



O.T.F.A. Board Meeting

Monday, October 6, 2008
SAO Building, Boardroom 3A
Start: 6:14 p.m.

Present: Bill Stephens (Chair), Val Sarjeant (Vice-Chair), Roman Olszewski (staff), John Craig (staff), Anthony Biggar (staff), Suzanne Leroux, Stuart Smith

Joining by Teleconference: Pat Reid (6:42 pm), Harry Stantsos (6:10 pm)

Guests: Tim and Kelly Bethune

1. **Welcome** – Bill welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to a Monday meeting. He commented that we have a big agenda which will require some disciplined work to get through it.
2. **Motion to Ratify Acceptance of the Minutes of the August Board Meeting – John** – tabled because minutes were not present as there was a problem with the printer
3. **Business Arising** – no business arising (see above)
4. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to Approve the Agenda

Sarjeant and Smith

Carried

5. **Staff Health, Safety and Wellness** – John explained there nothing to report, mentioning that the office tries to be flexible in providing time for staff to look after personal issues (doctor, dentist etc.) and tries to provide resources if and when support is needed.
6. **Annual General Meeting** – Bill mentioned that the AGM and OTFA Awards Banquet is now in conflict with a coaching weekend in Ottawa, which is an AC event being hosted by the Ottawa Lions. The OTFA has tried to re-schedule without luck; banquet halls in December are almost impossible to come by, and the closer we get to Christmas the less likely it is that people will come to either gathering. There still may be room to fix this conflict, but we will have to continue to investigate alternatives. Both parties seem to have done some planning at this point and, perhaps, both can be successful despite going on the same date.

John advised that there may be changes to our by-laws required by a vote at the AGM. We need to advise the membership of these proposed changes no later than 30 days prior to the AGM, so we must make these decisions tonight. John is meeting with legal counsel on Wednesday, October 8 to look at changes to the by-laws etc.

Tentative schedule will have the AGM running from 11:00am – 2:00pm, with some light refreshments. As usual the fee to attend the AGM will be \$15 which will help cover the cost of room rental and refreshments (refreshments are \$11.95 per person and room rental is \$250). We have some extra rooms for break-out meetings prior to the AGM. We should host a fixtures meeting and, perhaps, a meeting about standardization.

ACTION: Anthony to canvas members and clubs to try to establish a reasonable estimate of the number of attendees we can expect.

7. **Awards Banquet** – Bill reported that finding a facility that can host us was a tough task and that Shelley Crawford of Tourism Toronto helped a lot. The Crown Plaza is a good hotel with good food and the deposit and cancellations policy were excellent. The Banquet will be in the restaurant – seating capacity of 140 – with an optional 40 extra chairs (in another room) if required. The Banquet will be in the hotel restaurant so there will be good privacy without noise from other halls.

Buffet style dinner. The evening will cost about \$5,500. Suggest the OTFA find some way of subsidizing the cost of the dinner and/or cover the cost of the dinner for the award winners.

There was a great deal of discussion around the number and nature of the awards, including events, ages and selection criteria. Models from other provinces were also examined.

Motion: that the OTFA recognize award winners in each of the event groups for each age group and for each gender. These event groups are: sprints and hurdles, distances, jumps, and throws (including CE).

Leroux and Sarjeant

Carried

Motion: that the above awards are determined by using scoring tables, but nominations will be encouraged to make sure athletes aren't missed, and to engage the membership.

Smith and Sarjeant

Carried

Motion: that the Board reserves the right to add any special awards as deemed appropriate.

Smith and Sarjeant

Carried

Suzanne will Chair the Awards Committee which will include Stuart Smith and Jennifer (Suzanne's assistant).

ACTION: Anthony – to ask for volunteers from the membership to join the committee.

ACTION: Anthony to post the event group awards criteria on our website. Special awards will also be presented so nominations should also be considered.

ACTION: Awards Committee to determine categories and selection criteria for special awards.

ACTION: Anthony and Suzanne will send to and collect nomination forms from to the membership.

ACTION: Bernie and John will look after getting tickets designed and printed and how they will be sent out. This needs to be on website by the end of the week.

ACTION: John and Bernie to get awards made.

8. Awards at Banquet – Bill - see above.

John advised that Priscilla Lopes-Schliep has been invited and we have to wait to hear about her availability.

9. Head Coach Situation – John explained how the Provincial Coaching situation has evolved and that a new structure has been supported by the Canadian Sports Centre – Ontario. This new structure will provide for a full-time / part-time position for a person to be our High Performance Program Director. This position will be advertised on the OTFA web-page with a short turn-around so we can hire someone for the start of November, 2008

ACTION: Roman and Harry to collaborate on the job description. Job to be posted ASAP. The job description should contain components for Dartfish, coaching education etc.

ACTION: John to send Roman the basic CSC-O criteria, established earlier in the month, as a basis for the job description.

10. Quest for Gold Update – John provided a list of athletes nominated to date and asked for a motion to accept the nominees as presented.

Motion: to accept the list of nominees for the 2008 Quest for Gold as presented.

Sarjeant and Leroux

Carried

11. Elections slated for the AGM – John advised that terms have expired for two Board positions, those of Director of Marketing and Membership and Director of Athlete / Coach Development. These positions are currently filled by Stuart Smith and Harry Stantsos. Both Stuart and Harry have agreed to run for re-election.

12. Bid Package & Bids for 2009 – Roman explained that most of the championship dates have been agreed upon by Board members. No further action is required.

13. CSG Testing Camp – Bill advised that CSG coaches have not been contacted about inclusion in this camp, though athlete's personal coaches will be there. After some discussion it was agreed that the CSG coaches should be included in the camp.

ACTION: CSG coaches will be encouraged to attend at their own expense. Roman to see if he can find the money or subsidize part of the cost for this. Not all personal coaches will come so there should be some money for the these coaches.

14. Dual indoor meet with Quebec – Bill asked if someone on the Board would take this program on and give it another try. Val suggested this should be the job of the new High Performance Program Director.

ACTION: Suzanne will contact Jean-Paul Baert of FAQ and see if there is interest. Our team can either go to Quebec for this meet or their team can come to Ontario.

15. High Performance meet or meets – Bill advised that there appears to be some interest among groups in the east to host a series of meets like the West Coast series. To avoid conflicts we need to get dates from West coast, which aren't established yet. John Carson – of the Cambridge Mile - is interested in helping with this. For the time being, we should be talking about a week of three meets at two locations - UofT, Birchmount and back to UofT – on Sunday, Wednesday, Saturday. Bill and John Carson are working on this. Sponsors have already been courted.

Bill will examine funding – Bill to look into this with Scott MacDonald at Athletics Canada.

16. Transfer rules – Bill asked that the OTFA transfer rules should be posted in a more prominent spot.

ACTION: Anthony to post the OTFA transfer rules should be posted in a more prominent spot on the website.

Bill expressed concern is that an athlete, registered with an OTFA club ran for another club recently (during the cross country season) and that the team in question won the team title at that meet. The office does not have transfer papers yet.

ACTION: John to advise the club and the meet involved that the athlete was not allowed to compete for the club and let the meet organizers determine what action to take. Nonetheless, this athlete must not be included in the results and must be disqualified.

17. OOC – Suzanne presented some ideas for re-engaging our community of officials in some developmental programs to help our sport get better.

18. Celebrate the Olympic Spirit at the CNE Report – Val introduced Tim and Kelly Bethune. Val talked about the above event suggesting that, while the OTFA got a great exposure, we couldn't do this ourselves so Tim and Kelly were invited to assist. At the end of a long summer, they helped Val with the 18 day event, splitting duties between them. Tim and Kelly actually managed a few extra days. This was a major project and major event with big commitment. Val thanked them for their participation and promotion on OTFA's behalf.

Bill offered his own thanks as Chair of the Board. Our clubs seem to be full, and this needs to be addressed in the future, but Val, Tim and Kelly each made 300-400 contacts each day of the event.

19. Dartfish Program Update – Guest Tim Bethune has taken some time to get to this meeting, but he is interested in getting Dartfish into different areas of the province and helping the OTFA in this program. We have 6 Dartfish systems now, plus the

older system in the OTFA office. Tim will help direct the purchase the hardware and will run a clinic on October 19th, November 16th, and December 6th (TBC) 2008.

Tim handed out a overview of each clinic which are progressive in nature. Total learning time would be about 12 hours classroom time.

Tim talked about the possibilities and the high end stuff that can be done with Dartfish. Technical manuals are available on hard copy and flash video.

He advised that it usually takes a full year to become totally familiar with this software, but Tim will be available to assist on an ongoing basis as needed.

Tim can't provide certification yet, but for the 2010 Olympics Dartfish is interested in setting up an institute on the west coast. The distance involved may make this hard for us to access but we may at least have them in this country. We should try to find something – or make something – more local.

With this software coaches and athletes can send videos to a Dartfish operator, have them analysed, and sent back. On the spot analysis is also possible - after second workshop the operators should be able to work with athletes on this basis.

John expressed concern about legality of public posting of some of this material. Tim provided some guidance, suggesting this is an evolving area of legal opinion and advised he will help us deal with policy and waivers etc.

We need to put a program together which outlines what each club or region is going to be obliged to do in order to get this system. Document will be put together in time for first session. This will take the form of a contract which will be due on the day of the second clinic.

