



## EDINBURGH ATHLETIC CLUB

### Annual General Meeting

*Date:* Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009

*Present:* Barry Craighead (President), Moira Maguire, Pat Sinclair, Ian Cunningham, Donald Gorrie, Brian Nisbet, Martin Little, Moira Nisbet, Sandy Cameron, Alistair Hennessey, Marjory Cook, Enid Johnstone, Gail Wilson, Yvonne Jones, Anne Scot, Graeme Brown, Keith Ridley, Alex MacEwen, Garry Robertson, Bill Walker, Eric Fisher, Derek Cogle.

#### 1. **Welcome:**

Barry Craighead welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting and thanked Coaches, Executive, Athletes and Officials for their hard work and for the achievements gained representing the club, now in their second year as Edinburgh Athletic Club. BC outlined that as an Executive Committee we required to look at the way ahead and invited Ian Cunningham to give an overview of Charitable Status prior to the actual AGM commencing.

#### 1a. **Charitable Status:**

IC outlined that George Sinclair had thought about creating a trust to help with fund raising and saw it as the future of the club some years ago. Since then a small group was formed to explore how best to go about this. The target date to proceed is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009, however, IC outlined that there would be some legal costs to go to charitable status and John Hodge, Solicitor, Balfour & Manson (who has been advising the group) will keep these costs as efficient as possible. Templates for the forms to be completed are provided by OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Register). IC outlined that the legacy from Bert Farmer trust underpins the financial strength of the club bequeathing one third share in his property in the Wirral, IC confirmed that he will ensure that this inheritance is looked after. Alex MacEwen asked if Charitable Status would confuse any personal donation. IC confirmed that charitable status would enhance this as any money raised is regulated, however, there would be Constitution changes which will require an EGM.

AMacE asked if any other sports club had gone down this route? IC confirmed that he understood that another athletic club did investigate but did not proceed.

Donald Gorrie advised that there were no serious issue about Limited activities e.g. Queens Hall has separate company for catering purposes, subsidiary so that shops have serious commercial but catering covered under charitable.

IC outlined that any fund raising would attract interest with tax benefit. IC advised that his understanding at present was that there would be two separate bank accounts for the EAC. The purpose of the outline was to give those present at the AGM an overview of what the Executive were proposing.

BC asked for a show of hands in favour of proceeding with further discussions for charitable status which would lead to an EGM if recommendation is to go ahead in September. Show of hands unanimous. (See appendix 1 for full information).

**2. Apologies:**

Marion Donachie, Neil Donachie, Scott Reid, George Sinclair, Moira Reid, Celia Peerless, Craig Dickson, Rodger Alsop

**3. Review of 2008 AGM Minutes:**

Amendment to spelling of Anne Scott and Enid Johnstone. This has been actioned.

BC asked for approval of these minutes by a person present at this meeting last year:

- approved Moira Maguire
- seconded Brian Nisbet.

**4. Secretary's report:**

Report provided by Pat Sinclair, see appendix 2.

BC thanked PS for the work undertaken in her duties as Secretary.

**5. Treasurer's Report:**

Ian Cunningham provided the Income and Expenditure Statement to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008 (appendix 3) together with the notes to the accounts (Appendix 4). IC outlined that the deficit of £2784.41 was not a great result, a lot was to do with the timing of when money coming back actually received, e.g. British League £3150 received in January 2009 but the money outlaid during 2008, so in effect we would have had a surplus if all the monies due had been received before the end of the financial year.

IC outlined that the subscriptions collected for 2008 was £11,328 and thanked Brian Nisbet and Marion Donachie for the work that was put in to collecting the fees and the administration work that they actioned.

Travel and accommodation shows a big outlay but well worth while, and a contribution from all travelling athletes, coaches and officials was taken to help offset this cost.

IC outlined that on an accrual basis we were in a similar position as where we started the financial year which was fine.

- Proposal for changes to the financial year – IC outlined that after discussion at the Executive meetings it was agreed to propose a change to the Financial year end, AGM year end, and subscription year. Financial year end would need to be the end of September for an AGM to take place during October or November. At this AGM meeting the subscription for the following year would be agreed.
- BC asked for a show of hands in favour of these changes – agreed by unanimous show of hands.

- BC gave a vote of thanks to IC for the work actioned to ensure our accounts kept in good shape and for the work put in to preparing and presenting at this meeting.

