



MASTERS ATHLETICS WA (INC)
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2020
HOCKEY CLUB ROOMS, PERRY LAKES

1. WELCOME

Meeting Opened 9.45am – Richard Blurton as Chair

2. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

As per attendance book 84 members present.

Apologies recorded: John Fisher, Sylvia Byers, Dorothy Whittam, Ivo Davies, Sean Keane, Karen Tolardo, Wendy Farrow, Joe Patroni, John Fettus.

3. MINUTES OF 2019 AGM

Previous AGM minutes 13/10/19 have been on the MAWA Website and a copy available for reading at the AGM. Moved to accept minutes by Janne Wells, seconded by Andrew Cuthbertson and passed by show of hands.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Deceased members since last AGM to be recorded:

Mike Berry

Bjorn Dybdahl

John Smith

John Ellard

Mary Hepple

Q: Mark Dawson – what was decided regarding future of club rooms for MAWA?

A: Richard – Two years ago it was proposed to build clubrooms at ECAC but due to the City of Canning's planned redevelopment they are not continuing with the venue for the long term future so the idea was postponed. When they begin work on a new stadium we will discuss with them whether we can have our club rooms there.

5. REPORTS

All reports were published in Vetrin, on the website and a copy provided for viewing at the AGM.

5.1 President (Richard Blurton)

Report tabled. The club is in a healthy position with a good flow of new members. The average age of members is going down and we have a high caliber of newer runners such as Roberto Busi. Our membership peaked at 710 but has dropped to 599 after renewals were due which is a normal drop.

At the moment we are not allowing visitors at Sunday runs until Parkrun starts up again as we believe we would get too large an influx of younger visitors.

Thanks to all our volunteers and the committee. Special thanks to Elaine and all our morning tea helpers. We must thank some out-going committee members. Andrew is stepping down from the committee due to health issues but has been a great support as Vice-President. Delia is also stepping down from Secretary this year for a well-earned break. Janne is also not re-standing and we thank her for all the order she has brought to organising the trophies and medals.

No questions. Report moved by Barrie Kernaghan, seconded by Jim Langford, accepted unanimously.

5.2 Secretary (Delia Baldock)

Report tabled. Special thanks to all our volunteers and the committee for doing a great job.

Report moved by Lynne Schickert, seconded by Barbara Blurton, accepted unanimously.

5.3 Treasurer (Gary Fisher)

Treasurer's Report tabled and copies of audited Financial Report provided to members.

Thanks to all our members for their support in what has been a difficult year. We are very appreciative that for 3 months members didn't get anything for their money. Particular thanks to all those who donated their State Championships refund.

Also our thanks go to Margaret Saunders for her efforts in organising a large donation to the club of about \$5,000 from the closing of Stirling Swans Athletics Club.

Revenue is down as our membership year changed so members were only charged \$30 instead of \$40. Having no visitors during COVID-19 restrictions meant a loss of about \$700 per month.

Expenses – State Championships were cancelled so we had some losses such as printing the programs which had to be binned but some costs will be recapped when we hopefully go ahead with our 2021 State Championships. For instance we will be able to reuse medals.

We have made a deficit for the year but are still in a strong financial position. \$40 is a very small fee and there will be pressure on the committee to raise the fees to cover expenses in the future.

No questions. Financial Report moved for acceptance by Barrie Kernaghan, seconded by Paul Hughes. Accepted unanimously by show of hands.

Audit Report moved for acceptance by Paul Hughes, seconded by Barrie Kernaghan. Accepted unanimously by show of hands.

Richard - thanks to Gary for doing a great job. Our savings are not earning much interest at this time so we should use our reserves to buy equipment when we need it. To this end we have ordered a new clock to be linked with the Photo Finish at ECAC. We are also looking into software to enhance our Sunday run results which Margaret Saunders is looking into. This will provide extra information and statistics similar to Parkrun.

6. STATISTICIAN REPORT (Barbara Blurton)

Report tabled and copies provided to members. Report covers records set from 1/9/19 to 30/9/20. The list is short because so many events were cancelled resulting in less events and hence less records. There were 26 State records and 3 Australian records for the women and 35 State records and 3 Australian records for men. We also had 1 world record which Paul Jeffery took out in the decathlon.

7. PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES

Special mention for Bob Schickert being inducted into the AMA Hall of Fame this year – congratulations to Bob for this great honour.

7.1 John Gilmour Trophy

Awarded to **Paul Jeffery**.

