**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE RAM (GRAMPIAN) ATHLETICS LEAGUE**

**held on Zoom on Sunday, November 5th, 2023 at 1pm**

**Present:** Winston Webber President and East Secretary (Arbroath & District

AC) (part time)

Andy Dobbie Secretary (Aberdeen AAC)

Linda Dobbie Records Secretary (Aberdeen AAC)

Mark Davidson Aberdeen AAC

Fiona Davidson Aberdeen AAC

Hugh McGarvey Banchory Stonehaven AC

Debbie Letham Dundee Hawkhill Harriers

Ken Letham Dundee Hawkhill Harriers

Elspeth Wallace Fife AC

Dianne Chisholm Inverness Harriers

Carolyn Rattray Moray Road Runners

Susan Sutherland Nairn AAAAC (part time)

Carol Rose Perth Strathtay Harriers

Barbara-Anne Needs Peterhead AAC (part time)

Andy Young Ross County AC

Denis Shepherd Minutes Secretary (Aberdeen AAC)

Andy Dobbie welcomed all those attending.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies had been received from Teresa Hood (Treasurer), Elgin AAC and Lochaber AC.

*Post-meeting note: Scott Hamilton, North Secretary (Elgin AAC), tendered his apologies later.*

**2. MINUTES OF 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**a) Approval of Minutes:** The minutes were approved as correct (proposed by Secretary, seconded by Fife).

**b) Matters Arising**:

There were no matters arising

**3. SECRETARY’S REPORT**

Andy Dobbie delivered his report as follows:

Hi everyone, and welcome to this year’s AGM

Well, this year started out quite well with all tasks etc. in hand with the only exception being we did not have an East Secretary; however, Anne Webber had said that, until we had one, she and Winston would take up the task. Unfortunately, Anne, sadly, passed away on 27th November 2022. She will be and is sadly missed as she along with Winston got the League back on its feet, and between them, along with the work of many others, dragged the League into the 21st century. Winston took up the reins and covered the East section and I helped him.

With everything sorted, it looked like 2023 was going to run smoothly. Unfortunately for me it didn’t. In May, I ended up in hospital and as a result was told to ‘sit back’ for at least 3 months. So I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Carol Rose who stepped in and looked after the two meetings in Dundee. I would also like to thank everyone else who helped and kept the meetings flowing. Without the officials and the helpers, the athletes would not have these meetings. I would also like to thank Mark Davidson and his team for doing all the results etc. in the East as well as the final results. The North in its own right seems to run just as smoothly as I didn’t hear any complaints.

Before I close, I would like you all to note I have started to use a new email address which is generic and can be passed on to the next Secretary!!

Finally, I would also like to thank RAM Tubulars for their continuing sponsorship. Who knows what might happen!!!!

Thank you all for attending.

**4. TREASURER’S REPORT**

Statement of accounts: The Secretary had previously circulated a finance report which showed an opening balance of £24,404.03, income of £10,375.00, expenditure of £7,595.58 and a closing balance of £27,182.45. Sponsorship was £6,000. Dundee track hire had more than doubled between April and June: this was because some things had not been charged for in April. Costs of some trophy work were outstanding. There were now no starters’ fees: instead, there were costs of hire of electronic equipment. It was noted that at some matches first aid helpers had not turned up or even been arranged, and that in future care would have to be taken that first aid cover was secured.

It was proposed by the Secretary, seconded by Perth, that the accounts be accepted and this was agreed unanimously.

**5. RECORDS SECRETARY’S REPORT**

Linda Dobbie had distributed lists of records including four set in 2023. It was proposed by the Records Secretary, seconded by Ross County, that these be accepted.

**6. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2023**

Office bearers were elected as follows:

**a) President:** Winston Webber (Arbroath) was proposed by the Secretary, seconded by Dundee Hawkhill and unanimously re-elected.

**b) Secretary:** Andy Dobbie (Aberdeen) was proposed by Perth Strathtay, seconded by Dundee Hawkhill and unanimously re-elected.

**c) Treasurer:** Teresa Hood (Peterhead) was proposed by Arbroath, seconded by Fife and unanimously elected.

**d) North Section Secretary:** Dianne Chisholm said she was willing to be nominated only in the absence of any other takers. She was then proposed by the Secretary, seconded by Ross County and unanimously elected. It was noted there was a “Meet Manager” course coming up in March 2024 and that Mark Davidson was available to help with this.

