128th Annual General Meeting of Athletics New Zealand Incorporated
Saturday 1 August 2015
Addington Conference Centre, Christchurch

Meeting opened at 8:50am

In Attendance:
Member Club Representatives: Peter Bayliss (Port Hills Athletic Club), Leon Blanchet (Christchurch Avon Athletic & Harrier Club & Life Member), Ron Cain (Caversham Harrier and Athletic Club & Life Member), Craig Clark (Pakuranga Athletic Club), Brian Cockeram (Athletics Richmond & NZ Children’s Athletics Association), Jason Cressingham (Hawera Harriers, Athletics Hawera), David Crewe (Ariki Athletics and Harrier Club), Bridget Deverell (Hamilton City Hawks), Phillip du Toit (Trentham United Harriers & Walkers), Maria Kilden (Papanui Toc H Athletic Club), Margaret Knox (Leith Harrier and Athletic Club), David Lonsdale (Wellington Scottish Athletics Club), Peter Maunder (Wairarapa Track and Field), John McBrearty (Christchurch High School Old Boys United), Louise McDonald (Wellington Harrier Athletic Club), Murray McKinnon (Takapuna Amateur Athletic & Harrier Club & Life Member), Alec McNab (Athletics Wanganui), Alex Merrilees (Athletics Taieri), Jo Murray (Athletics Wellington & Olympic H&A Club), Lance Pearson (Napier Harrier Club), Daniel Reese (University of Canterbury Athletic Club), Jenny Ryan (South Canterbury AAC), Kim Stevenson (Lake City Athletic Club), Malcolm Taylor (Athletics Tauranga Inc), Debbie Telfer (Invercargill Athletic Club), Lilian Tudor (St Pauls Harriers and Athletic Club), Peter Wyatt (Roskill South Athletic Club)
Patron and Life Member: Arthur Eustace
President: John Tylden
Life Members: Rod Syme, Don Mackenzie, Alan Stevens, Graeme McCabe
Member Club Observers: Henry Tudor (St Pauls H and AC), Ian Baird (South Canterbury AAC), Elizabeth Keenan (Port Hills), Sylvia Maunder (Wairarapa Track and Field)
Independent Observers: John Hinton (Race Walking NZ)
Board: Annette Purvis (Chair), Cameron Taylor (Deputy Chair), Roger Carruthers, Chris Maister, Patrick Meffan, Dean McKenzie (elected at meeting)
Staff: Linda Hammersley (Chief Executive), Brett Addison, Gareth Archer, Phil Armstrong, Raylene Bates, Stephanie Cunningham, Kerry Hill, Joan Merrilees, Amie O’Brien, Cat O’Sullivan, Lisa Russell, Trevor Spittle.
Associate Members: Andrew Stark (NZ Masters Athletics)

1. Roll Call and Welcome:
John Tylden (President) opened the meeting welcoming all to the 128th AGM and handed over to Annette Purvis (Chair) to chair the meeting. Annette then acknowledged the following Life Members who were in attendance.

- Arthur Eustace (Patron)
- Leon Blanchet
- Ron Cain
- Graeme McCabe
- Don Mackenzie
- Murray McKinnon
- Alan Stevens
- Rod Syme

Annette also welcomed Yvonne Mullins, Executive Director of Oceania Athletics Association.
2. **Voting Eligibility**
   Annette advised that 105 Member Clubs were eligible to vote at the AGM, having paid their Club Member fees more than 60 days before the AGM as required in the Constitution. This makes the quorum 27 clubs (25% of eligible clubs).

   With 27 clubs registered and present, the quorum had been met with an additional proxy received from Wyndham Athletic Club for Lillian Tudor.

   Annette Purvis MOVED that the proxy be accepted. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

   With the acceptance of the proxy a total of 28 Member Clubs are eligible to vote.

3. **Returning Officer**
   Rod Syme was appointed as the Returning Officer.

   Annette Purvis MOVED that the Returning Officer be approved by the meeting. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. **Appointment of Scrutineers**
   Don Mackenzie and Graeme McCabe were appointed as the Scrutineers to assist the Returning Officer.

