

ATHLETICS WAIKATO-BAY of PLENTY Inc ~ MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
on Monday 27th April 2020 (Online meeting)

MINUTES

PRESENT: Murray Green, Louise Young, Steve Rees-Jones, Dianne Rodger, Heather O'Hagan, Malcolm Taylor, Andrew Langman, Sandra Murray, Kerry Hill

APOLOGIES: George Caddie, Mhyre Oman

MINUTES of PREVIOUS MEETING were approved

CORRESPONDENCE

Inwards:

- Notice from Lion Foundation of withdrawal of \$7500 funding awarded for medals
- Notice from Gaming Trusts that they have suspended all funding
- Correspondence from Athletics NZ about Rotorua Marathon postponement
- Sport NZ Covid-19 guidelines for operations at each alert level
- Proposed changes to hammer/discus cage specifications in Athletics NZ rules
- Centre newsletter from Athletics NZ (circulated)
- Confirmation of Covid-19 wage subsidy application being successful
- Porritt Classic final report from Criss Strange
- Discus incident at Tauranga schools meeting (resolved by letter sent to club of athlete involved)
- Incident report from WBOP Children's Champs (starter gun went off close to athlete)
- Incident reports from Te Aroha ribbon day (minor incidents - fall caused by hole in track and safety pin landing in foot)
- Notice from Rene Otto of closure of Edgecumbe Throwing facility
- From Trevor Spittle, proposal around officiating structure in New Zealand
- Notice of rent relief from Sport Waikato

Outwards:

- Wage Subsidy application
- Notice to clubs about cessation of activities under Covid-19
- Porritt Classic final financial report to HCC to claim final \$1000 sponsorship
- Winter handbook (online)

FINANCE

Trust Waikato – an application towards operating costs of \$20,000 was approved

Previously agreed applications to NZCT and Lion Foundation may now not proceed due to impacts of Covid-19 on gaming trust funding.

January 2019 Accounts paid:

Sport Waikato (rent) \$306.67, Orix (car lease) \$507.16, Eftpos NZ (eftpos hire) \$70.67, Inland Revenue (deductions) \$927.16, Katikati (Reg Refund) \$7, Heartland Hotel (Porritt Classic delegate accommodation) \$298, ANZ (Eftpos charges) \$20, Tauranga CC (Stadium hire) \$178, Louise Young (salary) \$1651.26), Steve Rees-Jones (salary) \$1706.38, Fleet Partners (car lease) \$581.90, Diprose Miller (Xero) \$69, Fleet Partners (fuel) \$85.55, Brett Addison (photo finish expenses) \$196.49

February 2019 Accounts paid:

Sport Waikato (rent) \$306.67, Orix (car lease) \$507.16, Eftpos NZ (eftpos hire) \$70.67, Inland Revenue (deductions) \$927.16, ANZ (Eftpos charges) \$20, Louise Young (salary) \$1651.26), Steve Rees-Jones (salary) \$1706.38, Kerry Hill (salary) \$1677.27, Fleet Partners (car lease) \$581.90, Diprose Miller (Xero) \$69, Robin Knowles (IP expenses) \$162.07, Mhyre Oman (Toner) \$194.10, Hamilton City Council (Stadium hire) \$180, Heather O'Hagan (postage/stationary) \$40.85, Louise Young (Expenses/Prizes TLAG event) \$444.66, Criss Strange (P Classic prize money) \$11,700, Hertz (IP van hire) \$341, Tauranga City Council (stadium hire) \$245, Ben Langton Burnell (IP Photos) \$100, WBOP masters (gear hire) \$20, Maggy's Catering (Porritt Classic catering) \$1753.75, Nigel Yalden (P Classic commentating) \$1000, Paper Plus (IP Stationary) \$43,97, Porritt Classic officials \$350, Fleet Partners (Fuel) \$78.69, Rotary Club (P Classic gate) \$300, Lucas Bakery (Lunches P Classic) \$180, Smiths Sports Shoes (Prizes P Classic) \$225, Smiths Sports Shoes (Shirts PC) \$86.25, TMTT (season Tauranga Equip hire) \$300, DPI Limited \$1538.24, Criss Strange (expenses P Classic) \$1568.53, IRD (GST) \$6901.32

March 2019 Accounts paid:

Sport Waikato (rent) \$306.67, Orix (car lease) \$507.16, Eftpos NZ (eftpos hire) \$70.67, Inland Revenue (deductions) \$927.16, ANZ (Eftpos charges) \$20, Tauranga CC (Stadium hire) \$178, Louise Young (salary) \$1651.26), Steve Rees-Jones (salary) \$1706.38, Fleet Partners (car lease) \$589.96, Diprose Miller (Xero) \$69, Kerry Hill (salary) \$1677.27, Athlete Subsidies NZ TF \$1200, Athletics NZ (Relay entries NZ TF) \$240, Sport Smart Screens (Ribbons) \$85, Piako Security (PC Security) \$722.57, F Price (Padlocks) \$117.76, Hart Sport (Throws equipment) \$353.30, Whakatane \$7 (reg refund), Fleet Partners (fuel) \$317.25, Trio (singlets) \$425.50,

REPORTS (see separately): Officials (Heather O'Hagan) – written, with verbal reports from Louise Young (Waikato Athletics Development) and Sandra Murray (Children).

