income stayed flat at £60k due to subscriptions. Cash flow remains strong even with bar investment. Closing balance was £122k at end of March and everything is looking healthy.

Question on number of members: about 600 with 400 adults EA-registered, equating to 4 marathon places.

## **8. Retirement and election of trustees**

Standing down: **Ian Warren, Laura Morgan, Tony Macdowall**

### **Finance Director**

**Faye Jeacocke** proposed by **June Barrow Green**, Seconded by **Al Myers**.

Carried by a majority vote

### **Men's Track and Field Director**

No one has come forward. Position will remain vacant. Track will have to be represented by Charlotte and Cornelia.

### **Women's Road and Cross-Country Captain**

**Cheryl Evans** proposed by **Sophie Donges**. **Neil Cook** seconded.

Carried by a majority vote

## **9. Life members**

**Tony Lashmar** was proposed in advance of the meeting. Seconded by Dave Robinson.

Carried by a majority vote

**Tony Bunbury** was proposed in advance of the meeting by Dave Shortridge. Sophie Critchlow seconded. Carried by a majority vote.

#### 10. Any Other Business and Meeting Close

##### 10.1 **Boswell league**

Age banding for moving from senior to veteran cut off is 35. Most events vets are over 40. It would be better if the Boswell League aligns with other events. It was proposed to move the veteran category to 40 for both men and women. **Voted: All in favour, none against.**

10.2 Major Carr noted that last year the club lost 4 members. This year we lost Ted Flowers who was 99. He was a life member who ran marathon 9 mins off world record in 1950s.

##### 10.3 Marathon Ballot

Laura Morgan proposed changed how the draw is done for the club marathon places. She proposed two separate hats, one for women and one for men and combination if odd number of places. **Voted: Carried by majority**

21.55 ends