

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Blackpool Cricket Club

1 Apologies for Absence and Attendance

Bob Massey welcomed everyone to the AGM and stated his desire to stand down as Chair in 2020 to concentrate on C25k and making the club more community based.

Bev Wright, Gillian Jones, Karen Dunford & Claire Irons sent their apologies.

Members Present: Nick Hume, Fiona Little, Malcolm Beech, Daniel Kearney, Karen Slater, Sharon Holt, Paula Howard, Laura Lawler, Tony Airnes, Reg Smallbone, George James, Charlie Garrett, Andrea Smith, Bob Massey, Anthony Blight, Derek Newton, David Wood, Stan Taylor, Howard Henshaw, Simon Scarr. Margaret Crompton.

2 The Minutes of the AGM held 30th April 2018 were proposed by Andrea Smith and seconded by Anthony Blight.

3 Secretary's Report

Welcome

At the present time the Club is struggling with its identity within the community due to challenges from other "social running groups", other local clubs and a lack of cohesion between some of the different disciplines.

The challenge we face and hopefully resolve shortly is that there have been a number of retirements from the Committee which leaves the club exposed if we fail to fill the places in a short while.

Discussions have taken place and information sent out which has hopefully encouraged new members and parents to realise that there is a role for them to play within the club and to assist in its forth coming progression.

We have options for a Parent's Sub-Committee and a Social Sub-Committee which will hopefully be resurrected in the coming weeks after tonight's AGM. Junior members will be encouraged to become Ambassadors which is an EA initiative that has been discussed but not taken forward so far, but perhaps the time is now right to progress that. These Sub-Committees can meet less regularly than the main Committee and feed ideas, initiative upwards as and when proposed and then take forward if signed-off. Ideas have already been suggested and we will hear of those later in the Meeting.

Volunteers are the life-blood of the club and this has been I theme I have tried to develop for a number of years now. The more Volunteers we have the less time that will be required from each of them but a Volunteer Co-Ordinator is a pre-requisite to ensure a smooth pathway is provided between the volunteers and organisers looking for assistance.

We are a family and at times we do not always see eye to eye and things get blown up out of all perspective, but if we believe in BWF AC we must seek to work together for the benefit of all our members, respecting each other's views and listening and considering before making decisions which should be beneficial to all. This is not always easy and over the years there have been many ups and downs within the BWF AC family.

Commitment to the Club means just that and there are expectations from each role which have to be delivered and sometimes this is not always easy as we try to juggle so many conflicting priorities in today's busy world – family, work, social, training all take time but so does being involved with BWF AC.

My personal thanks go to all those who have contributed to the Club during the last 12 months as your efforts are appreciated because without you there would be no BWF AC. Even a couple of hours raking a sandpit during a T&F Meeting or an hour as a marshal at the Inter Club counts in all this as it means one less to think about. Not everyone has to be a Committee Member and I know there are tasks that can be completed at home without needing to know anything about athletics and hopefully these can be circulated in due course. There are also some tasks that require shadowing so that a seamless transition can take place at the appropriate time whilst others require attendance at the appropriate course and many hours then developing that skill.

We have a good base within the Club catering for athletes of all abilities from age 7 to 87 and beyond. A select few will go on to win honours in major championships, but for others it is just to improve their PB or simply to be able to run further without stopping and improve their own health and well-being.

We are one club but with different disciplines which should not be distinct and separate but be seen to be working together to support each other where possible. One idea might be for the road runners to meet on a Tuesday and/or Thursday evening rather than a Wednesday to increase the chances of socialising together in the club-house.

Can 2019 – 20 become the year when members start coming together again, building upon what has been achieved over the last 10 years and hopefully attracting more new members into the club? In order to achieve some of this additional coaches are required for the Junior sections, otherwise athletes could be lost forever to athletics or to another sport. A lack of suitably qualified officials are also a cause for concern as very few young ones are coming through, as athletes continue to compete longer now than they used to, and without these vital parts of our sport grass roots athletics will wither and perish and the new breed of runners will take over.

Tonight is, I believe, a new starting point but as Steve Cram recently said when reflecting upon the modern obsession with health and safety, “Modern society is not one which embraces the culture of our sport as it might have done 15 or 20 years ago, so athletics clubs have to work harder to get youngsters those opportunities. It's a harder sport for us to keep producing in because we are cutting the opportunities. There are lots of health and safety issues at schools and indeed athletic clubs and local authorities don't want to build long-jump facilities and that kind of thing because people consider them unsafe. A lot of schools won't do hurdles because it is deemed unsafe”.

4 Treasurer's Report 1/4/18 – 31/3/19

Andrea presented the Annual Accounts which had been audited by Peter Gibson. Andrea highlighted that the March T&F income and expenditure was not included which would be an additional £3k or so. Therefore, the position was very similar to that of last year.

As there were no issues or questions arising the Chair thanked Andrea for her work over the last year and indeed the preceding nine as she was now stepping down from the role. A small presentation of gratitude was made.

5 Election of Officers

The following members the Committee were elected:

Confirmation of President	Howard Henshaw
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Officers:

Chairman	Bob Massey
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Vice Chairman	Malcolm Beech
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Treasurer	Fiona Little
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General Secretary	Nick Hume
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Membership & Subscription Secretary	Nick Hume
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Welfare Officer	Sue Ball
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Equipment Officer	Dave Needham
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Kit Officer	Sharon Holt
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Director of Coaching	Sam Rogers
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Athletes Rep: Male	Mark Warner
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Athletes Rep: Female	Karen Dunford
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Schools Liaison Officer	Tbc
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Track & Field Secretary	Stan Taylor
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Sportshall Secretary	Tbc
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Publicity Officer	Dave Wood
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Confirmation of Club Auditor	Peter Gibson
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Other Posts:

Parents SC

Social Secretary

General Reps	Amanda Fuller, Bev Wright, Charlie Garrett, Anthony Blight, Laura Lawler, Paula Howard
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Hon Medical Officer	Dr Martyn Lucking
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6 Special Motions/Items

No Special Motions raised

7 Any Other Business

- i) Sharon asked what would be the consequences of cancelling the contract with The Grand Hotel and looking elsewhere to hold the Presentation Night?
- ii) A decision to try and move to on-line banking was discussed and Fiona promised to look into this.

Meeting Closed 20.50

Nick Hume

BWF AC Secretary