



**The Annual General Meeting of the Athletics Ontario
Saturday, December 5, 2009 – 10:38 am
Yorkland (Wyndham) Hotel
185 Yorkland Blvd., Toronto, Ontario, M2J 4R2**

1. **Call to Order and Welcome** – The Chair welcomed those in attendance for coming and noted that there was a good turnout. He also apologized for a mix up in room allocation but it seems the problems have been worked out. Bill mentioned that two preliminary workshops had been successful, one on protocol for Championship competitions, and one on grassroots programs.
2. **Parliamentary Procedures and Voting Review** – The Secretary announced parliamentary procedures, announced the votes on the floor and the member clubs present, spoke to Robert's Rules of Order and noted that, for the first time in several years, a quorum was present at the opening of the meeting.
3. **Introductions** – Chair reminded everyone that Athletics Ontario would be hosting a second annual Awards Banquet plus the first ever Induction into the Hall of Fame, both commencing after the meeting. He then asked for a moment of silence to remember those from our community who have passed away in the last year.

Bill advised that, at the Board of Directors meeting held Friday, December 4, 2009, John Craig had been appointed as the Recording Secretary for the AGM.

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion: to approve the agenda as presented

Brooks Canada Marathon Project and Mississauga TFC

Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes of the 2008 AGM

Motion: to approve the minutes of the 2008 AGM

Ontario Masters Athletics and Newmarket Huskies TC

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes of the 2008 AGM

No business arising.

7. Ratification of Business Conducted by the AO Board of Directors in 2008/2009

Motion: to ratify to business conducted by the Athletics Ontario Board of Directors in the 2008-09 year.

API Track Club and London Western TFC

Carried

8. Reports:

- o **Chair** (Bill Stephens) – Bill offered his report as provided in the meeting package. He emphasized that he felt this was an exciting time for our sport; there is more money from the Own the Podium (national) program and that Athletics Canada is trying to spend it in

a responsible and meaningful way. He also said Sue Wise is doing an outstanding job and UofT now has Molly Killingbeck as the leader of an AC sprint and power 'pod'. It is an exciting time, especially for the high performance athletes, their clubs and coaches.

- **Vice Chair** (Val Sarjeant) – Val offered a verbal report noting that Ontario has won the right to host the 2015 Pan Am Games, which will be the first big event ever for Toronto and one of the first in Ontario for a long, long time. Seventeen communities will be involved in hosting these Games, and there will be lots of benefits in the future.
- **Director of General Operations** (Pat Reid) - there was no report. Pat has moved to a new location and was not present for the meeting.
- **Director of Coach/Athlete Development** (Harry Stantsos) - report as provided in meeting package.
- **Director of Technical Development** (Suzanne Leroux) – report as provided in meeting package. Suzanne noted that there are still problems with rankings programs and software, but that we are all learning from the experience. As of December 4, 2009 the rankings are up to date. Now she will start working on indoors. Suzanne also said she will help clubs set up and work with Hy-Tek.

She also advised that a photo-timing clinic is set up for January, and a pole vault clinic will be held at UofT later in the spring.

- **Director of Marketing and Membership** (Stuart Smith) – Stuart offered a verbal report and gave a breakdown of current membership numbers. The numbers indicate that 2009 was another growth year. We had about 4600 members this year with women representing 35 % growth and men showing 30% growth. Much of this is due to a large increase in Masters membership. The number of officials has also increased.

As for marketing of the Association, Stuart suggested that the re-branding of AO has been successful as people outside the Association are beginning to recognize the logo and name. In general the reaction has been positive.

Stuart said that Run, Jump and Throw and Fun In Athletics are great tools for developing interest in grass roots aged kids and they also provide outreach to local communities. He reminded clubs not to forget about child fitness tax credit and asked that clubs remind parents of this.

- **Director of Technical Services** (Roman Olszewski) - report as provided in meeting package. Roman advised that the TD Waterhouse track had been repainted but not resurfaced.
- **Managing Director** (John Craig) - report as provided in meeting package. John provided verbal emphasizes on:
 - a new insurance program for the Association which will take effect January 1, 2010
 - that Athletics Magazine will soon be available on the AO website only

- that athlete poaching and athlete transfers are becoming a huge issue and more work is needed to further develop the policies on these issues
- that all coaches, administrators and officials with Athletics Ontario will be provided with access to the Sport Information Resource Centre (SIRC) online as a benefit of membership in 2010

There was general discussion about the Athlete Transfer Policy and poaching and an agreement that more work needs to be done to better define the policy.

The Toronto Olympic suggested that a dual meet with Quebec might be our best option for a provincial team competition, especially if the team is going to be self funded.

- **Manager of Communications and Public Relations** (Anthony Biggar) - report as provided in meeting package. Anthony mentioned that the online survey of proposed new logos had over 1,000 responses. He also mentioned the Hall of Fame, the AO Newsletter and new partnerships with Toronto Tourism.
- **High Performance Coordinator** (Sue Wise) – Sue offered thanks to Anthony and Wendy through the year for their efforts on behalf of the HP program. Sue suggested she had tried at times to do too much and hopes to have better relationship with CSCO in the future. She also suggested there is more money for HP athletes, and she has a list of identified athletes based on performance and age. These athletes will have access to some good opportunities including testing and training venues.

