

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Athletics Ontario
Saturday, October 30, 2010**

Toronto Don Valley East Hotel and Suites
1250 Eglinton Ave. East
Toronto, ON, M3C 1J3

Time: 10:37

Votes Present: At 10:37 a quorum was present for the meeting. Present were 35 votes (quorum is 33).

1. **Call of Order and Welcome:** Chair Bill Stephens welcomed everyone, reminded them that the 3rd Annual Awards Night and Hall of Fame Induction would follow the meeting. Bill introduced Rob Guy who will be assuming the role of CEO for Athletics Canada beginning November 1, 2010.
2. **Parliamentary Procedures and Voting Review:** Secretary (John Craig) read out the voting procedures, the number of clubs and votes present and the call for an election, and reminded the members of Roberts Rules as they relate to the meeting.
3. **Introductions:** The Chair asked all Directors to introduce themselves. Bill introduced the staff. He then asked those present to rise for a moment of silence in remembrance of those in our community who passed away this past year.
4. **Approval of Agenda:** The Chair asked for a motion to approve the agenda.
Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.
Mississauga TFC and Speed Academy **Carried**
5. **Approval of the Minutes of the 2009 AGM:** The Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the 2009 AGM.
Motion: to waive reading of notice and approve the Minutes as presented.
London Western and Newmarket Huskies **Carried**
6. **Business Arising from the Minutes of the 2009 AGM:** None
7. **Ratification of the Business Conducted by the AO Board of Directors in 2009-2010:** Bill – Roman summarized the motions of the Technical Committee meeting of October 29, 2010.

John read the Board motion from October 29 which relates to the meets which AO will host and organize in 2011.

Sue Wise asked about the possibility of dual meets in outdoor 2011.

Ottawa Lions asked if the outdoor seniors would be a senior/junior meet or just senior. The Board answered that the meet is the Senior Championships only.

Sue Wise asked for clarification on some dates on the schedule.

Motion: to ratify the Business Conducted by the AO Board of Directors in 2009-2010:
Mississauga and London Western **Carried**

8. Reports:

- Chair (Bill Stephens) – Bill emphasized that the 3rd Annual Awards Dinner will take place after the AGM concludes and that the event has been well received. He thanked Suzanne Leroux, Stuart Smith and Harry Stantsos who finally got restructuring of the OOC completed after a good meeting with OOC representatives. Suzanne explained that the Board worked with representatives of the OOC to revise the Terms of Reference of the OOC so they now fall under the umbrella of AO. This was very hard work and took lots of patience, but we hope this leads to better communication and relationships with our officials, with better accountability on both sides. Bill noted that in 2010 Ontario hosted four National Championships and that, finally, the coaching credits have been completed. Bill also noted that Base Funding and AC Carding Criteria will continue to be a challenge.
- Vice Chair (Val Sarjeant) - Val emphasized the need to increase our membership numbers. He also suggested that, while the Association is running the Awards Dinner at a loss financially, we think it is a good program and we need to bring it to a cost neutral situation. He said we also need to find ways to become a major player as the Pan Am Games approach which will be a challenge in and of itself.
- Director of General Operations (Leslie Estwick) – as presented.
- Director of Coach/Athlete Development (Harry Stantsos) - Harry's report as presented. The new AO Athlete Transfer Policy has been posted on our website. Stuart mentioned that the new policy contains no major philosophical changes, but that some administrative changes have been made. The new policy requires both clubs to acknowledge and OK the transfer, but the athlete cannot represent the new club until new calendar year.

Stuart further advised that the group that made the new transfer policy was a very good group of senior coaches who worked to make sure the liability was minimized, paper work was easy and policy was clear.

There was some discussion about the way the policy addresses a transfer request when money or property is owed to the first club. Options on how to deal with this were discussed, but generally it was recognized that the new Policy only deals with the movement of an athlete from a club to 'Disassociated' status. If money or property is owed to the first club, the matter comes under the Code of Conduct and is addressed through other AO policy. Small claims court is also an option.

- Director of Technical Development (Suzanne Leroux) – Report as presented. Suzanne mentioned that rankings and records are up to date and that the membership requirement for rankings works. Beginning in January 2011 athletes can send in results for ranking purposes. Suzanne also mentioned that reports for clubs should be available by December of this year and will be in the form of an electronic file.

Sue Wise thanked Suzanne for the work she did on our meets last year.

- Director of Marketing and Membership (Stuart Smith) – Stuart thanked the newly formed Marketing Committee for some of the work it has done, which includes some interesting programs and ideas and some properties that we can own. He also thanked some of the volunteers on the committee including Brian Levine, Ron and Katie O’Hagan and Gabe Hayos.

Stuart mentioned that the Association has to continue to look at alternate ways of financing our organization other than government grants.

