

TONBRIDGE ATHLETIC CLUB

Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting

held at 7:30pm on Wednesday 28th February 2024

in the Pavilion

Present as per register: Tim Fagg (Chair of meeting), Dan Paterson (Secretary), James Taylor, John Harley, Vicky Curling, John Sanders, Christopher Leach, Cain Bradley, Diane Bradley, Mark Hookway, Michael Ellis, Mark Omerod, Sally Emm, Rachel Fagg, Mark Pitcairn-Knowles, Tony Bennett, Tony Fullbrook, Chris Hogwood, Nigel Brooks, Peter Ebbage,

1. Welcome by Chairman of Trustees

Tim Fagg chaired the meeting and welcome attendees. A heartfelt statement was made about the passing of Alan Bennett.

2. Apologies

Julie Goodge, Beverley Keech, Maurice Marchant, Jamie Goodge, Katie Goodge, Graeme Charters, Andy Wood, Iain Presnell, Dawn Hookway, and Steve Daly.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 15th February 2023 were agreed by those present. There were no matters arising.

4. Report of the Management Committee

James presented the Chairman's report and started with a tribute to Alan Bennett and his long and outstanding contributions to the Club and our community. He also mentioned that the Club was now in process of looking for a new President for a 3-year term under our Club constitution.

James then presented the main report noting specifically that 2023 was a superb competition year and results for the club and relayed Congratulations to all athletes involved and many thanks to all coaches, team managers, volunteers, and management committee for all their hard work.

Notably, Mark Hookway will be stepping down as Winter Team manager after two decades in the role. He thanked Mark for his very significant contributions and that a potential splitting of his role and search for successor was underway.

Finally, James noted that the club remains in a vulnerable on officials, which is a vital part of ensuring the success of the club. Additionally, there is a need to invest in retention and succession planning for coaches. These areas will be of particular focus in the coming year – all these areas are important to the success of the club.

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. Nicola Evans was thanked for producing the accounts and Tony Bennett for auditing them.

The Club continues to be in a healthy financial position and made a surplus of £12.2k during the accounting period, notably lower than previous years. We have spent money last year updating some equipment and have recently spent £8.2k repairing the practice cage in the lower field.

We continue to feel the effects of the cost-of-living crisis:

- track hire fees increased by September's CPI, 6.3% adding to £2k to annual costs,
- hire costs for coaches for transportation (also needed for longer trips),
- electronic timing equipment costing an additional £2.6k during the coming summer season, and
- league fees have increased significantly.

We continue to investigate purchasing electronic timing equipment.

It was agreed to adopt the accounts for the period 1/10/2022 to 30/9/2023 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 2024-31st March 2025

The Trustees and Management Committee proposed passing on the £2 increase in the England Athletic affiliation fee for competing athletes to members, taking the total to £119 (£100 plus England Athletics affiliation fee of £19) for the year commencing 1st April 2024.

Membership subscription fees are still less than £2 per week and represents fantastic value.

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

There was a discussion about how best to utilise Club reserves (various ideas were presented from the floor such as investment, giving back to members etc). It was agreed that the Management Committee (and Trustees) would take the matter away to finalise concrete plans.

It was agreed by all present that a total membership fee for the year 2024/2025 of £119 is appropriate.

8. Re-Election of Honorary Members

Life Vice President Dave Adkin is 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: Chris Clinch, Sue Curtis, Maurice Marchant, Michael Redhead, John Roberts, Paula Robertson, Dave Clarke, Andy Yeomans, and David Hull.

9. Election of Trustees

A third of the trustees are required to stand down but may be reappointed.

Mark Pitcairn Knowles and Grazia Manzotti 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

No nominations 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
Membership Secretary	Ben Cowling
Coaching Coordinator	Michael Ellis
Volunteers' Coordinator	Graeme Charters
Home Fixtures Coordinator	Vacant
Club Welfare Officers	Chris Hogwood and 1 Vacancy
Athlete Representatives	Lewis Church and Lucy Reid
Health and Safety Representative	Mark Ormerod

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.

This year's award was presented by Anthony Bennett and was awarded to Michael Ellis for his contributions to the club.

12. Any Other Business

None

The Chairman thanked all the attendees. He closed the meeting at 8.34pm.