

Loughton Athletic Club AGM

25th March 2013 at the Loughton Club

Minutes

Present

George Richardson, Tony Maycraft, Brian Chapman, John Cash, Pauline Wilson, Peter Cassidy, Doris de Souza-Brady, Sean de Souza-Brady, David Hobbs, Jean Hobbs, Mary Knapman, Paulette Regan, John Ryan, Cliff Warren, Gavin Harper, Joanne Harrison, Amie Harrison, Joanne Ryan, Gay Shillaker, John Hart, Jim Whiffin, Ted Martin, Jim Harrison and Lorna Gaffney (eventually).

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Lara Regan, Scott Hurley, Michelle Hurley, Jon Whitehouse, Mick Higgins, Barbara Higgins and Paul Regan

Minutes of 2012 AGM

The minutes had been available on the club website for some months. An inaccuracy in the titles on the previous minutes and Sportsperson was identified in that they should relate to 2011 rather than 2010 was identified. Other than this the minutes were agreed as accurate.

Matters Arising

The Mayor's Fun Run will again be held this year on the 14th April. Tony M is in contact with the Town Council and will be looking for helpers to help set and marshal the course. The club will set up a stall at the event as previously.

Annual Report

Tony Maycraft had produced an Annual Report which had been circulated with the AGM notice. This was accepted by the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Brian Chapman distributed details of the accounts. We had an increase in surplus compared with last year. The meeting agreed a vote of thanks to Brian.

John Cash addressed the meeting regarding the shares that Ted Cash had held as nominee on behalf of the club. These were:

- a) War Loan: John and George Richardson were trying to get the trustees changed. However the authorities were currently refusing to deal with John. George reported that he had been told that it would cost c£50 to get a new certificate which was nearly half the value of the stock. We don't know what is happening to the dividends as they were being paid into an account that no longer exists. John and George have currently given up trying to get things changed.
- b) Tesco's: These shares were originally BAA shares and which were sold and reinvested as Tesco shares. It transpires that the shares were never owned by the club. They were bought with an unsecured loan by Ted Cash and the dividends were donated to the club. They have now been sold.
- c) Furthermore John reported that had left the club £5000 in his will and presented a cheque for this amount. The meeting expressed its gratitude for the bequest.

Brian Chapman said that he was extremely unhappy with the situation as it impacted on the club accounts and would be standing down as Treasurer. He agreed that he would continue until a successor is found.

The meeting felt that the accounts were accurate as far as was reasonably known at the end of 2012 and therefore should be accepted with the proviso that they need to be amended at some stage to reflect the situation with the shares that has now transpired.

Election of Officers

Brian Chapman confirmed that he did not wish to continue as Treasurer.

The remaining positions - Chairman: George Richardson, Correspondence Secretary: Gavin Harper, Meetings Secretary: Tony Maycraft, were proposed en-bloc by Jean Hobbs and seconded by Mary Knapman. This was carried unanimously.

Unfilled Positions

George Richardson felt that it was important to appoint Winter Team Managers (Men and Women) to encourage participation. However David Hobbs felt that he already fulfilled this role to a great extent and appointing team managers was unlikely to make a significant difference. He was happy to carry on doing the role for the present.

The meeting felt that it was important to have a Facilities Manager to address issues with the clubhouse. Jim Whiffin offered to take on this role, but he did not want to become a committee member.

Tony Maycraft stated that because of various issues within the club he would prefer not to continue as Membership Secretary. He would continue in the role until someone else was found.

Tony also outlined his views regarding his role as cross-country course setter. It was unreasonable to expect anyone to fulfill that role as the fixture list currently demands which may involve 4 races in 6-8 weeks. He suggested that the job of setting the courses should be split among club members with someone being appointed to the role for each individual race. Tony was happy to co-ordinate this process. It was agreed that Tony's title should change to Course Setting Co-ordinator and that he would arrange setters as soon as the winter fixtures were established.

Participation in Leagues

Tony Maycraft repeated his thoughts from the previous year's meeting that one reason for poor attendances is that many of the races are held on a Saturday afternoon which then involves taking large parts of a day when people have

other commitments. The meeting agreed that we should attempt to stage our own races (5 mile champs, Vets match and Ware Cup) in the morning – if the other clubs involved are in agreement.

It was recognised that nothing could be done about league fixtures in the short term, although this could be raised at the leagues' AGMs.

It was also agreed that the club could offer to stage a Chingford League fixture provided that it was as a co-host with another club.

All Weather Surface

David Hobbs reported that:

- a) The project was started following the EGM in January which agreed the funding.
- b) The initial work has been done but the continuation depends on favourable weather (note to anyone reading this as a future date - the current weather is more like January than late March.)
- c) The Grant from EFDC has been paid. The grant from the Grange Farm Trust is being progressed. With funding from within current club resources, this leaves a balance of c£13,000 which will be met by an interest free loan.
- d) It was suggested at the EGM that one way of raising funds to pay the loan is to charge a session fee on those attending training sessions. David proposed that this be introduced on a voluntary basis to see what the response is. This was agreed by the meeting.

Sportsperson of the Year 2012

After the secret ballot of those attending, the Sportsperson of the Year was awarded to **Anna Clark**.

Other Business

George Richardson: We had been invited to participate in Eton Manor's "Marshes Relay" in the summer.

- Peter Cassidy:
- (a) As a result of the issues with the accounts, he wished to resign as auditor.
 - (b) Peter expressed his unhappiness at the committee's decision to pay the England Athletics affiliation fees. He was of the opinion that the club – along with some others- should not pay them and let EA approach the members directly.
- David Hobbs and Tony Maycraft were both of the opinion that adopting this approach this would put at risk the participation of club athletes in events above the league level.
- Tony Maycraft stated that the club had given the option to club members not to affiliate to EA if they wished. He thought that it was perfectly appropriate for the club to affiliate those members that so wished and that not to do so would be wrong.

Peter refuted the opinions of David and Tony and stated that he may resign from the club over the issue. The meeting hoped that this would not be the case.

Doris de Souza-Brady: Needs helpers for the children's sessions during the summer. Several members offered to help. A rota will be compiled.

Tony Maycraft: Is looking for marshals for the Loughton Mayor's Fun Run.

Meeting closed at 21:20