



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held via Zoom, on Saturday 21st November 2020 at 1.15pm

The meeting was called to order and the Chairman John Standerline welcomed everyone to this unusual AGM being held by Zoom, due to the Annual Dinner being cancelled due to Covid 19.

Two people have left the committee in the last year:- Jillian Taylor resigned as Treasurer and has been replaced by Kate Heath. After ending his term as Chairman, Philip Andrew had remained on the committee to cover International matters. Philip continues to be involved in athletics with the development of The Athletics Museum, as part of the new Alexander Stadium. With no International activity at the moment Jon Mason and John Standerline are covering the International role and will look to replace Philip in due course.

The Chairman thanked both Jillian and Philip for their work as BASC Committee members and Directors over many years.

Our president, Katharine Merry, is unfortunately working this afternoon and cannot join us, but sends best wishes to everyone and hopes you remain safe.

The Chairman explained the voting procedure whereby only Guarantors can vote, the limit of your guarantee is £1 – only paid in the event that the club cannot meet its obligations. In order to establish who has joined the meeting, it was requested that everyone respond to the question 'Are you a BASC Guarantor?'. This is so that a list of "attendees" can be created, and that also we can update the database to add in additional Guarantors.

1. **Apologies** for absence have been received from:

Jillian Taylor & Lesley Pavitt.

2. **The Minutes of AGM held on 16th November 2019** were approved nem con.

3. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman welcomed members and gave his annual report :-

It has been a very different 12 months!

The last year started with yet another very successful BASC Dinner with Athlete of the year, Katarina Johnson-Thompson, attending. As we have found in recent years, we had several young athletes making very good guests.

With the Indoor Meetings in Glasgow, BASC attendance was lower than when they are held in Birmingham but those that went were lucky to actually see live athletics in 2020. Unfortunately, limited space in Glasgow meant that there was no BASC stand.

Subsequently, of course, there has been limited athletics and only the odd event overseas with spectators.

I can assure you, however, that the BASC Committee has not been dormant. We have continued to hold committee meetings to our usual timetable using Zoom and we have found the system successful. With committee members scattered from Cardiff to Sheffield and Manchester to Chelmsford, this way of 'meeting' meant that the meeting only took up a couple of hours of the day rather than a full day travelling to London or Birmingham. When circumstances allow, we will plan some face to face meetings, but I think that we will continue to hold most meetings on-line.

In the last year we have taken the opportunity of updating our policies all of which can be seen on the BASC website.

This has included the main Committee and Director Conduct Policy which covers the way that the club operates ie it's governance. A full review was concluded including taking account of comments from some members who were not on the Committee. This, and all of the policies are on the BASC Web Site.

The principal changes we have agreed to our governance are:-

- Directors will retire every three years but be eligible for re-election
- A clearer separation of the directors' and committee responsibilities and meetings
- Clarifying when accreditation at an event is appropriate – mainly where there is a benefit for Backtrack

One of the observations made by one of the non committee members was the importance of keeping in regular contact with members. In the past we have partly addressed this by being able to meet members at the BASC stand at athletics events in addition to social events and obviously, via Backtrack.

So, this year we have started more frequent emails to members and occasional catch ups letters to the about 65 members who do not have or have not provided an email address. These have particularly been issued, sometimes at short notice, when new have learnt that events will be televised. Learning about the televising of the Monaco Grand Prix was particularly popular – one member even telling us that that alone justified his BASC Membership!

As and when we receive athletics news, we will continue to inform members in this way, but that will not in any way take away from Backtrack. We trust that members have found this information useful and do not feel we are bombarding members with emails.

In recent weeks we have made contact with the BBC and we are looking at ways of ensuring that information about broadcasts – even on the BBC Web Site or Red Button – are communicated to members.

Obviously, this year, we have not selected any athletes for awards other than athletes of the meet. We have awarded:-

- GLASGOW
 - Athlete of the Meet for Glasgow, - Jessie Knight.
- UK TRIALS
 - YOUNG
 - High Jumper - Joel Clarke-Khan
 - Hammer Thrower - Charlotte Payne
 - FULL
 - Pole Vaulter - Harry Coppell
 - Steeplechaser - Aimee Pratt

We are grateful to member Arthur Morris for making a special donation – which BASC matched – so that we could award male and female Young Athlete of the Meet awards for the UK Championships as well as senior awards.

Three events we sponsor with prizes for young athletes which were able to take place. They were Vault Manchester and Vault Cardiff and the Hammer Circle Reunion.

With limited opportunity for face to face meetings with members we have had to think of different ways of making contact with members.

Some 84 members joined the pre UK Championships Zoom session led by The Backstraight Boys with Kath Merry and Wendy Sly. In these Covid times we have been thinking of different ways of involving members and for a first event we were very pleased with the session which included the scoop of Christian Malcolm's new British Athletics role.

Hopefully you have enjoyed hearing from Nic Coward and Joanna Coates today. We will look to try and set up sessions in the New Year with some athletes.

