



## O.T.F.A. Board Meeting

**Date: Friday June 13, 2008**

**Time: 7:00 pm – 11:00 pm**

**Location: Sport Alliance Ontario Building  
1185 Eglinton Avenue East**

**Room: Boardroom 3A**

**Present:** Bill Stephens (Chair), Val Sarjeant (Vice-Chair), Suzanne Leroux, Stuart Smith, Pat Reid, John Craig (staff), Roman Olszewski (staff), Anthony Biggar (staff), Michael Brennan (staff): Harry Stantsos attended via telephone

1. **Welcome** – Bill welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked them all for coming the night prior to a weekend of competition.
2. **Motion to Ratify Acceptance of the Minutes of the April Board Meeting** – John asked for a motion to ratify the email motion that approved the Minutes of the April 20, 2008 Board Meeting

**Motion:** to ratify the Approved Minutes of the April Board Meeting                      **Carried**  
Pat Reid and Val Sarjeant

3. **Business Arising**

None

4. **Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** to Approve the Agenda    **Carried**  
Suzanne Leroux and Pat Reid

5. **Road Warrior Program– Presentation by Michael Brennan** – Michael made a verbal report and discussed the Road Warrior web page as part of the OTFA site and some of the concerns regarding the search engine. There are 10,000 + names on our site now, each rated with a handicap at this point. Michael has been accumulating race results from this year and these names will be added to the current data base.

Michael explained that the software from the UK has been slow in arriving and is not as functional as we had hoped it would be at this time. The best software to date arrived on June 12 and there is still some work to be done. This is software that should go to the timing companies to allow us to award and adjust handicaps on race day.

The Road Warrior website went live in April – media releases have gone out to different places to let people know. We have had coverage in ‘Out There’ Magazine and some other running related publications.

Michael has a list of 50 races which would be suitable for our program. He won’t involve these events yet because we still aren’t where we want to be with the software. We also can’t provide medals yet because we can’t yet provide race-day results.

Through the Road Warrior program we have formed a good partnership with David Brooks and his company, Road Race Results.

Stuart offered some ideas about prizing and results management.

Val congratulated Michael on some very positive progress on this project.

**Action:** - Michael to send his written report to John via email and John to circulate Michael’s report to Board via email.

6. **Provincial Coach Report** – as of the time of the start of the meeting, no report had been received by the Provincial Coach. (Apparently the report was sent to an old OTFA email address. Subsequent to the meeting, the report was received and circulated by email to the Board).

*For discussion of this agenda item the Board went in camera at 7:37 pm*

*The Board came out of it’s in camera session at 8:14 pm*

7. **Mediation Required** – John advised that, while there has been no formal complaint and no claims of harassment, a concern has arisen concerning an OTFA Coach and athlete. Perhaps the OTFA should try to mediate the issue to make sure all sides are satisfied. John suggested that the Provincial Coach be asked to mediate since he has some experience with mediation.

**Action:** John to ask the coach concerned to file a formal complaint. Since the athlete concerned isn’t a member of the OTFA in good standing, the OTFA can’t take any action without something in writing. This appears to be the only way the OTFA can intervene

8. **Ratification of the Approval the 2008 Q4G Selection Criteria** – John gave a brief review of the significant changes to the Quest for Gold Selection Criteria for 2008, and asked for a motion to approve the criteria as presented.

**Motion:** to approve the 2008 Quest for Gold Selection Criteria as presented  
Val Sarjeant and Harry Stantsos

**Carried**

9. **Base Camp – Final Report and Manual** –John presented the report, written by Base Camp Project Coordinator Kevin Dunbar, and also discussed the Track Time Manual.

Val suggested some time ago that we have a Mentor Coach to oversee developmental projects like this which will help clubs work with entry level programs.

**Action:** John to apply to CSC for more money for a Mentor Coach to champion this program.

**Action:** John and Anthony to post the program on our Web Page and in our newsletter.

John also noted that the OTFA has \$6,000 worth of equipment for clubs to help get them started in the program.

The Board asked that Kevin Dunbar be congratulated for a program well done.

10. **Club Amalgamation** – Bill presented an idea that the OTFA might consider trying to streamline the club system in our sport, suggesting that amalgamating existing clubs into ‘super clubs’ might be a way of solving some of the administrative and coaching shortages we have. This goes back to Gerard Mach’s ideas of the 70s and 80s. There was some discussion that centres like Toronto, London etc. should have fewer – but bigger – clubs that can work together to provide greater structure and better management. Some of the OTFA’s best clubs are the biggest and this may, in part, be due to their structure and size.

