



**Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting of
Athletics Ontario**

Sunday, November 20, 2011
11:00 am, Boardrooms 3-4
Sport Alliance of Ontario
3 Concorde Gate,
Toronto, ON, M3C 3N7

1. Call to Order – 11: 17 am

Chair Bill Stephens welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to a Sunday morning meeting, recognizing that most present have busy schedules.

2. Parliamentary Procedures and Voting Review – John Craig read the parliamentary procedures as required. 44 votes were in attendance and a quorum is 43 votes so a quorum was present.

John read out the list of clubs present and their voting strength, discussed voting procedures, asked for the membership to waive the notice of the meeting, and reviewed Rogers rules of order as they pertain to discussions at the meeting.

3. Introductions – Bill introduced the Athletics Ontario staff and Board. He then asked for a moment of silence in recognition of those in our community who had died in the previous year.

Bill also advised that at the Board of Directors meeting of November 19, 2011, John Craig had been appointed recording secretary for the 2011 AGM.

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion: to approve the agenda as presented

Ontario Masters Athletics and Guelph TFC Carried

5. Approval of Minutes of the 2010 AGM

Motion: to approve the minutes of the 2010 AGM

London Western TFC and Newmarket Huskies TC Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes of the 2010 AGM

None

7. Ratification of the Business Conducted by the AO Board of Directors in 2010/2011

Motion: To ratify the business conducted by the Athletics Ontario Board of Directors since the adjournment of the October 30, 2010 Annual General Meeting

Ontario Masters Athletics and Etobicoke TFC

Carried

8. Board Reports:

- Chair - Bill highlighted monthly conference calls between branches and AC which allows for more input at the National level. These calls appear to be effective in that branch concerns and interests are being heard.

Bill noted that bantam membership is growing. He advised that a midget dual meet with Quebec is set. Roman added that there is a chance that we could also send a Youth team to Quebec for an indoor dual meet.

Bill also reminded the membership that we are in competition with soccer, hockey and basketball to attract members and that we need to make the sport more attractive to young athletes.

- Vice Chair - Val Sarjeant thanked Milt Ottey for his efforts to put several hundred thousand kids through the Fun in Athletics programs. Val also noted that our relationship with the Masters association is excellent, which is not the case in all areas of the country or the world. Of particular note is the joint program we run with the Masters at the Hall of Fame Banquet and Awards Dinner.

Val noted that concerns over athlete poaching and transfers have been reduced since the new transfer rule was established. Val also spoke about the Toronto International Track and Field Games which were launched in 2011; this is a legacy event that should go beyond the Pan Am Games of 2015.

As Val will not seek re-election at this meeting, he thanked the members of the Board for giving him a chance to work with them and he encouraged the membership to continue to support the Board.

- Director of General Operations - Leslie Estwick provided a verbal report. She spoke of the status of the strategic planning process and advised that she had attended the AC planning meeting earlier in the year. Generally Athletics Ontario is already aligned in most fundamental ways with Athletics Canada, which is important as we look to the next quadrennial. Our next steps are to align with our funding partners and to work toward an annual planning cycle saying we need to create an action plan with measurable objectives.

Leslie then made a request for volunteers for a Planning Committee, asking interested people to contact the office.

- Director of Athlete/Coach Development - Harry Stantsos presented his report as provided in the AGM materials.
- Director of Technical Development - Suzanne Leroux said that 2011 had been a good but challenging year. She reported that electronic entries are working very well and making life easier for entry secretaries at meets. She reported on the Ontario Officials' Council's AGM of November 19, 2011, saying that the meeting had perhaps the biggest turnout ever with 47 members in attendance. The document which redefines the OOC as a committee of Athletics Ontario has been approved and the old OOC constitution has been dissolved. There was also a significant change in the executive of the officials group, with Peter Hocking being voted in as Chair.

Action: Anthony Biggar will post the document, 'Organization and Operation of the Athletics Ontario Officials' Executive Committee (AOOEC) and of Athletics Ontario Officials (AOO)' on the website. Anthony will also post a list of the new AOOEC executive.