   Annette Purvis MOVED that the Scrutineers be approved by the meeting. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. **Apologies**
   Apologies have been received from:
   - Ian Boyd (Life Member)
   - Don Chadderton (Past President)
   - Jim Cunningham (Life Member)
   - Murray Green (Te Awamutu Athletic Club)
   - Barry Hunt (Life Member)
   - Grant Lord (South Canterbury)
   - Colin Maclachlan (Past President)
   - Dave Norris (Life Member)
   - Heather O’Hagan (Athletics Waikato BOP)
   - Mhyre Oman (Past President)
   - Ashley Taylor (Life Member)
   - Te Kawau Athletic Club

   Annette Purvis MOVED that the apologies be accepted. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

6. **Valedictions**
   The following were people in our sport who passed away during the past 12 months as published in the Annual Report:
   - Bert Chapman
   - David Dephoff
   - Shane Donnelly
   - Peter Henderson
   - Joe McManemin
   - Mike Piper
   - Allan Potts
   - Graham Tattersall
   - Spencer Wade
   - Neil Wilson
The meeting then acknowledged the following people who had also passed away:
- Bob Boland
- Reg Clutterbuck
- Ian Columbus
- Robin Duncan
- Sherryl Harrop
- Ross Hynds
- Colin Smyth
- Pete Watts

The meeting honoured those people by observing a moment’s silence.

7. **Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting**

Annette Purvis advised the following spelling corrections had been noted: Peter Maunder, Rodger Brickland, Mhyre Oman, Scott Newman.

A further correction was highlighted from the floor. Under the List of Member Club Representatives Alan Tucker was listed as University of Canterbury but this should have been Christchurch Old Boys’ United. Don McKenzie should have been noted as University of Canterbury & Life Member.

Annette Purvis MOVED and Peter Wyatt (Roskill South Athletic Club) SECONDED that the minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting held on 9 August 2014 at the Addington Events Centre, Christchurch be confirmed as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

8. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

9. **Board Appointments Panel Club Appointee Casual Vacancy**

Annette Purvis advised that the Club Appointee, Dave Norris could not complete the duties due to personal commitments at the time the Panel were meeting to carry out their work. Annette then outlined the Board’s decision to appoint John Tylden, President, to fill the casual vacancy.

Annette Purvis MOVED and Graeme McCabe SECONDED that the meeting ratifies the Board’s appointment of John Tylden to fill the Board Appointments Panel Club Appointee casual vacancy.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

10. **Annual Report**

Annette Purvis spoke to the Annual Report that had been circulated and was also available on the Athletics New Zealand website. The following omissions from the printed Annual Report were advised: Ron Cain (QSM missed), Pool of Selectors (Craig Motley missed), Carded athletes Level 3 (Hamish Carson and Julian Matthews missed). These have been included in the online version.

There were some significant achievements over the year and Annette briefly touched on the five main areas:

**Membership**

The change was based on a broader base paying a lower fee. Considerable amount of feedback was received during the road shows and via email, and Annette acknowledged those that took the time to contribute. There has been anecdotal feedback that some clubs have significantly dropped their fee in line with the changes and have seen an increase in membership.

Annette noted that, as the changed levy model has only been in place a few months it is hard to understand the financial impact or to know if any further change is needed. It’s essential that all
clubs encourage and declare membership and the ability to keep the membership fee at these levels will depend on honest declaration.

**Stakeholder Engagement**
The road shows allowed greater engagement with members as all 11 centres were included in the visits. Further centre visits are planned for later this financial year to continue the dialogue and talk about the membership fee and how it is working, and importantly how the National Office can deliver greater value to its members.

Two meetings had taken place with NZ Children’s Athletics Association and work is taking place with NZ Masters on developing a Memorandum of Understanding for amalgamation of their members to Athletics NZ.

**Finances**
The year-end surplus of $129,000 was the biggest for some time and is due to the larger than expected profit from the 50th Rotorua marathon. The Board has deliberately carried this forward to balance any potential financial impact from the membership fee change.

Ideally this level of surplus is something that the Board would like to see repeated. It remains a challenge and something that has been spoken about many times. Development comes at a cost and at some stage we may need to take a calculated financial risk in regards to an initiative.

**High Performance**
The team performed well in Glasgow achieving five medals! Annette commented on the heightened media interest around these events, and that it was also pleasing to see that some of the top six finishes were from some up and coming talent. Following this, and our ongoing programme results, High Performance Sport NZ has increased the High Performance funding for Tokyo.

