

MIDLAND MASTERS ATHLETIC CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(VIRTUAL MEETING) HELD ON 25 April 2020

PRESENT: Graham Lamb (Chair), Jill Lamb, Martin Wilkinson, Irene Nicholls, Adrian Lloyd, Lou Satterthwaite, Katie Holmes, Peter Coote, Matt Long, Kate Satterthwaite (minutes).

APOLOGIES: Rita Brownlie, Mick Smedley, Marcia Smedley, Margaret Simpson, Sue Kneill-Boxley, Lindsay Pulley.

MINUTES: The minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting were approved by the committee.

Graham welcomed everyone to the 48th AGM Meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Normally I would be reporting to the AGM on what has happened to MMAC in the last year and what we have to look forward to. Clearly, we are now in a very different situation, with our Track and Field Championships cancelled and no clear timeline when we will be able to compete again. We have also had to switch this AGM to a virtual meeting, we wanted to continue with this meeting, so we can ensure we have a committee in place to hit the ground running when things improve.

Firstly, I would like to thank the committee for their support over the last year and all their efforts to ensure events take place. It has been a pleasure to have Irene Nichols as our President in the last year a fitting way to recognise her contribution to MMAC over many years. Irene was active as ever in the T&F championships and has provided me with a lot of valuable insight from her many years as Chairman. I must also mention Margaret Simpson who has held many roles over the years, has always been in the background helping at the events with Irene and has been helping on the Newsletter for 30 years, editing the last 20 years. Margaret has now decided to take a back seat and has stood down from MMAC roles and I want to thank her for her service to the club.

Last Year's AGM was at Rosliston Forestry Centre and we combined it with a parkrun, several members came and took part with Angela Copson setting the W70 age best and Mick Smedley taking the M70 honour for the course. Next, we had the 10-mile race inside the Burton 10, in very hot weather running by the Trent, sounds better than it probably was! We also tried parkrun tourism at Walsall, Sandwell and Perry Barr, it was great to meet some members at these parkruns but numbers were low and so we put that initiative on hold. Our next event was the Track and Field Championships and we were lucky with another good day for the event at Nuneaton. We had a successful event and again had many non MMAC athletes coming to join us. Thanks to all the people who helped put the event on and to all those on the committee who were working in the background to organise the day. Then it was the Inter Areas at Coventry and Elaine Mee once again led the team to a win, taking the Men's, Women's and Overall trophies. Well done to all the team.

Many of our athletes did well in the BMAF championships and a lot made the trip to the Venice area for the European championships. Little did we expect the turmoil that area is currently suffering as we saw high class master's athletics in the sun. It was great to see many of our members in action, a lot winning medals and others enjoying their time competing. It was fun to be in the stadium on super Saturday when in the space of a few hours it was gold for Julie Rogers and Jane Horder in the short hurdles with Silver for Adam Young in the high jump.

Our MMAC team took part in the Midlands Vets League, thanks to Tony Porter for his efforts running the team and to Martin Wilkinson who besides being our treasurer took his timekeeping officials' course to be able to help out at matches.

Martin continues to do a great job as treasurer, keeping our finances on an even keel and encouraging us to start new initiatives. Then it was the Wilne 10K where we held our 10K championship, with some good times on this flat course.

We held the MMAC Cross Country relays inside the BMAF event, expertly run by Rob Fox. The wet cold weather made it a challenging event.

Mick Smedley was as ever, actively involved in the selection process for the England Cross Country team in the Cross Country International and we had many of our runners taking part. Worth mentioning Mick was also the driving force in suggesting a selection race for the event is held inside the Derby Cross country races the weekend the team is chosen. This central location should make it a strong event and a good chance for our runners to shine.

We held our Cross-Country Championships inside the Midlands event, they even allowed us to run the Over 65 men with the Ladies. There was a good turnout of MMAC members for their clubs and there was a good attendance of the runners afterwards for the awards. Thanks to Jill Lamb for giving out all the age identifiers and helping to organise our event. Then it was the Colin Simpson Handicap in Kingshurst with some of our members taking part in the race.

Next was the Indoors Inter Areas at Lee Valley. Elaine has continued to run the team for several years expecting it to be her last as she was looking to move out of the area. Conscious of this we had put out a request for anyone else willing to help and Matt Long offered to come and run the Men's team with Elaine happy to carry on with the women. This was a winning combination as MMAC took all 3 trophies at Lee Valley, first time we think we had done this, well done to all the athletes and Matt and Elaine

Then we started planning this season events, hoping to arrange road relays inside the BMAF event and our T&F championships, sadly these have both had to be cancelled as were the Braga indoors and the Toronto World Champions.

At the moment we don't know if the Inter Areas will take place or if the BMAF championships will go ahead. It's an uncertain time but as a committee we will continue to meet to plan events as soon as possible.

I also want to thank Sue Kneill Boxley for her work on the web and communications and I know she will be an active President. Lou Satterthwaite has played a key role on the newsletter, designing the layout and sorting out a lot of the results. Kate Satterthwaite, Marcia Smedley, Adrian Lloyd, Rita Brownlie also have been helping on the committee and taking on several tasks.

