

**MINUTES OF E/AGM OF EVAC
HELD AT THE RACING CLUB, NEWMARKET,
ON FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2014**

Present at the meeting were:

Peter Duhig, Cath Duhig, Jeffrey Reed, Gaye Clarke, David Lane, Keith Morris (Ryston Runners AC); Courtney Gunn, Graeme Packman (Bedford & County AC); Maurice Hemingway (Riverside Runners); Brian Graves (Marshall Milton Keynes AC); Dawn Holloway, Julian Blackwell (Wellingborough & District AC); Tom Salway (Fenland Running Club); Ron Wallwork (Race Walking); Paul Evans (Belgrave Harriers)

Apologies for absence were received from :

Brenda Russell, David Barnett, John Blackwell, Carole Morris, Peter Knott, James Collins, Rob Lands, John Haines, Bob Thompson, Monica Brown, John Wheatley, Robert Price, Claire St John Coleman, Paul Jeggo, Mary Waters, Helen Melville, Paul Harrison, Tanya & Mark Daniels, Carole Filer.

Introductory Remarks:

Peter Duhig welcomed and thanked those in attendance. He noted that historically the AGM seemed to have taken place at this time of year due to having been absorbed into the Track & Field League structure, and the T&F committee had come to represent EVAC as a whole. Constitutionally, the AGM should take place within 42 days of the publication of the annual accounts at the end of January, making a date in April, to coincide with the start of the club's membership year. It is anticipated that a constitutional AGM will be called for April 2015.

He noted that the past few years had seen EVAC struggle, with T&F dominating members' interest and activity and road running being somewhat neglected. The collapse of the League in 2014, due to inaction on the part of those who had been appointed to run it, despite some local activity in the Central and Essex areas, had contributed to the problems the club had faced.

Peter summarised his history of association with EVAC and the BMAF, by way of explaining his disappointment that EVAC seemed "destined for a black hole" which, in turn, had provided the incentive to try to do something to get things going again. He had been heartened by many expressions of support and interest, but stressed it now needs action not sentiments to make things happen.

He thanked those who had helped to keep things afloat thus far, noting especially the efforts of Rob Lands in continuing to produce the newsletter, and outlined some ideas already posited to breathe new life into the club (e.g. T&F League revival/new structure; race walking GP) as well as noting that some people had already put their names forwards to fill positions necessary to help the club move forwards.

Minutes of last meeting (after Track & Field League Final 2013) were accepted

Proposed : Brian Graves

Seconded: Julian Blackwell

Unanimous.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

Gaye Clarke queried the current status of the proposed changes to membership system. Courtney Gunn responded explaining that Peter Kennedy (BMAF) was researching a national system that all clubs could access and use, but until this had been fine-tuned and proved workable, CG preferred to continue with the EVAC in-house system. A BMAF registration system was a work in progress. Athletes can still belong to as many area clubs as they wish, but can always compete as guests in other area championships.

Treasurer's Report:

Accounts complete and accurate to 31/12/2013 were available. Brenda noted that there were no significant changes to balance figures since then, when the balance in hand showed as £7853.67. The raising of athlete affiliation fees to UKA from £10 to £12 would not affect EVAC significantly as they only apply to 1st claim members. Graeme Packman suggested that the payment of such fees should be the individual's responsibility, not the club's.

Tom Salway asked for clarification of the period covered by BMAF affiliation. CG said it was a rolling structure, variable from athlete to athlete, rather than involving set dates as in the case of EVAC.

Ron Wallwork queried whether the accounts had been audited. It was noted that they had been approved by a second party (qualified) rather than being formally audited, and it was considered advisable that this situation be more formalised once EVAC is back on an even keel.

The accounts were then unanimously accepted by those present -

Proposed: Gaye Clarke

Seconded: Maurice Hemingway

Membership Report:

Courtney Gunn, who has been in post since February 2014, gave a detailed and comprehensive report on the membership situation. He has subsequently produced an outline of procedures.

Both his report and this outline are attached along with these minutes.