Even though the challenge is that the HP funding is targeted; Annette noted there are spin-off benefits to other parts of the sport such as the coaching pathway and administration for other teams. An area that the Board wishes to develop is alternative opportunities for developing athletes outside the HP programme. Without resource though, it may be as simple as identifying those events that we can support, but it is an area that the Board hopes to further develop.

Annette then explained that the sport is currently a Tier Two High Performance sport and that to be a Tier One sport, we must prove that we can consistently deliver multiple medals at multiple Olympics. This is something that we believe we can achieve and the HP team has the Board’s endorsement to put all their focus on achieving the best results possible at Rio.

**Leadership**
Just over twelve months ago we employed a new Chief Executive, Linda Hamersley. Linda brings a different perspective to the organisation and is building a reputation of being true to her word. There were also some long serving staff leave during the year, being Al, Rosie and Carl and more recently Michael. It is always challenging to lose institutional knowledge but at the same time it does provide the opportunity for new ways of thinking and to challenge what we have done in the past.

Looking through the staff reports there has been a large amount of work that has been carried out in the Community, Commercial and High Performance space over the last 12 months. It’s tough working in sport and we are lucky to have passionate and committed staff.
Closing
Annette then thanked everyone who gives of their time to the sport - coaches, officials, volunteers and administrators. Acknowledging they are the backbone of the sport and the work they do is appreciated not only by our athletes but also the National Office for the support and expertise that they provide.

Linda Hamersley spoke to the Financial Performance Report. Linda introduced Phil Armstrong, Finance Manager and advised although Phil was not with the organisation for the past financial year he had led the organisation through the audit. As Annette has noted the $129,000 surplus was thanks in the main to the Rotorua marathon. Approximately $99,000 was directly related to the over-budget profit of Rotorua. Not taking the Rotorua over-budget profit into consideration, the organisation operates very close to a break even budget. We rely heavily on Charity and Gaming Trust funding, particularly in the Community Department area, along with Community Plan funding from Sport New Zealand.

Linda then went on to explain that the High Performance Department receives almost $3 million in funding from High Performance Sport New Zealand which is 100% targeted to the High Performance programme that has very strict KPIs that are reported against quarterly. There is no scope for any of this funding to be allocated towards other areas of the business. Linda also explained that when the Athletics NZ budget is set, there is no allocation from within to the High Performance Department. That Department is funded solely through High Performance Sport New Zealand.

Linda then referred to the memorandum that was circulated with the AGM agenda that provided comments to the Audited Financial Statements and asked if there were any further questions from the floor; to which there were not.

Annette Purvis MOVED and John McBrearty (Christchurch High School Old Boys United) SECONDED that the Annual Report including the Financial Performance Report be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. Election of Office Holders
Patron
Arthur Eustace was nominated by the Board to be reappointed as Patron. DECLARED

Arthur thanked the meeting for reappointing him. He does not take this for granted and it is a privilege to remain as the sport’s Patron.

President
Henry Tudor was nominated by St Paul’s Harrier & Athletic for the role of President. DECLARED

John Tylden presented Henry with the President’s pin. Henry thanked the sport for electing him as President.

Vice President
Peter Maunder was nominated by Wellington Scottish Athletics Club for the role of Vice President. DECLARED

John Tylden presented Peter with the Vice President’s pin.

Board Appointments Panel – Club appointee
John Tylden was nominated by Hamilton City Hawks Athletics to be appointed as the Club appointee DECLARED
**Board Members - seven in total**

There are four incumbent Board Members:
- Roger Carruthers
- Chris Maister
- Patrick Meffan
- Nicki Sutherland

John Tylden invited Roger Carruthers, Board Appointments Panel to explain the process that was undertaken.

A total of ten people applied for the three available positions on the Board, including the two incumbent Board members seeking re-election. The advertisement described the ideal applicant and all the applicants fulfilled at least some of the preferred criteria. No applications were received from individuals who have had a history of active involvement in the sport at a local or regional level.

From the ten applications a short-list of six candidates was selected by the BAP for interview. Referee reports were obtained for the four external candidates, which provided helpful input prior to the telephone interviews. Following the interviews the BAP reconvened via teleconference on two further occasions before arriving at the decision for the appointed candidate and the two recommended candidates.

