

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held via Zoom

1 Apologies for Absence and Attendance

Stan Taylor welcomed everyone to the AGM and expressed his wish to see more people coming forward to offer their services as Coaches and Volunteers during 2021.

Howard Henshaw, Paula Howard and Amanda Fuller sent their apologies.

Members Present: Stan Taylor, Nick Hume, Fiona Little, Malcolm Beech, Sharon Holt, Laura Lawler, Bob Massey, Anthony Blight, Derek Newton, Mark Warner, Bill Smith, Fiona Martin, Fran Connolly.

2 The Minutes of the AGM held 24th April 2019 were proposed by Andrea Smith and seconded by Anthony Blight. These had been held over due to the cancellation of the 2020 AGM by the Covid-19 pandemic.

3 Secretary's Report

Welcome

During the last year we have all lived through exceptional times and everyone has been impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic in one way or another. Our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones during this time and to those who have suffered in so many other ways. And still there is no real end to this in sight and the world of athletics is still coming to terms with how competitions will work as we move forward.

Due to the Pandemic the 2020 AGM was cancelled, but the BWF AC Committee continued to meet, once it became clear that this was not a short term impact, via Zoom, and try its best to understand the rapidly changing picture and come to terms with new technology (for some at least!).

As a way of trying to keep members motivated a number of Virtual Events were organised throughout the year and though aimed at the Senior Members, Juniors were encouraged to participate, which included the following:

- i) Birthday Greetings via Facebook from April 20 – March 21
- ii) The Captain's Challenges for 12 weeks
- iii) LEJOG Virtual Relay
- iv) The Welsh Castles Virtual Relay
- v) The Pennine Way Virtual Challenge
- vi) The Green Belt Relay
- vii) The Round Norfolk Relay
- viii) The Olympic Cities Relay – London – Tokyo
- ix) Three Walking Treasure Hunts
- x) Inter Club Manchester to Blackpool Relay
- xi) Inter Club Virtual 4m Challenge

Individual coaches also had great fun in setting their own athletes challenges and some were captured on video and shared via the Club's Closed Facebook Page. Sarah Parsons was very good at this and is to be congratulated for her use of technology. Stan Taylor held Zoom Meetings for

his endurance group and like other coaches continued to set training schedules to ensure that the Juniors kept motivated and also fit and healthy.

Whilst it was much easier for the road runners to step out of their front doors and run those engaged in field events had much more of a challenge and indeed had to find novel and new ways of trying to maintain their interest and fitness and we hope that not too many have now been lost to the club.

When Lockdown's were lifted a few competitions did take place but only a few athletes decided to participate for one reason or another. All Leagues and Championships were cancelled in 2020 as was the Club Presentation Night and for the first time no awards could be presented. In 2021 a Virtual Road Championship has commenced but no trophies will be awarded apart from some small recognitions to the winners and those completing the series. No decision has yet been reached on the 2021 T&F Championships.

Almost a year ago the Club were stunned to learn of the untimely death of Club stalwart David Wood and many turned out to show their love when his funeral took place and listened outside to the funeral service due to Covid restrictions. Since then, a Zoom Memorial has been held and thoughts have turned to a suitable tribute to David. The Inter Club Series is now known as the David Wood Inter Club Series in recognition of all the photos he used to take for all the Clubs involved and his willingness to chat and support all teams involved.

I would like to thank all the BWF AC Committee, Coaches and Volunteers for all they have done during the last 12 months in trying to ensure that some sort of "normal" athletics activity could continue within the Government Rules & Guidelines and I think we achieved this. Reports continue to appear in the Gazette in order to ensure our presence is made known locally, but this is a process that requires assistance as it is not easy thinking of something new to write each week and also hunt down results now that events are starting to take place.

BWF AC has had a number of new members joining during the last year and hopefully the club will benefit from these new athletes in the coming months. However, more volunteers, especially coaches and officials are required, in order for the Club to remain sustainable and without this some real problems could lie ahead in terms of being able to provide the expert coaching that is a feature of the club. Without officials we will not be able to fulfil our League requirements, so I would ask everyone to consider what they can do to assist BWF AC and to contact the Club Volunteer Coordinator, Amanda Fuller, to discuss.

