

NZ Masters Athletics Board Meeting



Minutes of the Board meeting held on Sunday 20 September 2020

Utilising Zoom and commencing at 1pm.

Present: Andrew Stark (AS) (President), Michael Wray (MW) (Vice-President), Stewart Foster (SF) (Secretary/Treasurer), John Campbell (JC), Ian Carter (IC), Claire Giles (CG) and Derek Shaw (DS) (Minute Secretary).

Apologies: None

1. Welcome:

The President welcomed members to the second NZMA Board Zoom meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous Board meeting held on 7 June 2020.

That the minutes of the Board Zoom meeting held on 7 June 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

A Stark / D Shaw

Carried

3. Matters Arising:

Actions: DS to resend the document (as file was corrupted) with the changes to the NZMA Constitution to Board members and for SF, AS and JC to sign it and initial pages. AS will lodge it with registrar of Incorporated Societies.

MW reported that he has put the results of the World Wide Virtual Masters Challenge on the website.

In the interests of succession planning with respect to the website JC advised that he has set up a full back up in the Cloud and all details regarding the website are now in our Dropbox.

4. President's Report:

AS reported that not a lot had been happening although there had been queries and discussions about the North Island Masters T&F Champs, which have now been cancelled due to a lack of a host centre. He had been busy with a lot of Athletics Canterbury business.

That the President's report be received.

A Stark / J Campbell Carried

5. Secretary's Report:

SF reported that it been pretty quiet since the last meeting and that his time had mostly been spent on the NZMA year end accounts and OMA matters.

That the Secretary's report be received.

S Foster / I Carter Carried

6. Treasurer's Report:

SF spoke to his pre-circulated statement of financial performance for the year ended 31 August 2020. He indicated that 'WMA' on the second line should be 'OMA'. He reported that the surplus of \$5972 was helped by cost savings due to one meeting being via Zoom and one less printed edition of Vetline. He indicated that some Centres are not supplying details on the split between memberships and Vetline subscriptions when sending in payments or making direct credit payments into the NZMA bank account. This in turn is making it difficult to separate out these two sources of income in our accounts. He noted that there was no issue with payments via the on-line STG system. SF signalled that after he retires as treasurer, he will still be available to advise his successor. AS reported that he has the NZMA camera.

That the Treasurer's report be received and that the Statement of Financial Performance for the financial year ended 31 August 2020 be approved for sending to our reviewer.

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| S Foster / C Giles | Carried |
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7. Vetline:

DS indicated that plenty of material had been received for the October issue of Vetline and more was under preparation, including several obituaries. There was however a shortage of photographs due to the lack of national and island championships. It was agreed to delay the publication date to enable the NZ Road Relay Champs on 3 October to be covered in the October Vetline rather than it appearing 4 months later in the January 2021 issue.

8. Championship Updates:

i. NZMA Indoor Champs

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions in Auckland these champs had been postponed. Now proposed that they be held sometime in November or December 2020 if Auckland Masters are able to hold them, however date could clash with outdoor track and field events. Entries received via the website came to 45 and the fees have been paid out to Auckland Masters. Action: MW will email Phillipa Green to see what is happening with the champs.

SF raised the issue of what our policy was when an event is cancelled and it was acknowledged that we should review our conditions of entry with respect to refunds if any of our events are cancelled. The subsequent discussion included what similar organisations do and on various options that ranged from no refunds to 96% refunds (ie 100% minus credit card fees of 4%). It was indicated that refunds can be done via the STG system back to the credit card account. It was noted that in the recent case of the Rotorua Marathon that there was either a 50% refund or the fees could be transferred to next year's event. There was general agreement that entry fees would be non-refundable if event was cancelled due to an 'act of God'. If however there were requests for refunds than they would be considered but not guaranteed.

ii. North Island Masters T&F Championships

These champs had been cancelled for this year due to no Centre being prepared to organise them. It was suggested that there is a need to review the rotation for NI champs to ensure a NI Centre is prepared to host them in 2021. IC suggested that perhaps NI clubs and centres could be invited to host the NI champs next year, such as in the Wairapapa and that we could ask Athletics NZ to help spread the word about such an opportunity. AS suggested

that the NI champs could be like last year's SI champs and be in conjunction with an ANZ centre events such as a combined events champs and a senior meet.

iii. South Island Masters T&F Championships - 13-15 November 2020, Dunedin

CG reported that they are definitely going ahead and preparations are under control. AS is assisting with the programme of events, which will incorporate a combined events competition and a senior meet. Entry form is sorted and protocols developed for entry to the Calendonian Ground to take account of any Covid-related restrictions that may be in place. AS has offered to print a programme booklet and supply a result certificate if wanted either as an electronic version or light card version. No decisions from the LOC on these offers as yet.

iv. NZMA T&F Championships – 26-28 February 2021, Inglewood

Programme of events may need some tweaking eg to avoid clash / overlap of men's high jump and pole vault events.

The NZMA Board meeting will be on Thursday 25 February starting around midday, with the NZMA AGM on the following day.

v. NZMA 10000m track championship

It is proposed to incorporate these into the Agency 10000m event in Wellington on 5 December 2020. Since it is a free event to enter we cannot charge an entry and would thus need to meet the cost of any medals presented or find a sponsor for them.

Actions:

- * AS to talk to KGG about getting Taranaki masters to distribute leaflets about the NZMA T&F Champs at the NZ Masters Games in Whanganui in February.
- * SF to book accommodation in New Plymouth or Inglewood for Board members and any accompanying partners and sort out meeting space(s) for Board meeting and AGM.
- * All Board members to sort out their travel to and from Taranaki.
- * MW undertook to circulate draft roosters for both NZMA and NI champs for discussion.
- * MW undertook to look into the issue of age group medals for the 10000m championships on 5 December 2020.

