



Eastern Masters AC Annual General Meeting

Sunday 7 April 2024

Minutes

Present

Rob Lands, Carey Hollick, Courtney Gunn, Wilson Paterson, John Borgars, Graeme Packman, Betty Gash, Alistair Kendrick, Brian Slaughter, Kevin White, Neil McDonald, Rachel Roberts, Clare Smith, Yuko Gordon, Shane Lawrence, David Lesley

1. Welcome from Chair

CH welcomed club members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Ian Wells, Carol Wright, Mary Knapman, Dawn Mason, Jim Brown, Peter Knott

3. Approval of Minutes of last AGM

The minutes of the short meeting were approved.

4. Change to constitution:

To increase the number of committee members from four to eight.

Point 6 of constitution:

The pursuit of the club's aims and objectives will be managed through the Management Committee consisting of the officers of the club and up to ~~four~~ eight other members elected by the Annual General Meeting.

The increase was discussed. CH said Michael Hausler had suggested increasing the number of ordinary committee members as the committee was at its limit. The aim was to make space for more people and encourage a better representation of club members across ages and genders. The committee had discussed increasing the number of officers instead of committee members but decided on this course. RL pointed out that as currently formed the committee had no extra space. Shane Lawrence said he supported the increase as it would mean newcomers to the committee could learn how the club worked. WP gave his experience; he had delayed joining the committee but realised he had useful transferable skills from his work outside athletics that could help the club.

The motion was put to the AGM and accepted without opposition.

5. Election of Officers & Committee members

Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Communications Officer, Welfare Officer & Committee Members

After a short discussion the AGM accepted the committee nominations:

Chair Carey Hollick, Secretary Rob Lands, Treasurer John Borgars,



Comms Officer Amr Ziko, Welfare Officer Wilson Paterson

Other Committee Members

Graeme Packman, Courtney Gunn, Yuko Gordon, Michael Hausler, Trevor Bunch.

The position of Membership Secretary remained unfilled. Robert Lands said he would cover it for the time being. He added that he was in discussions with someone who had offered to support the membership work and would report back to committee on progress.

6. Financial Report

John Borgars introduced the [financial report](#) and [accounts](#). Wilson Paterson confirmed he had reviewed the statements as independent scrutineer.

A surplus of ~ £2k was reported. JB explained that the accounts were on a cash basis and this meant some small distortions based on timing of income and expenditure. JB said that the Indoor T&F Championships were the main cause of this as they are close to the year end. For 2024 Opentrack was used for entries and this changed the timing of income. JB said the aim was to break even on Championships, there had been a slightly larger surplus in 2024 than expected as although Lee Valley fees had increased a lot but we had underestimated entries. JB said that he had brought down the original Lee valley fee quoted by negotiation.

The expenditure on the Track & League is covered mainly by entry fees from clubs but is also subsidised from club membership fees. JB said this was reasonable as most club members joined for the T&F Lge. competition. JB said that out of the £10 second claim membership fee £1 went in finance fees & admin fees (Stripe and Opentrack). Of the £9 remaining only half stayed with EMAC after BMAF and EMAA affiliation fees. JB said Club Kit is expensed when bought so is then only shown as income when sold. JB said that a large number of medals were bought in 2022 and were still being used in 2023.

Shane Lawrence asked whether there was anymore expenditure on the new club website to come. JB said the website had come in below original estimate of £1k and that he was not expecting any more significant costs.

SL also asked whether the first claim fee of £30 was likely to rise in future. JB said this was in the control of England Athletics they had increased their registration fee and the additional money from first claim members went to England Athletics.

Brian Slaughter said he noted the increased costs at Lee Valley and asked that the club committee consider expenditure trends for the next two or three years. JB agreed to this, he said the club bank balance was high and static. The Committee were looking to organise more events but the pandemic had put a stop to plans. JB said that the club had extended membership to 2 years in the pandemic period.



The summer outdoor championships were discussed. Carey Hollick said the cost of hiring an outdoor track was much lower than an indoor one but in 2024 finding a date and officials was not possible.

David Lesley said that England Masters were raising their levy from 75p to £1 in the coming year. This was because EMAA will have to organise the International Cross Country event in 2025 – a year earlier than expected.