Suzanne pointed out that there are often more than one club in most other sports in any given area and she didn’t think an amalgamation would happen in most Ontario centres.

11. **Picking of Espoir team** – Bill advised that the criteria for selection of the Espoir Team has been established and published but that the level of interest is low so far, meaning that the criteria may have to be revised if necessary. There was some discussion about having two teams represent Ontario to increase opportunities and competition, but other provinces may see this as insulting to their programs. The OTFA doesn’t want to embarrass other provinces.

Roman suggested we simply wait to see what interest there is and firm things up as the situation becomes clearer. There may be a way of introducing a second Ontario team by using a formula to make sure Ontario athletes don’t dominate ‘A’ section finals.

12. **Funds for World Jrs., National Jrs. and the New York Indoor High School Meet**

Roman advised that the OTFA has \$15,800 in funding (\$11,800 from the last fiscal year) and that this should be divided between the World Jrs., National Jrs. and the New York Indoor High School Championship Meet in a pre-determined fashion. Athletes can only apply for funding for one competition. Carded athletes will not be eligible for this money as per the motion from the April 20 Board meeting.

Funds should go to clubs not athletes since this could affect NCAA eligibility. Clubs receive money based on their athletes performances.

Roman to advise how deep funding will go based on performance.

### 13. **Harmonization of Events – Bill**

Bill briefly discussed the document from Athletics Canada on harmonization. The document lays the groundwork to have competitions across the country become standard for each age class and each event. The document was driven by a desire for harmonization and in order to follow the LTADM. This will be ratified at the AC Technical Congress in the fall.

While the Board endorsed the intent of the document, there was consensus that it will be hard to sell the concepts in Ontario since it will require some significant changes to events and attitudes and is contrary in some respects to past practices.

**Action:** Anthony to put the harmonization document on our website.

### 14. **Current Coaches (NCCP) – Bill** presented a document from Athletics Canada which clearly outlines the new and old NCCP coaching levels and shows how they relate to each other.

**Action:** Anthony to put the NCCP information, which shows the equivalencies of the old and new NCCP systems, on the OTFA website and have it published in our next Newsletter.

### 15. **RJT – Hershey Program Money – Split – Val Sarjeant**

Athletics Canada will provide the OTFA with \$3,000 in funding this year for the Hershey and RJT programs. Val proposed that the funds be split between Athletic Performance Improvement for the RJT program they are hosting this summer in Toronto and a related RJT Track meet at the end of the summer (\$1,000). Since the Hershey program has already ended for 2008 Val will come up with a plan for the other \$2,000 to be considered at next Board meeting.

Perhaps the remaining funds can be directed to the Track Time program, which fits into the spirit of the funding.

**Motion:** to provide Athletic Performance Improvement with \$1,000 to assist with costs associated with their RJT Track Meet in the summer of 2008 and to defer spending the remaining \$2,000 until the next Board meeting when a new motion will be considered.

Val Sarjeant and Stuart Smith

**Carried**

### 16. **Health, Safety and Well-Being of OTFA Staff**

Val suggested that, as the OTFA is an employer of several full time, part time and contract employees, there should be some ongoing awareness of the working conditions and health of the staff so that appropriate actions and changes can be made if and when appropriate. There should also be a review of staff time so staff are working smarter, and not working longer hours.

**Action:** John to provide a staff report at future Board meetings with respect to staff issues, stress management and time management.

The OTFA should consider an initiative through the Active 2010 Capacity program next year to hire someone to review staff tasks and responsibilities, division of labour and how time is spent.

**Action:** John to present this idea when looking at Active 2010 project funding next year.

17. **Brockville Sponsorship Project** – John presented the report written by David Carmichael with respect to this initiative. No discussion or questions.

**Motion:** to accept report of the project manager as written.

Val Sarjeant and Suzanne Leroux

**Carried**

18. **Ontario to Provide an Athletics Canada Award in Honour of and OTFA Member**

John advised that a previous Board had considered this initiative and asked for direction. The topic was tabled until further notice.

19. **Calendar Harmonization** – Bill presented a report from Athletics Canada on the harmonization of event schedules given the considerations of an international and national calendar, and the interest in providing a meaningful series of competitions. The paper was drafted by Martin Goulet at the Athletics Canada AGM President's meeting, and was introduced for information purposes only.

