

Southampton Athletic Club
Minutes of the Executive Annual General Meeting
Monday 9 December 2019
Fleming Park, Eastleigh

Present:

See separate list of all attendees

1. Apologies:

Tim Hall
Stuart Saint
Becky Mulley
Gary Cooper
Mark Hayter
Ray Needle

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting & Matters Arising:

Minutes of Last Meeting:

The minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 3 December 2018 were agreed.

Matters Arising: Diane Reavey advised that due to lack of committee resources, the compilation of an obituary column for the website had not been progressed.

3. Chair's Report

Debbie Callaway, as meeting Chair for the AGM, read from the Chair's report, compiled jointly by Richie Pearson and Tim Hall. The report had been sent to all members prior to the meeting.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Trustees' Annual Report, the Receipts and Payments Accounts and the Independent Examiner's Report had been sent to all members prior to the AGM.

In accordance with Charity Commission guidelines, the accounts were received by the meeting.

Ashley Cooper summarised the key points from the Receipts and Payment Accounts:

Income was down by just over £6k on last year's levels, with just over £4k attributable to a reduction in membership fees income due to a decrease in member numbers, and the introduction of the revised fees structure the previous year. Financial year 2017/18 had also seen residual income of £4k from the weekly Academy charges which have since ceased. Income from the Netley 10K and athlete travel contributions had each seen a £1K increase over the previous year.

Expenditure levels were £1K less than in 2017/18. Spending on winter training venues had increased by £5K offset against a £4K reduction in travel costs.

Overall a £8,650 surplus was recorded for the financial year 2018/19, compared to a surplus of £15,760 in 2017/18

Total reserves amounted to £121K as at end of September 2019

Ashley Cooper confirmed that the accounts had been signed off as fair and reasonable by the auditors, but they remain confidential until published on the Charity Commission website.

In response to a question raised by Katy Odell as to future club spending plans, Ashley Cooper replied that the Committee have been working on plans to improve facilities which fall within SAC's remit, but the lack of a formalised lease with Southampton City Council has hindered progress. Alan Forse asked how reserve funds have been invested to which Ashley Cooper replied they are held in long term deposit funds with a higher interest rate, but classed as low risk which is considered appropriate for SAC's status as a registered charity. Reserves can also be used to support cash flow issues, if needed.

The AGM was advised that Committee members will be meeting with a consultant recently appointed by Southampton City Council to oversee the redevelopment of the Sports Centre. The meeting is scheduled to take place in early January.

5. Membership Report

The meeting received copies of the annual membership figures prepared by Stuart Saint, Membership Secretary, and these would also be made available on the website.

Views were expressed that athlete numbers for the U11s appear low. A request was also made for a gender split for the young athlete age groups, given growing concerns over the drop in male athlete numbers.

Action: Committee to feed back to Stuart Saint for verification and further detail.

6. Athletic Achievement:

Diane Reavey advised the meeting that she had requested details of Athletic Achievement via email to all coaches. As the response had been poor it was decided not to take this item as it was recognised as being incomplete. It transpired that not all coaches had received the email. It was acknowledged that SAC needs to celebrate success in a more effective way, possibly through the redesigned website, identified as one of the priority areas from the England Athletics Club review.

Action: Committee to look at LoveAdmin email distribution.

7. Election of Committee Members and Trustees:

The Election of Club Chair:

Tracey Jones stood for the position the position of Southampton Athletic Club Chair, and was duly elected.

Proposed: Michael Coker

Seconded: Derek Warn

Election of Club Vice-Chair:

Tim Hall stood for the position of Southampton Athletic Club Vice-Chair, and was duly elected.

Proposed: Ashley Cooper

Seconded: Richie Pearson

Election of Club Treasurer:

Debbie Callaway stood for the position of Southampton Athletic Club Treasurer, and was duly elected.

Proposed: Nicci Bolinger

Seconded: Zoe Bond

Election of Executive Committee members as follows:

Mary Axtell: Club President

Diane Reavey: Secretary

Stuart Saint: Membership Secretary

Elizabeth Pugh: Welfare Officer

Election of General Committee members:

Michael Coker
Jon Tilt
David Blackman
Nicci Bolinger

Proposed : Kaye Adamson
Seconded : Ashley Cooper

Club Officers standing down:

Ashley Cooper
Chris Taylor
Becky Mulley

Election of Southampton Athletic Club Trustees:

Two nominations were received:

- **Becky Mulley**

Proposed: Ashley Cooper
Seconded: Derek Warn

- **Derek Warn**

Proposed: Ashley Cooper
Seconded: Diane Reavey

Ashley Cooper provided a brief overview of the role of a Trustee:

- To manage Club resources responsibly
- To act with care and skill and take advice as appropriate
- To ensure the accountability of members and hold Club volunteers to account
- To make sure that SAC, as a charity, complies with its declared objectives

Action: Committee to distribute a more comprehensive overview of Trustee responsibilities.

8. Resolutions:

Tracey Jones assumed the role of meeting Chair.

The Secretary confirmed that two Resolutions had been received:

- Firstly, from Noel O'Dowd who presented his proposal to the meeting for a monthly fees subscription to be introduced with an initial £40.00 payment followed by 11 instalments of £6.00

David Blackman and Debbie Callaway summarised the views of the Committee who felt such a proposal would be problematic to monitor, would have workload and compliance implications with a risk of jeopardising club finances should members elect to withhold payment for any reason. Members were reminded that cases of financial hardship would be considered by the Committee. Upon a vote no attendees were in favour, and the meeting voted unanimously against the resolution

Action: resolution rejected.

Under this topic, discussions moved to action which could be taken to pursue those facility users who do not pay their membership fee. It was acknowledged that Committee do not have the resources to monitor attendance at the track. The meeting was advised that LoveAdmin does have a register facility which coaches can access.

Action: that Committee email all coaches with a request to use the register facility to monitor those who train but do not pay, which can then be followed up.

- The second resolution submitted and presented by Katy Odell that entry costs of Cross Country fixtures where there is an individual element to competition should be borne by individual athletes so as to bring parity with Track and Field athletes. It was noted that the majority of cross country athletes also compete in the track and field season. This would apply to the Southern and National Cross Country fixtures. Lengthy debate ensued which revealed historic reasons to the current situation. It was noted that Track and Field athletes received travel and accommodation subsidies, a benefit not made available to Cross Country athletes

Action: it was decided not to proceed to vote on this resolution but to form a Committee Working Group comprising the Expenses Sub Group with help offered by Alan Forse, to look at this in more detail and make recommendations.

In response to a request to see the Club Review report by England Athletics, Tracey Jones agreed that this could be made available to members.

Action: Committee to agree where and how this should be published.

Tracey Jones closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Southampton Athletic Club

Annual General Meeting

Monday 9 December 2019

Present:

Debbie Callaway : Chair (part)

Tracey Jones : Chair (part)

Mary Axtell

Diane Reavey

David Blackman

Ashley Cooper

Elizabeth Pugh

Nicci Bolinger

Richie Pearson

James Mann

Peter Belward

Derek Warn

Gary Trendell

Pete Wareing

John MacInnes

Christine Smears

Mike Smears

Alan Forse

Katy Odell

Noel O'Dowd

Kaye Adamson

Peter Costley

Michael Coker

Sarah Mitchell

Zoe Bond

Paul Johnson