Additional information to Officials report:

- Heather updated about the new officials training proposal from Athletics NZ. There are some concerns about the centralisation of the system and how that will impact on whether courses can be held when required for each Centre and also where the financial burden will be placed on paying for

the educators. Heather was concerned that AWBOP may not be able to carry such a financial burden. For our region there is unlikely to be significant change as Heather will likely be one of the educators. The advantage of the new system would be better consistency across the regions. Steve is to reply to Athletics NZ regarding this with any additional information from Heather included.

Waikato Development Advisor:

- Louise gave an update as to her activities over the last couple of months, including school athletics days, planning meetings with schools, meeting with both Tokoroa Clubs, Youth Sport Forum and Thames Valley District Schools event.

Children:

- Sandra updated that Ribbon days and the WBOP Children's Champs had gone ahead as usual. The grade 12/13 Inter-provincials was postponed with a date later in the year possible. The mid-winter forum and children's AGM are not able to occur as planned at this time due to Covid-19 impacts.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Throws cages specifications

Notice from Athletics NZ has been received that the height specifications of throws cages will need increased from October 2021. Porritt Stadium cages are compliant with these new regulations already. Tauranga cages will need some extra height and options for how to do this were discussed by the meeting. After discussions it was left for the Tauranga Track Trust to look into the matter and discuss options for how to proceed with any work required. It was also noted that Whakatane's throwing cages would also need height increased to match the new specifications.

- Rotorua Marathon

Murray updated that he has been in contact with Pete Pfitzinger of Athletics NZ regarding the Marathon and it is still likely to go ahead even if the event makes a loss for Athletics NZ. Because of this it was agreed by the meeting that Athletics Waikato-Bay of Plenty will reduce the event levy for the 2020 Rotorua Marathon to \$1 per athlete. Murray is to go to Pete Pfitzinger with that proposal.

- New website

Steve updated on the new website, which is now fully operational. The cost to AWBOP will be \$2000 as trust funding that Athletics NZ was seeking to assist Centres was declined due to

Covid-19 implications. Athletics NZ is still contributing to the project across Centres to keep overall costs down. The website appears to be an improvement on the previous STG one, with greater ease of use.

- Covid-19

Issues around Covid-19 impact were discussed. It was confirmed that the organisers of the North Island Cross Country have cancelled the event for 2020. There have also been discussions with Athletics NZ about a reorganising of the winter calendar, with a possibility of the NZ XC Champs moving to late August and other winter Championships perhaps moving dates. ANZ will meet after May 11th to make some decisions about winter dates. The NZ Secondary Schools XC has already been postponed until September. Winter Clubs may be able to operate club events under level 2, but they should be using contact tracing – recording details of all people attending events (including spectators). To maintain social distancing they may also need to consider time trials only to avoid a mass start scenario. All club events would fall below the current limit of 500 people outdoors under level 2.

- AGM

There is awareness that the AGM date may be affected by major winter events being moved in the calendar and clashing with it. No decision will be made until the next Management Meeting (Likely in June). Of note, it was suggested the constitution may need amended at the AGM to state that online meetings will be a valid method of hosting Management Meetings in future.

In response to a query, it was also confirmed that no changes to age grades for open meetings are required. This was due to an issue early in the season where under age athletes competed in an open meeting, however as the problem was due to athletes not following rules rather than rules not being stated no change is warranted.

- Porritt Classic

Porritt Classic dates were discussed. The suggested date of Waitangi date has been rejected and it has been requested that the event be moved to the following weekend (13th Feb) and that we are happy to lose permit status if that is required to move the meeting.

- Porritt Stadium

The end of season clean up did not happen due to Covid-19. Steve can check with Wanderers about whether they are to use the common room and if so when they plan to do so. We can then organise tidying items away.

- Board Structure

Comment was made on the progress to a board structure. This is still planned to occur and a call for nominations will need to occur in the next couple of months prior to the AGM. An appointments panel has already been discussed at a previous Management Meeting.

NEXT MEETING: to be arranged after 11th May Government announcement on Covid-19.

REPORTS

OFFICIALS

Officials report for Management April 2020.

