

FINAL MINUTES (AGREED AT THE 2021 AGM) OF VETERANS AC AGM
7.00pm MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2020
HELD VIA ZOOM

ATTENDANCE

The following members attended: Sarah Allen, Laurence Bryce, Terry Casey, Martin Daoud, Helen Davies, Malcolm Davies, Maurice Doogan, Chris Flint, Anna Garnier, Carey Gray, Heather Graz, David Hinds, Peter Kennedy, Sarah Knox, Carl Lawton, Pat Logan, Allan Long, Mike Mann, Brian Mardling, Chris Michael, Doug Milsom, Giuseppe Minetti, Andy Murray, Liam O'Hare, Jo Quantrill, Ian Richards, Maggie Statham-Berry, Ros Tabor, Peter Torre, Richards Weekes, Peter Wishart.

1. APOLOGIES

Received from: Heather Allen, Joe Aspinall. Joanne Bennett, Sue Boyman, Antony Brown, Sholto Douglas-Home, Penny Elliott, Barry Ferguson, Martin Garrett, Michael Graz, Lynda Hembury, Ian Johnston, Douglas Maughan, Margaret Moody, Richard Pitcairn-Knowles, Tom Richards, Liz Sissons, Al Sowden, Dennis Williams.

2. MINUTES of 2019 AGM

The minutes were agreed as a true record (proposed by Peter Torre, seconded by Anna Garnier).

3. MATTERS ARISING

These are covered under later agenda items.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

This was presented by Ros Tabor. She explained that this was a hard report to write as we were still in the Covid-19 pandemic. Her full report can be found at Annex A. She went on to summarise the key points.

- The Committee had decided to ask Anna Garnier to be President for another year, and she had accepted
- She expressed thanks to the committee for its hard work.
- It had not yet been possible to replace our track and field secretary, Mike May who had sadly died last year, but she commended Peter Kennedy who had stepped in to fill the gap.
- There had been a useful promotion of the club through an article by Runner's World in its July 2020 edition.
- The club held its cross country championship in January and its indoor championships in February. These were both successful. All other events including road and outdoor track and field championships were forced to be cancelled.
- The Les Brown award for 2019 had been awarded to Andy Murray.

5. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

This was presented by Peter Kennedy. A full report can be found at Annex B. The main highlights were as follows:

- VAC membership numbers stood at 635 at the end of March 2020 compared with 577 in September 2019 but had since fallen to 446 as of 17 September.

- 190 had not renewed their membership. Once regular competition returns, many of these are expected to return, though the club may suffer a net loss of members by March 2021.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Andy Murray presented the VAC accounts for the year ending 31 March 2020. He noted that the accounts had been audited by VAC member, Graham Laylee. The accounts showed a surplus of £921, with income of £11,664 and expenditure of £10,743. With the reduction in membership fees to £12, the club was closer to break even.

In discussion, Peter Wishart questioned the justification for the various affiliation fees, particularly the fee of £2,775 to BMAF and £416 to EAMA. In particular, he asked for an explanation of how the BMAF affiliation fee per member was determined. Andy Murray explained that the BMAF affiliation fee was based on the size of club membership and that the affiliation fee of £416 to EAMA was mainly for England hosting the International Masters Cross Country event every 5 years. Peter Wishart questioned the additional donation of £500 to EAMA. Peter Kennedy explained that EAMA has no income other than the annual affiliation fees but every five years it is required to stage the British & Irish Masters Cross Country match which could cost around £12,000 to £15,000 to lay on. EAMA asked Area Clubs for a donation to help to cover the costs of the 2019 event in England. The VAC Committee agreed to contribute £500. Peter Wishart commented that it seemed to him that a lot of money was spent on competitions for runners and that field event specialists got the least, especially the throwers who frequently see the numbers of attempts cut from six to four. He agreed to Ros Tabor's suggestion that this discussion should continue in the Track and Field section of the meeting.

Giuseppe Minetti asked what plans the club had to use its £23,000 bank balance. Andy Murray explained that over time some of this would go back to members through reduced fees and that the club had a legacy which it was using to fund walking events.

Chris Flint commented that VAC's proposed financial sponsorship of the Centurions 100 Mile National Championship walking event would not be taken up in 2021 because the event had been deferred until 2022.

7. APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT

It was agreed that Anna Garnier should serve as President for a further year.

8. PROPOSALS

None were submitted.

