



ATHLETICS WELLINGTON INC

Annual Report

and

Statement of Accounts

For the year to 31 March 2020

Presented to the

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 16 June 2020

OFFICE BEARERS 2019/20

President

Louise McDonald

Life Members

Clive Chandler, John Riseborough (dec 2016), Peter Tearle, Ray Wallis, Geoff Henry MNZM, Peter Jack, Alan Stevens MNZM, Jim Blair MNZM, Colin Maclachlan, Peter Maunder, Sylvia Maunder, Bruce Perry, Don Dalgliesh, Peter Rendall, David Lonsdale, Willy Szeto, Simon England

Chair

Hamish Girvan

Board

Hamish Girvan (from June 2014)
Tim Fulton (from August 2014)
Jake Inwood (from April 2017)
Julia Ratcliffe (From November 2018)
Michael Wray (Rejoined February 2019)
Andrew Wharton (from May 2019)
Kate Slater (from May 2019)
Eric Speakman (from December 2019)
Josh Ledger (from May 2020)

Committee Chairs

Willy Szeto (Juniors)
Marshall Clark (Interim 2019/20 only)
Todd Stevens (XC&R)

Officials Coordinator

Vaughan Oates

Sport Development Manager Karin Burger

Treasurer

Todd Stevens

Chair's Report

Welcome all

Chair's Report

It is with pleasure that I submit this Chair's report for the 2019/20 year.

Can I start by saying I hope everyone is both healthy and safe in this unprecedented time. Our sport has certainly been impacted by the current Covid-19 pandemic however as a community we have all coped in various ways to keep up the level of interest and enthusiasm.

This is my final AGM as Chair and board and I want to focus on a couple of key areas of athletics which as a community we need to make some big calls on.

Whilst the sport at a junior level is in good shape the tipping point of 15-16 years is becoming more prevalent year on year in terms of drop out rates. Again like the number of volunteers and helpers (more on that soon) this is becoming an all too common trend across all sports.

When I asked Marshall Clark this time last year to review the how the track and field committee and programme functioned I didn't expect Marshall to step up and actually coordinate a summer season.

Firstly I would like to thank Marshall for all his time and effort. This has not gone unnoticed and my view is the track and field would not have functioned without Marshall passion and organisation. Marshall has decided that he will pull back from doing such a role this season and I totally support his decision. This is a sport that needs a number of helpers to run a day at Newtown Park. The junior programme is lucky to have parents of the juniors on board in this respect. Unfortunately, the senior side of things is a different story which brings me to the main discussion point.

Marshall in his capacity of T&F coordinator has made a number of observations and discussion points that needs the community's feedback and input to be blunt about it ensure the survival of a T&F programme. Athletics events cannot function without not only officials but just as importantly a band of rostered helpers to make everything tick.

One of Marshalls observations is that clubs should start running a day of events which is one I personally support. A day a season should not be too much to ask if that club is providing athletes that compete. Again this is how things need to change, To use a corporate term its all about adapt and change. A quote I like is that "The art of life is a constant readjustment to our surroundings."

Please put your thoughts about how you or your club can make this work. We all know the challenge of volunteering these days

The 7th Athletics Wellington awards has been postponed until August 27th from the usual date in early May due to Covid-19. Amanda Goldsmith is again meticulously planning this night which each year gets better and better. This celebration would not be valid unless there is a senior track and field programme to provide the nominations

In May during the Covid lockdown the Board decided not to charge a levy on athletes competing for the Winter season. We took the view that as the season traditionally starts on 1 April it was unfair to charge a levy when we couldn't predict as to when the season would start. We have subsequently agreed that no Athletics Wellington levy will be charged for the upcoming Summer season either. We as a board all decided that it then makes it a level playing field across all athletes and to be honest considering the current economic climate it's the right thing to do – and as important we can afford to do this. Comms to all clubs will come out over the next week in regards to this.

Board elections

The Board of Athletics Wellington comprises:

- Four persons elected by the AGM
- At least three persons appointed by the Board

Refer clauses 15.2 and 15.3 of the constitution.

Due to the resignations of two of the Board's elected members, and to ensure the Board continues to comprise four elected members, the AGM is asked to elect the following member to the Board:

Josh Ledger

In yerms of Chair of the board for the next term, Jake Inwood will be handed onthat baton. Jake has been on the board for the past 2.5 yaers and has been instrumental getting funfding grant applications and approvals through the system for various requests to assit with the running or coordination of an event/ Like mine Jakes door is always open to suggestions for improvenemts

Life Membership

Life membership is recognition of outstanding service to Athletics Wellington over a number of years. This year we had a nomination for Todd Stevens which the board unanimously agreed on.

Before we get to the absolute champion Todd has been in our community over the past 20 yaers it was Todd who recruited me to the ontomthe board in 2014.

I came in as an independent knowing not a lot about the sport or how a sports board functioned so firstly thank you Todd for the opportunity. Todd has been a great mentor and sounding board to me during my time on the board.

Every successful sports club and sports body often have a backbone family who have gone beyond the call of duty in their passion for the sport.

Todd Stevens is the third generation Stevens to make his mark on centre and New Zealand athletics. He follows his grandfather Alfred, and his father Alan in contributing to Athletics Wellington as previous Chair of Athletics Wellington and the current Chair of the Cross Country Committee. He also organised several highly successful Athletics NZ national Championships for the region, and is generally seen as 'a safe pair of hands' in delivering high quality events, and in terms of strategy and thought leadership. Todd has is a very intelligent individual, who is completely unflappable, calm and collected, a big picture thinker, and excellent relationship manager with a huge passion for advancing our sport for the benefit of all.

Todd has been:

- Chairman and on the board of Athletics Wellington 2009 – 2015
- Chair of the Cross Country and Road Committee
- Race Director for the 2011 and 2012 NZ Road Championships
- Race director for the NZ Cross Country Championships in 2018 and 2019

Todd has run many many centre cross country and road championships over the years, always brilliant organised.

A proud achievement for Todd was being selected to represent the Centre as part of a top calibre Centre winning team at the 2000 NZ Cross Country Championships, Athletics Wellington Distance athlete of the Year in 2013 (as a Master) New Zealand Marathon Champion in 2004 when he won the prestigious Rotorua Marathon. He surpassed his father and grandfather by being the first family member to win a national title, and the prestigious marathon title at that!

He became Scottish Delegate on the Wellington Cross Country & Road Committee.

After stepping down he was wisely retained as Centre Treasurer, continuing to this day, as is his role as Cross Country Chair where he has led the many changes required in the modern era. His knowledge & abilities have also been recognised and sought by successive Athletics New Zealand Chairs & CEOs.

Whilst we have had previous father & son receive our Life Membership, to now have three generations of the same family honoured will be unique, not only for Wellington, but probably all other Centres in NZ.

We welcome Todd to the Life Membership club of Athletics Wellington and can I would like the honor of providing Todd with his reward.

In my closing observation as chair of the sport is as a community we all need to work together to help the sport not only succeed but survive. Not one person can do everything and the attitude of sitting back thinking someone else will do it is gone. We are all time bound these days – there seems to less time available to everyone each year so as we keep hearing during the Covid times “please be kind to each other” and all chip in together to take athletics back to where it belongs

2018/19 College Sports Annual Sports Awards

The 6th Athletics Wellington Annual Sports Awards were held in May 2019. Awards winners were: