



NZ Masters Athletics Board Meeting

Minutes of the Board meeting held on Sunday 7 June 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 first ever NZMA Board Zoom meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous Board meeting held on 27 February 2020.

That the minutes of the Board meeting held on 27 February 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record. A Stark / D Shaw Carried

3. Matters Arising (not on the agenda):

DS raised the issue of how we manage our membership database and how memberships are processed now that there is an on-line option. It was agreed to keep both systems going ie new on-line system and the traditional system via Centres. MW indicated that he would notify Centre secretaries as to the two options when they are encouraging members to rejoin.

It was noted that Faith Firestone is no longer the Secretary of Auckland Masters.

4. President's Report:

AS indicated that he had been busy as President of Athletics Canterbury with regular Zoom meetings, including with Athletics NZ and other regional presidents during the Covid-19 lockdown. Up until the week prior to the NZMA Board he had not done a lot on NZMA matters. There had been considerable email discussion on the NI champs and other matters on the agenda for the Board meeting during the previous week.

That the President's report be received. A Stark / I Carter Carried

5. Secretary's Report:

SF spoke to his written report and indicated that there was minimal inward and outward correspondence. These included the filing of the annual return for 2019 to the Register of Incorporated Societies, sorting out a record application for Alan Dougall for 80m hurdles, and responding to an enquiry from Sally Gibbs about her world record.

That the Secretary's report be received. S Foster / M Wray Carried

6. Treasurer's Report:

SF spoke to his financial statement as at 31 May 2020, noting the current balance of \$18,897 which is nearly 3k better than at the same time last year.

That the Treasurer's report be received. S Foster / C Giles Carried

7. *Vetline* Report:

DS spoke to his written report on the content of the April 2020 edition of *Vetline* and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic which had resulted in the closure of the printers. As a consequence a full colour pdf version was posted on the NZMA website. However, he suspected that many members had not seen it as its presence on the website was not publicised and it wasn't particularly easy to locate.

He put forward three options for the April and July editions of *Vetline*. After discussions the Board resolved:

That hard copies of the April edition of Vetline be printed and distributed, that there not be a July issue and as a consequence subscriptions be extended by one issue, and that the next edition be the October 2020 issue. J Campbell / D Shaw Carried

As a consequence it was agreed that:

- AS would add a note to his President's Report in the April hard copy edition that there would be July issue and that subscriptions would be extended by one issue. JC indicated that he would update the Coming Events.
- DS would notify the *Vetline* contributors that the next issue would be in October.
- If Oceania Masters Champs proceed in January 2021 (being decided on 2 July 2020) that we can assist with the promotion of them by sending the Norfolk Island's planned third advertisement in *Vetline* to all in our database and ask that ANZ send it to their masters which will be a much better deal for them.

SF indicated that he had invoiced the Norfolk LOC for the first advert and will invoice them for the second after the April issue is printed.

8. Island and NZMA Championships:

CG indicated that Otago Masters LOC is ready to go for the SI Masters T&F champs in Dunedin hopefully with the dates 13-15 November 2020 to be confirmed soon. It is anticipated that they will be held in conjunction with an Otago Athletics meet for part of the weekend along with the SI Combined Events champs. AS indicated that the events programme used at Nga Puna Wai last year is available (which is the same as the NZMA programme). MW will follow up with questions to LOC to help set up the entry details on-line plus nearby accommodation options and other information. He thought there could be considerable interest from North Island masters.

Recent email correspondence from Manawatu-Whanganui Secretary Jen Fee indicated that they are considering hosting the 2020 NI T&F champs, probably in Palmerston North which has a new Mondo

track. Jim Blair is assisting them and will attend a meeting of the Centre within the next two weeks. Both SF and AS indicated that there are various ways that NZMA can assist them if they decide to proceed with hosting NI Champs.

AS indicated that he had spoken to Karen Gillum-Green regarding the date for the 2021 NZMA T&F Champs in Inglewood over the last weekend in February 2021 ie 26-28. He outlined how NZMA and he can assist them with the programme of events, medals, race numbers and booklet.

9. Merchandise:

MW reported that an order for new apparel was ready to go. There were good stock levels for crop tops and T-shirts but some singlet sizes were a bit light. He wasn't sure of the stock trigger level for re-ordering or the supplier. He would put a note on Facebook to explain the delays due to Covid-19 in supplying the orders and AS would email them as well. There is apparently no issue with any minimum numbers in placing orders.

10. Constitutional matters / Strategic Plan and Handbook update:

DS to incorporate the changes to the constitution approved at the 2020 AGM into a word version of the current constitution. It was then agreed that he would send an amended version to SF for him to initial each page and sign the last page who would then return it to DS who in turn would initial and sign the document before passing it on AS for the third signing and lodging with registrar of Incorporated Societies.

DS spoke on how he came up with the draft one-page strategic plan from the 6 page version discussed at the last meeting. He had selected one of the 3 possible visions and reduced the number of organisational goals from 5 to 4, but kept the same mission statement and values. He dropped most of the 'business as usual' objectives and actions and tried to focus on what he regarded as the key priority objectives and actions under the Administration, Communications and Competition headings and added the fourth area of 'Global Crises' to try and ensure that we contribute to the responses to both the Covid-19 pandemic and the climate change crisis.

He gave verbal examples of what we could do with respect to Covid-19 such as promotion of the Government requirements on how to stay safe and responsible behaviour. With respect to reducing our greenhouse emissions the Board could reduce travel through the use of Zoom for Board meetings and when we travel look to offset our emissions and advocate low carbon travel means for those participating in our own track & field champs and other meets, including where possible the avoidance of flying, using public transport and sharing transport.

