Minutes of the 123rd Annual General Meeting of Athletics New Zealand Incorporated.

Held at the Holiday Inn, 75 Featherston Street, Wellington at 9:40 am on Friday 23 July 2010.

Chairman: John Smart (President of Athletics New Zealand)

1. Roll Call and Welcome:

John Smart opened the meeting with a welcome to all including our Patron Arthur Eustace who attended his first AGM in 1955. Acknowledgement of the Life Members in attendance was also made.

Attendees:
Councillors: Annette Purvis (Chair - Board), John Smart (President), Alan McCauley (Board), Dave Harkness (Board), Trevor Spittle (Board), Morris Gray (Northland), John Perry (Northland), Murray Andersen (Hawkes Bay Gisborne), Allan Potts (Hawkes Bay Gisborne), Denis Jordan (Taranaki), Ed Fern (Taranaki), Geoff Henry (Wellington), Sylvia Maunderc (Wellington), Rob Urquhart (Otago), Brent Halley (Otago), Graeme McCabe (Waikato Bay of Plenty), David Olson (Waikato Bay of Plenty), Jim Hogg (Auckland), Peter Booker (Auckland), Brian Cockeram (Tasman), Henry Tudor (Southland), Tony Kennedy (Southland), George McConachy (Manawatu Wanganui), Patrick Boland (Canterbury), Kevin Jago (Canterbury), Geoff Shaw (NZSSAA), Roger Brickland (NZCAA), Andrew Finn (NZCAA), Mike Weddell (NZMA), Jim Blair (NZMA/Vice President), Leon Blanchet (Board), Gary Clareburt (Board), Patrick Meffan (Board), John Tylden (NZSSAA).

Also in attendance: Leanne Asher (Staff), Scott Newman (CEO), Brett Addison (Staff)

(Attendance Roll not circulated to Observers, the following names recorded by memory)
David Lonsdale (Observer/Race Walking NZ), Arthur Eustace (Patron/Life Member), Alan Stevens (Life Member), Todd Stevens (Observer), Kevin Ankrom (Staff), Michelle Kiesanowski (Staff), Nadine Fromont (Staff), Michael Sharapoff (Staff), Alastair Dunn (Staff), Murray McKinnon (Media), Lisa McCready (Observer), Ron Cain (Observer), Betty Cain (Observer), Mrs Cain’s sister (Observer), Ian Boyd (Life Member), John Page (SPARC), Grant McLean (SPARC), Dave Norris (Life Member), Don Mackenzie (Life Member), Peter Richards (Life Member), Craig Purdy (Observer).

John went through the voting process and advised the voting strength for Council. Each Councillor was asked to stand and introduce themselves.


Moved: Jim Hogg, Seconded: Sylvia Maunderc
3. **Proxies:** The following proxies were advised

Manawatu Wanganui: George McConachy for Fred Holmes

*Moved: John Perry, Seconded Andrew Finn*

4. **Valedictions:** The meeting honoured the following by observing a moment's silence.

- Ron Agate
- Les Bradshaw, Life Member
- Bob Carter
- Norm Coop, Life Member
- Malcolm Hahn
- Phil Jones
- Peter Kalivati

5. **Minutes of Previous AGM:** Subject to the following corrections the minutes were confirmed as a true and correct account of the meeting held 24 July 2009.

- Change 1: Tony Rogers did not say that no selectors currently had carded athletes. Members of the selection panel did indeed have carded athletes.
- Change 2: Date for the next AGM should have read 2010.

*Moved: Alan Potts, seconded: David Olson*  
*CARRIED*

6. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.

7. **Annual Report:** Chairman – Annette Purvis

The Chairman presented the 123rd Annual Report for Athletics New Zealand and gave a summary of the Board's focus for the 2009/2010 year.

The three main focuses were finance, strategy/direction and governance. There is a focus on the need to improve reserves year on year and improve financial sustainability of the organisation. We need to focus on the transformation that is in front of us today. Governance: The Board has continued its improvement process and decision making has reflected what we want our sport to be.

Thank you to coaches, athletes, national office staff, volunteers and officials for the wealth of time and dedication

Annette acknowledged Gary Clareburt and Leon Blanchet who were standing down from the Board.

Thanks were passed on to SPARC, New Zealand Community Trust, Lion Foundation, Colgate, Pub Charity and Perry Foundation.

*The Chairman then opened the meeting to questions from the floor.*

Graeme McCabe (WBoP) – Referred to the registration figures in the Annual Report and suggested that not all Centres are recording in the same manner and that the system seems flawed. It is hoped that the Transformation Project will correct these flaws. Being that the levies are based on these figures it advantages some Centres while disadvantages others. The question being when are we going to know how the registration system will work?

Annette advised that it is intended to cover this point off as part of the AGM Forum. We do not have the all the detail but can advise thoughts.

