Victoria Park Harriers and Tower Hamlets Athletics Club
Minutes of Extraordinary General Meeting
Thursday 1 December 2011 8:45pm

Present:

Ian Warren	Martin Evans
Nana Quawson	Jo Singer
Spencer Walker	Bill Cooper
Brenda Puech	Laura Morgan
Alf Vickers	Marlis Haase
Ray Russo	Frank Merrigan
Patricia Carden	Terence Curran
Michael Carden	David Shortridge
Alan Cathcart	Jo Albert
Peter McHugh De Clare	Malachy Woloman
Major Carr	Neil Cook
David Robinson	Gary Deathridge

Apologies: Simon Butler, Simeon Bennett, Phillipa Cockman, Susan Leese, David Wilkey, Elaine Battson

Agenda
There are two items on the agenda as follows:

1 Proposal for Rule Change
Proposed by Major Carr, seconded by Alf Vickers

We propose to amend Rule 3.6 by deleting the current wording and substituting the following:

Current wording:
Rule 3.6 The trustees must provide proper oversight in the following areas to guarantee a viable organisation: track & field, road & cross country, youth development (liaise with community & schools), coaching, officials, maintaining club facilities, maintaining an inventory of all club-owned property, maintaining proper financial records, an awards programme, maintaining accurate membership records in accordance with the Data Protection Act, transportation, and a social programme. To that end, the Board shall consist of Chair, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Director of Finance, Director of Public Relations, Director of Facilities, Director of Men's Track & Field, Director of Women's Track & Field, Director of Youth Track & Field, Director of Men's Road &

Cross Country, Director of Women's Road & Cross Country, Director of Youth Endurance, Director of Youth Development, Director of Coaching, Director of Officials, and Director of Entertainment. Among those Directors, the following functions will be allocated: inventory, awards, membership and transportation.

Proposed wording

Rule 3.6 "The trustees must provide proper oversight in the following areas to guarantee a viable organisation: track & field, road & cross country, youth development (liaise with community & schools), coaching, officials, maintaining club facilities, maintaining an inventory of all club-owned property, maintaining proper financial records, an awards programme, maintaining accurate membership records in accordance with the Data Protection Act, transportation, and a social programme.

To that end, the board shall consist of Chair, Secretary. Director of Finance, Director of Athletics. The Directors will appoint sub committees or individual members, as appropriate, to cover the functions of Membership, Public Relations, Coaching, Officials, Entertainment, Facilities and any other such areas needed for day to day management of the club."

The effect of this is to keep the first sentence of the current rule and in the 2nd sentence reduce the number of Directors posts to 4 and allowing the board to delegate work as appropriate.

Discussion

Peter McHugh spoke in favour of the motion. He cleared up the misunderstanding that this might be a takeover. He said he was asked to stand when Simon resigned and agreed on the understanding that the Board would be reduced in size. The reason for this is that in his experience of working in the corporate sector and voluntary sector it is difficult to manage a larger board and to make decisions effectively. It is much easier to run a club with a non-executive group. This is not an effort to split the club in two. This is not true and in fact the reverse. Peter believes the club needs to move on. We are operating in a very different environment -we do not have enough members, members do not stay long enough, we do not integrate well enough with the track side, and our facilities need major upgrading. If we carry on as we are, we will miss valuable opportunities to improve and expand the club. Reason he is getting involved is because he is passionate about running both as a volunteer and a sports manager and now as a retailer.

David Robinson against the motion agreed that a lot more could be done to improve the club, but it is as strong as it ever was, with a large group of volunteers. Many club members take part in club races and road races, though in an ad hoc way and this could be improved, Reason for standing against Peter is that we need more people to be involved on the Board, we need to be inclusive, with more women and more people from the track. We need to be involved more actively with people on the track to grow in the athletics field. Feels strongly the positions on the larger board are important and would like to put forward a smaller board with amalgamated roles with say seven to eight members. Dave said he was passionate about running and has been involved in running club for 13 years now.

David clarified that larger board would have two track and field and two road representatives

Voting
Voting based on show of hands

- For the rule change:7
- Against the rule change: 17

Ian then read out the results of the **emailed votes**, compiled by Simeon Bennett earlier (who did not vote)

- 9 for
- 16 against

Proxy votes

- On the basis that only two proxy votes were allowed per member, two proxy votes were received for the motion.

Total

- 18 for
- 33 against

The motion was therefore rejected.

2 Appointment/Resignation of Trustees

The following were elected unanimously

- Chair: David Robinson
  Nominated by Marlis Haase and seconded by Frank Merrigan

- Women's Road and Cross Country Director: Holly Gilbert
  Nominated by Dave and seconded by Neil Cook

- Secretary: Patricia Carden
  Nominated by Brenda Puech and seconded by Mike Carden

The New Board therefore consists of

Chair	Dave Robinson
Secretary	Patricia Carden
Director of Finance	Ian Warren
Director of Women's road and Cross Country	Holly Gilbert
Director of Men's road and Cross Country	Simeon Bennett
Director of Men's Track and Field	Tony MacDowall
Director of Women's Track and Field	Nana Quawson

Director of Youth Endurance	Spencer Walker
Director of Public Relations	Susan Leese

Simon Butler takes on the role of Membership Secretary. This is not a board role.