

Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Track and Field Association

Saturday, November 27, 2004
Ontario Sport Alliance Building,
Toronto, Ontario, Rooms 1A and 1B
1:30 p.m.

NOTE: No quorum was present at 1:30 so the meeting stood down for 15 minutes and re-convened with 19 votes present on the floor. As per the OTFA By-laws, the votes present at the time of re-convening constitute a quorum.

- 1. Chairs Welcome:** Albert Tschirhart discussed the challenges of the new year and the accomplishments of the past. As a community we lost some people important to us, including Board Member and coach Joe Sax. The AGM took a minute of silence to remember those who passed away in 2004.
- 2. Parliamentary Procedures and Announcement of Voting Powers:** John Craig announced and confirmed the votes present and parliamentary procedure for the meeting.
- 3. Ratification of Motions of Directors 2003-2004:** Review of motions of Board of Directors, including those passed at the Board meeting November 26, 2004.

Moved to ratify the motions of the Board of Director:

Andy Burgess and Suzanne Leroux

Carried

- 4. Approval of 2003 A.G.M. Minutes:**

Moved: Burgess and Harry Stantsos

Carried

- 5. Reports:**

President's Report (Albert Tschirhart): report as presented. The OTFA Board is not the OTFA - OTFA is the membership. We need to know what the members want, and try to direct the Association in a way which will benefit the whole Ontario Track and Field community, not just individual members.

Membership is still a problem, and we still have to find ways to getting more people into the Association. The resolution may be in retention – we have to find a way of keeping our athletes involved, getting them to stay a bit longer.

Technology will help with registration in the future. The OTFA has plans for revamping the look of the Website and is working on an on-line registration system for 2006.

There are good opportunities for competition coming up, and the future looks good in terms of competitions at all levels.

Vice President's Report (Denis Landry): Report provided verbally, echoing the comments of the Chair.

Treasurer's Report (David Watt): David pointed out that we had a surplus in 2004 of about \$16,420, this a result, mostly, of an increase in our Provincial Grant, which was an increase over past years. David reviewed the costs associated with the return of Athletics Magazine to OTFA and the deficit that it is incurring, and the reasons for that deficit.

Motion to Accept the Treasurer's Report
Moved: David Watt and Enrico Toscano

Carried

Budget: - 2004 – 2005:

David Watt reviewed the budget for 2004-2005. The budgeted Base Grant for this year is an increase of about \$20,000, which reflects the increase in Provincial funding. In addition to this there is also the Active 2010 funding, which will provide an additional \$48,000. This is a better year, financially, than we have enjoyed for some time.

David answered questions about Bingo reliability and the immediate future of this source of revenue.

Motion to accept the 2004-2005 OTFA budget as proposed.
Moved: Watt and Albert Tschirhart

Carried

Dave pointed out we were down in membership by about 100 athletes from 2003-2004.

Appointment of Auditors:

Moved that the OTFA appoint Turnbull Thompson as auditors
Moved: Watt and Toscano

Carried

Other Reports:

General Operations (Marc Christie): Report given verbally. The office has moved to a more member-friendly area, and some updates in computer services and advances in website management are notable changes.

Technical Development (Michael Illingworth): Thanks to staff and Board, primarily from Officials placement position, Michael was looking at ways to progress, which include increases in active officials and competitions, as well as

mentoring. Michael is also developing a stronger relationship with Paralympics and disabled sports. Michael will attach a report to the minutes and mail it to clubs present at the AGM.

Athlete / Coach Development: Kelly Harris was absent, so no report was presented.

Staff: Director of Marketing and Administration - John Craig: report as presented. Two Committees were struck to assist with ongoing issues. Volunteer committee members for *Voyage of a Lifetime Committee* include Suzanne Leroux, Marc Christie, Michelle Coburn and John Craig. Suggested members for *Insurance Guidance Committee* include Neil Hendry, a lady from Burlington who Val and Tammy McKenzie know, and Alan Davis from the Masters Association. Andy Burgess suggested Professor Robert Solomon of the University of Western Ontario. John Craig will follow up on suggestions and form a committee.

John also thanked the OTFA staff for their hard work and long service to the Association.

Director of Technical Services - Roman Olszewski: report as presented. Roman answered questions about CBET and NCCP progress. Level I NCCP courses will continue, but new criteria clinics probably won't be available until fall of 2005. Other provinces are in the same situation as the OTFA, wondering where the courses are and concerned that some people are beginning to lose interest.

Questions about the Supermeet and why it was poorly attended by the senior age group were addressed by Roman. He discussed the competition schedule for 2005 and some changes that have been made to try to address the problem. The schedule is tight, but we are aware that we should try to move the Supermeet off the weekend of Caribana. There aren't many alternatives but we are working on it. New competitions – sometimes international – moving in and out of the schedule often affect us in ways we can't foresee. Also vacation times with families are a problem for many of the younger athletes.

Other problems revolve around the placement and timing of Athletics Canada (AC) competitions, which are sometimes dictated by international calendars. It would be best if AC could establish a permanent date for its competitions, and then OTFA could establish a more meaningful schedule.

There was some discussion of the place of the relay competitions and how they help recruit new members and how much they are enjoyed.

Northwest Region: as presented.

6. **Motion on Membership and Fees:** That by extending the summer seasonal membership to December 31, the registration fees for that category be increased by \$10.00 to cover the additional costs incurred.

Moved: Michelle Coburn and Bill Stephens

Carried

7. **Competition Model – Albert Tschirhart:** Albert presented the ‘Competition Model’ that he and the Board have been working on, which defines competition opportunities for athletes of all ages, and how athletes progress from entry level competitions to National class competitions. He also talked about the coaching mentoring program which was accepted in general by the membership.
8. **New Business:** Val Sarjeant made a short presentation about the 80th Anniversary of the Hamilton Indoor Games and presented some of the items that may be part of the Anniversary Exhibit.

There was a short open discussion on athlete ‘poaching’ and or recruitment of athletes from other clubs, and coaching ethics. There was a consensus that the OTFA needs to play a leadership role in defining reasonable policy in this area. There was support for the current OTFA position and policy, but there were suggestions that it needs to be refined and/or improved and expanded. This item was tabled for some more serious on-line discussions, and perhaps a conference or clinic.

9. **Elections:** Val Sarjeant’s nomination form was received by the OTFA prior to the start of the AGM in accordance with the By-laws. Val put his name forward to fill the vacant position of Director of Marketing and Membership.

Bill Stephens was nominated from the floor by Val and Marc Christie for the position of Director of Athlete and Coaching Development.

As there were no other nominations, the nominees were accepted by acclamation.

10. **Closing Comments by President:**

Adjournment: 4:46 p.m.