

ATHLETICS WAIKATO BAY OF PLENTY

Minutes of the 81st Annual General Meeting, 2026

DATE	SUNDAY, 9 AUGUST 2026
Meeting opened	2:40 pm
Meeting closed	3:20 pm
Venue	Cambridge Athletic & Harrier Club, Vogel Street, Cambridge
Chair	Andrew Langman (outgoing President)
Attendance	37 individuals were recorded as present for the AGM, representing 16 Clubs and Organisations, of which 10 were affiliated member clubs.

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the 81st Annual General Meeting of Athletics Waikato Bay of Plenty at 2:40 pm on Sunday, 9 August 2026.

Individuals Present at AGM

NAME	CLUB	ROLE
Lindsay Ash	Mercury Bay Athletics	Coach; Club Volunteer
Kevin Bradley	Hamilton City Hawks	Coach; Club Volunteer
Nathan Brown	Hamilton City Hawks	Athlete
Murray Clarkson	Athletics Tauranga	Official
Bruce Cortesi	Tauranga	AWBOP Board Member; Club Volunteer
Inneke Cumming	Te Kuiti Athletic Club	AWBOP Board Member; Volunteer; Coach
Nellie Engels	Putāruru Athletic Club	Official
Margaret Fisher	Cambridge A&H Club	Club Committee Member
Murray Green	Te Awamutu Athletic Club	Coach; Club Volunteer; Life Member
Kerry Hill	Athletics Tauranga	Coach
Andrew Langman	AWBOP Board	AWBOP Board Member (President/Chair)
Jo Liddle	Lake City Athletics	Club Committee Member
Karen Lucas	Te Awamutu	Club Committee Member
Jonny McKee	Cambridge A&H Club	Club Committee Member
Rhys Mildom	Hamilton City Hawks	Club Committee Member
Camille Moore	Greerton Athletics	Club Committee Member
Bruce Parkinson	Fairfield	Official; Parent; Club Volunteer
Kirsty Ridling	Fairfield	Parent; Club Committee Member
Fay Riley	Athletics Tauranga Inc	Official
Mariah Ririnui	Papamoa Athletics Club	AWBOP Board Member; Athlete
Aynslee Rodger	Hamilton City Hawks	Official; Club Committee Member

Dianne Rodger	Hamilton City Hawks	Club Committee Member
Erin Seager	Fairfield Athletics Club	Club Committee Member
Brendon Smith	Special Olympics Waikato	Coach; Club Committee Member
Malcolm Smith	Athletics Tauranga	Club Committee Member
Debbie Strange	Hamilton City Hawks	Coach (elected President — see Section 6)
Matt Strange	Papamoa Athletics Club	Club Volunteer, Committee Member
Criss Strange	Hamilton City Hawks	Coach; Committee Member
Michael Sutton	Athletics Tauranga	Athlete, Committee Member
Malcolm Taylor	Bellevue Athletic Club	Committee Member; Volunteer; Official
Rob Townsend	Hamilton City Hawks	AWBOP Board Member
Leah White	Taupō Athletics	Coach; Club Committee Member; Parent
Craig Wilson	Frankton A&H Club	Club Committee Member; Athlete
Kevin Endres	AWBOP	General Manager
Kim Mickle	Athletics NZ	National Development Manager (BOP)
Kirsten Kilmister	Athletics NZ	National Development Manager Nth Isl
Barrie Jennings	AWBOP	Development & Events Manager
Iain Rattray	Hamilton City Hawks	Board Member, Athlete, Club Committee

CLUBS / ORGANISATIONS REPRESENTED	AFFILIATED MEMBER CLUB
Athletics NZ	
Athletics Tauranga	Yes
Bellevue Athletic Club	Yes
Cambridge A&H Club	Yes
Fairfield Athletics Club	No
Frankton A&H Club	Yes
Greerton Athletics	Yes
Hamilton City Hawks	Yes
Lake City Athletics	Yes
Mercury Bay Athletics	No
Papamoa Athletics Club	Yes
Putāruru Athletic Club	No
Special Olympics Waikato	No
Taupō Athletics	Yes
Te Awamutu Athletic Club	Yes
Te Kuiti Athletic Club	No

Apologies

Apologies were received from:

- Brett Addison (Hamilton City Hawks), Jarvy Aoake (AWBOP Board), Veronica Maree (Cambridge A&H Club), Christina Jacqueline (Cambridge A&H Club).