Last year we finished with 688 members, slightly up on the previous year. We continue to attract new members and there has been a huge growth in master running in events like parkruns.

Currently our membership off 549 is below where we were at this stage last year but this is not surprising with the current uncertainty.

It could be the lack of other options for exercise will see a lot more people interested in running so we may benefit next year.

2021 will be the 50th anniversary, since the Midlands Vets Athletics club was formed in October 1971. We hope next year we will be able to look forward to that celebration and put this year behind us.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Martin said income and expenditure were very similar to last year. End of the year, we broke even with a tiny surplus, prior to the events closing down. BMAF affiliation in fees reduced which was very welcome. More was spent on officials and competitors' support - we have almost doubled the fund for people wearing England vests or going to the Lea Valley indoors. We have just funded that again.

Residual balance in the bank - a surplus of £27,000 which is double which we actually need. We may want to contribute extra funds towards International selections next year. Track & Field is the highest risk event we hold and this could go either way a small profit or loss. We have sufficient funds to offset any risk and from a finance point of view we are fine. This year there has been a sudden lack of competition and activity and we need to make a decision and discuss at the end of the year. We may need to reset the fees next year.

Adrian said part of the surplus was left in a legacy from Dennis Withers' endowment of £9000. He suggested to keep that and only use a large amount if the need arises. Martin said we are still increasing events and are still one third higher than when he started. There is no need to increase subs. Irene said EA only charge £15 instead of £16 giving our first claim members a discount that we can rebate next year. Irene thanked Martin very much for his diligence and expressed appreciation of the work he puts in and also thanked Graham and Jill for the hard work that they do.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Irene said as President she did not really feel she had contributed a great deal because of personal circumstances. The role does involve a lot of communication around the area and is a job that needs someone who is more available. Irene enjoyed being President and will pass on the President's chain.

President's Award: It is always a pleasure to make an award to someone who has contributed significantly to the club and the President's Award this year will go to Jill Lamb for all the tasks she does. Irene will arrange an award for Margaret Simpson for all her hard work over the years.

2020/2021 MMAC COMMITTEE

President: Sue Kneill Boxley

President elect: vacant - on hold as we are not sure how this year will continue

Chair: Graham Lamb

Vice Chairman: Rita Brownlie

Secretary: Jill Lamb

Membership Secretary: Graham Lamb

Treasurer: Martin Wilkinson

Minutes Secretary: Kate Satterthwaite

Walking Secretary: vacant

Handicapper: vacant

T&F Secretary: vacant & Asst. T&F Secretary: vacant

Road & CC Secretary: Chris Mason

Officials Secretary: vacant

Media website: Sue Kneill Boxley

Committee Members: Marica Smedley, Irene Nicholls

Records Co-ordinator: Brian Owen

Newsletter Editor: vacant. Asst. N/L, Editor: Louis Satterthwaite

Delegates: MCAAA Rita Brownlie, EAMA/BMAF Graham Lamb

Team/Managers:

Mick Smedley (CC International)

MMAC Vets team manager Tony Porter MVL

Inter-Area teams - Men - Matt Long, Women - Elaine Mee

Chris Mason had volunteered to take on as Road & Cross-Country Secretary and he and the rest of the committee were elected. Jill will check to see if Brian Owen, Records Coordinator is going to carry on.

Fixtures - Graham said we are doing virtual challenges with the STRAVA Group, running a 5K and 10K Challenge and running a Grand Prix and we are seeing if we can get more people to join. The Outdoor BMAT T&F Championships is cancelled and multi events are cancelled as well. Internationally Toronto and Braga have been cancelled (Braga could go ahead in January). Hopefully September events will go ahead, also the Cross Country in October.

Graham said next year will be 50th Anniversary and we will look to arrange events to celebrate.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Graham said there will be an issue when the committee meet next. BMAF want to change their constitution in the May AGM.

Irene said she is a little concerned about moves to move more responsibility to BMAF and reduce the influence of regional clubs. She had always thought we were autonomous with the guidance of BMAF if required. She was concerned about the amount of involvement that the BMAF are looking to have with the local clubs. Graham said until we see their proposals it certainly isn't clear what they are saying. We will arrange a MMAC Committee meeting using Zoom to review the proposals.

Lou asked if the next newsletter is to go out before the next meeting. Everyone thought this was a good idea. Martin said he has given Lou some extracts from the archives for the newsletter. Matt Long has done a lot on Facebook about the inter-areas and we can include that. We will look to publish after the Virtual Grand Prix results for April are ready.

Matt Long asked if we could consider MMAC tracksuit tops for the 50th anniversary. Several members at the inter-areas were keen on this.

Peter Coote is a member of the West Midlands Athletics Council and said they were asking for ideas from clubs on how we should get our sport up and running after lockdown. We can see things getting cancelled in front of us.

Various ideas were discussed.

The Date for next AGM Meeting is provisionally: 24 April 2021.

The meeting closed at 11.04 am.