Can I make special reference to the companies involved in athletics travel – Track & Field Tours and Jamin – and to Ticket Factory who handled tickets for British Athletics Events.

2020 has clearly been a very difficult year for athletics travel companies. Not only have they had significant administration to undertake sorting out cancellation arrangements for the many people booked to travel with them – especially those booked to attend the European Championships in Paris – but they will have had virtually no income for the year. Chris Bradford's article in the May Backtrack about the implications of the cancellation of the different elements of sports travel was written in January before Covid entered the vocabulary but turned out to be timely.

I recognise the work that Track & Field Tours and Jamin have been involved with this year and trust that when travel becomes possible again you will give them your support.

Ticket Factory too were quick with full refunds for British Athletics Events which were initially moved and subsequently cancelled for spectators.

I am concerned a little about our membership level. Membership varies with how many major events take place in the UK and obviously we are at a 'low'. New membership has been limited this year. There were a few new members after Glasgow and after the Monaco Grand Prix.

However, around 150 members have either not yet renewed their membership or have cancelled.

We have set in motion plans that try to spread the word about the club and especially encourage family membership. Covid has stopped those plans starting in 2020 but we hope to pursue this in the new year.

So, if you know of someone who you think would like to be a member – please encourage them – or even join them up with a Christmas gift membership. The more members we have, the more we can contribute to help grass roots athletics with awards and bursaries.

We have also been having discussions with British Athletics about strengthening the link between us and hopefully returning to a partnership arrangement similar to that which was in place ten years ago. Talks have progressed in the last week and are positive.

My thanks to you as members for sticking with the club and to the Committee for their continued work.

Looking ahead to 2021 I think we can be more optimistic that we will eventually be able to be present when athletes compete, but I fear that this may not be until the outdoor season starts. We are in discussion with British Athletics and we are assured that we will have allocations of tickets whenever spectators can attend events again.

Your BASC Committee will keep you up to date and we can hopefully look forward to a post Olympic Dinner Weekend in November 2021 when we can have an AGM face to face again.

4. **Presentation of accounts**

A presentation of the accounts was made by Kate Heath, the Treasurer.

Overall a quiet second half of the financial year due to the impact of the pandemic, particularly affecting the 2020 dinner with its cancellation.

As the Accounts show, income (£47,122) for the year ending 30 September 20 was pretty much in line with the previous year, with members' subscriptions and donations just slightly down.

On the Expenditure front (£39,466) there was just over £14,000 less spend than the previous year. Some of this was due to the fact that the latest issue of Backtrack was produced in October 2020 rather than the more regular September timescale, so the costs of that will come out of the new financial year. There were also less Awards and Bursaries paid out by the Club as a direct impact of the pandemic on live athletics since March 2020.

On the Balance Sheet the main item to note is the impact of the BASC Dinner cancellation on the Creditors line. In the previous year there were the normal advance payments from members for the 2019 dinner being held as cash in the Bank. With the 2020 dinner being cancelled we managed to return by 30 September all the monies paid in advance for this year's event.

In conclusion, there are no major items of concern to highlight, and it is all in line with the previous year apart from the impact of Covid-19 on the normal pattern of income and expenditure.

A question was asked about the reason for the delay in the production of Backtrack and, if it had been issued in September 20, whether it would have meant an overall deficit rather than surplus in the Accounts. The Chair explained that there had been a deliberate delay of 2 weeks to Backtrack to allow the new details of the AGM to be confirmed and included in the issue. There would still have been a small surplus even if Backtrack costs had been included in the 2019/20 Accounts.

A copy of the accounts has been uploaded to the website.

The Chair requested the draft accounts be adopted. This was agreed nem con and duly adopted.

5. Fixing of Subscriptions for 2021/2022

In view of the healthy financial position of the club, the Directors recommend that subscription levels for all categories should again remain unchanged for 2021/22.

6. Election of Directors

As per the new Governance, Jon Mason & John Standerline have retired in rotation, and stand for re-election and their appointment was agreed nem con.

Kate Heath stands as the new Treasurer, and her appointment was agreed nem con.

7. Election of Officers

The following members were re-elected to the Committee en bloc:-

John Standerline,
Richard Dear
Marc Hope,
Jon Mason,
Jackie Sibthorp,
Malcolm Egner,
Rich Thurston,
Paul Whitaker,

Rhydian Darcy,
Malcolm Egner
Kate Heath

The proposition was agreed nem con.

8. Any Other Business

Ian Tempest, who represents the Hammer Circle event, thanked BASC for their support in sponsoring the U17 category, for the event which recently took place in Hull & Woodford.

A question was raised as to whether more people had attended than usual. John noted that there had been 78 Zoom log ins, with some involving two members, meaning almost 90 members 'attended' , which was probably about the same as usual, but that he was delighted to see lots of new faces who do not normally attend the dinner.

The meeting concluded at 14:15pm