There were no further questions from the floor.

Scott Newman referred to the figures on page 36 of the Annual Report. Although it was a pleasing year, it was never easy, but was good to exceed budget.

$75,000.00 surplus vs. $36,000.00 budget. The additional surplus was primarily achieved through higher than budgeted interest received, due to high performance funding being received in advance and a lower level of depreciation that what was allowed for.

Gaming Trust funding is fickle. Grants received is actually down by $30,000.00

There has been $100,000.00 spend around Infrastructure which is the Transformation Project. This is made up of costs enabling Scott to travel around the country, support via consultants, research work, lawyers and legal costs which are proving quite high.

Publicity costs have increased due to a change in the accounting treatment of these.

Looking ahead we need to remember that Gaming Funding will always be a challenge. The Transformation Project will create unknowns. The work we undertake will force budget changes.

The recommendations of the KPMG Financial Management Controls Review are in place and internal processes are in place and are robust.

We are undertaking a review of the Lion Foundation Rotorua Marathon. This is a valuable event and is the one mass participation event that we own. There are enormous opportunities which we need to explore that will take us to the next step. This year’s event shows a great result that will be reflected in next year’s report.

We continue with good relationships with SPARC and Gaming Trusts.

Thanks were passed on to Craig Purdy and Rosie Graham.

The CEO then opened the meeting to questions from the floor.

John Perry (Northland) – For the smaller and poorer Centres, he expressed puzzlement over what these words and figures actually mean.

Scott advised that the figures show what we are actually doing today and not what we are about to do. There will be further discussion later in the day.

There were no further questions from the floor.

Moved that the 2009-10 Statement of Financial Performance be adopted*: Annette Purvis, Seconded: Trevor Spittle CARRIED

9. Awards

Alan Stevens, Convenor of the Awards Committee spoke in regards to the importance of recognising members of our sport who have made a valuable contribution. We all need to put forward names of people who should be recognised.

Long Service: The following received awards in recognition of their long service to the sport:

David Wileman Auckland
Geoff Haigh Auckland
Sylvia Maunder was presented with her Long Service Badge with acclimation.

**Merit:** The following received Merit Awards

Russ Hoggard  Auckland

Dave Norris had pleasure in speaking of this year’s recipient. Russ started in athletics in his mid 20s and came to us from cycling. He was initially involved with the Western Suburbs Club and is now based at North Harbour Bays.

Russ has coached a number of athletes to national titles and has got some good up and comers in his current group. Russ would be one of the fee coaches that are present at all training sessions with his athletes.

*Russ was unable to be present at the AGM and will be awarded his Merit Pin at another suitable occasion.*

**Life Member:**

Ron Cain  Otago

Peter Richards (Life Member) presented the meeting with a history of Ron’s achievements. Peter met Ron 55 years ago and thought what a cracker of a runner this man was. Although Ron placed 2nd in the championships and the Otago team showed good results and beat Auckland in the team’s race. Ron is a true friend and it was a great pleasure to speak to this nomination.

Brent Halley of Otago Centre gave an overview of Ron's career. Ron is a Life Member of Caversham Athletics Club. After competing as an athlete he became involved in officiating and has and still is the Meeting Manager at most championships in Otago. Ron is the
President and now Life Member of Athletics Otago. He was the Selector for some years. He was presented his Merit Award by what was known as the Triple A’s. Ron although small in size is large on stature.

John Smart asked the meeting to accept this nomination by acclamation.

Ron addressed the meeting and although declaring he was normally a person who has a lot to say, was lost for words. For Ron athletics has always been a joy and pleasure to be a part of. He also gave thanks to his wife Betty for her understanding and putting up with his absences whilst down at the track. Ron described the award as a great honour and thanked Otago Centre for nominating him.

10. Election of Officers

Patron:

The Board nominated Arthur Eustace as Patron to Athletics New Zealand

*DECLARED*

President

Jim Blair

*Nominated by: New Zealand Masters and Athletics Wellington, Moved by: John Smart, Seconded:

*DECLARED*

Vice President

Alec McNab

*Nominated by: New Zealand Secondary Schools Association and Athletics Manawatu Wanganui, Moved by: John Smart, Seconded:

*DECLARED*

Board

There were three nominations for four positions. The following Board members were duly elected.

Alan McCauley
David Norris
Annette Purvis

Track & Field Selectors

There were three nominations for three positions

Don Garland
Graham O’Brien
Tony Rogers

Under By-Law Rule 16 at least one selector must be from the South Island and one from the North Island. This being the case all nominees were appointed.

National Technical Officials Committee

There was one nominee for one position.

