

OTFA AGM – 2007

Saturday, November 24, 2007
University College, Room 161
Toronto, Ontario
2:45 p.m.

Quorum: 35 votes were required for a quorum. At 2:30 p.m. 32 votes were counted as being present so the meeting stood down, as required by our by-laws, and reconvened at 2:45. On a recount, there were 35 votes present so the meeting continued with a quorum present.

- 1. Welcome by Chair:** The Chair, Albert Tschirhart, welcomed all those in attendance and apologized for the stand-down. He noted that this was his last AGM as Chair, and thanked those present for making his term a meaningful and rewarding experience.
- 2. Parliamentary Procedures:** The Director of Marketing and Administration, John Craig, announced the Parliamentary Procedures.
- 3. Announcement of Voting Powers:** The Director of Marketing and Administration announced the votes held by the members present and asked if there was anyone present who had not been counted. Etobicoke Huskies Striders indicated they had not been counted, but that they had their voting card.
- 4. Ratification of Motions of Directors 2006-07:**

The Chair, Albert Tschirhart, asked for questions that arose from the Motions of 2006-07.

Albert asked Anthony Biggar (staff) to provide an update on the virtual Hall of Fame. Anthony said that there is a committee with two volunteers and that, while some work had been done, there was much still to do. Albert advised that the OTFA is hoping to use new technology available to the office to promote a Hall of Fame and he asked for more volunteers.

Motion: to ratify the motions of the Board of Directors for 2006-07.

Moved by: Windsor Legion Track Club
Seconded by: St. Thomas Legion Track Club

Carried

- 5. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2006 AGM:** The Chair asked for a Motion to adopt the minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting.

Motion: to adopt the minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting

Moved by: Toronto Olympic Club
Seconded by: University of Toronto Track Club

Carried

6. Approval of Agenda:

Motion: to approve the Agenda as presented.

Moved by: York University Track and Field Club
Seconded by: Oakville Legion Track and Field Club

Carried

7. Reports:

a) Report of the Chair: Report as presented. Albert talked about his experience on the Board and about the good opportunities and possibilities for the future; new funding, new cohesion on the coaching front and better cooperation. He also suggested that there are too many program opportunities for the current staff to handle.

Albert currently sits as a Board member with Athletics Canada, so he will continue to work on Ontario and the OTFA's behalf.

b) Report of the Vice-Chair: No report was presented. The Vice-Chair, Denis Landry, was not present and will not contest a position on the Board of Directors.

c) Report of the Treasurer: Treasurer David Watt provided a review of the OTFA's audited financial statements as of March 31, 2007. He noted the OTFA had surplus of about \$6,000, which is in line with what we should be budgeting for, and not as big as the surplus of the previous year.

The Treasurer explained the reason for the substantial member equity, which helps keep the OTFA operating during the time gap between applications for Government funding and the receipt of those funds.

Motion: to accept the Audited Financial Statements as presented.

Moved by: David Watt
Seconded by: St. Thomas Legion Track and Field Club

Carried

Budget for 2007-08

David provided a review of major items in the proposed 2007-08 budget, describing the different sources of revenue and the significant areas of expense. He also informed the assembled members that the bingo lottery operated by the OTFA, which used to generate about \$70,000 per annum, had closed in answer to diminishing interest and increased hall expenses.

The Ottawa Lions asked questions about Athletics Magazine, the opportunity to publish the Magazine online and the grant for scientific testing. Ottawa Lions believed the testing was not the best way to spend this money and suggested other programming might be appropriate. Albert explained that the money in the grant was targeted for a specific

program and could not be used in other areas. Toronto Olympic Club spoke in favour of the testing opportunity.

John Craig explained that most of the advertising revenue generated by Athletics Magazine comes from the Running Network in the US. This revenue is derived from advertisers who are interested in, and pay for, print ads. While the Running Network and the OTFA are examining the option of publishing Athletics online, there is not yet the revenue stream from advertisers to support this.

Motion: to accept the budget as presented.

Moved by: David Watt

Seconded by: The Toronto Olympic Club

Carried

Motion: to appoint Turnbull Thompson as auditors for 2007-08.

