

**Ontario Track and Field Association  
Annual General Meeting – 2006**

Sport Alliance Building  
November 11, 2006  
1:37 p.m.

Note: The meeting was preceded by a presentation by Hilary Findlay of the Centre for Sport and Law. Hilary provided information about Duty of Care, Waivers, Negligence, Sexual Relationships between athletes and Coaches, the importance of Policies and Procedures and Insurance, and answered questions on other related issues. The OTFA will try to post her presentation on the OTFA website.

There was also short video about the Fun in Athletics program as it appeared on television in the spring of 2006.

**1) Welcome**

Albert Tschirhart (Chair) thanked people for coming and asked for a moment of silence in memory of those who passed away this last year.

**2) Parliamentary Procedures**

John Craig (staff) outlined the voting procedures and the Board positions which were up for election. He also advised that nominations for Board positions needed to have been provided to the Chair prior to the start of the meeting.

**3) Secretary to Announce Voting Powers**

John outlined the voting powers for the clubs represented. David Watt, Suzanne Leroux and Stafford Whalen agreed to act as scrutineers if and as required.

There being a quorum of members, the meeting was duly constituted.

**4) Ratification of Motions of Directors 2005-2006**

Albert asked each representative to read over the Board motions from the past year, and to direct questions as appropriate to the Board for clarification.

There being no questions, Albert asked for a motion to ratify the Motions.

**Motion to Ratify:**

Brockville Legion TC / York University TC

**Carried**

**5) Adoption of 2005 AGM Minutes**

**Motion to Adopt:**

Hamilton Olympic Club / Toronto Olympic Club

**Carried**

**5) Reports**

**Special Report**

Brian Keaveney provided a short explanation of the re-surfacing situation at the Metro Toronto Track and Field Centre at York U., the upgrades at that facility and the new format (more lanes on both indoor oval and straight). Upgrades are also involved at the outdoor track.

As well there is a possibility that there will be new electronic display boards for both the indoor and outdoor tracks. There are some details that need to be worked out on this initiative, but we are moving in that direction.

The indoor track should be open again by December 1, then closed for the second week of December for the resurfacing of the Mondo portion of the track, then reopened again shortly thereafter.

Brian also outlined the tentative provisions made on the outdoor track for the next three weeks, which include several tents – one for a warm up area, and several covering some sprinting lanes so sprinters can train outdoors while the indoor track is closed.

Plans call for the outdoor track to be re-surfaced in August, 2007.

There are also plans to work on the indoor ventilation system – no time lines have been established for this, but work should begin during 2007.

**a) President**

Report as presented. Albert offered a verbal thank you for the efforts of the members of the Board – members have been hard at work behind the scenes and have done a great job. He also thanked the staff of the Association.

Membership is up by a significant margin and that is a sign that the whole organization is doing some things well.

Albert noted that the OTFA has some financial challenges ahead, with a failing bingo, a three year grant and some funding cutbacks.

The Chair offered congratulations to Bob Tucker on new track in Brockville. He also noted that we are doing well with new tracks at Birchmount stadium in Toronto, the 400 metre indoor oval in Ottawa, the new facility being constructed at UofT, and the recent excellent facilities in Windsor and Timmins.

Albert thanked the membership for ratifying the motions of the Board for the past year and provided a rationale for the two fee increases, one for membership in the OTFA and one for entry into OTFA Championship events;

- ❑ the membership increase has come as a result of loss of revenue, rising costs through inflation (several years have passed since the last fee increase) and an interest in continuing to fund programs which won't receive any direct government funding this year
- ❑ the entry fee increase is designed to provide a greater potential for profit for host clubs so there will be more interest in hosting our championships.

Ottawa Lions suggested even further increases in future years. Few questions were asked about the increases. A breakdown of fees was provided and there was a comparison to championship fees in other sports.

One suggestion – have our younger athletes, like bantams, pay less so they can compete in more events and try everything as per the suggestion in the LTAD model. The Board will consider this suggestion.

Albert thanked the membership for their support of the increases.

#### **b) Vice President**

No report. Denis Landry was unable to attend the meeting.

#### **c) Treasurer**

Dave presented a breakdown of the financial statements. He mentioned the profit from last year giving us a \$56,000 surplus, explaining that part of this was from an increase in membership and part of this because of increase in government funding.

He also explained the need for members equity to provide the association with operating capital while we wait for the government grant.

#### **Motion to Adopt the Financial Statements**

Ontario Officials Council / Windsor Legion TC

**Carried**

#### **d) Budget 2006-07**

David reviewed the proposed budget for 2006-07. Clear at this point is that projections of Bingo revenue were optimistic, and that there is a modest decrease in government funding.

**Motion to approve:**

Durham Track / Brockville Legion

**Carried**

Clarification was provided on several specific line items; Field Lynx Computers, the US high school championships and the Provincial Team to Newfoundland. The Ottawa Lions asked if there could be an increased budget for the Eastern Canadian Espoire Series. The Board will consider this and try to establish priorities – in consultation with clubs and coaches – on which programs should receive continued support.

Etobicoke Gladstone asked about alternative sources of funding – perhaps we should consider the formation of a foundation to fund our sport. Clifford Linton (Etobicoke Gladstone) gave, as an example, the BigOnline program as a possible source for future funding. He expressed an interest in assisting in the exploration of other funding sources.