The BAP were impressed with the quality of candidates, the interest the sport is attracting from those with a limited interaction with the sport, and ultimately very satisfied with the three candidates selected and confident they will continue to and further strengthen the Board over the next three years.

The Board Appointments Panel appointed Annette Purvis to the Board.

The Board Appointments Panel recommended Dean McKenzie and Cameron Taylor as the two elected candidates for the Board.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

13. **Long Service Awards**

Alan Stevens (convener of the Awards Committee) introduced and announced the Long Service awards.

- Beverly Booker (Athletics Auckland)
- Julian Castle (Athletics Auckland)
- Paul Craddock (Athletics Auckland)
- Terry Jensen (Athletics Auckland)
- Tony Sargisson (Athletics Auckland)
- David Sim (Athletics Auckland)
- Margaret Holcroft (Athletics Waikato BOP)
- Heather O’Hagan (Athletics Waikato BOP)
- Rachel Holcroft (Fairfield Athletic Club)
- Wayne Strong (Te Awamutu Athletic Club)

14. **Merit Awards**

Alan explained that these awards follow nominations from the Sport and there can be no more than three awarded at each AGM. The Merit Awards are in recognition of continued, valuable and above expectation service to the sport and only awarded to those that are highly regarded in the athletics community.

- David Lonsdale spoke to and presented the first award to Sylvia Maunder.
- John Tylden spoke to the second award to Joan Rawnsley who was absent from the meeting.
15. Life Membership
Alan explained the process for awarding of a Life Membership, noting there can be no more than one awarded each year.
Murray McKinnon spoke to and presented a life membership award to Alec McNab. Alec made a short speech and thanked the meeting for the acknowledgement they had bestowed on him.

16. Special Resolutions to alter Constitution
Annette Purvis then referred to the memorandum that had been circulated with the AGM agenda, noting the Board’s request and rationale for the various amendments to the Constitution and asked if there were questions from the floor. Rod Syme congratulated the Board for the work they had undertaken and supported the changes as presented.
The following motions were put to the meeting.

Annette Purvis MOVED and Leon Blanchet (Christchurch Avon Athletics & Harrier Club) SECONDED that the amendments relating to the Board Appointments Panel proposed in the marked up Athletics NZ Constitution attached to the Agenda, as shown in rules 17.7, 17.8, 18.1, 18.2, 18.5, and 18.6 be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Annette Purvis MOVED and Peter Wyatt (Roskill South Athletic Club) SECONDED that all the other amendments proposed in the marked up Athletics NZ Constitution attached to the Agenda be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Annette Purvis MOVED and Murray McKinnon (Takapuna Amateur Athletics & Harrier Club) SECONDED that the amendments adopted at this meeting take effect immediately upon registration of them with the Registrar of Incorporated Societies.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

17. Acknowledgement of retiring Board members
Annette asked the meeting to recognise retiring Board Member Trevor Spittle. Trevor had been a Board member for eight years. During the year an opportunity arose for him to take on a part time contract role for Athletics New Zealand. Under the constitution a Board member cannot remain on the Board if they are an Athletics NZ employee. Trevor therefore resigned his position on the Board. We are fortunate to have someone with Trevor’s high standing in the sport take up a role with Athletics NZ.

18. Date and Venue for 2016 AGM
The 2016 AGM will be held in Auckland the weekend of 6 and 7 August 2016. Confirmation of the day, time and venue is still being finalised and will be communicated as confirmed.

19. Close Meeting
President Henry Tudor presented John Tylden with his Past President pin and invited him to say a few words.

John spoke of the opportunities that he had been afforded during his year as President and highlighted the Board’s decision to listen to the membership and make the brave decision to take on the risk of changing the levy collection method. He encouraged clubs to play their part so that the sport can benefit as a whole with the change. He acknowledged the role Linda is providing as Chief Executive and also noted the success of the High Performance programme and our athletes. On behalf of the sport, John asked that a message of support be communicated to Valerie Adams as she builds back to top form after her surgery. John then noted next year would be the 40th anniversary of John Walker’s gold medal and it would be appropriate to acknowledge this and suggested inviting John to the AGM.

Henry Tudor thanked all for attending and declared the meeting closed at 10:20am.