

TONBRIDGE ATHLETIC CLUB

Draft Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

held at 7:30pm on Wednesday 15th February 2023

in the Pavilion

Present as per register: Alan Bennett (Chair of meeting), Ann Czarnowski (Secretary), James Taylor, Tony Bennett, Cain Bradley, Diane Bradley, Nigel Brooks, Sebastian Brooks, Steve Daly, Pete Ebbage, Michael Ellis, Sally Emm, Chris Hogwood, Mark Hookway, Bev Keech, Grazia Manzotti, Mark Pitcairn-Knowles, Iain Presnell, John Sanders.

1. Welcome by Chairman of Trustees

The Chair of Trustees' flight back from New Zealand had been delayed due to the cyclone and Alan Bennett (Club President) kindly agreed to chair the meeting and welcomed people.

2. Apologies

Tim Fagg, Rachel Fagg, Peter Mason, Pete Brenchley, Vicky Stoodley, Frank Czarnowski, Lucy Pitcairn-Knowles, Ellen Pitcairn-Knowles, Alan Marriott, John Harley, Andy Poppleton, Ben Cowling, Dan Paterson, Cate Silvester, Penny Pilbeam, Dan Bradley, Andy Bennett.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 9th February 2022 were agreed by those present. There were no matters arising.

4. Report of the Management Committee

This highlighted the continuing successes of many Tonbridge AC athletes, both individually and in the leagues. We had two athletes at the Commonwealth Games (and another one who should have been there) and were almost promoted in the National Athletics League. After a busy summer hosting, many league fixtures the difficult decision was taken to withdraw from the Southern Athletics League as it was considered too much of a commitment for athletes and officials.

New volunteers are always welcome, and it would be especially good to encourage younger volunteers to provide succession planning. The committee has therefore started the discussion on paying key volunteers and will continue to flesh out details and consult with volunteers. Last year saw officials being reimbursed for travel expenses and this is likely to be extended.

James Taylor apologised for any errors or omissions in the report.

The full report is available on the Tonbridge AC website.

5. Treasurer's Report

The accounts are available on the website. The Club continues to be in a healthy financial position. We have spent money last year updating some equipment and we are feeling the effects of the cost-of-living crisis:

- track hire fees increased by September's CPI, 9.9%,
- hire costs for; coaches for transportation (also needed for longer trips),
- electronic timing equipment and

- league fees have increased significantly.

Looking forward there are also commitments to repair the throws practice cage and we are looking into purchasing electronic timing equipment.

Nichola Evans and Sally Emm were thanked for their work in producing the accounts.

It was agreed to adopt the accounts for the period 1/10/2021 to 30/9/2022 by those present.

6. Appointment of Auditor

Tony Bennett was thanked for independently examining the accounts and for being willing to do the same next year.

7. Membership Subscription 1st April 2023-31st March 2024

The Trustees and Management Committee proposed passing on the £1 increase in the England Athletic affiliation fee to members, taking the total to £117 (£100 plus England Athletics affiliation fee of £17) for the year commencing 1st April 2023. This is less than £2 per week and represents fantastic value.

The joining fee of £50 is to stay the same.

The discount for additional family members is to be reduced. The first two members will pay the full fee (£117pp) and subsequent members 75% of TAC fee plus the England Athletics fee (total £92 pp).

Those in higher, further education or on apprenticeship can apply to the Membership Secretary to pay the membership fee by instalments of £10 per month.

Anyone in financial hardship should contact the Membership Secretary.

It was agreed by all present that a total membership fee for the year 2023/2024 of £117 is appropriate and that the discount for family membership is reduced.

8. Re-Election of Honorary Members

Life Past President Bob Hales, Life Vice President Dave Adkin and the current President are not subject to re-election.

It was agreed unanimously to re-elect the existing Vice Presidents, who had all made significant contributions to the Club, namely: Dave Clarke, Chris Clinch, Sue Curtis, David Hull, Maurice Marchant, Michael Redhead, John Roberts, Paul Robertson and Andy Yeomans.

(Dave Cross was also re-elected but has subsequently tendered his resignation, both as a club member and as a Vice President).

It was noted that work has started on producing a virtual Honours Board to recognise those that have made a significant contribution to the club. Dave Cross was thanked for providing much of the initial historical information which we now need someone to take over.

9. Election of Trustees

A third of the trustees are required to stand down but may be reappointed. Tim Fagg and Mark Pitcairn Knowles agreed to stand down but were happy to be reappointed.

This was agreed by all present.

Current trustees are Tim Fagg, Mark Pitcairn- Knowles, Grazia Manzotti, James Taylor and Sally Emm.

10. Election of Management Committee

Four significant retirements:

Iain Presnell, after 30 plus years in various roles on the committee.

Peter Mason after nearly 30 years in various roles on committee.

Bev Keech after nearly 20 years as membership secretary, and

Ann Czarnowski after 12 years as club secretary. They were thanked for all their hard work.

They are to be replaced by John Harley/Pete Ebbage/John Sanders, Michael Ellis, Ben Cowling and Dan Paterson respectively.

This was agreed by all present.

No other nominations for the other roles have been received therefore the current holders are re-elected.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Current Holder</u>
Chair	James Taylor
Treasurer	Sally Emm
Secretary	Dan Paterson
Vice Chair	Vacant
Membership Secretary	Ben Cowling
Coaching Coordinator	Michael Ellis
Volunteers' Coordinator	Graeme Charters
TSC Liaison Officer	John Harley
Ground and Equipment Liaison	Pete Ebbage/John Sanders
Home Fixtures Coordinator	James Taylor
Club Welfare Officers	Cate Silvester/Chris Hogwood
Athlete Representatives	Lewis Church and Lucy Reid

New post holders in bold.

There are also vacancies for officials, coaches, a social secretary, a fundraising coordinator.

11. Award of the Leslie Le May Trophy

This is awarded annually to those who have made a significant contribution to or on behalf of the club and can only be awarded once to the same recipient. The President had a straightforward decision this year after seeing a TAC athlete on TV from across the world at the Commonwealth Games. The award this year is made to the decathlete Harry Kendall.

12. Any Other Business

- Recognition and appreciation for the work of Di Bradley and Dave Cross for the 75th Anniversary event last Summer.
- There was a discussion about the restructuring of the Youth Development League. It was felt that the YDL Lower works more effectively than the YDL Upper. As the YDL Upper can be a whole day, it needs a full complement of officials but only a few athletes turn up. Athletes are also discouraged by the poor level of competition in the non-premier divisions.
There are also lots of alternative meetings outside of the league where competition is often better. Increasing the number of clubs in a division and competing in a round

robin format is an option being touted, also changing the age categories to U12/ U14/18/U20 which fits in with European age groupings.

Views are being discussed on Facebook; Chris Hogwood is part of this group and there is due to be an emergency AGM to discuss the restructuring. This will be discussed further in the Coaching Subgroup and Management Committee.

Members were requested to send any thoughts to Chris and/or Michael Ellis.

- There was a question about incident forms. They are available in the pavilion but will also be made available on the website with details of who to send them to. The incident information is provided to and noted by committee. It is stored and any trends noted and acted upon if needed.
- A reminder that new volunteers are always needed in a number of roles and are vital to enable the club to continue to develop and compete successfully.

The Chairman thanked all the attendees. He closed the meeting at 8.36pm.