Competitions- the abrupt end of the season relieved the pressure on the problems of insufficient officials for competitions, but the issue has only been delayed until we get going again. I am checking with Ray re who had intended being at the mid-week WBOP Sec School champs. I was not available due to work commitments, and wonder how many others were in the same position. The NI Sec Schools Champs were going to stretch us- I was calling in favours from all over to try and get the correctly graded officials in the key positions needed.

We have problems in the starts area- Steve sent out an email to the clubs to see if we could get more involvement here. He had responses from Stewart Foster (experienced through Masters), Te Aroha re Chris Melrose (C Grade done 2018), and Lake City who have no-one currently. This got put on the back burner during the busy period in Feb-March, and I can't plan anything in the current Covid-19 situation.

One of the issues with starts is for a national record to be accepted (or international competition qualifying mark), like field events, there are grading requirements- Chief Starter and Referee (track and starts if appointed) must be A, and photofinish B. For a beginner it would take 4-5 years to gain the experience to progress to A grading, and it has to be over all aspects of track, not just starting or photofinish. Charles Annals has done this and is ready to do the B Track grading, but his main focus needs to be on competing. I am not aware of anyone else with a C grading who has been working towards B in Track. To do this they need to be attending open meets. We have no B grade track officials looking at progressing at present.

The suggestion regarding downgrading the officials gradings for records comes up from time to time, but World Athletics would have a real problem with this.

As for field events, there is one ready to do B jumps, after getting her rostered onto pole vault at Waitakere and the National champs.

I had intended to try and hold some courses through the winter months, but the lockdown situation has made this impossible to plan for. Also with the rule book update the exam papers and presentation material need some editing and I needed to wait until this was done before trying to set any dates. Getting people to commit in the winter for courses for summer sport is always a challenge! I was hoping to be overseas in September and hence be unavailable to do any courses then, but that won't be happening now!

Trevor Spittle circulated a document proposing a change to the officiating structure. ANZ needs responses back **by 30th April.**

Re officials education- proposed change from the region's officials educator doing all the courses (as well as the co-ordination role most of them have as well) to an ANZ educators group who do the training when requested by the Centres. Expected to be about 6 in number. When a centre requires education they advise the ANZ Officials Development Officer who will work with them to arrange an Educator, courses etc. This would take the problems of managing the officials database away from the Centre- this is a huge issue with the ROE's at present.

There have been various responses from some of the ROE's around the country

Pros- consistency in delivery of the information (a huge concern for the NOC)
Consistency in marking C and B papers

For the Centres who struggle with running courses for what ever reason – inexperienced ROE being one of the main reasons. I would put more than ½ the centres in this category.

Cons- problems around timetabling- trainers available when Centre needs them.

Cost- who pays for the trainers travel etc? ANZ paid for Trevor to travel to Wellington/Wanganui.

Expectation would be ANZ funds the travel and accom, the Centre sorts out venue, provides all the paper work needed and works with the facilitator re organizing dates etc.

The existing educators lose the opportunity to have this showing on their CV- might impact funding applications???

Loss of rapport that exists between current educator and attendees as the educator might not be known to the attendees.

Consistent issues the various centres already have include

Difficulties around getting enough people together on set dates , last minute withdrawals, etc.

Difficulties getting the attendees to join up on the officials database- is this fear of being expected to get involved?

Some athletes and coaches attend courses, sit the papers and never officiate but are better for the knowledge they have gained.

The NOC altered the description of the role of regional officials co-ordinator to one stressing the education in the hope that the various centres would recognize the 2 roles and try and separate these For most centres this was a pie in the sky hope and was not achieved. I am still interested in the educators role but as already expressed at the end of the 2018-2019 summer season, am not happy about continuing with the co-ordinators role.

The other communication we have had from Trevor was around the legality of the various cages used for senior competition with the proposed removal of the ANZ Supplementary rule exemption on 1st October 2021. This means all cages used for competition where records and qualifying distances need to be ratified need to meet the World Athletics specifications from that date.

The current World Athletics requirements are

Hammer cage (TR37) rear at least 7m high and at least 10m from the last 2.80m panels to the gate pivot points. Gate height minimum of 10m

Discus cage (TR35) at least 6m for the front 3m, and at least 4m at the back.

Porritt Hammer cage meets the height requirement but there are some issues around keeping the edges of the mesh secure

Discus cage meets the requirements

Tauranga (info from Gary Garner)

Hammer cage 7.2m all round

Discus cage 4m at the back, 5m at the front (is this both or just the one at the 100m start end)

Whakatane (info from Gary Garner)

Hammer cage 7.2m all round

The Tauranga cages will need some work by October 2021. Adding more height to the hammer cage gates will make them even harder to shift than they are at present, especially if the turf is damp and soft. With the issues around the cricket facility, how many hammer comps get held at Tauranga where records are an issue?????????

Master's will need to decide what they will do about recognizing records from the Whakatane cage.

Heather O'Hagan.