#### **6. Appoint Auditors:**

Andy Armitage and Paul Little are the auditors for this year and happy to continue to the end of this year. However, they have confirmed that new auditors will be required for next year.

#### **7. Commission Convenor's Reports:**

Young Athletes Cross Country Report (appendix 5)

Long Distance (endurance) Report (appendix 6)

Young Athletes Track & Field Report (appendix 7)

Bill Walker outlined Lothian Trials on 12<sup>th</sup> April – good entry Men 167 and Female 179. Overall entry fees received £1254 with £28 still due to come in.

BW outlined the indoor meeting held at Meadowbank, an Edinburgh Leisure promotion was very successful with 150 entries.

UK Women's' League – MM outlined that the women were runners up in this league which provides a high level of competition and Edinburgh are the only club in Scotland to provide ladies with this level of competition. MM confirmed that a lot of the Scotland select national team came from the EAC women's team. A great achievement for the club and is recognition of the hard work of the coaches and athletes.

Anne Scott asked how British League gives money back to the men and asks that perhaps we need to approach UK Women's league. **Action point to investigate (PS).**

#### **8. Re-election of Executive Committee:**

BC confirmed that no nominations had come forward and asked the meeting attendees for a vote on block for all members of the Executive Committee by a show of hands – carried unanimously, all in favour.

#### **9. Re-election of Commission Convenors:**

BC confirmed that no nominations had come forward and asked the meeting attendees for a vote on block for all members of the Commission Convenors by a show of hands – carried unanimously, all in favour.

#### **10. Athlete Representation:**

BC confirmed that no nominations had come forward and asked the meeting attendees for a show of hands to re-elect Martin Ferguson as the athlete representative – carried unanimously, all in favour.

#### **11. Membership:**

Membership fees for 2009 to remain the same as 2008. Brian Nisbet outlined that following discussion at the Executive Committee meeting it was proposed that the membership year should be 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December. This would help in the administration.

BN outlined the *proposal for new members*:

- Joining in the first six months (Jan – Jun) full fee
- Joining in months seven to nine (Jul – Sept) 50% fee
- Joining in months ten to twelve (Oct – Dec) full fee which also covers the next membership year.

BN outlined the proposal for additional class of membership:

- Officials and coaches – free membership on receipt of a completed membership form
- Non competing / supporters of club – invited to give a donation £10 for voting rights.

BC asked for a show of hands in favour of these changes to:

- the membership year
  - new members scale of charges
  - additional class of membership
- carried unanimously, all in favour.

## 12. AOB:

- Webpage – Martin Little confirmed that in the last 12 months 261 posts were placed on the web page. These are updated by Graeme, Gary and Derek between them. 150 of these posts came from Derek and Keith. ML aware that changes to site are required and they are open to feedback. ML confirmed that usage of the site month on month is around 8000 visitors (260 per calendar day). When Scottish Gas race took place visits to the site increased and a lot of on line entries received as a result. ML asks that more input required by members of the club eg, match reports, photos, old photos. ML asks that consideration is given to sponsorship, but not sure how Charitable Status would affect. EBay fund raising administration right on website – goods purchased by this method raises money to the club. YJ asks that the contacts are updated. ML outlines next steps required:-
  - ✓ Separate web meeting with the aim of improving the website.
  - ✓ Electronic communication improvement
  - ✓ More people trained within the web sub committee to action and authorise content to be placed on web page.
  - ✓ Encourage more input from the members of the club
- Edinburgh Football Club – BW advised that EAC have now a contact with Edinburgh Football Club and are able to use the facilities of this club for meetings and fund raising events. £10 to join Edinburgh Football Club and this entitles use of the facilities of the club. The facilities have been used by the Executive and has helped cut down on costs for meeting rooms.
- Open Day for EAC – BW outlined that a review is required to what is happening and wishes people to participate and listen to the views of parents which will help to guide us on our way forward and perhaps get the

opportunity of learning about skills that are unknown at present and could be helpful for the club.

- Website - IC gave a vote of thanks for the work actioned by the Website sub committee
- IC confirmed that the Scottish Gas have agreed to continue with their sponsorship of the Road Race. Event will require the usual support by the club for stewarding which does help us raise a fee for the club.

**13. Date of Next Executive Meeting:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009, 7.30 pm @ Edinburgh Football Club,

BC thanked everyone present for their input to this meeting, and gave a vote of thanks to the Executive and members of the club.

PS gave for a vote of thanks on behalf of everyone present to the President, Barry Craighead.

Meeting closed 9.10 pm