The Ottawa Lions suggested we run our membership numbers against other sports to see if trends we are seeing in our sport are common across other sports. For example, if our membership numbers for bantam boys are dropping, does the same trend exist in other sports? Stuart will check with OFSAA to see if this is a trend there too.

Similarly, John Stevenson of London Western suggested that, when we are looking at our membership numbers, we should also look beyond the sport into general demographics – a drop or rise in numbers may reflect general population changes and birth rates.

Stuart presented some graphs showing relative membership numbers and noted that Bantam Boys membership was down 30% over the past four years. He also commended growth of Masters group. In general, however, the membership has grown marginally over the last four years.

- Director of Technical Services (Roman Olszewski) – Highlights of this report include a note that we have far fewer working officials that the numbers indicate. We need more opportunities for new officials to get experience and remain in the sport, which is part of the interest of the new organization for OOC.

Roman then presented team pennants from past years that had not been presented. These included pennants for Laurel Creek, U of T, York University and several to the Ottawa Lions.

- Managing Director (John Craig) – John emphasized the changing funding landscape and predicted that there will be a move toward greater funding for high performance initiatives. He also mentioned that Ontario Soccer Association’s initiative to form Sports Clubs, which would involve teams of athletes in different sport; this is a European model for sports clubs. John advised that he would post the joint AO AC paper on the Pan Am Games on the AO website.
- Manager of Communications and Public Relations (Anthony Biggar) – as presented
- High Performance Coordinator (Sue Wise) Sue talked about the identification of our HP athletes for OHPSI program. She noted that coaching education programs is overwhelming task, and that we need to get more people certified as evaluators. She also said she can help organize funding for coaches workshops is assistance is required.

She also said that being a meet director (for AO hosted Championships) was a challenge and an experience, and that, with 2 days of hard rain, the National Qualifier was very hard; we learn from our mistakes. Thanks for the opportunity.

- Other reports :
 - Road Warrior Program (Michael Brennan) – as presented
 - Ontario Masters (Doug Smith) Doug reported that membership in Ontario had leveled off. Ontario Masters Athletics is developing a new website with member profiles and rankings, and they are trying to capture roadrunners membership. The Masters Association still enjoy affiliation with AO and they are working with Rob Guy to have all AC masters members as part of the Masters Association.

Motion: To accept Board and staff reports as presented.

Mississauga and Speed Academy

Carried

9. **Treasurer’s Report, Budget Review and Appointment of Auditors:** David Watt explained the audited report for fiscal year 2009-10 and outlined significant items and entries.

He then talked about funding, spending and budgets and the members’ equity. He said we use the members’ equity with caution, though the members’ equity allows us to maintain programs when revenues decline. He also mentioned that with Athletics Magazine moving to an online version, there is no loss associated with publication.

Motion: to accept the Auditors Report

Treasurer and London Western

Carried

Dave then presented the proposed budget for 2011-2012, which shows that we are continuing to budget for a loss. John said he would examine the revenues with respect to income from Competitions to see if the numbers shown in the budget reflect revenues or a net position. John Stevenson questioned the amount budgeted for officials’ programs (upgrading and recruitment), and was advised that the OOC currently had assets which are to be exhausted before AO budgets money for these programs.

Motion: to accept the budget as presented

Treasurer and London Western

Carried

Appointment of Auditors:

Motion: that Turnbull Thompson be appointed as auditors for 2010-2011

Treasurer and London Western

Carried

10. **Elections:** Chair of Nominations Committee and Managing Director: The Chair of the Nominations Committee, Val Sarjeant, advised that there are two positions up for election, those of Director Athlete and Coach Development, and Director of Marketing and Membership. He then advised that both Harry Stantsos and Stuart Smith had agreed to stand for election again.

John advised that no nominations had been properly received prior to the meeting. With that, Val declared the slate elected as presented.

Thanks for Harry and Stuart for their continuing contribution to the sport and the Association.

11. **New Business:** Sue Wise suggested a Golf Tournament and other options for raising funds, and some ideas were exchanged on how to organize such an event. The membership thought these ideas were worth chasing and Sue said she would not be able to organize the entire thing, but might be able to contribute.
12. **Closing Comments by Chair:** Bill Stephens closed the meeting by saying that this was one of the most productive meetings for discussion and dialogue in many years. He thanked those present for their energy and contribution.

Sharon Stewart from NOC asked about proposals for race distances and was asked to forward questions and comments to Bill and/or Roman.

Adjournment: St. Thomas Legion

1:03 pm

NOTE: After a short break, there were two presentations. One was delivered by Nancy Au of Pearson-Dunn Insurance on Risk Management at the club level, and the second was on Talent Identification at the club level, presented by Tim Taha.