

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Blackpool Cricket Club

1 Apologies for Absence and Attendance

Stan Taylor welcomed everyone to the AGM.

Claire Irons, Sharon Holt, Mark Warner, Susan Samme, Fran Connolly, Jennifer Burtonwood, Helen & Andy Hall, Margaret Crompton and Andrea Smith sent their apologies.

Members Present: Stan Taylor, Nick Hume, Fiona Little, Howard Henshaw, Malcolm Beech, Amanda Fuller, Laura Lawler, Bob Massey, Anthony Blight, Derek Newton, Bill Smith, George James, Paula Howard, Daniel Kearney, Luke Helmn & John Dunn.

- 2 The Minutes of the AGM held 28th April 2021 were proposed by Malcolm Beech and seconded by Anthony Blight.

3 New BWF AC Constitution Proposed

It was explained that this was driven by England Athletics who had requested Clubs to review their Policies and Procedures and adopt those recommended by EA. Stan explained that the new proposed Constitution was many more pages than the one previously issued by EA but was based upon the need to ensure adequate safeguards were in-place for all affiliated Clubs. Nick stated that as part of our affiliation he has to now upload various documents on to the EA Portal and he had been working on these for some time. The drafts had been signed-off by the Committee and currently we fulfilled 4 out of the 7 criteria.

Malcolm Beech proposed that the new Constitution was accepted and this was seconded by Anthony Blight. This was carried unanimously by the Meeting.

4 Secretary's Report

Welcome

The last 12 months have seen the athletics world re-emerge from the shadow of Covid and it is pleasing to say that things have returned to some normality. The Club has come through the last 24 months strengthened in some areas but weakened in others and has to rebuild and reshape for the future.

What is required is a new influx of coaches, officials and volunteers to ensure that BWF AC remains healthy and vibrant and able to accept all those Juniors out there who wish to start their athletic journey. At the moment we are having to disappoint some because of a lack of volunteers and these youngsters will be lost to other sports.

Being involved in BWF AC involves a commitment and in today's world there seems to be less and less time to give back to the community as everyone becomes caught up in their own little world's. There is a concern at higher levels that the lack of officials will lead to the cancellation of events, especially in track and field where insufficient qualified officials means that events cannot take place. Also do officials wish to be standing out in all weathers on a Saturday and Sunday as is sometimes the case.

All too often the burden is carried by a few dedicated volunteers and this is true of many other sports as well. How this can be resolved has been debated many times but yet no-one has the answer and we continue as best we can.

Saying that I have to pay thanks to all those who are on the Committee, our dedicated Coaches, Officials and volunteers who time and time again turn out to assist the Club whenever the need arises and this is also recognised by others which is great.

On a more positive side the Club has enjoyed success in the Mid Lancs Cross County with a number of team and individual medals and the Men qualified for and competed in the National 12 Stage for the first time in almost 15 years. The Track & Field side has a number of talented Juniors, Seniors and Masters who are holding their own in the various Leagues and we wish them well for the coming season.

Weekly Reports in the Gazette continue to highlight the Club's activities across all disciplines and has resulted in a number of athletes switching clubs and new recruits as they realise that BWF AC does have something to offer them given the number of events there are to participate in for athletes of all abilities.

England Athletics has been asking for Clubs to update their Operating, Welfare and Safe-Guarding Policies as part of our affiliation obligations and a lot of work has gone into this but it is not completed yet. Can I please ask that all Club Members log on to their EA Portal and accept that they have read the Code of Conduct that applies to themselves as I have to monitor this. The new BWF AC documents will be published on the Club Website and all Members must be aware of them and the obligations enshrined in them.

There is a new buzz in the air around the Club and hopefully this coming year will see BWF AC continue its upward journey with all members feeling welcome and encouraged on their athletic journey.

Stan thanked Nick for all the work he had undertaken on the new Constitution and the other documents. He stated that EA were well aware of the issues facing Clubs but still they expected hard pressed volunteers to undertake more.

5 Treasurer's Report 1/4/21 – 31/3/22

Fiona presented the Annual Accounts, which had been checked by Peter Gibson, and issued to all those who had indicated their attendance. She also thanked Nick for standing in for her at the Committee Meetings and presenting the current updates.

She explained that a couple of areas should be linked and that expenditure for the Pole Vault Cover was shown within Track Equipment.

Derek Newton asked whether the Club would be prepared to look at some match funding if the new developments proposed by the Council went ahead which encouraged some debate among attendees. This would be considered by the Committee as and when the occasion arose. Stan pointed out that our purchase of the High Jump and Pole Vault Covers saved the Council that expenditure (£5 – 6k).

Daniel Kearney wondered whether match funding this would give us any influence with the council for use of the track but Stan thought that it was very unlikely.

Stan thanked Fiona for all her work in maintaining the Accounts and Peter for his checks.

6 Election of Officers

The following members the Committee were elected:

BLACKPOOL, WYRE & FYLDE AC
AGM 25th April 2022

Confirmation of President	Howard Henshaw
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Officers:

Chairman	Stan Taylor
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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	Susan Ball & Pastor Steve Dunn
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Director of Coaching	Vacancy
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Officials Lead	Vacancy
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DBS Verifiers	Nick Hume & Dave Needham
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General Committee Posts to Cover:

Volunteer Co-ordinator	Amanda Fuller
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Equipment Officer	Dave Needham
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Kit Officer	Sharon Holt
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Schools Liaison Officer	Derek Newton
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Track & Field Secretary	Stan Taylor
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Press Officer	Nick Hume
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Confirmation of Club Auditor	Peter Gibson
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General Committee	Anthony Blight, Paula Howard, Bill Smith, Bob Massey, Laura Lawler, Mark Warner, John Dunn
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Confirmation of Club Auditor	Peter Gibson
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7 Special Motions/Items

No Special Motions raised

8 Any Other Business

Nothing had been raised prior to the Meeting.

Meeting Closed 20.48

Nick Hume

BWF AC Secretary