

NZ Masters Athletics Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the AGM held on Sunday 22 June 2025 held on-line via a Teams link, commencing at 2.00pm

1. Welcome:

Andrew Stark (NZMA President) welcomed everybody to the AGM and thanked them for attending. Members present included: Life Member Stewart Foster; NZMA Board members Brayden Grant, Hayden Robinson, Dale McMillan, Derek Shaw (Minute Secretary) and Carolyn Smith, Centre delegates (listed below), along with following members Trevor & Tui Ashe, Murray Clarkson, Serena Coombes, Ian Denise, Karen Dorrington, Sally Gibbs, Fiona Harvey, Christine McCahill, Liz Mitchell, Karen Murphy, Alison Newall and Steve Smith. Apologies to others whose presence was not picked up.

2. Centre Delegates Present:

Northland	Judith Stewart
Auckland	Phillipa Green and Alan Dougall
Waikato Bay of Plenty	Bruce Solomon
Taranaki	Karen Gillum-Green and Vicky Jones
Manawatu Whanganui	Vanessa Hodge
Wellington	Michelle van Looy
Tasman	Tim Cross and Ian Carter
Canterbury	Craig Oliver
Otago	Robert Homan and Noni Callander
Southland	Lester Laughton and Warren Green

Since there were delegates from ten Masters Centres, there was a quorum and the meeting could proceed.

3. Apologies:

An apology was received from Patron Jim Blair

That the apology be received. B Grant / D Shaw carried

4. Acknowledgements:

The meeting noted the passing since the 2024 AGM of Murray Gower, Ray Laurie, Vern Walker, Marion Davis, Margaret Peters, Iris Bishop, Dr Dougal Thorburn, Kevin Jago, Dr Michael Shepherd, John Turner, Bob Stephens, Paul Rodway, Barry Rait, Gwyn Heseltine, June Jacobs and Margaret Crook.

5. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 16 February 2022:

It was drawn to the attention of the meeting that: on page 1 under 'Centre Delegates Present' Taranaki delegate Des Field should be Des Phillips.

That the amended minutes of the previous AGM held on 16 February 2024 be confirmed. A Stark / H Robinson carried

6. Matters Arising:

Noni Callander on behalf of Otago Masters again raised the issue that the notification of when *Vetline* is available on the website has not been done recently.

7. Notice of matters not on the agenda:

None were raised.

8. President's Report:

Andrew Stark spoke to his 6-page report which had been included in the material posted on the website in relation to the AGM.

He initially covered the reasons why the Board had made the pragmatic decision to delay the AGM from the usual time on the Friday prior to the NZMA Track & Field Championships to June 2025. One of the reasons was that it not been possible to have a draft review of the NZMA Constitution completed in time for notification and discussion at the AGM as Athletics NZ was still awaiting some further legal advice on some clauses that impacted on the initial draft of a new NZMA Constitution. As soon as possible after this advise is received and considered a revised draft will be posted on the website for feedback. The final document can either be addressed via an online Special General Meeting or at the 2026 AGM.

Athletics NZ recommends that all clubs and Masters Centres should be incorporated societies. During the preparation of a new constitution for NZMA, a template for Master Centres will be created. Each incorporated centre requires at least 10 members.

Andrew also indicated that the Board had been operating with a small group of volunteers who also have other commitments, including paid employment, family and regional athletics responsibilities which makes them particularly busy over the summer period when preparation for the AGM needs to also take place. He also indicated he had been busy assisting the Auckland LOC to ensure the 2025 NZMA Championships were well organised.

Recruiting additional members with specific skills and knowledge and available time has been challenging and as a result some tasks are not completed or undertaken. The Board has been exploring the possibility of Athletics NZ having a greater role in organising our four track and field championships. Their response was that 'everything is on the table' for discussion, acknowledging that we are part of the same sport family.

However, he acknowledged that they had undergone significant changes recently and may not be ready for such an undertaking.

Andrew indicated that the Oceania Masters Athletics Council has been re-established, based in Australia. Stewart Foster is currently the Treasurer and he agreed to join the Council when a vacancy arose. The following OMA Champs are planned for 2027 in New Zealand and if your Centre is interested in hosting them please contact him.

The process of determining the finalists and winners of the NZMA Athlete of the Awards has been amended to reduce the workload. This year we tried a less formal approach to the presentations with a social gathering late on the Saturday afternoon which seemed to be well received.

He indicated that the Board intends to recommend to the Fourth Veteran World Games Trust that the donations to each Centre hosting one of the NZMA championship events are increased. He also indicated that the Trust needs an improved succession plan with regularly bringing on new members and urged interested individuals to express their interest.

Andrew outlined the schedule and hosts of the 2025-2026 NZMA Championship events, namely:

- NZMA Indoor Championships – Hastings – 16-17 August 2025
- NI T&F Championships – Tauranga – 28-30 November 2025
- SI T&F Championships – Nelson – 23-25 January 2026
- NZMA T&F Championships – Inglewood – 13-15 March 2026

He was very appreciative of the hosts for next year's championship events and especially the quick proactive efforts by Karen Gillum-Green and Athletics Taranaki / Taranaki Masters in agreeing to host the NZMA T&F Championships.

