



NZ Masters Athletics Inc

Special Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Special AGM held via Zoom on Sunday 22 May 2022, commencing at 2pm.

1. Present:

Andrew Stark (NZMA President) welcomed all the Board members, Centre delegates, members and special guests including life members Jim Blair and Stewart Foster (+ OMA Treasurer), Joan Merrilees (OMA Council), Pete Pfitzinger (Athletics NZ CEO), Raylene Bates (Athletics NZ Lead Coach - Para) – a total of 53.

He indicated that since there are delegates from all Masters Centres, there is a quorum and the meeting can proceed.

Centre Delegates and Life Members:

Life members	Jim Blair and Stewart Foster
Northland	Margaret Crook and Judith Stewart
Auckland	Alan Dougall and Phillipa Green
Waikato Bay of Plenty	Murray Clarkson and Brenda Davis
Hawkes Bay Gisborne	Michael O'Leary
Taranaki	Serena Coombes and Brian O'Shea
Wellington	Veronica Gould and Adrian Stockill
Tasman	Ian Morrison and Derek Shaw
Canterbury	Richard Davison and Janis Russell
Otago	Winifred Harding and Robert Homan
Southland	Ian Denise and Evan MacIntosh

2. Apologies: Received from: Noeline Burden, Barry Jones, Lynne Mackay, Vicky Adams, Karen Gillum-Green, Tuariki Delamere, Des Phillips and Jason Cameron (ANZ Comps Mgr).

That the apologies be received. Chair Carried

The chairperson explained that all the papers relating to the meeting were on the NZMA website and members had been notified of this.

That all the meeting papers on the NZMA website be taken as read. Chair Carried

3. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 21 February 2021 in the TET Stadium Admin Building in Inglewood were considered.

That the minutes of the 47th AGM held on 21 February 2021 were confirmed.
Chair Carried

4. Matters Arising:

The Chairperson indicated that the Board is still to look at the inventory of trophies, what they were donated for and how we deal the trophies going forward.

5. President's Report:

The Chairperson reminded members that his report was on the NZMA website and was also in the April issue of *Vetline*. Among the points he highlighted were:

- Acknowledged that the NZMA Champs have an important social function of enabling old friends to get together and hoped that there will be a better situations in the future for this to occur.
- The membership drop in NZMA was anticipated when the MoU was signed with Athletics NZ but urged Centres to still sign up members and stated that the challenge is how to engage them at the local level and encourage them to participate at Island and NZMA T&F championships.
- The survey went out to 660 masters and resulted in 128 responses (+ 10 more later).
- The Board had spent a year discussing the significant change of whether *Vetline*, due to the increasing printing and postage costs, should change from being printed to a digital format, before deciding that the January 2022 issue should be digital. A small number of paper copies are produced for those who strongly prefer a hard copy.
- The Oceania Masters Athletics has a new Council elected at the AGM in January 2022. Previously co-opted member Stewart Foster has been elected as Treasurer and Joan Merrilees has been re-elected to the Council and has prepared a report for the Special AGM.
- He emphasised that it is crucial to have succession planning in place in Centres and for the NZMA Board. With a few key people in leadership roles the organisation is very vulnerable if key people step down.

He provided additional background on the Board's recent decision to hold the postponed NZMA T&F champs in Wellington over the first weekend in December 2022. The schedule of major track and field events in NZ is now busy from January to end of March and with Athletics NZ T&F Championships being held in Wellington in February for the next two years it is difficult to get enough officials on consecutive weekends. Michael Wray had obtained permission from the Wellington City Council to hold our champs in December this year and the Council had also agreed to extend the grant made available earlier in the year. The South Island Masters T&F Championships will now take place on the third weekend in January 2023 in Christchurch. The Board is still looking for a host of the North Island Masters T&F Championships.

The chairperson indicated that we need a closer relationship with Athletics NZ to help ensure that we don't lose our events and this is supported by the survey of members.

6. Secretary / Treasurer's Report:

The Chairperson explained that there was no dedicated Secretary and instead roles and tasks are divided amongst Board members, including Michael Wray being responsibility for merchandise

and Derek Shaw is minute secretary, and that he deals with enquires made via the website and directed to himself. He indicated that there was not a lot of secretarial business. He apologised for the zoom Board minutes not being distributed, but they are now all available on the website. An individual email to all members can be sent with a link to the minutes.