No motion was required to accept the apologies.

Quorum

The Constitution requires a quorum of a minimum of 8, or 25%, of Member Club Delegates. The meeting proceeded on the basis that a quorum was present, with 29 members representing 10 Affiliated Clubs.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting, held on 10 August 2025, were presented for confirmation. The Chair asked whether there were any questions or matters arising; none were raised.

Motion: That the minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting be accepted as a true and correct record.

Moved by Bruce Cortesi, Seconded by Criss Strange. Carried.

3. Annual Reports

The following annual reports had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting:

- Chair's Annual Report
- Operations Committee Annual Report
- Children's Committee Annual Report
- Coaching & Development Report

As the reports had already been circulated, members agreed to take them as read rather than have each report presented individually.

Motion: That the Annual Reports be received.

Moved by Dianne Rodger, Seconded by Murray Green. Carried.

Discussion

Murray Green (Te Awamutu Athletics Club) congratulated the Board on the quality and depth of the reports, noting the volume of data and analysis presented (including graphs) and observing that, while there would be differing views on how to interpret some of the results, the reports gave members a solid, concrete basis for discussion and future planning.

The General Manager (Kevin Endres) agreed, noting that the value of the reports lies not in the numbers themselves but in providing a starting point for discussion — "it's a rear-view look... looking backwards to help us go forward."

The GM was asked to elaborate on the key "work-ons" arising from the reports, and highlighted the following:

- Track & Field season scheduling and programming: the Committee is working on the scheduling and programming of events within each of the roughly 10 Open Meetings held each season. Data shows more than half of athletes want to compete in more than one event at a meeting, and around a third want to compete in at least three — creating a scheduling challenge to minimise clashes.
- Financial performance of Open Meetings: Open Meetings generally do not make money and, at best, break-even (and can run at a loss). A work-on is to improve the financial performance of these events, primarily through attracting more participation across more events, as well as sponsorship or other sources of funding, rather than imposing higher fees on participants.

4. Financial Reporting

Annual Financial Statements

The General Manager presented the draft Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 May 2026, emphasising that they remain in draft form. This is the first year the accounts have been prepared under a new accountant, and they have not yet been reviewed together in detail. Members were advised that some line-item coding may change once a review takes place, though no material bottom line change is expected.

Murray Clarkson (Athletics Tauranga) noted that, as an Incorporated Society, AWBOP is required to have reviewed (audited) accounts submitted within six months of balance date, and that a special meeting is likely to be needed once the review is complete to circulate the reviewed accounts to members. The General Manager confirmed the accountant and reviewer engagements are underway.

Appointment of Reviewer

Matley Audit Limited, the current reviewer (engaged for at least the last five years), was recommended by the Board to continue as reviewer for the 2026/27 financial year.

Motion: That Matley Audit Limited be appointed as reviewer for the 2026/27 financial year.

Moved Iain Rattray, Seconded Barrie Jennings. Carried.

Discussion

Criss Strange (Hamilton City Hawks) asked about the Porritt Classic surplus funds, which he understood to have been directed into a travel assistance for AWBOP track & field athletes, noting the fund has not been advertised and that no claims against it are known to have been made. The General Manager and Chairperson acknowledged they were not familiar with any Porritt Classic surplus being directed into a travel fund but would investigate this to see if the Board has formally adopted a Porritt Classic travel fund.

[A member] asked about the previous per-athlete event levy (a \$3 per-athlete charge payable to the centre by clubs running affiliated events such as fun runs and half marathons), which has been dropped effective from 1 April. The Chair explained that:

- AWBOP was the only region still applying this levy — all other regions had already dropped it.
- Athletics New Zealand now controls the Rotorua Marathon and removed the associated levy income AWBOP was receiving, which was a key driver for the Board's decision to remove it regionally as well.
- The levy had raised in the order of \$5,000–\$10,000 per year (varying by year), which had previously been available to the Board to reinvest into the region.

5. Governance Disclosures

The Chair confirmed that no Conflict-of-Interest disclosures were made by Board Members during the year.

6. Elections and Appointments

Election of President

The Chair advised that this was his last year in the role, having served four years as President and, this past year, also as Board chairperson. He confirmed he would not be putting his name forward for a further two-year term. He reflected on achievements during his tenure, including completion of the Constitution review and significant work on health and safety and child protection policy, and noted that athletics is "in a good space right now," citing the recent Commonwealth Games and Olympics as context.

Murray Green (Te Awamutu Athletics Club) thanked the Chair for stepping into the role, including during a period of ill health, and for his four years of service.

No written nominations for President had been received prior to the meeting. In accordance with the Constitution, the Chair asked from the floor whether anyone wished to put their name forward, or have a name put forward.

Kevin Bradley (Hamilton City Hawks) nominated Debbie Strange for President from the floor. Her governance experience was noted, including her role on the board of Ocean Athletics Coaches Association, and membership of advisory committees for coach development, both regionally and nationally. No further nominations were received; nominations were closed.

Debbie Strange was elected President of AWBOP by unanimous show of hands (no votes against).

Debbie Strange gave a verbal declaration confirming her consent to the nomination and that she is not disqualified from holding office under the Incorporated Societies Act, in place of a written declaration.

The incoming President thanked the outgoing President and Chairperson (Andrew Langman) for his work and committed to continuing to build on his progress. She encouraged all clubs, athletes, parents, coaches and officials to keep the Board informed through ongoing feedback.

Election of Board Members

Three elected Board positions (three-year terms) were up for election. Three written nominations were received, matching the three vacancies, from the sitting elected members:

- Bruce Cortesi (Athletics Tauranga)
- Iain Rattray (Hamilton City Hawks)
- Inneke Cumming (Te Awamutu AC)

Nominations equalled vacancies available. All 3 nominations were confirmed by show of hands, no objections.

Bruce Cortesi, Iain Rattray and Inneke Cumming were re-elected as Board Members for a 3-year term.

Appointed Board Members

The Chair advised that two Board positions had been filled by appointment during the year: Mariah Ririnui and Robert (Rob) Townsend. Jarvy Aoake continues as an existing appointed Board member.

Robert Townsend, new to the Board, introduced himself: a member of the Hamilton City Hawks, and an Associate Professor at the University of Waikato specialising in coaching, previously with Sport New Zealand's disability programme, with interests in coach development, leadership, and inclusion and diversity.

Appointment of Operations Committee Personnel

The following Operations Committee representative appointments were confirmed, with all positions filled:

ROLE	REPRESENTATIVE	AFFILIATION
Children's Committee	Teresa Mumby	Fairfield Athletic Club
Children's Committee	Sarah Watson	Te Awamutu Athletic Club
Track and Field	Chris Strange	Hamilton City Hawks
Road and Cross Country	Malcolm Taylor	Bellevue Athletic Club
Masters	Ian Rattray	Hamilton City Hawks
Officials	Ruth Tuiraviravi	Athletics Tauranga
Coaches	Ed Leung	Athletics Tauranga
General Manager	Kevin Endres	AWBOP
Youth	Lucy Steel	Hamilton City Hawks
Para	Caelan Harris	Hamilton City Hawks

The General Manager noted that the Youth and Para representative positions are new roles introduced under the updated Constitution and have been filled for the first time this year, providing broader representation across the Operations Committee.

8. Levy and Structure

The Board recommended no increase to the AWBOP Levy and Structure for the 2027/28 year (the levy and structure otherwise apply from 1 April 2027 as set out in the agenda).

The AWBOP Levy and Structure for the 2027/28 year, with no increase, was accepted by the meeting.

Discussion

The General Manager flagged that this is likely to be the last year the levy can be held without an increase, noting it has not been adjusted for several years; without incremental adjustment, members may face a larger increase in a future year. The Chair noted the levy was last changed at the time the membership model moved to annual, quarterly and six-monthly options.

In response to a question about aligning levy timing with the financial year (1 June), the Chair clarified that membership fees apply from 1 April as part of the season structure, distinct from the 1 June financial year.

In response to a question about how AWBOP's levy compares with other regions, the Chair indicated AWBOP sits roughly in the middle: Auckland's levy is higher (reflecting a larger facilities base), while Manawatū-Whanganui, Tasman and Northland levies are lower, and Canterbury's is similar to AWBOP's.

[Member] noted that levy changes have historically drawn pushback, particularly from children's clubs, but supported the principle of smaller, regular adjustments rather than large infrequent increases.

[Member] raised the value of family memberships for multiple children participating. The Chair noted this is a matter driven at the Athletics New Zealand level, as it affects how the wider membership system works.