This trophy is now presented to the “Athlete of the Year” rather than for the performance of the year. This year competition was close with Barbara Blurton posting some very high 90%+ performances but the winner of this year’s trophy with a world record in the M45 Decathlon goes to Paul Jeffery. Paul competed in the 10 events over two days in the open competition at WAAS. Paul’s best long jump was wind assisted so his second best long jump was taken for his points total to be ratified for the record.

Trophy presented by our patron David Carr

7.2 Achievement Award – Road

Awarded to **Michael Pascoe**.

Tristan Bell provided the data for most improvement at Sunday Runs.

Rebekah Blake, Conny Bredden and Sandra Keenan have all showed great improvement but the winner is Michael Pascoe who improved his average time by 13% with his best time from the previous year being 60.98 and his best time over the last year now 53.18.

Trophy presented by David Carr

7.3 Achievement Award – Track & Field

Awarded to **John Fettus**.

Steve Weller provided the data for most improved in Track & Field.

Fourth was Andrew Ward, third was Lee Stergiou, second Sue Coate and the winner is John Fettus with 10% improvement in his discus and steady improvement in all his throws. Unfortunately John lives in Capel and couldn’t attend today.

7.4 President’s Pin

Awarded to **Margaret Bennett**

This pin is to recognise people who are always there to help over and beyond what is expected.

This member has been a Race Director, worked hard on the Committee and looked after morning teas for many years and now without duties is still always there helping so this year’s award goes to Margaret Bennett.

Pin presented by David Carr

8. CLUB OFFICIALS

Club Officials are appointed by the Committee and we thank the following officials who are continuing in their duties for the next year:

Patron:	David Carr
Auditor:	Mark Howard
Course Measurement:	Steve Weller (also T & F Database archive)
Editor Vetrin:	Vic Waters
Handicapper:	Tristan Bell
Registrar:	Barbara Blurton
Social:	Elaine Dance
Statistician:	Barbara Blurton
Website:	Ernie Leseberg

9. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

All positions declared vacant and Nominations for Committee were received as follows:

President: **Richard Blurton** - nominated by Delia Baldock, seconded by Janne Wells.
All in favour and elected unopposed

Vice-President: **Silke Peglow** - nominated by Richard Blurton, seconded by Janne Wells.
All in favour and elected unopposed

Secretary: **Gillian Young** - nominated by Richard Blurton, seconded by Delia Baldock
All in favour and elected unopposed

Treasurer: **Gary Fisher** - nominated by Pam Thonell, seconded by Mark Howard.
All in favour and elected unopposed

Committee Members (4):

1. **Mark Howard** - nominated by Delia Baldock, seconded by Gary Fisher.
2. **Pam Thonell** - nominated by Gary Fisher, seconded by Delia Baldock.
3. **Rochelle Airey** - nominated by Janne Wells, seconded by Mark Howard.
4. **John Fisher** – nominated by Mark Howard, seconded by Pam Thonell

All committee member nominations accepted by floor and elected unopposed

Rochelle Airey and Gillian Young were introduced to the meeting.
Richard – delighted with new committee who are all very capable.

10. LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

For Life Membership the nominee must have at least 10 years of continuous membership and have made a substantial contribution to the progress of the Association.

10.1 Paul Hughes

Nominated by Paul Martin and seconded by Gary Fisher and Margaret Saunders.

“Paul is the son of the late Bill Hughes who was Patron of the Club for 24 years. Paul joined in 1990 and from 1993 to the present, he has been Race Director for the highly successful Mosman Park Run.

Paul was also our President from April 2012 until August 2015 and worked tirelessly to institute reforms in order to improve the running of the Club.

For my part I have known Paul since the middle of the 1980's and in days of old we used to regularly train together . We had our Saturday morning group, which incidentally is still thriving, and also we ran with both the Masters, then called the Vets, and on occasions with the Marathon Club

Over the amount of time I have known him, we have become very good friends, and the only thing I have against him is that he is one of those infuriating people who have run marathons under 3 hours, something I failed to do by 40 seconds! Only joking, he is a great bloke !”

Nomination accepted unanimously by show of hands.

Pin presented by David Carr

10.2 Jim Langford

Nominated by Bob Schickert and seconded by Barbara Blurton and Lynne Schickert.

“Jim Langford joined MAWA in 1982. Service to MAWA by Jim goes back many years. For example for the 1989 AMA Championships held in Perth with David Carr as committee chair Jim provided the computer results services which required a large amount of work before and during the Championships.

As an athlete he has had, and continues to have, an illustrious career over distances ranging from the 5000m to the marathon. His real passion though is cross country where he has represented Australia in International competitions. Jim holds a range of Masters State Records.