Looking forward he indicated that regardless of whether or not NZMA seeks greater involvement from Athletics NZ, there is still a need for NZMA to exist in some form to ensure we comply with World Masters mandates for a national master's body in each country if we wish to provide opportunities for masters athletes to take part in World Masters and Oceania Masters events.

As several Board members look to step down soon, he indicated that there is a need for effective succession planning to identify essential skills and experience in new Board members, such as in accounting and familiarity with Xero software, as well as experience in secretarial duties. He urged interested people to contact himself or other Board members, as the Board is able to co-opt new members or people could assist with particular tasks outside of being a Board member.

He also indicated that local Masters centres needed to consider whether they operate as a stand alone entity, such as an incorporated society, or establish a closer relationship with their local ANZ centre, such as a merger or become part of the ANZ centre's track and field committee.

Finally, he wished to acknowledge the contributions many masters make to the operation of their regional masters centre and / or their regional ANZ centres, including hosting of championship events, and to thank them for their many and various contributions to the sport. He indicated that Carolyn Smith is not seeking re-election due to other commitments and thanked her for her contributions over the last two years. He also acknowledged that Ian Carter had resigned in September 2024 but has kindly continued to lead the process of determining the Athlete of the Year Awards finalists and winners and thanked him for his past and ongoing contributions.

That the President's report be received. A Stark / D Shaw carried

9. Secretary's Report:

As Andrew Stark explained at the 2024 AGM, the tasks have been divided up amongst Board member and this has continued. Various correspondence has been received from the new OMA Council, including notification of the 2025 OMA Championships in Brisbane 6-10 September 2025.

10. Financial Statement:

The Financial Statement prepared by GS & HM Consulting & Advisory Limited had been posted on the NZMA website. Andrew Stark indicated there was an operating surplus of \$14,768 for the financial year ending 31 August 2024. This has resulted in the cash balance increasing to \$84,780.00, which he regarded as a good result that reflected the Board's cautious approach to spending. He indicated that medals and NZMA uniforms totalling approximately \$15k had been reordered which will impact 2024/25 financial situation.

That the financial statement for the year ending 31 August 2024 be received.

I Carter / H Robinson carried

11. Subscriptions:

The Board recommended that the annual subscription for competitive members continue at \$50 for the 2025 – 2026 financial year. Following a brief discussion on whether it should be reduced, the following motion was put.

That the subscription for competitive members remain at \$50 for 2025 – 2026.

A Stark / B Grant carried

Remit 2:

That the NZMA Board drafts a new Constitution in consultation with their Legal advisor to meet the provisions of the Incorporated Societies Act and distributed to it's members prior to the end of the financial year (31 August 2025) for approval.

The President Andrew Stark ruled this as unnecessary and out of order as the process of preparing a new draft constitution was already well underway as he had indicated in his President's Report and was now waiting for further advice from Athletics NZ legal advisors. He indicated that he and Derek Shaw would continue working on the draft constitution and endeavour to notify it by 6 September 2025.

c. NZMA Life Member Stewart Foster (OMA Council member)

Stewart proposed a remit on Judging of Race Walks. He picked up on unfinished business from the NZMA AGM held in December 2022 when it was agreed "That a B Grade category of walks be established and that it be further looked into." He proposed that to add consistency to race walking judging, that NZMA adopt the OMA policy 6.3 for championships conducted by NZMA that the following remit be considered.

- 1. NZMA encourages athletes of all ages and abilities to participate in the sport of race walking conducted under its auspices whilst seeking to maintain the technical challenge of the sport.*
- 2. Walk judges should use their discretion in applying a "no advantage" consideration when judging masters walkers, particularly in older age categories where it is clear that the athlete cannot lock their knees.*
- 3. Competition conducted outside of NZMA events remain under WA and WMA rules.*

S Foster / K Gillum-Green

carried

Stewart indicated that OMA has adopted this "no advantage" approach to what is termed the 'soft knee' issue that can occur with some older masters. Karen Gillum-Green indicated that Taranaki Race Walking have A and B grades for race walkers which she likened to allowing standing starts for older sprinters. Serena Coombs, a race walking judge, supported the remit as it would allow B grade walkers to compete but indicated that there could be an issue with two walkers in the same age group if the poorer walker beats the other walker.

14. Centre Reports:

Centres were encouraged to submit a brief report with their responses to the following six questions.

1. Some highlights of the past year.

2. Do you have a functioning Masters committee?
3. How many NZMA members do you currently have?
4. Do you have a positive relationship with your ANZ Centre?
5. Are your NZMA members able to compete in events organised by your ANZ Centre?
6. What challenges does your Masters Centre have?

The responses received were posted on the website along with the other material for the AGM. At the AGM Centre delegates were invited to comment on their responses and/or to add any additional comments to their responses to the second and fifth questions.

15. General Business:

Otago Masters indicated an interest in organising the OMA Throws Pentathlon and collating the results during September and October 2025.

There being no further business Andrew thanked everybody for their participation in the online AGM and their contributions to masters athletics and declared the meeting closed.

Meeting closed at 2.00pm

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

President

Date