In terms of the Annual Accounts, the chairperson reminded members that these are available on the website. He reported that there was a \$4,000 loss for the year mainly due to the costs of printing and posting *Vetline*. The Board has saved money with the move to Zoom meetings. The Board has approached Anna Lynch of Canterbury, a self-employed accountant, who has agreed to assist with setting the accounts using Xero and knows a potential reviewer of our accounts. The Board is very grateful for her assistance.

7. Centre Reports:

Written reports from Manawatu Whanganui and Waikato Bay of Plenty were available on the NZMA website, and reports from other centres were available in *Vetline*. Any comments from other centres were encouraged to be emailed to the President.

8. Election of Board:

Five nominations for the Board were received before the scheduled AGM in March from Ian Carter, Brayden Grant, Derek Shaw, Andrew Stark and Michael Wray and as there were more vacancies than candidates no election was held and they were duly appointed. The chairperson issued an invitation for others to consider being involved in the Board, especially younger members.

9. Appointment of Honorary Positions:

Jim Blair indicated that he was prepared to continue as Patron and was duly appointed. The Chairperson indicated that the Board was still to locate a Reviewer and Honorary Legal Advisor and suggested that this be referred to the incoming Board.

That the incoming NZMA Board appoint a Reviewer and an Honorary Legal Advisor.

Chair

Carried

10. Appointment of Trustee to Fourth World Veteran Games Trust:

The Chairperson indicated that the Board needs to research how the trust can be protected and to find some new trustees, especially someone with knowledge and experience with the share market.

11. Constitutional matter for discussion:

The Board had put forward for discussion at the meeting an amendment to clause 12.1 of the NZMA constitution to cover the situation when for some reason the NZMA T&F Championships are not held. There was general support for the amendment.

*That clause 12.1 of the Constitution be amended through the addition of the following:
“If the Track and Field Championships are NOT held, then the Board shall arrange an alternative
date within three months of the cancelled AGM, held either in person or electronically”.*

I Carter / M Wray

Carried

12. The NZMA Board Discussion Issues:

The Chairperson introduced the discussion issues by summarising the results of the surveys undertaken the previous week of Centre Committees and membership database. Most Centres struggle to find committee members and to organise separate masters only track and field meetings. Most Centres provide events for masters’ athletes within Athletics NZ Centre interclub meetings, which has been happening for years within non-stadia events. He suggested that a local masters’ committee might consider becoming involved in the Athletics NZ Centre Track and Field Committee, as a way to work more closely together. He acknowledged that there is still a place for masters only events, particularly for the throwers, which some Centre are doing.

72% of the survey respondents supported revisiting the MoU with Athletics NZ and looking at how the two organisations can work closer together including at the Centre levels. Philippa Green (Auckland Masters) indicated that they have twice asked Auckland Athletics about having a representative on their T&F Committee and has offered to do this, but as yet that has not occurred. Auckland are open to having the NI Masters T&F Champs in conjunction with the Auckland Masters T&F Champs in the February, but this would need to be confirmed. The concept of a combined master’s Island champs and a Centre interclub meeting has been successfully done with the South Island event for several years.

The Chairperson said that 129 responses out of 650 was a good outcome. Consequently, there is the potential to engage others through a survey to understand why they don’t take part in masters track and field events. Jen Fee (Manawatu – Whanganui) said that only throwers turn up at their meets and no distance track runners. They could try other approaches such as fun relays. Frances Bayler passed on a suggestion from Sally Gibbs that a master’s mile championship could be added to an ANZ meet. Andrew indicated that he has had such discussions with Jason Cameron (ANZ Comps) about adding a series of master’s events to the Classics meetings and other prominent meets, with that an overall winner could be determined on an age-graded percentage basis. Murray Clarkson (WBoP) suggested that there could be a Masters Advisory Committee, similar to the Youth Advisory Committee.

Athletics NZ CEO Pete Pfitzinger said that there is another constraint with regards to scheduling major T&F meets in NZ which is that they don’t clash with major Oceania and Australian championships which means that NZ events can’t go far into March. There was also a need to consider World Athletics events, which all contributes to making it difficult for Centres to programme their own championships.

Andrew indicated that he would like to begin regular Zoom meetings with Masters Chairperson’s, or other Committee members, within the next month. Jason Cameron and possibly John Bowden

(both ANZ staff) have indicated that they were happy to sit in on such meetings. There was a wide ranging discussion including the challenges of working with Centres who weren't very active, queries as to whether the NI champs could be combined with Secondary School Champs, whether master's athletes could form a club and affiliated with Athletics NZ. The Chairperson also signalled that the Board needs to look at possible combined events.

In response to a query about a Centre not knowing who their masters' members were, Michael Wray said that he has permission, as indicated at previous AGM's, to contact ANZ masters and pass on information via e-mail. NZMA has been creating its own database via entries we received to our events. In response to a query about what is the legal issue, Michael suggested that perhaps Athletics NZ could add a provision to their membership process that information can be shared with other athletic organisation such as NZMA. Pete Pfitzinger suggested that an email be sent to him with this request. Andrew indicated he would raise the issue at the meeting with Masters Chairpersons. There was a suggestion that Master's Centres make contact with their regional sports organisation to see what assistance they may be able to provide.

That the NZMA Board engage with Athletics NZ to discuss ways on working together more in a review of the existing MoU between the two organisations. Chair Carried

The Chairperson introduced the subject of what the subscriptions should be for the next financial year and indicated that the Board was recommending that competitive membership reduce from \$60 to \$50 and social membership from \$45 to \$20. There was considerable discussion on these fees, including the higher proportion reduction suggested for social membership compared with the competitive membership. Others asked whether it was possible to levy ANZ masters members or ask ANZ to levy their masters' members and pass on the levy to NZMA, while others suggested adding an additional fee on the entry fees to NZMA events for those masters who belonged to ANZ affiliated clubs. It was apparent that there is considerable variation around the country in the ANZ Club membership rates and Centre levies while the ANZ levy has remained at \$66 for the last three years. It was reported that the club fees for one Auckland club was now over \$300. The Chairperson pointed out that there was still a need for subscriptions to cover expenses such as layout of *Vetline*, awards, medals for hosts of NZMA champs, Board travel and the possibility of employing a part time admin person. He also indicated that the suggestions made at the meeting could be looked and discussed with ANZ, but the meeting needed to consider the subscriptions for the next financial year beginning 1 September. It was acknowledged that the fees can be revisited next year following further discussions, including with ANZ, and were only interim fees.

That the fees for the 2022-23 financial year be set at \$50 for competitive members and \$20 for social members. Chair Carried with some opposing

Pete Pfitzinger indicated that Athletics NZ is looking at separate winter and summer fee options along with a rolling 12 month subscription basis.

The Chairperson indicated that Joan Merrilees (Oceania Masters Athletics Council member) had provided an update on the new Council and their activities which was included in the material for the meeting on the NZMA website. He reported that no Centre had indicated a willingness in the Centre survey to host the OMA Championships in 2023, possibly around October 2023. They could be combined with either the NZMA champs or the Australian Masters champs. Jen Fee (Manawatu – Whanganui) indicated that they could look at combining the NI Masters Champs with the OMA Champs perhaps in November 2023, possibly in Palmerston North as the Whanganui track is expensive to use.

13. Presentation of Service Awards:

Claire Giles (retiring NZMA Board member) read the citations of the three recipients for the 20 year service awards. These were:

- Valarie Babe (Northland) continuous service since 1984.
- Margaret Crook (Northland) continuous service since 1982.
- Winifred Harding (Otago) continuous service since 2002.

It was pointed out that there is another opportunity to nominate people for the next AGM.

14. Next AGM:

The next AGM will take place on Friday 2 December 2022, prior to the commencement of the NZMA championship in Wellington. In closing the meeting, the Chairperson thanked everybody for their participation, including guest Pete Pfitzinger (ANZ CEO), the NZMA Board and retiring Board member Claire Giles for her contributions and wished her well for her continued involvement in Otago Masters. He reiterated that the Board is open to hearing from anybody interested in being involved in the Board.

Meeting closed at 3.40pm

Confirmed on

Chairperson