Election of Officers:

The following, who had volunteered, or been volunteered, for the respective posts listed, were authorised by the meeting to proceed as the management committee of EVAC,

Proposed : Ron Wallwork

Seconded: Brian Graves

Chairman	Peter Duhig
Secretary	Maurice Hemingway
Treasurer	Brenda Russell
Membership	Courtney Gunn
Newsletter	Cath Duhig
Road Sec	Tom Salway
Cross Country Sec	Tom Salway
Committee	Gaye Clarke, David Barnett

Additionally Brian Graves, having clarified that previously his brief had only been to cover the Track & Field League results and stats, agreed to take on the post of Results Secretary .

Jeffrey Reed, Gaye Clarke and Paul Harrison had agreed to oversee Team Management for the Inter Area matches.

Courtney Gunn had volunteered to take on the organisation of the outdoor Track & Field Championships.

It was agreed that a sub-committee should be formed to cover track and field organisation, with a view to re-organising and revitalising the T&F League, probably with smaller regional divisions and more autonomy within those divisions with regard to setting fixtures, administration of matches, etc. Gaye Clarke volunteered to get this group together and oversee its progress.

Proposal - change of club name:

Peter Duhig, who had lodged the proposal, spoke of his reasons for making the change to "Eastern Masters Athletics Club".

Courtney Gunn spoke for retaining the current name "Eastern Veterans Athletics Club"

Tom Salway spoke with regard to the implications of making any changes in general.

There was no seconder for the proposal, so it did not proceed.

Presentations:

Peter noted that the past achievements of members are not always recognised. He had mementoes to present to

Ron Wallwork - first winner of the Commonwealth (then "Empire") Games 20 mile walk gold medal, in Kingston , Jamaica 1966.

Paul Evans - Olympian; Winner of Chicago Marathon

Ron accepted the award graciously, but noted that it is passion for sport that brings success and he hoped the current passion to keep EVAC afloat would bear fruit.

Paul had, unfortunately, had to leave the meeting before this point.

Closing remarks:

Peter said he had hoped there would be more support for the meeting and more people coming forward to help put things in place to carry the club forward. However, he remained optimistic that EVAC would live to fight another day.

Thanking those present again for attending, he declared the meeting closed at 21:30.

Eastern Veterans Athletic Club AGM 2014 Membership Secretaries Report

Membership Statistics:

Right from the outset of taking on the role of Membership Secretary, having completely rebuilt the database, I was of the opinion that the member data held was in need of revalidation. This was reinforced by the disparity between EVAC and BMAF data. To this end I decided to revise the Renewal/Application Form, requesting ALL previous members (including Life) to submit a new form for the Season. Of the 139 Life (and /P) members only 41 submitted a renewal form. The probable reason for this was that, as a life member, they considered this action unnecessary? However, when I sent out a mail shot to all 2013-14 and 2014-15 members the bulk of 'bounce backs' came from members who had not returned their form. Members were even encouraged to send their forms in electronically.

By way of an example of the data integrity, when collating the membership numbers I encountered no less than 64 duplicate membership numbers – some were triplicated! To overcome this anomaly I took the view that the first renewing (duplicated) member retained their original number, with subsequent members receiving a new number. To date I still have 40 duplicate/triplicate numbers.

It would come as no surprise for me to state that the membership numbers for the 2014-15 Season are (as at 09/09/2014) down by 36.5% on last year (2013-14). The lack of an EVAC coordinated Track & Field League may account for the reduction in numbers? However, with the Road and XC fixtures yet to be held these numbers could rise again.

Member Category	2013-14 Season	2014-15 Season
Life (M=70y, F=65y)	122	130
Life/P (Outstanding contribution)	10	9
Ordinary Member	583	315
Total	715	454

Membership Fees:

The current fee structure is;

2 nd Claim Membership of EVAC (including £5 BMAF Registration + 60p EAMA)	£12
1 st Claim Membership of EVAC (as above + EA Registration)	£12 + £10*
Life Membership (M70 & F65) + BMAF Registration	£5
Life Membership (M70 & F65) + EA Registration	£10*

*NB. EA registration will increase from £10 to £12 from 1st April 2015. (Affiliation to £100)

One area of concern is where an athlete registers 2nd Claim with more than one Veterans Club AND has already paid their BMAF fee for that club. I propose to review this anomaly in time for the 2015-16 Season. In some instances members are registering (and paying their £5) with BMAF directly!

A large (and hopefully increasing) proportion of the members have used Inter-Bank Transfer to pay their fees.

1st Claim membership of EVAC:

If a member declares EVAC as their 1st claim they need to pay £10 (£12 for 2015) to renew with EA. Of the 66 members declaring EVAC only 23 have paid for the privilege. Included in this number are those athletes who have transferred over to EVAC from another club and have, therefore, already paid via that club. It's worth clarifying that, if an

athlete wishes to transfer to EVAC from another club they must contact EA directly to effect the transfer – who have a downloadable form for such a task - EVAC cannot request a transfer on your behalf.

I have taken the view that EVAC will only pay the EA membership fee for those athletes who have paid EVAC their £10 – including both Life(/P) and Ordinary members.

BMAF Registration:

There has been some debate within BMAF regarding the number of 2nd Claim clubs an athlete can register with. Only recently, the decision was taken to continue to allow an athlete to register with any number of clubs. We currently have 20 athletes listed as having more than one club other than EVAC. As touched on earlier I will be inviting those athletes to provide proof of BMAF registration, thereby only paying once.

Use of the Internet:

One of the main reasons to have meaningful and accurate athlete data is to enable better use of the internet such as mail shots. Although it not intended to bombard members with e-mails on a regular basis it is a good vehicle to advice members of forthcoming events such as County Champs. The last mail shot (using 'MailChimp') was sent out to 655 past and present members. Of these only 49 were 'bounced back' – mainly due to inaccurate or out of date e-mail addresses. That's a 92.5% hit rate. Importantly, if you do not wish to receive further mail shots you can unsubscribe via 'MailChimp'.

Life Membership:

Currently, when a male athlete reaches the age of 70 years (during the season) he is entitled to become a Life member. For the fairer sex their entitlement starts at age 65 years. Discussion needs to be had regarding bringing these two age entitlements together – either 65 years for both or 70 years for both?

A reminder to Life and Life/P members that they only qualify for free membership of EVAC – not EA or BMAF. For these they are required to pay the additional fees. If these members wish to receive the (BMAF) Masters Athletics magazine they need to include £5 with their Renewal form.

Courtney Gunn (12th Sept 2014)

AGM Postscript

During the course of the AGM (12th Sept) a number of decisions were taken that impact directly on next year's membership – commencing 1st April 2015.

English Athletics (EA) Registration:

Currently, if a member nominates EVAC as their 1st Claim club, upon receipt of their £10 fee EVAC would take the responsibility of registering the member on their behalf - directly with EA. From 1st April 2015 EVAC 1st Claim members will have to undertake the registration of their membership with EA themselves. EVAC will not be responsible any more. Please note that, from 1st April 2015 EA have increased their registration fee from £10 to £12. Although they have also increased the club affiliation fee, that EVAC as a club has to pay, from £75 to £100 it has been decided that this increase will not be passed on

to the members but will come out of existing club funds. Accordingly the EVAC Renewal fee will remain at £12 (however, see BMAF Registration).

BMAF Registration:

Given the decision taken by the BMAF Executive that members can continue to declare as many 2nd Claim clubs as they are prepared to subscribe to, in order for members to pay only one BMAF registration fee of £5, it has been agreed that, upon presentation of proof of payment of their BMAF registration, either through another Veterans club or by direct registration, EVAC will not expect members to pay an additional fee. In these circumstances the £12 EVAC membership fee will be reduced to £7 (plus proof of payment with BMAF).

Membership Fees:

Consequently, from 1st April 2015 the 2015-16 fee structure will be;

1 st Claim Membership of EVAC (including £5 BMAF Registration + 60p EAMA)	£12
1 st Claim Membership of EVAC (including proof of BMAF payment + 60p EAMA)	£7
2 nd Claim Membership of EVAC (including £5 BMAF Registration + 60p EAMA)	£12
2 nd Claim Membership of EVAC (including proof of BMAF payment + 60p EAMA)	£7
Life EVAC Membership [M70 & F65] not including BMAF Registration)	Free
Life EVAC Membership [M70 & F65] (including BMAF Registration - if applicable)	£5

With EA Registration undertaken by member