Suzanne further advised that the finances of AO championships that we host are provided in the package.

She asked that all clubs making meet entries use the 4 letter clubs code to assist with the tracking of entries and results by Athletics Canada.

Albert Tschirhart noted that Suzanne had done a great job at the AO Cross Country results last week, saying that results were posted very quickly.

- Director of Marketing and Membership - Stuart Smith reviewed the Association's membership numbers, noting that bantam memberships are up quite a bit, but that there is some decline in the senior membership numbers. He also noted that, while year to year membership remains fairly constant, there has been a marginal increase in membership in the unattached category and, while this is still a relatively small group of athletes, we should try to understand why athletes are not joining clubs.

Stuart also thanked AO registrar Wendy Lee for all the work she does on membership.

Staff Reports:

- Director of Technical Services - Roman Olszewski highlighted that Ontario athletes won 70% of the gold medals at the Canadian Youth Champs and that 60% of the Canadian world youth team was from Ontario. He thanked the clubs and coaches for their hard work in helping the Association achieve these results.

Roman talked about need to build complete facilities; he noted that several facilities, including some new ones, are incomplete (lacking, as an example, adequate field event facilities or a water jump for the steeplechase), and requested that clubs associated with new projects make sure all technical specifications and requirements are part of the project.

Roman announced the sites, dates and host clubs for the 2012 AO Championships as determined at the Board meeting on November 19, 2011. He congratulated the winning clubs and thanked all who had submitted a bid.

Roman advised that the Canada Summer Games team staff had been selected, but said that staff would be notified prior to a public announcement.

- Managing Director - John Craig highlighted future funding trends and suggested that in the current economic climate the Association should anticipate funding cuts as we enter a new three year funding cycle. He also spoke about the dissolution of the Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport, saying he did not know where sport would end up but hoped it wouldn't end up as part of the Ministry of Health and Long Term care, where sport could easily become lost in a ministry of that size.

John spoke further of the Quest for Gold program, and the Adopt-an-Athlete project, and he noted that an application has been filed with the Trillium Foundation to help the Association work toward an inclusive base that would see programs for athletes with a disability become part of main stream athletics programming.

- Manager of Communications and Public Relations - Anthony Biggar spoke of his general duties within the office and asked that members notify him if there are changes to website information that need to be reflected. He also mentioned the sponsorship and support we have received from various organizations and agencies of the Awards Dinner and Hall of Fame Banquet, plus other programs like the Asian Community Games.
- High Performance Coordinator - Sue Wise outlined the coaching education and OHPSI programs which are helping our best athletes get to the next level. She noted that current high performance programs and funding options were not intended to be programs that simply give money to athletes, but rather that such programs are to provide financial and scientific support to those athletes who are identified as next generation medalists.

Sue also mentioned that a seminar held earlier in the morning had provided some good input on the proposed Adopt-an-Athlete program, which should become public within the next couple of months.

- Other reports: Doug Smith of the Ontario Masters Athletics reported a very successful year. The Awards Banquet, held in cooperation with Athletics Ontario, is a very good relationship. The intent of the OMA is to promote the inclusion of masters athletes in all clubs, which enhances club membership and provides an easy transition of older athletes as they move from mainstream track and field into the masters ranks.
- Bill recognized Scott Haines who was at the meeting. Scott is pioneering Fun in Athletics and RJT programming in our aboriginal communities.

- Northwestern Ontario as presented, by George Walters

Motion: to accept the reports as presented:

St. Thomas Legion and London Western TFC

Carried

9. **Treasurer's Report:** Dave Watt reported on the audited statement for 2010-2011. He explained the need for a member's equity, recognizing the need for bridge financing to cover operational costs experienced between the time of an application for Ministry funding and the receipt of those funds. Dave also reviewed the reasons for a significant surplus in the 2010-2011 fiscal year, citing a fee increase, membership increase and a change in accounting practices.

There was some discussion about a possible threshold of accumulated revenue for a non-profit corporation, but David suggested a full year of member's equity might be appropriate in case there was dissolution of the association and the association had to wind down.

