



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ATHLETICS CANTERBURY INC HELD AT THE Hotel Elms, 456 Papanui Road ON WEDNESDAY, 23rd JULY 2025 AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Helena Dinnissen & Rodney Read(AWAT), John Ingles, Mike van de Colk & John Palmer (CHAV), Kevin Prendergast (METH), John McBrearty (COBU), Don Grieg & Anthony Duncraft (DGRS), Kevin Exter (NBOL), Sarah Hurring, William Boyd & Brian Cowan (PTOC), Lilla Faivre & Judy McDonald (PHOX), Bernadette Jago & Kevin Knight (PRHL), Gail Krsinic (Selwyn), John Bowen (SC), Brian Theobald & Annette Campbell (SUMN), Helen Mackle (TEMU), Michael Henstock, & Rys Bateman (CANU), Victor Gamperle (Board), Sandie Gamperle (XCRC), John Gamblin (SSSA), Andrew Stark (CMA), Tony Fallon (Board), Natalie O'Connell, Reg Brockett (GERA), Don Sarland, Avril Davies (Board), Tim Jones (Board), Ian Thomas (GM), Paul Nicholls (Board), Eddie Cropley (FM), Rod Syme (LM),

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received and sustained from: Craig Brown, Shona Brown, Alan Tucker, Katherine Ewer

PROXIES: There were no Proxies

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 24th July 2024 were taken as read. It was moved from the chair (Andrew Stark)

"That the Minutes be signed as a true and correct record of the meeting". Carried.

MATTERS ARISING: None

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL REPORT:

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

1. **Andrew Stark (Chair)** opened his ninth and final report, noting his decision to step down at the 2025 AGM. He acknowledged **Tony Fallon** will assume the role of Board Chair. He also reflected on his time in leadership since 2016 and paid tribute to the late **Kevin Jago**, whose work on the Ngā Puna Wai Sports Hub was instrumental. Condolences and gratitude were extended to **Bernadette Jago** for her support of Kevin throughout his service.
2. **Fundraising and Sponsorship:**
In 2023, Athletics Canterbury engaged **Barrer & Co** to create an *Operational Fundraising Strategy*. Following this, **Eddie Cropley** began as *Fundraising and Sponsorship Manager* in September 2023.
 - Eddie has significantly increased funding through grant applications, event sponsorships, and signage at Ngā Puna Wai.
 - Funds raised have supported wages, traffic management, track hire, and equipment maintenance.
 - He has also secured income from external events such as the **Christchurch Marathon, International Track Trust**, and **NZ Secondary Schools Athletics Association**.
 - The focus moving forward is to **diversify income streams** through donations, regular giving, corporate partnerships, and bequests.
3. **Loburn 68 – Local Road Relay Championships (October 2024):**
The Cross Country & Road Committee successfully ran the second edition of the **Loburn 68 Relays** following 2023's National event. While well received, **rising traffic management costs** threaten the viability of future road relay events.
4. **Major Events in Canterbury:**
Athletics Canterbury and its officials supported or helped deliver a wide range of competitions across the region, including:
 - Primary & Secondary School Championships at Ngā Puna Wai (Nov–Dec 2024)
 - NZ Secondary Schools Championships, Timaru (Dec 2024)
 - Lovelock Classic, Timaru (Jan 2025)
 - South Island Colgate Games & South Island Masters Championships (Jan 2025)
 - International Track Meeting, Ngā Puna Wai (Feb 2025)
 - Athletics NZ Track & Field Championships, Dunedin (Mar 2025)

- Don Greig Twilight Challenge, Ngā Puna Wai (Mar 2025)
 - Christchurch Marathon, Central City (Apr 2025)
- Andrew thanked all volunteers, officials, and organisers for their support of these events.

5. **Sport Canterbury Awards 2024:**

Finalists from Athletics Canterbury included **Ruth Liong**, **James Sandilands**, **Rozie Robinson**, **William Stedman**, and **Hamish Kerr**.

- Winners: **William Stedman** – *Para Athlete of the Year*; **Hamish Kerr** – *High Performance Sportsperson of the Year*.

6. **International Representation:**

Canterbury athletes achieved significant international success:

- **Hamish Kerr** – Olympic Gold (High Jump), Silver (World Indoors)
- **Tom Walsh** – Olympic & World Indoor Gold (Shot Put)
- **Lauren Bruce** – Olympic Games (Hammer)
- **William Stedman** – Paralympic Silver (400m)
- **Tiaan Whelpton** – World Indoor Championships (100m)

7. **Officials and Education:**

Recruiting and retaining officials remains a challenge.

- **Paul Nicholls** achieved International Official status.
- **Trevor Spittle** and **Ruth Liong** officiated at major Para events abroad.
- **World Athletics** has introduced a new e-learning officials' education programme.
- Trevor Spittle's long career and dedication were acknowledged following his retirement as Athletics NZ Technical Officials' Coordinator.

8. **General Manager's Role – Ian Thomas:**

The report highlighted the essential nature of the GM role. Ian manages relationships with over **50 organisations**, including Athletics NZ, Christchurch City Council, Sport Canterbury, and local schools.