Sue asked that if coaches see some obvious talent, they let Sue know so she can direct them to the best possible situation. She also advised that the coaching education program is a bit overwhelming and trying to get people in before the April 1 deadline will be tough.

- **Road Warrior Program** (Michael Brennan) – Michael reported a significant improvement in the membership numbers for the program this year. There are now 930 registered members and 90 races involved as Road Warrior events. 225 prizes have been sent out and the program is generating a lot of talk. Michael is trying to get a Facebook page going and he already has 120 races involved for 2010. He would like to double the number of members next year and said we are getting free promotion through the events. People are having fun and getting fitter. He urged members to visit the website which has been re-crafted to be seamless and smooth. Results are being posted quickly. Look for better things to come.
- **Northwestern Region** (George Walters) - report as provided in meeting package.
- **Ontario Masters Athletics** (Doug Smith) – Doug reported that OMA has a new website, logo and name. Their e-news goes to 1,400 people a year. The OMA enjoys – and appreciates - a unique relationship with AO in Canada. OMA started their own Hall of Fame a few years ago and are pleased to be involved in Awards Dinner and Hall of Fame Banquet in partnership with Athletics Ontario.

Motion: to accept the reports as presented
London Western TC and Windsor Legion TC

Carried

9. **Treasurer's Report, Budget Review, Motion for a Membership Fee Increase and Appointment of Auditors** (Dave Watt) – Dave commented on the audited statement and reminded the members of the reasons for such a large Members Equity. He also mentioned that Athletics magazine is a negative disbursement which has traditionally has lost money in the range of \$8,000-\$10,000 per year.

Motion: to accept audited statement for 2008-09

Dave Watt (Treasurer) and Flying Angels TC

Carried

2009-2010 Budget (current period) - Dave mentioned that, for different reasons but primarily because of some significant funding cuts, we anticipate a budget shortfall of about \$40K this fiscal year and for the fiscal year 2010-11.

2010-2011 Budget (period starting April 1st 2010)

- John showed a Power Point presentation outlining the funding situation, the funding application process and review notes as an explanation for funding cuts. Primary in the presentation was that membership numbers, which had been accepted in past applications, have been significantly reduced by our funding partner
- John also noted that the Association gets little or no credit for excellence

There was much discussion about membership plans and opportunities, and what the definition of membership was. John described a membership opportunity with the road running community and believes we can get our numbers back up to where they have been in the past.

There was consensus that membership needs to be a focus at all levels in the association and that all opportunities, from road running to high performance athletes to entry level programs need to be explored to push our numbers up.

Presentation of Proposed Budget: Dave reviewed different options and scenarios for membership fee increases while providing context for such increases.

John discussed some of the issue around fees including:

- the HST, which will be introduced and effective July 1, 2010
- that the last fee increase was in 2007 but that inflation has risen about 3.5% since then
- AO membership fees are low compared to other sports

Motion: to accept fees increases as recommended.

West Toronto TC and Oakville Legion TC

Carried

Motion: to accept the budget as presented

Dave Watt (Treasurer) and London Western TC

Carried

Motion: that Turnbull Thompson be appointed auditors for 2009-10 year

Dave Watt (Treasurer) and London Western TC

Carried

10. **Election of Directors** – John Craig introduced Val Sarjeant who was the Chair of the Nominations Committee. Val explained that four seats on the Board of Directors had been vacated as per the Association By-laws and were up for election. These seats were:

- Director of General Operations (Pat Reid)

- Chair (Bills Stephens)
- Vice Chair (Val Sarjeant)
- Director of Technical Development (Suzanne Leroux)

Bill Stephens, Val Sarjeant and Suzanne Leroux have all agreed to run for election again. Pat Reid has moved out of the province and will not be able to re-run for the position. However, Val advised that Leslie Estwick had agreed to put her name forward for nomination for the position of Director of General Operations.

Since no other nominations were received prior to the commencement of the Annual General Meeting, the slate of Directors was acclaimed as presented and no elections were necessary or held.

11. **New Business** – a motion had been presented by the Ottawa Lions to have Athletics Ontario pursue changes to Athletics Canada Rule 086. There was much discussion of the existing rule, the reasons for the proposal and the implications of a change.

As a result of the discussions, the motion was withdrawn.

12. **Comments by Chair** - Bill asked the membership to consider carefully all the time and energy that is going into the issue of athlete poaching. The same people seem to be involved all the time. Additionally, he asked the membership to think about athlete and coach behaviour after track meets, especially with respect to drinking alcohol. He cited some dangerous situations which could have been catastrophic and which should have been controlled.

Bill re-iterated the need to recruit more members of all ages and all talents, and the need for more coaches and officials as well.

He believes we are in the midst of exciting times especially in realm of high performance.

Hugh Cameron (Newmarket Huskies) added that, while staff and Board members have responded to the workshop from the AGM of 2009 to make some changes to the manner in which we conduct our business, there are lots of other activities that the staff does. With that in mind, change can't simply be the responsibility of the staff and, like business corporations, other parties need to join the effort to effect change. He suggested that, when there is a need to get a committee together, each club needs to try to contribute if we, as an Association, are to move forward. As things stand too much work being done by too few. He encouraged each club to participate on at least one committee.

He further suggested that we take the top 5 concerns from the 2008 workshops and get the rest of the membership involved to help us move forward.

ACTION: John and Bill agreed to try to find a way to get other club members involved in Association business and activity.

Motion to Adjourn: 1:54 pm
Stoney Creek