John Stephens of London Western TFC suggested we plan to spend this money so the government doesn't see it as an excess

Motion: to accept the audited financial statement as presented.

Dave Watt and London Western TFC

Carried

- Budget Review – David presented the proposed budget for 2012-2013. He noted that the newly constituted AOOEC has yet to submit a budget for the coming year, but that this item will be dealt with at the next meeting of the AO Board of Directors.

David also referenced the decision by the Board of Directors to provide Athletics Canada with an additional \$30,000 in membership fees to support the NSO's efforts to seek more funding from Sport Canada.

There was some discussion of a proposed fee increase which will be considered later in the report.

Motion: to adopt of the budget as presented.

Dave Watt and Newmarket Huskies

Carried

Opposed: London Western

- Appointment of Auditors.

Motion: to accept Thompson Turnbull as the auditors of the Association for the fiscal year April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012.

Dave Watt and Oakville Legion TFC

Carried

- Motion for Membership Fee Increase – John Craig presented a proposal for a membership fee increase which would not become part of the Athletics Ontario general account, but

which would be used for a specific purpose as designated by the membership. He suggested that the increase could be used to help offset team fees for Ontario athletes making National teams that were self-funded.

John noted that such an increase would generate about \$30,000 in revenue. Ontario athletes spent about \$165,000 on self-funded teams in 2011. While this figure is higher than normal, we might expect that \$90,000-\$100,000 would be spent by Ontario athletes on these teams in any given year. A fee increase amounting to \$30,000 would help offset these expenses, but clearly athletes would still have to contribute to the cost of being named to these teams.

Motion: that, beginning with the 2012 membership year, membership fees for all competitive athlete categories (not masters) be increased by \$10 and that any fee increase in 2012 goes solely to support Ontario athletes who are on self-funded IAAF recognized national teams in the youth to senior age categories.

York University TC and London Western TFC

Carried

10. **Election of Directors:** Harry Stantsos, Chair of the Nominations Committee, advised that four director's positions on the Board had become vacant as of this meeting, in accordance with the Association's by-laws. These positions are:

Director of Technical Development – Suzanne Leroux
Director of General Operations – Leslie Estwick
Chair – Bill Stephens
Vice Chair – Val Sarjeant

Harry further advised that Suzanne Leroux, Leslie Estwick and Bill Stephens had all agreed to run for re-election. Val Sarjeant had declined to seek another term.

Harry further advised that three nominations had been received for the position of Vice Chair. These nominations were for Albert Tschirhart, Trevino Betty and Lisa Ferdinand. Harry asked all to confirm they wish to stand for election. The candidates were then given an opportunity to speak on their own behalf about their credentials and their hopes for the association.

All spoke.

Harry introduced the scrutineers - Dave Watt, Maryanna Lewyckyj and Hugh Cameron.

Harry reviewed the names up for election and the voting procedures. The scrutineers gathered the voting cards and left the room to count the votes.

On return, the scrutineers handed the results of the election to Harry, who announced that Lisa Ferdinand is the new Vice Chair of the Association.

Motion: to destroy the ballots.

Speed Academy and Brampton TFC

Carried

11. New Business:

Motion: that the results of the masters race at the Athletics Ontario Cross Country Championships be included in the overall AO Championship results

Newmarket Huskies and Ontario Racewalkers

Carried

12. **Closing Remarks:** Bill thanked everyone for coming and again noted that this was the biggest turn-out we have had in recent memory. He reminded the membership that there may be more OHPSI funding in the coming year, that Quest for Gold nominees will be announced by mid-January and that the Toronto International Track and Field Games, as part of the new National Track League, will be hosted at Varsity Stadium on July 11, 2012. He also mentioned that Athletics Ontario had recently received a grant for a warm weather training camp for Team Ontario athletes, that we have an upcoming dual meet with Quebec, and that the new structure of the officials' organization was a promising new beginning.

Bill further thanked the members of the Board for their hard work, and thanked Val Sarjeant for 10 years of dedicated service to Athletics Ontario and the track and field community.

Adjournment:

2:28 pm.

Hamilton Olympic Club and Brampton TFC