- The Board discussed updating his job description to reflect current responsibilities.
- Ian oversees marketing, photography, sponsorship, and school bookings at Ngā Puna Wai.
- His contribution is described as vital for the sustainability of the sport.

9. **Governance and Board Operations:**

- The Board, mostly with operational backgrounds, worked effectively despite challenges in governance structure.
- **Victor Gamperle** was Treasurer and **Liz van Til** recorded minutes.
- **Tony Fallon** served as Secretary and will become Chair.
- **Avril Davies** and **Andrew Stark** are stepping down.
- Succession planning remains a priority to reduce burnout and ensure leadership continuity.

10. **Future Focus:**

The sport faces participation and volunteer declines across all areas. Key priorities include:

- **Financial Stability:** Diversify funding and manage reserves carefully.
- **New Constitution:** Drafting underway to meet the *Incorporated Societies Act* changes; expected by April 2026.
- **Development Squad:** Relaunched for 14–18-year-olds with secured sponsorship.
- **Coaching and Officials:** Encouraging athletes to coach; improving support and travel assistance.
- **Athlete Support:** Seeking sponsors/benefactors for travel and representation costs.
- **New Sport Development Role:** Planned in partnership with Athletics NZ to connect clubs and schools.
- **Event Adaptation:** Committee reviews following member surveys to ensure relevance and participation growth.

11. **Acknowledgements:**

Andrew thanked all **staff, board members, officials, athletes, parents, and coaches** for their commitment. He

also recognised **Dougal Cockram (Gary Cockram Hyundai)** for providing a vehicle for the GM for the **fifth consecutive year**.

12. In Memoriam:

Athletics Canterbury noted with sadness the passing of community members:

- *Gerry Hack* – 3 May 2024
- *Kevin Hickman* – 23 Aug 2024
- *Bryan Atkins* – 28 Oct 2024
- *Sylvia Irvine* – 20 Feb 2025
- *Kevin Jago* – 20 Mar 2025
- *Gwyn Heseltine* – 20 Apr 2025

13. Closing Remarks:

Andrew Stark concluded by reflecting on athletics as his “safe place” and a source of belonging. Though stepping down as Chair, he will remain active in the sport through **Masters Athletics, Oceania Masters Council**, and soon as **President of Athletics New Zealand**.

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.

- The organisation reported an operating loss of \$36,000 for the year, compared to a \$36,000 profit in the previous year. The main reason for the loss was the absence of a national event, which previously generated significant profit, while traffic management costs remained high.
- The market for grants and sponsorships was described as tight, with many applications rejected or reduced, impacting fundraising efforts.
- A provision was made for the Development Officer role, with funds set aside to support this position for the coming year, supplemented by grant money from Sport New Zealand.
- The organisation maintains a bank balance of approximately \$400,000, which is intended to be used for sport development and sustainability rather than being held without purpose.
- The accounts were presented and adopted without objections, and the importance of successful events for generating funds to support other activities was emphasised.

It was moved (Victor Gamperle) and seconded (John Gamblin) “That the Financial Statements be adopted.”

Carried.

CONSIDERATION OF NOTICES OF MOTION:

There were no remits for consideration

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There were no remits for consideration

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE FOR 2024/2025:

The following were declared elected / appointed:

Nominations for Athletics Canterbury Board for 2025 / 2026 season

Chair:	Anthony (Tony) Fallon	
Board Members:	Michael Henstock	Victor Gamperle
	Paul Nicholls	Tim Jones
	Katherine Ewer	Clive Antony
	Ben Adams	
(Note: Secretary & Treasurer positions are appointed by the Board)		

Moved and Carried

SETTING OF REGISTRATION AND AFFILIATION FEES:

Club affiliation fees were increased by approximately 5%, rounded up to \$105. 1

Individual active member fees were raised by \$1 or \$2, depending on age group and rounding, resulting in some fees being slightly above or below the 5% mark. 2

The adjustment is less than inflation and is the first increase in three or four years. 3

The new fees were accepted without objections and will apply for the upcoming year. 4

Andrew Stark moved: That fees on page 5 be accepted as the 2025/26 fees,.

Moved and Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- a) **Bill Richards Marathon Trust** – The trust supports marathon running among Canterbury registered runners by providing grants, and has been encouraged in recent years to be more proactive in promoting and spending funds.

Acknowledgement of Trustee: John McBrearty was recognised for his long-standing service and guidance during a period of change for the trust.

- b) **Board Minutes:** Concerns were raised about the availability of board meeting minutes, prompting Anthony Fallon to acknowledge the issue and outline steps to improve the process for posting and distributing minutes to club secretaries.
- c) **Recognition of Departing Board Members:** Ian Thomas acknowledged the contributions of departing board members Andrew Stark and Avril Davis, noting their decades of governance support and outlining their continued involvement in various capacities. They will be missed by the Board but look forward to seeing them around the sport into the future.

The meeting closed at 7:58pm.

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Chairman

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Date