Moved by: David Watt (Treasurer)

Second by: York University Track and Field Club

Carried

d) Report of the Director of General Operations: No report was presented. The Director of General Operations resigned from the Board on November 8, 2007.

e) Report of the Director of Technical Development: Michael Illingworth thanked Roman for concise reports on wide variety of technical issues and said he couldn't add much to Roman's report. He did say, however, that over the last year he has witnessed much more cooperation within our community. He thanked the members and staff of the Association for their assistance and for their positive attitudes.

f) Report of the Director of Athlete and Coach Development: Bill Stephens reported on the new Code of Conduct and the way in which it was developed. This document will now form part of the OTFA's Policies and Procedures and be included in the Policies and Procedures Manual. Bill also reported on his activity within the Quest for Gold Committee which establishes criteria for selection to the Quest for Gold program. He explained that there are still some inequities to be addressed, and informed the assembly that the OTFA is lobbying the Ministry of Health Promotion to increase the upper age limit for program qualification for track and field athletes.

Bill reported that the OTFA is studying the future of the program which assists athletes who go to the US High School Indoor Championships in New York. A small committee will look at the existing program and issues to determine the value of the program and discuss other options and opportunities.

Toronto Olympic Club asked about a review of Quest for Gold criteria before next year. Carl Georgevski and Bill Stephens both suggested we could use some more input and suggested new members on the Committee would be welcomed.

TOC also asked about the value of the New York City trip, suggesting the money could be spent on other programs. Ottawa Lions supported this, saying the money would be spent better as grants back to clubs which send athletes to big meets.

There was also some discussion about the OTFA position on sexual relations between coaches (and other people in our sport community who occupy positions of power and/or authority) and athletes. Mississauga Track and Field Club suggested we take this issue back to the Board for further investigation and consideration. Mississauga TFC suggested the OTFA have a lawyer examine the Code of Conduct.

Val Sarjeant asked that, once the Code of Conduct had received legal review, the document be posted on the OTFA website and mailed to all clubs and coaches.

g) Report of the Director of Marketing and Membership: Report as presented. Val Sarjeant profiled a slight decrease in membership and discussed a growing and constant concern with the size of our Officials membership. He advised that the Association needs to do some work and gather ideas on how to engage new officials. He also said that we continue to engage a lot of kids through the Fun in Athletics program, which works well at getting kids interested in our sport.

h) Report of the Director of Marketing and Administration: Report as presented. John Craig elaborated on some points, including that staff member Bernie Eckler had fallen ill and that we all wished him well. As well he:

- Welcomed three new OTFA employees; Kevin Dunbar, who will help OTFA draft a developmental program, Marc Christie who has been named the OTFA Provincial Coach in partnership with University of Toronto Track Club, and Michael Brennan who has been hired on a 30 month contract to help the OTFA develop a new roadrunning program with a membership base. John also thanked Tim Bethune, Faye Blackwood and David Christiani for sitting on the Hiring Committee;
- Outlined the need for a review of OTFA by-laws and policies in response to a changing legal landscape;
- Reviewed the Quest for Gold program and asked for input;
- Advised that the OTFA is moving in the summer of 2008 to a new location about two kilometres from the present location;
- Mentioned that revenue from Bingo lotteries has all but ceased and is not longer a dependable source of income for the association;
- Advised that Athletics Canada has asked for an increase in the fees paid by the Branches, which may require a membership fee increase in 2008.

The Ottawa Lions Track Club suggested an increase in participation fees might be a better way to handle this proposed fee increase than an increase in membership fees. The OTTL representative said he would send the Association a paper on this idea.

i) Report of the Director of Technical Services: Report as presented. Roman Olszewski mentioned that the track facilities at the Mohawk Sports Park have been

resurfaced. Also mentioned is that the facilities in Ottawa at the Terry Fox Park will be rebuilt in 2008-09.

j) Report of the Director of Communications and Public Relations: Anthony Biggar provided a review of the Association website, updated use and view statistics and mentioned some new functions now added to the site. He said he is looking for ideas on how to improve the site, noting that almost by definition a website is always a work in progress. Anthony also highlighted the OTFA Newsletter and the Handbook as being good sources of communication.

k) Report of the Director of Northwest Region: Report as presented by George Walters.