Leon Blanchet was duly appointed.
11. Fiscal 2010-2011: Budget

Scott Newman (CEO) presented the 2011/2012 Budget which was approved by the Board at their January meeting. The budget has been prepared in accordance with an agreed budgeted and consolidated accounting surplus is to be achieved each year and that the level of retained earnings will be increased year on year.

There is a projected surplus of $42,000.00. There are some unknowns in regards to infrastructure. High Performance and Athlete Development are their own cost centres. Levies are up 3% as notified in September 2009. There is an inclusion of at risk revenues which is centred around Gaming Trust Funding. $100,000.00 of which is related to Lion Foundation Rotorua Marathon. Projects will operate on the basis if we don’t get funding they won’t proceed. The Transformation Project creates many variables and we must expect the budget to change.

Scott opened the meeting to questions

There were no questions.

12. Remits

Notice of proposed Alteration to the Rules of Athletics New Zealand
1. THAT the existing Rules of Athletics New Zealand Incorporated be revoked and replaced with the New Constitution as distributed to centres and clubs.

2. THAT the New Constitution shall come into force on the date on which it is registered by the Registrar of Incorporated Societies.

Proposed: Annette Purvis Seconded: Trevor Spittle

Annette spoke to the motion – There has been a lot of consultation with over 60 sessions and over 100 clubs involved. The 6 key major items are

- New member definitions
- Clubs become the focus
- Improved communication from the National Office
- Our allies (Masters, Children’s & Secondary Schools) become strategic advisors
- The function of Centres to be reformed
- Governance refined and reviewed

The document needs to be considered in its entirety and we need to consider taking a step forward in Athletics.

Trevor Spittle (Board) – Fully supports the motion and looks forward to the changes it will bring going forward.

Jim Hogg (Auckland) – Auckland generally supports the intent of the motion but have a number of concerns. They seek assurance that the points raised with Scott will be discussed in this afternoon’s session.

John Smart (President) – It is recognised that there are concerns and these must be heard and discussed this afternoon.

John Perry (Northland) – Northland supports the change and are glad to hear that there is room for ‘tweaking’ if we adopt. How can we tweak as there must be provisions to make minor changes.
John Smart (President) – Any tweaking would have to go to the Special General Meeting to be held in November. We must remember that this is not a static document. It is a living document that will change as we go forward.

John Tylden (NZSSAA) – NZSSAA are not unsupportive but have concerns re becoming an Associate Member. They become disenchanted in losing their vote. They would like to continue to exercise their vote and be heard. The fees for Associate Members have not really been dealt with in detail. Further discussion is asked for.

Assurance was received from Annette that all points raised would be discussed.

Brian Cockeram (Tasman) – In regards to the previously circulated letter from Athletics Auckland re lack of other models. Brian stated that Scott has looked at other sports and it is not fair to say that this has not been explored. Tasman gives their support.

Kevin Jago (Canterbury) – An Executive Meeting was held in Canterbury after which a number of questions were sent to Scott and have been answered. There was a further meeting and now following that meeting Canterbury are unanimous that their committee supports the change.

There was no further discussion.

Annette waived the right of reply.

The Council were asked to vote by way of standing and show of hands.

For: 34  Against: 3  Abstain: 1  CARRIED

Annette thanked the meeting and commended Council for showing leadership for the sport for agreeing to the change. This is a significant step forward for Athletics.

13. Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion

14. Appointment of Auditor

It was moved that PKF Martin Jarvie be appointed auditor.  CARRIED

15. Date for 2011 AGM

The suggested tentative date for the AGM is Saturday 23 July 2011

Discussion took place on the date, format and location of the next AGM being that it will be voting under a different arrangement. We need to get Club Delegates to the meeting so a Friday may not be the best day to hold a meeting.

Thought should also be given to the location as we need to consider access for parking and for ease of getting into and out off.

Mention was also made of possible clash of Centre Cross Country Championships taking place.

George McConachy moved that a motion be put forward that the suggested the tentative date for the AGM be Saturday 23 July 2011.
16. Closure/Acknowledgments

John Smart addressed the meeting saying that although with some sadness it was his pleasure to acknowledge the people standing down.

From the Board, Leon Blanchet and Gary Clareburt were thanked for their service. From the Track & Field Selectors Panel, Ken Simpson for his 16 years service. Thanks were also given to Craig Motley for his time on the Cross Country & Road Selectors Panel.

Thanks were given to all of the Councillors that are standing down and that he hopes to see people back as their clubs delegate.

Alan Stevens suggested that it would be appropriate that the Association write to Barry Maister, retiring General Secretary of the NZ Olympic Committee, thanking him for his support over the years.

John thanked everyone for electing him as President. It was a tremendous pleasure travelling around the country. To all those that he visited, thank you for making him welcome.

Jim Blair came forward and acknowledged John in his role as President for the last year. He is please to be taking over in a time of change and hopes that we can all move in the right direction.

Meeting Closed: 11:07 am