Harry will maintain chairmanship of this committee.

20. **RJT Program** – Guest Kelly Bethune advised that API hired and trained 13 summer students to provide Run, Jump and Throw to kids across the GTA during the past summer. They visited 25-30 camps in and had from 15-80 participants in each camp. All told they trained about 1000 kids in program during the summer. API also hosted a Summer Games in July which had three stations, and about 800 kids went to that. In addition there was an RJT Meeting in August with about kids, giving a summer total of 2100 kids who were introduced to our sport through RJT.

In fall and winter API has 6 one-hour sessions planned, while other programs have taken place both in the City of Toronto and in outlying areas.

API will also work with placement students, kinesiology students and, possibly, some assistants with the Ottawa Lions Track Club. They are also establishing ties with the Minor Track Association.

ACTION: John to capture these statistics and use them for Grant Applications in 2009.

ACTION: John to work with Val on budgeting for OTFA involvement in this work.

21.Planning – Pat to put together a proposal which outlined possible changes to the OTFA By-laws with respect to the Association’s name and other issues. As well he will provide a short piece on the proposed direction of the Association, this to be disseminated to the membership via the OTFA website, newsletter and other means.

ACTION: Bill to provide the membership with an outline of proposed new directions and programs. This should go out as part of an AGM package.

22. Event alignment with LTAD - Roman presented a paper on this subject which appears to be an AC requirement, though it is very difficult to achieve consensus. The process was initiated in March, 2008 when Technical Directors in other provinces got together to comment.

We have been operating on the understanding is that this will come up at AC Technical Congress later this autumn, though currently this does not seem to be the case. There will, however, be an opportunity to meet at the AC Technical Congress for some input.

Roman’s paper was presented for information only. He will be sure to include the MTA position in the paper.

Stuart suggested that the real idea was to show progressions and compliance with the LTAD. Consensus doesn’t have to be reached as long as we are working within the LTAD. He also reminded us that the OTFA is in the middle when we look at cross country distances for the different age groups.

ACTION: Roman to re-send the paper on Event Alignment again and ask for further input. Eventually, this document will be sent to Donna Kaye at AC.

23.Limitations on scoring positions at Provincial Championships – Roman asked that this item be tabled awaiting input from Harry.

24.Confirmation of Canada Games Team Staff Selection – Roman

Motion: to approve the selection of the Canada Games Team Staff as presented

Sarjeant and Stantsos

Carried

Canada Games Team Staff:

- o Team Leader: Dave Christiani
- o Manager Paul Jones
- o Sprints/Hurdles Coach Craig Blackman
- o Sprints/Hurdles Coach Leslie Estwick
- o Distances Coach Rob Grepe
- o Jumps Coach Pat Reid
- o Throws Coach Sylvia Kontra
- o Wheelchair Coach and Special Olympics Coach to be named by respective PSOs

25.Ontario Summer Games - What Next? Roman reported that the Games of 2008 had been good but this was partly because we had a provincial team event in combination with the OSG. In looking at ways of improving the Games and making

them more meaningful Pat suggested we need to be able to have more athletes, which will take Ministry approval. On the other hand, we struggled to get athletes to attend. The Games don't appear to work for older athletes – we need to get younger age groups involved.

ACTION: Roman to send out another position paper.

ACTION: Roman to speak with Blair MacIntosh and suggest that this age class doesn't work for our athletes. We need to revamp or re-make the track program; perhaps not offer all events, make it a relay meet or change the emphasis. Somehow we have to make a change to the format to get the Games to work for all parties.

26. Canada Summer Games Team Dev't Programme Update – Roman and Dave Christiani have called for a camp on Oct 18-19. They anticipate about 26 athletes will end up coming to the camp of about 29 applicants.

27. 2009 Championship Dates – Roman mentioned that all Board members had the opportunity for input into this difficult process. He will continue to work on some of the dates and get back to the Board for approval. Indoor schedule is set; now we need to tender bids.

28. AC Awards – Roman hasn't had a chance to put any suggestions forward but will advise the Board and ask for comments when he determines a possible list of nominations.

29. Task Tracking tool (Stuart) – this item was tabled until the next meeting.

30. New Business – John mentioned the Fun In Athletics sponsored International Continuous Marathon Relay coming up on October 15 at York University.

ACTION: John to send the Board information on the relay.

Val suggested the OTFA become involved in the UofT Nationals next year by trying to assist as appropriate and by trying to help drive spectators to the meet. Carl Georgevski has suggested that he will be seeking assistance and input from all GTA clubs, hoping for help with a number of activities including hosting, shuttles and transportation, events etc.

ACTION: John to ask Carl to address this issue at the OTFA AGM.

Motion to Adjourn – 10:37pm

Leroux