At the moment the Club Website is being redesigned as we wish to make this the single source of information for the Club with the other Social Media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter etc a secondary source of information, as we appreciate that not everyone wishes to use social media. However, the success of the website will rely on Club Members, particularly Committee and Coaches, providing Mark Warner (Webmaster) with up to date and relevant information as and when necessary. Until this redesign has been completed some updates will still appear on the current Website and also on the BWF AC Closed Facebook Page which is a controlled access site.

The coming year brings many new challenges as we all adapt to the impact of Covid upon society but also in terms of the facilities at Stanley Park which need some urgent work to make them safe for use. I would like to thank Dave Needham for all he has done in terms of making the Sports Centre aware of many of the issues and also for the repairs he has undertaken himself. However, there are some expensive outlays for the Club which will call upon our finances but hopefully

some of this will be covered by applying for a number of Grants which are available for this type of expenditure. Therefore, whilst Club Membership has been kept much lower than usual for 2020 – 21 and 2021 – 22 it will have to be reviewed for the 2022 – 23 year.

My main hope for 2021 is that we can continue to grow as a Club and work together for the benefit of all our members and provide the Juniors with a love of sport that will last them a lifetime and that some will become the athletics leaders of the future.

Finally, Luke Helm, a BWF AC Life Member asked me to include this for him: “Just a short note to let you know how grateful I am for the award I received for Life Membership of the club. The past 7 or 8 years have been extremely difficult for my mother and I for various reasons, receiving the award came as an extremely pleasant surprise and now takes pride of place on the mantle place. I thought it may be apt to thank you and the club membership, via the Committee, at the forthcoming AGM via this short note.

4 Treasurer’s Report 1/4/19 – 31/3/20 and 1/4/20 – 31/3/21

Fiona presented the Annual Accounts, which had been checked by Peter Gibson, for the last two years. Fiona stated that during 2019 – 20 she had been coming to terms with how BWF AC operated and the types of income and expenditure that were generated. She thanked everyone who had assisted her on this journey and Peter Gibson for his advice. The Accounts now show the amount of Club Kit in stock which when sold would be additional revenue and thanks were passed to Sharon Holt for her work in this area. Paula Howard is also keeping records for the Tuck Shop. Also in 2019- 20 a Grant had been received from Cash for Kids which had assisted with new club equipment and coaching courses. Derek raised the point about whether there was a deadline for spending it all and Fiona would check.

In March 2020 the Bank Account was transferred to Barclays and went on-line which made tracking so much more efficient. Anthony Blight was thanked for his assistance in making this happen. 2002 - 21 was an exceptional year when just about everything was cancelled so very few transactions had taken place and this is reflected in the Accounts. The Chair thanked Fiona for all her work in this area over the last two years.

5 Election of Officers

The following members the Committee were elected:

Confirmation of President	Howard Henshaw
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Officers:

Chairman	Stan Taylor
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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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BLACKPOOL, WYRE & FYLDE AC
AGM 28th April 2021

Equipment Officer	Dave Needham
Kit Officer	Sharon Holt
Director of Coaching	Sam Rogers
Athletes Rep: Male	Mark Warner
Athletes Rep: Female	Laura Lawler
Schools Liaison Officer	Derek Newton
Track & Field Secretary	Stan Taylor
Sportshall Secretary	Vacancy
Publicity Officer	Vacancy
Confirmation of Club Auditor	Peter Gibson
Other Posts:	
Parents SC	Vacancy
Social Secretary	Vacancy
General Reps	Amanda Fuller, Anthony Blight, Paula Howard, Bill Smith, Bob Massey

It was also noted that in line with England Athletics Guidelines two Covid-19 Officers had been appointed during the year. These were Laura Lawler and Dave Needham who will continue whilst the requirement remains.

6 Special Motions/Items

No Special Motions raised

7 Any Other Business

Nothing had been raised prior to the Meeting.

However, Bob asked when the Club House would re-open and Stan agreed to check with the Sports Centre.

Stan updated the Meeting on the planned spend for High Jump and Pole Vault covers and that hopefully most of the cost could be reclaimed via Grants.

Stan then thanked everyone for their attendance.

Meeting Closed 20.45

Nick Hume

BWF AC Secretary