**Motion:** to appoint Turnbull Thompson as auditors for the Association for the fiscal year 2006-07.

Ontario Officials Council / Durham Track

**Carried**

#### **e) Other Reports**

##### **□ General Operations**

Marc Christie discussed on-line registration and the possibilities this program will offer for the future. Specifically he was interested in the opportunity to have all seed performances validated prior to Championship competitions through the use of the rankings databank.

##### **□ Technical Development**

Mike Illingworth offered a short explanation of the ongoing Policy and Procedures initiatives with respect to the hosting of a Championship event.

##### **□ Athlete/Coach Development**

Bill Stephens discussed the Ontario Team trip to the U.S. Indoor Championships and the merits of this program. Ottawa Lions, however, saw this simply as exposure of our best athletes to the US scholarship system. Albert and John provided some background on the history of this program and expense.

Bill also mentioned that the OTFA had just received a grant for a Coaching Coordinator – with an honorarium of \$7,000. The specifics and application information will be posted on OTFA website as soon as possible.

There was also an update on the New Transfer Policy, which emphasized the OTFAs previous position, and now requires that the two coaches involved in the transfer sign a form acknowledging the status of the athlete.

## ❑ **Marketing and Membership**

Val Sarjeant reported that membership is up except for Officials. We have an ongoing need to increase our Officials membership.

He advised that the Fun in Athletics program, which is supported by the OTFA, touched over 29,000 kids last year. There was some discussion about how the program is made available (though IFTA and Milt Ottey), and that it is working it's way through the school system.

Val also stressed the need to have an OTFA presence where possible at school competitions so there is more direct exposure of OTFA programs to young track and field athletes.

## ❑ **Staff:**

### **a) Director of Marketing and Administration**

As presented. John Craig gave a brief update of the Quest for Gold program, advised that a large amount of staff time is taken up by this program, and thanked the Quest for Gold Selection Committee (Bill Stephens, Carl Georgevski and Colin Inglis) for its guidance and energy. He also asked that any input regarding future selection criteria be forwarded to the Committee via the OTFA office.

John provided information on the Canadian Athlete Insurance Plan CAIP. This is an insurance plan which will enhance coverage for athletes, but requires some administrative work from the OTFA to make it work for our members. The OTFA will start with the program by offering it to our Quest for Gold athletes as a pilot. If it is well received and reasonable, the program will be enlarged in the future.

On-line registration is almost ready to go, but Ontario won't go on-line until we have the capacity to accept on-line visa or MasterCard payments.

### **b) Roman Olszewski**

As presented. There were no comments or questions of the report. Roman offered these update:

- ❑ Esther Shiner stadium will not likely be covered, now or in the future. The City of Toronto has spent some money this last year on facilities and we are lucky to have the upgrades we got.
- ❑ Thanks to the committee which helped draft the Policies and Procedures for Championships events.

- Meet Sanctions: The OTFA recognizes that some of the key people in the sport don't comply with the sanctioning process, so we are looking at streamlining the process and going back to a system from 2002 which seemed to be administratively (for the clubs) more friendly.

**b) Bernie Eckler**

As presented.

**c) Anthony Biggar**

As presented. Anthony advised that the OTFA website continues to be a work in progress. He was congratulated by the membership on doing an excellent job. The OTFA and Anthony have made it a priority, keeping content up to date and relevant.

The OTFA Newsletter will be available on-line starting January 2007 and available to everyone. It will also be mailed to those who want a hard copy.

**f) George Walters**

As presented.

**7) Hugh Cameron**

Hugh reported that he attended a 'think tank' in Gatineau in preparation for future international competition. Ontario, he said, is a leader in many areas but not in leadership and coaching development. He also noted that federal funding will be tied to Olympic medals in Beijing and our goal is to gain the podium twice. Impact will be reduced funding if we fail to hit this goal.

He reported that there are sixty-six federal cards for track and field athletes.

He suggested the OTFA has a lack of senior coaches – those who are coaching athletes 25 years of age and over. We clearly need more coaches at this level.

Hugh is trying to come up with a strategic plan for the endurance program for the next few years. Coaches are invited to contact Hugh with input or for information at: [coachhugh@canada.com](mailto:coachhugh@canada.com).

**8) Motions**

No motions were presented for consideration.

**9) New Business**

Clifford Linton of Etobicoke Gladstone commented that he and some others will be meeting with their MPs and the Minister of Sport to make sure they know that Canadian athletes are paying lots of money to represent Canada internationally. He asked that other clubs and coaches make the same approach. This needs to be pressed as hard as possible to see if we can bring an end to this pay-for-play program.

#### **10) Elections**

As there were no nominations from the membership for the Board of Directors, the slate of candidates as presented by the Nominations Committee was accepted.

Val Sarjeant and Bill Stephens were acclaimed to the positions they previously held.

#### **11) Comments by President**

Albert advised that Hilary Findlay's presentation (from the beginning of the meeting) will be posted on-line and sent to clubs. He thanked everyone for coming and wished them all good luck and good health in the coming year.

#### **Adjournment 4:09 p.m.**

Windsor Legion TC and Project Athletics TFC

**Notes:** Hilary Findlay, who was the guest speaker at the AGM, is from the Centre for Sport and Law. You can find out more about them at: [www.sportlaw.ca](http://www.sportlaw.ca)