8) Motions: The membership was asked to entertain two motions:

- A motion, presented by the Timmins Porcupine Track and Field club, which called for the distance of the Bantam Girls Cross Country Race at Provincial Championships to return to 2,000m, was tabled pending the collection of more information and more feedback from other coaches;

Motion: to table the motion above:

Moved by: Hamilton Olympic Club

Seconded by: Ottawa Lions Track and Field Club

Carried

- A motion was presented to lower the weight of the implement in the Junior men's weight throw. Richard Parkinson of Club SISU explained the motion and reasons for it.

Discussion ensued about the cost of replacing the implements, the weights of other age and sex categories and other relevant arguments.

Motion: That the Junior Men's weight throw implement weight be lowered to 25lbs (11.34kg) from the 35lbs (15.91kg) it is now.

Moved by: Club SISU

Seconded by: Saugeen Track and Field Club

Carried

New Business

Ontario Masters Track and Field

Doug Smith provided a short presentation on the OMTFA and a new partnership with the OTFA which will strengthen our ties and assist both associations in some strategic ways.

Suzanne Leroux provided a short review of the new online entry system with Athletics Canada which will be piloted at the first OTFA meet in January. While all recognize that this system will have some start-up problems and system bugs, we need to take this first step in order to move ahead.

Suzanne also provided a review of renovated Toronto Track and Field Centre at York University. She suggested the new layout was much better than in the past and, while the lobby is constrictive, it will be functional. She noted that Brian Keaveney and Facility Manager Cathy Miller are largely responsible for all improvements and deserve our thanks.

The OTFA also thanks Brooks Canada for their contribution of new ‘score boards’ for the facility. These are, no doubt, a great addition to our sport.

Elections to the Board of Directors

Prior to the start of the elections and in recognition of Denis Landry’s contribution to our sport, the Association and the Board of Directors, John Craig provided a brief review of Denis’ past involvement with the sport, outlining his career as an athlete, coach, builder and administrator.

Motion: To formally recognize Denis Landry for his contributions to the OTFA and our sport in general.

Moved by: Mississauga Track and Field Club
Seconded by: Toronto Olympic Club

Carried

Further, and in recognition of Albert Tschirhart’s contribution to our sport, the Association and most recently as Chair of the Board of Directors, Roman Olszewski provided a brief review of Albert’s past involvement with the sport, outlining his career as a coach, builder and administrator.

Roman also presented Albert with a plaque in recognition of his service to the OTFA.

Motion: To formally recognize Albert Tschirhart for his contributions to the OTFA and our sport in general.

Moved by: York University Track and Field Club
Seconded by: Ottawa Lions Track and Field Club

Carried

John Craig then explained the election process: with four positions on the Board of Directors up for election and none of the incumbents prepared to stand again for election, the OTFA formed a Nominating Committee (Val Sarjeant, Michael Illingworth and Bill Stephens – Chair). This committee considered the assets desirable of a Board member and solicited interest from several possible candidates.

The Committee presented a slate of candidates for consideration by the membership. As there were no other nominations prior to the start of the Annual General Meeting as required by the By-Laws, the following slate of candidates was acclaimed by the membership:

- Bill Stephens was acclaimed as the Chair (two year term) and immediately resigned from his position as Director of Athlete/Coach Development
- Val Sarjeant was acclaimed as Vice-Chair (two year term) and immediately resigned from his position as Director of Marketing and Membership
- Harry Stantsos was acclaimed as the new Director of Athlete and Coach Development (one year remaining in this term)
- Stuart Smith was acclaimed as the new Director of Marketing and Membership (one year remaining in this term)
- Suzanne Leroux was acclaimed as the Director of Technical Development (two year term)
- Pat Reid was acclaimed as the Director of General Operations (two year term)

Comments by Chair

As the new Chair of the Association, Bill Stephens said he was excited by the new Board of Directors and pleased with the participation of so many good people. He asked the new Board Members to stand to be recognized by the membership. He also said that he has noticed a general trend in the sport toward greater cooperation and cohesiveness and hoped this was the promise of our future and the future of the sport.

The Chair finished by challenging all the membership to bring new ideas, energy and cooperation to the Association.

Motion: to adjourn the meeting

Moved by: St. Thomas Legion Track and Field Club

Carried

Adjournment 5:12 p.m.