20. **Canada Games Team Development Fund – Initiatives?** – Roman will coordinate an effort to gather information and consult with several different leaders in our sport: Pat Reid(jumps), Harry Stantsos (hurdles), Marc Christie (sprints), Dave Christiani (distance and middle distance), and John Allen (throws). Others may be called on to assist. Roman will ask them to identify athletes, programs, plans, camps etc., then compile the results and draft an application for funding, which is due June 30.

**Action:** Harry to organize a Canada Games 2009 web page for the OTFA, which will include a ranking list and a list of potential or hopeful athletes for the Canada Games.

21. **Bilateral Funding – LTAD/Membership** – John advised that there will soon be an application available for Sport for More funding. While form follows function, the OTFA still needs to react to Ministry funding priorities. In the future – especially the Base funding for 2009 – funding will depend on several items with emphasis on the implementation of the LTADM and membership, both of which are priorities and will figure prominently in future funding opportunities.

Implementation of the LTADM has a lot to do with the harmonization or standardization of events (as previously presented in this meeting).

Several ideas were presented about raising membership numbers.

**Action:** Val to see if we can get this summer's RJT kids to become members of the OTFA.

**Action:** John will circulate Bilateral Funding criteria to Board when it is available and ask Board for initiatives which include LTAD.

**Action:** John to see if Alan Brookes and Jim Robinson will send an email newsletter out to all people in races which gives them repeated benefit.

22. **Mileage Rate for OOC Officials** – John advised that the Officials Council has proposed an increase for mileage rates to competitions and has asked the OTFA to increase its contribution to the overall rate. Since this needs to be passed by the membership at the OOC AGM, the item was tabled until further notice.

23. **2010 Ontario Summer Games – Sport inclusion application** – Roman advised that, three years ago the Ministry conducted a review of the Ontario Summer Games and recognized several problems, some to do with the cost of the Games, and some to do with sport specific concerns. The Ministry wishes to transform the Games into a high performance and cost efficient Games.

With that in mind the OTFA now has to re-apply to have track and field admitted to the Games as a sport. OTFA has to demonstrate certain efficiencies and adequate numbers to justify admittance.

**Action:** Roman will circulate ideas and criteria for input, then draft an application by June 30 for consideration by the people in charge of the Games.

24. **Canada Summer Games Staff Selection process report** – Roman reported that 13 or 14 applications were received for positions on this team. There were very few female applicants, and Roman suggested we may have to do some recruiting as there is a criteria for a certain ratio of male/female appointees. Strategies were discussed with respect to positions.

**Action:** Four Board members (Bill, Stuart, Harry and Suzanne) volunteered to be on selection committee. The Committee will be called as required.

25. **Ontario Records Ratification** – Roman tabled this item out of consideration for the length of the meeting and the other items still on the agenda.

26. **Hiring of Summer Student** – Anthony advised that, through a grant from the government, the OTFA has hired Ryan Finn to be a liaison between the OTFA and OTFA Championship competitions this summer. Thanks to the Interview Committee of Suzanne, John and Anthony.

Ryan began work at the OTFA office on June 13, 2008.

27. **Capacity of Ontario Clubs** – Anthony observed, from communications received by the OTFA office, it appears that, with some good developmental program to attract athletes, some clubs don't have room for new membership.

Pat suggested that part of our Mentor Coaching program should include a Mentor Coach for the new Track Time program and other developmental programs. A mentor could work with clubs to increase capacity.

**Action:** John to consider applying for funding for this type of mentor coach position when he applies for next year's CSC Mentor Coach program.

28. **New Business – Simultaneous Marathon – October 15**

John mentioned for information only that OTFA partner IFTA has plans to help organize the Toronto portion of a Simultaneous Marathon Relay. The relay will involve a team of 32 kids, television and simultaneous broadcasts in the host cities of Toronto, Valencia, London, Singapore and Madrid. U of T's track would be an ideal site for the Toronto relay event, and it will start at 8:00 am on Wednesday, October 15.

The OTFA will try to assist with this event as good publicity can be had by all partners in the event.

This item was tabled for more information at a future meeting.

**Dartfish** The Board determined that we should purchase Dartfish software and hardware as opportunity allows since there is a good offer which will expire with time. We can deal with the logistics of the program at the next meeting. A Committee (Harry, Marc, Roman and Pat) has already been formed to deal with this. Val is prepared help as well. Committee to reconvene to establish path forward.

**Action:** John to purchase equipment the hardware and Pat to purchase the software.

29. **Adjournment 11:18 p.m.**

Stuart Smith and Val Sarjeant