Criss Strange (Hamilton City Hawks) asked whether there is any flow-on benefit to centres and clubs from the recently announced ASB sponsorship of Athletics New Zealand. The Chair advised that Athletics New Zealand has not advised AWBOP of any planned programs related to this sponsorship arrangement.

9. Constitutional Amendments

No motions were received for consideration of Constitutional amendments. The Chair encouraged members to raise any gaps or issues they identify in the Constitution at any time, describing it as a living document rather than one to be set aside.

10. Member Motions and Items of Business

No motions or items of business were received from members.

11. Recognition and Awards

Life Membership

Aynslee Rodger, President of Hamilton City Hawks Track & Field, presented a nomination for Life Membership for Chris Strange. The nomination outlined an extensive record of service, including:

- Born into a sporting family in Thames; father received an Athletics New Zealand Long Service Award.
- First athletics achievement at age four (a 40-yard certificate), with an active involvement in the sport spanning approximately 56 years and a coaching career of 49 years, beginning in 1977.
- Former holder of the New Zealand 400m hurdles record; has coached three athletes who bettered that record, including the current holder Cam French.
- Represented New Zealand at the Pacific Conference Games (Canberra, 1977; Christchurch, 1981) and in several Australia–New Zealand test matches.
- National titles: Under-20 High Jump Champion and National High Jump Champion (1970); NZ Senior 400m Hurdles Champion (1977 and 1979).
- Coaching roles at Commonwealth Youth, World Youth, Oceania and World University level, and as an AWBOP centre coach at numerous national championships; also coached Cook Islands athletes based at the University of Waikato, including at Olympic and Commonwealth level.
- Administration roles across Hamilton Athletic Club and Hamilton City Hawks, including chairperson, secretary, treasurer and committee member; organising committee member of the Porritt Classic for the past 12 years.
- Hamilton Athletic Club captain through the 1970s and 1980s; Life Member of Hamilton City Hawks; AWBOP team manager and coach through the 2010s; President of Athletics Waikato Bay of Plenty, 2015–2017.
- Most recently, coached an athlete representing New Zealand at the 2026 Under-20 World Championships.

Life Membership requires a 75% majority vote of members present.

Chris Strange was elected a Life Member of Athletics Waikato Bay of Plenty by show of hands, meeting the required 75% majority. No objections.

Service Award

A Service Award nomination was presented by a Margaret Fisher of Cambridge Athletic & Harrier Club for Andrew Langman (outgoing President). Margaret noted he first joined the club through his children's involvement in athletics, took on a governance role as chairperson of the club's athletics section in 2015, and was part of the club's overall management. He was described as a steady, calming influence, working effectively behind the scenes, including in his later role at regional level. During a period living in Hawke's Bay, he also volunteered for the Napier and Hastings Athletic Club, despite having no personal or family connection to that club. Jonny McKee, also of Cambridge, added that he has been a significant contributor to the club's junior/kids' section and, more broadly, to Waikato athletics since 2015/16, and that the recognition was well deserved.

Service Awards are presented based on the recommendation of the Awards Committee (10 years' service threshold) and do not require a vote of the meeting.

The Service Award was presented to Andrew in recognition of his contribution to Cambridge Athletic & Harrier Club and to Athletics Waikato Bay of Plenty.

Season Shields and Trophies

Acknowledgement of the AWBOP Trophy winners was presented by the General Manager.

AWARD	CATEGORY	2026 WINNER
Gallichan Cup	Most points — Senior Men, Senior Women, U20 Men or U20 Women	Alicia O'Connor
Colts Shield	Most points — Under-18	Adam De Sousa
Sue Drummond Shield	Most points — Women's Under-18	Esme Koning
Keith Fallar Memorial Trophy	Senior Men's 800m Champion	Ben Bidois
John L. Davies Memorial Trophy	Senior Men's 1500m Champion	Ben Bidois
Official of the Year	Officials	Aynslee Rodger

12. General Business

No general business items were received from members, and none were raised from the floor.

13. Meeting Closure

In his closing remarks, the outgoing Chair reflected on a challenging four years in the role, but expressed confidence that athletics is on the rise in the region. He noted that, only a year or two ago, the AGM had struggled to attract enough clubs to reach a quorum, whereas 12 member clubs were represented at this meeting — which he took as a clear sign of the growing strength of athletics in the region. He thanked everyone for attending.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 3:20 pm.