9. REPORTS FROM DISCIPLINES

a) Track and Field

Peter Kennedy presented a summary of his written report, which can be found at Annex C. He explained that the results of the survey he had commissioned had shown support for championships organised by the club but the problems with finding officials were recognised. There was support for joining events organised by other clubs such as the London Inter-Club challenge and the Rosenheim League. Peter Wishart agreed and

suggested that these events could form a Grand Prix and that VAC could offer money e.g £500 so that the organiser would put on races, jumps and throws for Masters, including six attempts for throwers. Peter Kennedy pointed out that volunteers were needed to make this happen. It required effort by people to hold discussions and negotiate with organising clubs, choose events and venues, and send out communications. He said it was too large a task for VAC Committee members who were already fully committed. He called for several volunteers to coordinate the T&F effort for events and the Inter-Area team selections, for example someone to look after sprinters, someone for throwers etc.

In response, the following members came forward – Peter Wishart (throws), Pat Logan (sprinters), Richard Weekes (jumpers), Anna Garnier and Mike Mann (middle distance). It was suggested that these people would be co-opted into a T&F Group of the VAC Committee. In response to a further question from Peter Wishart, Ros Tabor confirmed that financial support would be available from VAC for providing opportunities for T&F competition for members.

b) Road

Maggie Statham-Berry presented a summary of her report which can be found at Annex D. Both the Battersea Park series and all the club championship races due to be held in conjunction with other events, had been cancelled in accordance with England Athletics Covid-19 guidance. She explained that a new 5 mile course had been measured at Battersea Park and that two 5km races and three 5 miles races had been planned. These would now be held in 2021 if compliance with EA guidelines can be assured and permission gained from Wandsworth Council. Although parkruns may resume, the three annual parkrun get togethers organised by the club would be put on hold as the parkrun organisers were discouraging “tourism” in current circumstances.

c) Walking

David Hoben introduced his report which can be found at Annex E. He explained that the current Race Walking Association’s Covid-19 guidelines were highly restrictive and meant that it was not possible to hold events within public parks. This would mean that the Battersea Park walks series would not currently be permitted. The Centurions event which VAC had agreed to host in 2021 was being deferred until 2022. Chris Flint thought we needed to be more positive and work within the restrictions, though recognised the difficulty with holding events in public parks. He thought that the RWA needed to be asked to relax its guidelines. Ian Richards agreed, saying that thinking outside the box was required, noting that there were fewer restrictions on events held on roads. Time trials using judges were a possibility.

d) Cross Country

In introducing her report on cross country (Annex F), Maggie Statham-Berry reported that the season had been successfully completed before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. The championship race in January had been the last one on the old Wimbledon Common course and the Conservators had now approved a new course. It would be necessary to apply for a permit from the Conservators for the planned race date in January 2021, as well as applying for a licence from England Athletics. Malcolm Davies explained the implications of the recent guidance on holding Covid-safe cross country events issued by England Athletics on 18 September. These were formidable, ruling out mass starts in favour of wave formations, making events

effectively a time trial, with chip timing desirable. The Surrey League were considering options for its November races including the issue of the suitability of venues.

Acceptance of the reports for the four disciplines was proposed by Mike Mann and seconded by Anna Garnier.

10. ELECTION OF VAC OFFICERS

As no positions were contested, it was proposed that the committee should be elected en bloc (proposed by Chris Flint, seconded by Ian Richards). The members of the Committee are as follows:

President	Anna Garnier
Committee Chair & Secretary	Ros Tabor
Treasurer	Andy Murray
Membership Secretary	Peter Kennedy
Walking Secretary	David Hoben
Cross Country Secretary	Dennis Williams
Road Secretary	Dennis Williams
Track & Field Sec	Vacant [later filled by G Minetti]
Newsletter Editor & Press Officer	Angela Kikugawa
Entries Secretary	Maggie Statham-Berry
Officials Secretary	Ros Tabor
Minutes Secretary	Mike Mann
Delegate to BMAF/EAMA	Vacant

Other Officers

Surrey Cross Country League contact	Paddy Clark
Co-opted track and field contacts	Pat Logan (sprinting) Peter Wishart (throwing) Richard Weekes (jumping)
Vice Presidents	Chris Flint, David Hoben, Peter Kennedy
Auditor	Graham Laylee

11. AOB

Ian Richards considered that more attention needed to be given to coaching and mentoring, particularly for international Masters events. There were opportunities for VAC members who participate regularly in international Masters events passing on their expertise and providing advice to those taking part for the first time. Ros Tabor said that the VAC Committee would discuss this at a future meeting. As part of the initiative, Peter Torre offered to act as a mentor for people taking part in overseas road races, particularly marathons.

DATE OF NEXT AGM

Thursday 23 September 2021