DS explained that subsequent to sending out the draft plan that he had undertaken further investigation as to whether NZMA was eligible to apply to funds and now concluded that as an registered Incorporated Society that were are. As a consequence the first part of the action under the second bullet point under 1. Administration referring to ensuring that NZMA is charitable for funding applications is not now necessary. He noted that there had been some past discussion on whether we should look to employ somebody to help do some of the administrative tasks currently done by Board members and asked whether we wanted to pursue this and if so then we may need to develop a funding strategy to ensure such a position could be sustained.

AS felt that we could contract somebody to work on the website using the money saved through the use of Zoom for meetings as opposed to having all face-to-face meetings. AS also felt we needed to continue work on succession planning especially with the signalled departure of SF and possibly himself at some stage. SF indicated that the new Board takes over at the end of the 2021 NZMA champs and there are a number of transitional things we need to consider, such as in the Constitution clause 6 regarding the registered office being the nominated address of the Secretary. He also indicated that the current PO Box rental expires in March. SF was encouraged to detail the administrative matters that he undertakes on behalf of NZMA to assist his successors. AS also encouraged JC to put details on the website hosting in Dropbox.

DS indicated that a marketing and promotion plan should encompass all forms of media including website, social media, *Vetline*, e-newsletters etc. SF had raised a couple of points with regards to the action under the second bullet point under Competition with respect to training opportunities for officials, that ANZOA was winding up and that OAA should be added to the list of organisations that offered training opportunities.

MW, who led the updating of the Handbook, indicated that following the comments received on the revised draft he had circulated, the final version was now on the website.

There was discussion on some further possible changes to the Constitution as a result of matters raised by Murray Clarkson with MW and at the AGM which related to 7.1.2 and 7.1.5, plus possible rewording of 6. to indicate that the registered office be a nominated address of the Board as opposed to the nominated address of the Secretary. It was agreed that MW would email DS the possible changes so that he can prepare a short paper for discussion at the next Board meeting.

11. OMA and International:

SF had circulated an email report from Joan Merrilees on matters before the OMA Council. She indicated that the LOC in Norfolk Island would make a decision on 2 July as to whether the OMA champs would proceed in January 2021 or be postponed to January 2022. The champs can only be held during the school holidays as they use the school grounds. If they are postponed a year then that would mean NZ would have the next rotation in 2024 and even years would continue for the champs. She also indicated the OMA Treasurer David Benjamin has resigned due to family reasons. The OMA Council having quarterly electronic meetings which appear to fit around the different time zones conveniently.

AS indicated that as the World Paras are not now likely to be hosted by Canterbury 2023, Christchurch seems the logical venue for OMA champs in NZ in 2023 or 2024 if the OMA champs in Norfolk are delayed a year.

SF indicated that he has been approached to take over as Treasurer which he has agreed to and reappointment is expected at the next meeting. SF also indicated that no reviewer was appointed at the AGM and Rob McGregor has declined the position.

With the cancellation of the WMA Stadia Champs in Toronto the next WMA Stadia Champs have now been moved to Tampere, Finland over a week in July 2021. The WMA Indoor Champs in

Edmonton, Canada have been pushed out to April 2022, as have the WMA Stadia Champs in Gothenburg, Sweden to August 2023. MW will put new dates for WMA champs on the website and in a news article.

12. Website:

There was a general discussion on how the website could be improved, such as providing an easier way to get to the back issues of *Vetline* and having a calendar of events that users can quickly access. MW indicated that Wellington Masters website has a Google calendar and JC indicated that the Auckland Masters website has a built in calendar. In response to a query as to why there is a link to *The Herald* sport articles, JC indicated that linking to a RSS Feed was a way of getting new material on the site or in other words a refresh, and that it can come from anywhere. IC suggested we could use WMA and ANZ information for updates or refreshes.

SF urged a chase up of Master's Centres for new material on the links from the NZMA website. Updated material could be sent to AS, JC or MW for posting on the website.

13. World Wide Virtual Masters Challenge / OMA Throws Pentathlon Challenge:

IC had followed up on this virtual event and sent around information supplied by the organiser Gottfried Gassenbauer in Vienna, Austria who runs the masters ranking website. JC indicated that he had looked into this challenge from 18 July to 2 August 2020 which will operate at three levels (A, B and C) with the "champion" being in the A level of regular competitions. He had noted that there is a 2 Euro entry fee per event or \$2.35 outside Europe but it was not clear whether entrants needed to also pay a \$25 membership fee. IC agreed to follow up with GG as to whether this was required or not. It was suggested that we could promote the challenge on our website.

In terms of the OMA Throws Pentathlon Challenge, AS had received positive feedback on continuing to offer this event, so he would organise the next challenge for later in the year. SF indicated that the challenge had incurred a small loss last year and suggested looking at the fees this year. AS indicated that money could be saved by not posting out the certificates and making it possible for them to be downloaded.

14. General Business:

IC recounted feedback he had received from a prominent master's athlete who lamented the loss of stand-alone master's events because the post-event social aspect was being lost. MW indicated that in Wellington masters regularly go off after an integrated meet and socialise at a bar.

MW indicated that the organiser of the Agency 10,000m event in Wellington is happy to host the Masters 10,000m champs. The date has not yet been set – usually second weekend in November so it could clash with Island champs so he would try and get it moved to December (and avoiding clashing with the NZSS T&F champs on 11-13 December 2020 in Tauranga).

15. Next meeting:

Board members were happy to continue with Zoom meetings and to have at least three Zoom meetings and one face-to-face meeting at time of the AGM per year.

It was agreed that the subgroup working on possible changes to the Constitution have a Zoom meeting within 2 months (AS, MW and DS) and that the next Board meeting would be on **Sunday 20 September 2020**.

Meeting closed at 3.27pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

AW Stark (President)

Date: