



## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ATHLETICS CANTERBURY INC HELD AT THE Hotel Elms, 456 Papanui Road ON WEDNESDAY, 24<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024 AT 7.30 p.m.**

### **PRESENT:**

Tony Fallon (ASBA), Helena Dinnissen & Adrian Dinnissen (AWAT), John Ingles, Rob Holland & Mike van de Colk (CHAV), Lindsay Evans (METH), John McBrearty & Alan Tucker (COBU), Don Grieg & Anthony Duncraft (DGRS), Reg Brockett (GERA), Kevin Exter (NBOL), Paul Browers, Ian Purvis & Nikora Jonathan (NCAN), Sarh Hurring, Emma Rattray & Brian Cowan (PTOC), Lilla Faivre & Judy McDonald (PHOX), Bernadette Jago & Kevin Knight (PRHL), Annette Campbell, David Fitch & Katherine Fitch (SUMN), Helen Mackle (TEMU), Michael Henstock, Rys Bateman & Wnedy Collins (CANU), Dee Mears, Kevin Prendergast, Andrew Stark (CMA), John Gamblin (SSSA), Victor Gamperle (Board), Sandie Gamperle, Tim Jones (Board), Ian Thomas (GM), Paul Nicholls (Board), Eddie Cropley (FM), Avril Davis (Board), Rod Syme (LM), Don McKenzie (LM), Trevor Spittle (LM), Craig Brown (CCAA), Shona Brown (LM), Graham Davis, Bill Boyd, Martin Scott, Brian Theobald

### **APOLOGIES:**

Apologies were received and sustained from: Phil Lindsay, Gail Krsinic, Kevin Jago, Pat Boland, Annette Purvis.

**PROXIES:** There were no Proxies

### **MINUTES:**

The President, Andrew Stark stated to those in attendance that with the passing of Daniel Reese, the minutes, and any associated notes, had been misplaced and thus it was not possible to provide minutes for last year's AGM meeting.

**MATTERS ARISING:** N/A

### **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL REPORT:**

The President, Andrew Stark, presented his report and made the following comments:

1. Andrew Stark (Chair) started by acknowledging the passing of Daniel Reese, past Board Secretary and stalwart of the sport of athletics in Canterbury for 50 years. With some preplanning, he was presented with his Athletics New Zealand Merit Award prior to the AGM owing to his failing health. Daniel was grateful of the award and his family expressed gratitude to the organisation for the acknowledgement and the speech given at the ANZ AGM in his honour.
2. After much debate, involving numerous discussions with Athletics NZ, Christchurch City Council and lawyers, the inappropriate behaviour of Andrew MacLennan was addressed by means of a 2-year trespass notice from the Nga Puna Wai complex. To date there has been no incidents requiring this to be invoked or for further action to be taken.
3. In early 2023 the Board engaged Barrer & Co to create an Operational Fundraising Strategy. As a first stage in the plan, in September 2023 the Board employed Eddie Cropley in a new full-time role as our Fundraising and Sponsorship Manager. He has successfully increased funds by \$120k and eased administrative burdens on Ian Thomas our GM. Eddie continues to work on the longer-term strategy.
4. The Loburn 68 National Road Relay Championships in October 2023 was a successful event, created as a replacement for the iconic Takahe to Akaroa relay. Organizing this new course in Loburn, North Canterbury, involved extensive planning and effort, particularly by the Cross Country Committee and the Local Organizing Committee, with notable contributions from Victor Gamperle and support from Sandie. A key challenge highlighted was the high cost of traffic management required for road-based events, which raises concerns about the future viability of such events.
5. Awatea Athletics is a new club established in response to parents' requests for more local athletics opportunities near Nga Puna Wai. To keep the venue accessible to all clubs, Athletics Canterbury worked with Christchurch City Council to identify a location in the Wigram/Halswell area. Helena Dinnissen played a key role as President and coordinator, with support from parents and senior athletes. Currently, the club has 172 athletes registered.
6. Athletics Canterbury supported numerous major events in the region, despite not directly managing all of them. Ian Thomas and officials contributed significantly to ensuring these events ran smoothly. Key events included:

- Primary School Zone and Canterbury Track & Field Championships at Nga Puna Wai, November/December 2023
- New Secondary Schools Track & Field Championships at Nga Puna Wai, December 2023
- South Island Colgate Games in Timaru, January 2024
- International Track Meeting at Nga Puna Wai, February 2024
- Secondary School Track & Field Championships at Nga Puna Wai, March 2024
- Don Greig Racing Stables Twilight Challenge at Nga Puna Wai, March 2024
- Launch Athletics at Nga Puna Wai, March 2024
- Front Runner Christchurch Marathon in Central City, April 2024

The report thanks all who contributed to these events, highlighting their importance to the athletics community.

7. Sport Canterbury 2024 Sport and Recreation Awards had 4 nominations from our sport and we were delighted to see William Stedman win the Anstice Optometrist Para Athlete of the Year.
8. Like most Centres in New Zealand, it is a challenge to boost the overall number of officials within our region. However, several of our key officials have been studying hard to move up the ranks. Paul Nicholls is now an international official and along with Trevor Spittle and Ruth Liong has attended some major Para events overseas. There are numerous other Canterbury officials who always have key roles at events throughout New Zealand and it is a credit to their dedication to the sport.
9. The Athletics Canterbury Working Group faced challenges over the past year, with some groups struggling to meet consistently or losing effectiveness. The Coaching Working Group, led by Dion Andrews, was the most active, focusing on developing 'soft skill' training modules. These groups depend on the efforts of volunteers, many of whom juggle work and other commitments. We are suggesting reassessing the purpose of each group to find more efficient ways to meet objectives, recognizing that volunteer burnout is a concern and emphasizing the importance of setting realistic goals.
10. The role of the General Manager, held by Ian Thomas, has become essential for the smooth operation of Athletics Canterbury. Initially, the role was vaguely defined, with the expectation that Ian would handle a wide range of tasks. Over the past six years, Ian's responsibilities have expanded to encompass coordination with over 50 individuals and various organizations, including Athletics NZ, Sport Canterbury, and the Christchurch City Council. He also works closely with school sports groups, manages Nga Puna Wai bookings, oversees event preparation, and supports clubs and operational committees. Despite these extensive responsibilities, he is the only paid employee in this role, while a similar partner sport at Nga Puna Wai has three employees covering equivalent duties. Given the demands of the position, the board recently discussed revising and updating Ian's job description to better reflect the role's realistic scope.
11. At the last AGM, Daniel Reese stepped down from his role as secretary, leading to a reshuffling of positions within Athletics Canterbury's board. Three new members joined: Katherine Ewer, Tony Fallon, and Michael Henstock. Victor Gamperle was appointed treasurer, while Liz van Til took on the role of Board Meeting minute secretary. Although Ian and the chair initially assumed Daniel's duties, they acknowledged some tasks went overlooked due to unfamiliarity. Recently, Tony Fallon has formally taken on the secretary role, bringing stability to the position.

The board now has a balanced mix of members with operational and governance backgrounds, allowing for fresh perspectives and constructive questioning of long-standing practices. However, the lack of an election for board positions highlights the ongoing challenge of attracting new volunteers—a situation the board is eager to address through enhanced succession planning.

Sustainable leadership succession is increasingly necessary across all committees, including Children's and Masters. The chair expressed a desire for someone to join the board with the interest and capability to eventually take on the chair role, noting the growing demands on his own time and energy, which reflect a broader need to distribute responsibilities more equitably among dedicated volunteers.

## 12. Future Focus:

Athletics Canterbury is adapting to changing sports participation trends, with a strategic focus on sustainability, engagement, and volunteer support.

**Financial Stability:** Securing more diverse funding through sponsorships is key to retaining paid staff and covering operational costs. Event marketing costs will be closely evaluated to ensure investments are worthwhile.

**Boosting Engagement:** A new marketing firm will focus on promoting non-stadia events and increasing brand awareness. Engaging younger members in social media efforts is also a priority.

**Member Feedback & Event Relevance:** Seasonal surveys drive updates to events, ensuring they align with current interests and encourage participation.

**Youth Development:** Secondary school competitions will resume to prepare young athletes for national events. A Development Squad for 14–18-year-olds will support track & field engagement.

**Volunteer & Official Support:** Increased support for event officials and young athletes is planned, including travel funding partnerships.

**Future Staffing:** Athletics Canterbury is discussing additional roles with Athletics NZ to strengthen club and community engagement.

Thanks to all volunteers, staff, athletes, and coaches whose dedication sustains the sport.

13. We would like to acknowledge our sponsors on pages 4&6 of the booklet, especially Dougal Cockram of Gary Cockram Hyundai has supported Athletics Canterbury by providing our General Manager with a car for the fourth year running. We sincerely appreciate his support.
14. During the past year, we sadly lost the following members from within the athletic community which are on page 13 of the booklet.

**It was moved from the chair “That the Annual Report be adopted.”**

**Carried.**

#### **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:**

Board treasurer Victor Gamperle presented the Financial Statements with much pleasure.

- Victor drew attention to page 20, and a 46k profit this year.
- Eddie was a major factor in the turnaround and the generation of grant revenue.
- Events such as Secondary schools, Colgate and Loburn 68 were also revenue generators to support the sport. Huge thanks to supporters.
- On page 30 you will see 300 extra registrations which brought in \$18k extra. Might not continue as a trend into future.
- Thanks to Eddie and Ian for support of Treasurer role. Victor stressed the importance of all committees working together to make the sport viable.
- Drawing attention to the balance sheet, we have \$500k, of which \$140k is earmarked for Bill Richards trust which will be spent down over coming years.
- We are in a good position and have budgeted a breakeven position for 24/25.

**It was moved (Victor Gamperle) and seconded (Andrew Stark) “That the Financial Statements be adopted.”**

**Carried.**

#### **CONSIDERATION OF NOTICES OF MOTION:**

There were no remits for consideration

#### **CONSIDERATION OF REMITS:**

There were no remits for consideration

#### **CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATION OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP:**

Not present so carried over. To be done at next awards dinner.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE FOR 2024/2025:

The following were declared elected / appointed:

Chair:	Andrew Stark	
Board Members:	Avril Davies	Katherine Ewer
	Anthony (Tony) Fallon	Victor Gamperle
	Michael Henstock	Tim Jones
	Paul Nicholls	

(Note: Secretary & Treasurer positions are appointed by the Board)

Moved and Carried

SETTING OF REGISTRATION AND AFFILIATION FEES:

The ANZ fees listed on Page 5 are not updated as the ANZ AGM has not taken place yet.  
Athletics Canterbury fees to remain unchanged.  
Rolling memberships have been taken up by most clubs.

**Andrew Stark moved:** That fees on page 5 remain unchanged and be accepted as the 2025/26 fees, \$100 club affiliation fee and the individual fees based on age.

Moved and Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- 1. Athletics Canterbury are keen to progress the sport and any club that wishes to get assistance should approach Ian Thomas to see what we might be able to help with.
- 2. Andrew Stark wished to reiterate that this will be his final year as Board Chair and welcomes a successor.

The meeting closed at 7.56pm.

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Chairman

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Date