Jim served on the MAWA Committee as Vice President for 3 years and for the past 4 years has fulfilled the key role of managing our Sunday helpers. In order to do this he has set up new systems that allow the process to be managed more fairly and efficiently.

Jim is currently AMA Treasurer and doing an outstanding job.

Jim is extremely good at developing and introducing new Sunday runs to our programme. He has recently introduced Thornlie and Roe runs, and has modified our cross country course to comply with new AMA rules on the 8km and 6km distances. He has regularly done more than one race director in a year.

Jim comes to most ECAC track meets, and always holds a watch when he is not actually racing.”

Nomination accepted unanimously by show of hands.

Pin presented by David Carr

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 Questions and Comments taken from the floor:

- Geoff Vine: when we develop our results software for Sunday runs suggested we could have an award for the highest age graded % performance of the year for men and women.

Response: Committee can certainly consider this when developed.

- Lorna Lauchlan: Suggestion that members 85yrs and older should not have to do volunteer duties twice a year.

Response: Now we have an excess of helpers this can be considered – membership numbers will be checked to see if practical to excuse 85yrs and up or even from 80yrs. Unanimous support from floor.

- Irene Ferris: letter sent to Vetrin in support of older members not having to help or pay fees. Instead of free membership for over 90yrs we could consider having it from 80yrs old. Newer members should be encouraged to help more.

Response: Letter and committee reply will be printed in October Vetrin to be issued shortly after AGM.

- Barrie Kernaghan: since Little Athletics and Senior Athletics have merged the 40 year tradition of holding a Masters race at carnivals has been dropped and suggest we send a letter.

Response: Richard will approach Athletics West on this point. Richard has met with general managers Nathan Charles and Emma Pass and Athletics West has committed to include Masters in the State Cross Country Championships next August.

- Frank Price: thanks to Melissa Lewis for taking over the job of morning teas.

- Irene Ferris: with Sunday visitors suggested that we should limit the number of times visitors can attend Sunday runs before they have to join. Perhaps we should also limit the number of visitors.

Response: Visitors aren't all masters age so some are unable to join and the results team would not want the extra work of having to manually record how many runs each visitor has done and how old they are.

- Barbara Blurton: having visitors enables our younger members to bring their children and who might otherwise not be able to attend.

- Lynne Schickert: we would not have our strong membership if we did not encourage visitors.

- Tristan Bell: we get a lot of revenue for the club from visitors so makes sense to continue.

- Paul Hughes: perhaps we could offer a pre-30yr old membership.

- Brian Bennett: young visitors should be able to join.

Response: This is not allowed under our current constitution.

- Bruce Wilson: if our runs become too large could the Councils restrict our numbers?

Response: Current numbers are a manageable size and no council to date has restricted our event numbers. At some of our runs we have been able to introduce a loop before entering the public path to ease congestion.

- Geoff Vine: we should have a cut off time for registration as late visitors sometimes delay the start of runs.
- Silke Peglow: suggested 10 minutes before run start as cut off time for visitors registration. The Marathon Club only takes pre-registrations before the day of the event.

Show of hands from floor - all in favour of having a cut off time for visitors to register.

- Barrie Kernaghan: have often invited visitors to Track & Field in the past who have then joined the club.

- SHOW of HANDS called for from the floor:

Those in favour of the club imposing some restrictions on the number of visitors we allow: 4 hands raised. Those in favour of keeping the status quo – ie no visitor restrictions and visitor fees kept to a nominal level: almost unanimous, hands not counted.

Thanks to members for the debate - member support is shown for continuing with visitors. As a club we want to be inclusive.

- Melissa Lewis: we should engage with social media more to encourage younger members. Posts on the website should be also posted on Facebook.
- Silke Peglow: will post notices on Facebook.

Thanks to Silke for keeping Facebook active during COVID-19 and also thanks to Vic Waters for his Vetrun extras!

- Barrie Kernaghan: radio Capital 101.7fm has a sports session on Saturday mornings with Geoff Smith who presents our Masters Track & Field results which Barrie gives him.

Thanks also to Graeme Dahl for his Track& Field Newsletter – he now also has links on the AMA website.

- Lynne Schickert: world news – there will be a meeting in mid-January to decide whether the WMA Outdoor Championships in Finland will go ahead in June/July 2021.

Also AMA Meeting on 16 December to decide on proceeding with AMA Championships in Canberra March 2021

- Jeff Whittam: thanks to the outgoing Committee.

12. CLOSE

There being no further business Richard thanked everyone for attending and for a record attendance. AGM Closed 11.05am.