**e) East Section Secretary**: Carol Rose (Perth Strathtay) was proposed by the Secretary, seconded by the Chairman and unanimously elected.

**f) League Records Secretary:** Linda Dobbie was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Secretary and unanimously re-elected.

**7. Dates, Venues and Convening Clubs FOR 2023**

The dates had been decided by Scottish Athletics and the following tracks (subject to availability) and hosts were agreed. The North section, agreed to organise their own hosts for the final.

27 April: (Sat.) East at Aberdeen (Aberdeen AAC) North at Inverness

*Post meeting note: the above East meeting was later booked for Perth (Perth Strathtay Harriers) because the Aberdeen arena was found to be booked for football.*

9 June: (Sun.) East at Dundee (Dundee Hawkhill) North at Inverness

7 July: (Sun.) East at Aberdeen (Aberdeen AAC) North at Inverness

25 Aug: (Sun.) Final at Inverness

**8. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION**

**a) 2024 League fees:** The Secretary reported that RAM representatives had attended the 2023 final and had been delighted at the turnout. RAM had therefore agreed to continue the £6,000 sponsorship and this had since been increased to £7.000. The Treasurer or Secretary would write to RAM to thank them formally. In view of the current balance, it was proposed by Nairn, seconded by the President, that fees remain at £300. There was a query re the total fees received for 2023 and the Secretary would contact the Treasurer for an explanation of how the figure was arrived at.

*Stornoway had withdrawn from the league and N. Uist had paid their fees, they then joined with CAAC & ES for this year’s competition. IH was also a late payment fee.*

**b) Trophies:** Fiona Davidson said she had both merit trophies for track, but no one knew where the field trophies were. Everyone was asked to ask around in an effort to locate them. There was a suggestion that the original trophies be kept on display and winners receive an award to keep; however, it was later agreed that winners keep the perpetual trophies for a year and that the League keep track of their whereabouts. It was also proposed by the President, seconded by the Secretary, that in future merit trophies be won only by individuals. This was agreed. It was also agreed that clubs/athletes pay for the engraving of trophies.

Winners of the merit trophies for 2023 were agreed as follows:

Male track: Finn Bryce (Aberdeen), 14.14 sec. in under-17 100m hurdles

Male field: Daniel Finnigan (Inverness), 11.48m in under-15 shot

Female track: Holly Whittaker (Elgin), 11.57 sec. in under-15 75m hurdles

Female field: Anna Reid (Elgin), 1.67m in Under-17 high jump

**c) League Structure:** The League structure for 2024 had been circulated as part of the agenda. Ellon AAC had informed the Secretary that the Club was suspending all activity in the meantime because there were no training facilities in Ellon. The Secretary had not yet had official confirmation from Perth that they were to remain in the League, but Carol Rose confirmed that they would be doing so.

**9. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

1. **Points for officials:** The allocation of match points to clubs for the provision of officials had been implemented only in the East section. The need for the North section to follow suit was recognised as this would encourage more volunteers. The status quo was agreed, i.e., no points to be awarded in the final, and each club’s total to be divided by 10 across the age groups at other matches.
2. **Age groups:** Mark Davidson confirmed that age groups were not scheduled to change before the 2024 season.
3. **Pole vault:** It was unanimously agreed pole vault would not be included as a League event in 2024 but that it would be kept under review. Mark Davidson confirmed indoor non-counting event(s) would be held in Aberdeen instead.
4. **Mixed relays:** It was unanimously agreed these be dropped from the programme.
5. **2024 programme:** The Secretary asked for volunteers(s) to draft the programme of events for 2024. Hugh McGarvey agreed to do this, with assistance as required from Andy Dobbie and Carol Rose. It was noted the order of relays should take account of the late field event timings, rather than being simply the order of age group.

**10. THANKS AND CLOSE OF MEETING**

Winston Webber closed the meeting by saying that the League was doing well, with a great sponsor, and that the League should not be too rigid in its thinking. He said other clubs were jealous of the League’s success. Andy Dobbie thanked everyone for their attendance and Aberdeen AAC for organising the Zoom link. The meeting closed at 2.52pm.