WP proposed that the Accounts were accepted by the AGM. The Accounts were accepted by the AGM.

7. Reports from Officers

Chair

Carey Hollick referred to her written report. She said she regretted that there were no plans for an outdoor T&F championships. She had identified a possible date in a very crowded season but had not been able to obtain officials. She hoped that a club would come forward in 2025 to host the championships.

Carey said that open meetings and championships would be identified for championships and medals could be awarded for performances. The Steeplechase meeting at Bury St Edmunds and the Eastern Athletics Championships were mentioned. It will be difficult to organise Throws and Hurdles as weights and heights add complication.

Secretary & Membership Secretary

Rob Lands referred to the information in his report.

Track & Field

Graeme Packman referred to his report. He said that changes had been made to the divisions to improve competition especially in what was the North division last year. The final will be at Milton Keynes on 15 September. There was discussion about the shelter available at Milton Keynes, Graeme said the offer to host was the best available this year. Host clubs do a lot of the organisation work for the final including finding officials.

Shane Lawrence asked when the EMAC team for the Inter Area T&F match in Corby would be selected. Graeme Packman and Carey Hollick said that this would start in July with emails and requests for competitors, all performances would be looked at.

Cross Country

Yuko Gordon referred to her report. She said that the EMAC turn out for the BMAF championships and inter area in North Wales had been poor. The journey was long and necessitated an overnight stop making the event expensive. Yuko said there was a selection race for the England team in October 2024, she added that EMAC was well represented in the England team.



Welfare Wilson Paterson said no issues had been reported in the year.

8. Any Other Business

No other business was brought forward. It was agreed that Sunday afternoon was a better day for an AGM than last year.

Robert Lands,
Secretary 08/04/2024



EASTERN MASTERS ATHLETICS CLUB

Review of Accounts for 2023

These accounts are on a “Cash Flow” basis and seem to show a “more than satisfactory” surplus of £2687: one-seventh of subscription income. [On an “Accruals” basis, the surplus would be significantly smaller.]

This is largely due to our having purchased no medals (just a few ribbons) in 2023 after purchasing a multi-year supply in 2022 (the principal reason why we reported a cash flow deficit for 2022). The other reasons are that Affiliation fees have not yet fully returned to their excessive pre-lockdown levels and that we made an acceptable, modest, cash flow surplus before the cost of medals (8.8% of entrance fees which is within the range of forecasting error) on the joint (with VAC) Indoor Championships. The profit was, of course, less than that.

We spent some of the budgeted amount on refreshing the website.

As you may see the majority of the income from subscriptions by our members is paid over in levies to England Athletics, British Masters and England Masters in affiliation fees (there was a temporary drop during lockdown when BMAF and EMAA cut their fees because they were unable to run any events costing them money). The differential between the subscriptions for the relatively small minority of “First Claim” and the majority of “Second Claim” members is just the cost of EA levy (and a rounding error to make both rates a round £) so we budget on the “Second Claim” subscription rates, which net down to £9 after the “Opentrack” fees: £4.75 goes in affiliation fees to BMAF and EMAA and the Club affiliation fee to EA takes about 45p more, leaving EMAC with £3.80.

Yes, that’s enough.

Over a period long enough to buy and use up a stock of medals, EMAC roughly breaks even on a net income of less than 40% of the gross membership subscription. We don’t need to worry overmuch about cash flow fluctuations during that period as our bank balances exceed the latest year’s expenditure. Not my fault: I inherited a safety margin of a just under £18,000 when I became Treasurer – I proposed a reduction in subscription rates but the first time I was voted down!

Our major expenditure (excluding affiliation fees) is the Track & Field League, a large part of whose costs are met by competing clubs (£50 entry fees plus, for some, the cost of hosting matches). EMAC pays the expenses of those Officials who claim them (a significant minority subsidise EMAC by not claiming) and the cost of staging the Final. The Indoor and (when they occur) Outdoor Championships are intended to break-even: in 2023 the Indoor Championships made a modest profit which looks misleadingly larger on a Cash Flow statement which ignores the cost of medals purchased in a previous year.

The figures on Club Kit reflect the amount bought and sold during the year, not profit or loss on the vests sold, which are normally at replacement cost (but we inevitably suffer a trivial loss on postage since I don’t know how much it will cost to post a vest until I do so).