

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL AT 2023 AGM

DRAFT MINUTES OF VETERANS AC AGM 7.00pm, THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2022 HELD AT PREMIER INN, VICTORIA

The following members attended: Joe Aspinall, Michael Franklin, Anna Garnier, Martin Garrett, Dave Hoben, Peter Kennedy, Mike Mann, Ian McCarthy, Andy Murray, Liam O'Hare, Avril Riddell, Maggie Statham Berry, Ros Tabor, Peter Torre, Dave West, Dennis Williams

1. APOLOGIES

A list of apologies received is at Annex 1.

2. MINUTES OF 2021 AGM

The minutes were agreed as a true record (proposed by Peter Torre, seconded by Anna Garnier).

3. MATTERS ARISING

As follow up from an item discussed under AOB at the 2021 AGM, it was agreed that the lettering "Veterans AC" should be included on the back of the club's vests and that the fabric should be upgraded for the men's vests. The Secretary (Ros Tabor) would explore the options and costings with Douglas Maughan, VAC's kit supplier.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The report, presented by Ros Tabor, is at Annex 2. She reported that after Covid restrictions were lifted, committee meetings were once again held in person rather than using Zoom. It was pleasing that a programme of road, cross country, track and field and events were able to take place. Ben Noad had been highly effective in managing the Battersea Park races and the club's 5,000m and 10,000m championships. The Les Brown trophy for the member present at most VAC events, as an official or a competitor, had been awarded to Cliff Hide for 2021. Cliff attended many events to take photos for VAC's website and newsletter, as well as offering them to competitors.

5. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

The report, presented by Peter Kennedy, is at Annex 3. He reported that 2021-22 had been a successful year, with membership of 655 at the end of March 2022 at its largest ever level, although numbers were down to 602 as of today (22 September) because some had not renewed. There were currently 81 First Claim members. Since March, 50 new members have joined. Competitions provided by the club were the most effective way of encouraging membership. VAC's events needed to be better promoted to clubs and athletes in the London area, perhaps through Ben Noad's network but also by members acting as ambassadors and publicising VAC within their other clubs. In discussion, Joe Aspinall commented that there was a large pool of veteran runners who might join VAC if they had information about club events and knew more about age-group competitions. He said that VAC should do more to promote itself at races and parkruns, for example by distributing flyers to publicise VAC's events. Ros reminded the meeting that VAC had produced flyers and had handed them out at various events. Peter Kennedy said that the BMAF had advertised in Athletics Weekly but there was no evidence to suggest that it had been effective

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in gaining members. Martin Garrett noted that many parkrun participants convened at nearby cafes where flyers could be distributed. Avril Riddell said that sometimes word of mouth was more powerful than a flyer. Dave West commented that many people weren't interested in competing for times and results but preferred the camaraderie and convenience of parkruns. Ros Tabor said that VAC could do more to use social media to promote itself but needed someone in the club to take this forward. She agreed that the club should do more promotion with the existing flyers and by developing the concept of club members being ambassadors for VAC in their other clubs. However, this would need someone to develop and coordinate the effort.

Acceptance of the Secretary's and Membership Secretary's report was proposed by Dave Hoben and seconded by Dave West.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Andy Murray presented the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022. They are at Annex 4. There was a small deficit of £794, but the club remained well off with a balance of over £24,000 in the bank accounts. The main expenditure items were affiliation fees, the newsletter and subsidising some events. The membership subscription would be held at £12 for 2023-24. In response to a question from Michael Franklin about using interest bearing accounts, Andy Murray said that banks did not generally offer accounts with attractive rates to ordinary clubs or businesses, but that he would investigate whether VAC's bank (Lloyd's) had any better offerings.

The Treasurer's report was proposed by Peter Torre and seconded by Liam O'Hare.

7. APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT

The Committee proposed that Anna Garnier should serve as President for a third year, taking into account that her two years of office had been massively disrupted by the Covid pandemic. All those present voted in favour.

8. PROPOSALS

None were submitted.

9. REPORTS FROM DISCIPLINES

a) Track and Field

Ros Tabor presented a summary of her report (Annex 5). VAC's indoor championships were held in December 2021 in conjunction with EMAC and the outdoor championships in June in conjunction with the Surrey and Sussex Masters. The 5,000m and 10,000m championships in July and September 2022 had been popular. Teams had been entered in the indoor and outdoor Inter Area Challenges and club members had participated at the London Inter-Club Challenge (LICC). Next year's outdoor championship was discussed. Peter Kennedy suggested that VAC should stage a London Masters championship which would include VAC's championship. He agreed to take this forward with the England Athletics London Regional Council. Michael Franklin said that he would like VAC to provide more competitive opportunities for field eventers. Peter Kennedy suggested that existing local events such as jump fests and throw fests could be tapped into. He also suggested that VAC should identify centres of excellence for coaching in the various athletic disciplines and ask them to take on Masters athletes. Ros Tabor pointed out that VAC would need

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to have a Track & Field Secretary in place who could investigate these opportunities and develop VAC's offering.

b) Road

Maggie Statham Berry presented a summary of her report (Annex 6). Following the lifting of Covid restrictions, the Battersea Park series had returned with large entries for all four road races. The 5k races had been more popular than the 5 mile races and it was proposed to hold three 5k races and one 5 Mile race next year. With chip timing for the two championship races, the series had incurred a loss of around £1500. It was agreed that entry fees should be increased from £8 to £10 for VAC members and from £10 to £12 for non-members. The forthcoming BMAF 5k championships to be held in Battersea Park in December would be hosted by VAC and offered a good opportunity to boost VAC's profile.

c) Walking

Dave Hoben presented a summary of his report (Annex 7). Walks organised by VAC included the VAC and Counties 10k track walk, the Cecil Gittins Memorial Walk and the Battersea Park walks. In addition, the club's walkers were represented at the indoor and outdoor Inter-Area Challenges.

d) Cross Country

Maggie Statham Berry presented a summary of her report (Annex 8). VAC's cross country championship returned to Wimbledon Common in January on a new course which avoided golf holes. It had attracted over 100 entries. The men's team in the Surrey League had been well supported with 29 VAC men running during the season and VAC finishing ninth overall. The new women's team had been admitted to the Surrey League and would begin their campaign in October. 43 VAC members competed in the British Masters CC championships at Tonbridge in March, topping the medals table with four Golds.

Acceptance of the four reports was proposed by Dennis Williams and seconded by Dave West.

10. ELECTION OF VAC OFFICERS

With the resignation of Giuseppe Minetti, the Track and Field Secretary post was vacant. With a range of responsibilities, this was a large role, but it could be split between several people and could be supported by other committee members. All other members of the committee were content to stand and as these were not contested, it was proposed that they should be elected en bloc (proposed by Peter Torre, seconded by Joe Aspinall). There were no nominations for the T&F Secretary's post.

The members of the Committee are as follows:

President	Anna Garnier
Committee Chair & Secretary	Ros Tabor
Treasurer	Andy Murray
Membership Secretary	Peter Kennedy
Walking Secretary	David Hoben
Cross Country Secretary	Dennis Williams
Road Secretary	Dennis Williams
Track & Field Secretary	Vacant
Newsletter Editor	Angela Kikugawa
Entries Secretary	Maggie Statham Berry

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Officials Secretary	Ros Tabor
Minutes Secretary	Mike Mann
Delegates to BMAF/EMAA	Andy Murray/ Mike Mann

Thanks were given to others who fulfilled vital roles outside the Committee. Special mention was made of the contributions of Mike Peel (webmaster), Doug Maughan (kit supplier), Cliff Hide (photographer), Graham Laylee (auditor), Paddy Clarke and Helen Davies (men's and women's team managers in the Surrey League) and David Hinds and Richard Weekes (advisers on selecting the Inter Area T&F teams). Their dedication was commended and much appreciated.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

12. DATE OF NEXT AGM

Thursday 21 September 2023 (provisional).

Annex 1: Apologies for Absence

The following members sent apologies: Sarah Allen, Norman Arnold, Lesley Bowcott, Sue Boyman, Diane Bradley, David Budden, Gina Coulson, Sholto Douglas-Home, Penny Elliott, Chris Flint, John Foley, Stacey Gonzalez Betancourt, Heather Graz, Michael Graz, Peter Hall, Karima Harris, Michael Hohnson, Charmaine Johnson, Douglas Maughan, Douglas Milsom, Lucy Moore-Fox, Gareth Morgan, Tony Pamphilon, Angela Pollitzer, Tom Richards, Peter Robinson, Al Sowden, Chris Taplin, Arthur Thomson, Kim Weir, Owen Wells, Derek Wood.

The following annexes are published on the Committee News page of VAC's website (www.vetsac.org.uk):

Annex 2: Secretary's Report

Annex 3: Membership Secretary's Report

Annex 4: Treasurer's Report

Annex 5: Track and Field Secretary's Report

Annex 6: Road Running Secretary's Report

Annex 7: Walk Secretary's Report

Annex 8: Cross Country Secretary's Report