9. Merchandise:

MW indicated that he needs to put in an order but there is no rush given that international events have been cancelled.

Action: AS to put an advert on Facebook and get orders.

10. Constitution, Strategic Plan and Handbook update:

Further possible changes to the constitution as discussed at the last meeting were still to be discussed by MW, AS and DS, along with an additional suggestion of only having 50% of the Board up for election or re-election each year to assist with ensuring continuity. Following discussion it was agreed not to look at a possible limit on the number of years a member can be on the Board in this review but to leave it for a later review. MW, AS and DS to discuss possible changes via a Zoom meeting before 20 October and to then present

proposals to the next Board meeting. The Board will proceed with election at the next AGM as intended in the changes to the Constitution approved at the last AGM.

Action: MW to set up a Zoom meeting with AS and DS before 20 October and the subgroup to report back to the next Board meeting.

In terms of the one-page Strategic Plan, DS indicated that he thought the second bullet point under 1. Administration needed to be amended as it has been established that NZMA is eligible to apply for funding grants. There was agreement that it should be replaced by a survey of members to obtain their feedback on our organisation and views on a range of issues. It was noted that this could be undertaken using Survey Monkey and that careful thought needs to be given to the wording of the questions. It was also suggested that some incentive to do the survey be provided, such as put in a draw for something that most people would like to win. It was suggested that the marketing and promotion plan (and its implementation) under 2. Communications would be a priority for some of our funds, including paying somebody or some people to work on our website.

Action: DS to amend the second bullet point under 1. Administration in the Strategic Plan and re circulate the plan.

11. International / OMA:

SF indicated that he has officially taken on the role of OMA Treasurer following the resignation of the previous Treasurer. He indicated that the proceeds from Mackay OMA champs was \$A18k and that the next OMA AGM be no later than February 2021. He indicated that the new OMA Exec have had various challenges but with the postponement of the OMA Champs on Norfolk Island to January 2022 things have been fairly quiet. Waikato Bay of Plenty Masters have expressed interest in hosting the 2024 OMA Champs, which could clash with WMA indoor champs. MW indicated that he thought WMA were not clear on schedule after Stadia champs in Gotenburg 2023 as they usually tried to avoid clashing with World Masters Games.

Action: SF to advise DS the cost of half page advert for Norfolk OMA.

12. Website:

It was agreed that AS and JC would discuss some next steps for the website once JC is back in Christchurch.

13. OMA Throws Pentathlon:

AS reported that there has been limited promotion this year, however 10 Australians have so far taken part and Canterbury and Otago throwers are taking part today. He has extended the deadline until the end of October. He was intending to produce an electronic version of the results and certificates instead of in a booklet.

14. General Business:

i. Review of Athletics NZ Cross Country Challenge.

CG indicated that the event had gone well despite being downgraded from 'championship' to 'challenge' due to Covid-19 restrictions in place and as a result no Auckland athletes being able to take part. The only hiccup was the well-publicised disqualification of one athlete who broke the special rules designed to reduce the risk of covid-19 being spread. In general the special measures to restrict social mixing had worked well and there was great

competition and racing in many grades even though there were many no-shows. MW and DS indicated that they had intended to take part but when it was no longer a championship event they and many other masters runners in Wellington and Tasman had decided not to spend the time and cost of travel and attendance. There was support expressed for the 2021 Cross Country champs to be held in Dunedin.

ii. Possible Additional Age Grade and Team Championships at ANZ Championship Events. CG raised the question of NZMA supporting the addition of a W65+ championship grade plus a Centre team championship (3 person?) in the NZ Cross Country Championships. DS raised a similar question regarding the addition of M65+ championship grade plus a Centre team championship for M65+ runners who currently run 6km and thus cannot be part of the 8km M50+ championship grade or team championship. DS also raised the possible addition of an Open 70+ championship grade in the NZ Road Relay Championships, noting that there had been a non-official O70 grade last year and again this year. He also thought consideration should be given to an M65+ championship grade in the NZ Road Championship and an M65+ Centre team championship (3 person?). With increasing numbers in these grades it was felt that separate championships grades and team competitions would provide more incentive for these athletes to participate in such events.

It was pointed out that since these championship events are conducted by Athletics NZ that any changes to the ANZ rules and regulations needed to be proposed by clubs affiliated with ANZ. Board members were encouraged to work through the ANZ clubs that they are a member of. DS indicated that he will work through Athletics Nelson to put a remit to the ANZ Regulations Sub-Committee, which is currently convened by Rod Symes. MW circulated the Protocol for Enacting ANZ By-Law and Regulation Changes document to Board members during the meeting. The Board agreed to support the proposed changes and would signal this support to the committee if/when the opportunity arises.

Actions: DS and CG to liaise over the wording of possible changes and remits to their clubs and circulate them to the Board.

iii. New Secretary and/or Treasurer

With the pending retirement of SF at the AGM from his roles of Secretary and Treasurer there was discussion on whether or not the two roles should be split. IC indicated that he was prepared to take over as the role of Treasurer. MW indicated that he could probably pick up the secretarial duties.

That Ian Carter be added as a signatory of the NZMA ANZ account.

S Foster / D Shaw

carried

Action: SF to initiate the process of adding IC as a signatory to ANZ account.

It was agreed to change the account administer SF after the AGM.

15. Next meeting: **Sunday 6 December 2020 at 3pm via Zoom.**

Meeting closed at 4.00pm.