

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL AT 2024 AGM

**DRAFT MINUTES OF VETERANS AC AGM
7.00pm, MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2023
HELD AT CIVIL SERVICE CLUB, 13-15 GREAT SCOTLAND YARD**

The following members attended: Joe Aspinall, Anna Garnier, Martin Garrett, David Hoben, Peter Kennedy, Andy Murray, Maggie Statham-Berry, Ros Tabor, Peter Torre, Dave West, Dennis Williams

APOLOGIES

A list of apologies, 38 in total, is attached at Annex 1.

1. MINUTES OF 2022 AGM

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

2. MATTERS ARISING

Ros Tabor reported that the new VAC vests were now available.

3. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The report for 2022-23, presented by Ros Tabor, is attached at Annex 2. She reported that the club has had a successful year with an increased number of participants attending events across all the disciplines. She thanked members of the committee and regular volunteers. The Les Brown trophy for 2022 was awarded to Lucy Woolhouse. The trophy gives recognition to VAC members who have provided outstanding support for VAC events as an organiser, official and/or competitor. Lucy competed in nearly all of VAC's road, cross country and track events during the year.

4. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

The report for 2022-23, presented by Peter Kennedy, is attached at Annex 3. He reported that membership stood at 681 at the end of March 2023, compared with 655 in March 2022. Since April 2023, there have been 50 new members although 118 members have not so far renewed. At 4 September 2023, membership was 622 compared with 602 in September 2022. The trend therefore is upwards, but more could be done to reach out to clubs to broaden the take up of VAC's events and grow the membership. For example, a network of ambassadors for VAC in clubs would assist in promoting VAC's events and the benefits of membership. The recent VAC and London Masters T&F Championship was a first attempt to involve London clubs.

Peter Kennedy appealed for a person to help with membership administration to free up some of his time to develop VAC's track and field offerings, particularly the T&F championships. It was agreed that the appeal should be made to the wider VAC membership e.g. in VAC's newsletters.

In discussion, Joe Aspinall said it was important to advertise that Masters events offered competitions within the age groups. He recommended that new clubs and parkrunners should be targeted. Peter said that BMAF had recruited a new marketing manager who could help area clubs to grow. Andy Murray cautioned about attracting people to join who would then expect more than VAC could deliver. It was agreed that Peter would lead an initiative within VAC to grow the membership.

Peter Torre suggested that social gatherings could be held at the end of races so that members could get to know each other. Ros said that the Committee would consider this.

The Secretary's and Membership Secretary's reports were approved (proposed by Dennis Williams,

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seconded by Anna Garnier).

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Andy Murray presented VAC's Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2023. This is attached at Annex 4. He explained that an adjustment to the 2021-22 Account had been necessary in order to deduct entry income of £1,390 for the April 2022 road race which had been wrongly allocated to the 21-22 Account. This resulted in the deficit for 2021-22 increasing to £2,236. This can be compared with the deficit of £2,883 in 2022-23, based on an income of £14,505 and expenditure of £17,388.49. VAC's bank balance was still high with around £23k held in current, deposit and Stripe accounts. The club's policy was to reduce balances over time.

In discussion, the events which make a profit or loss were considered. The Treasurer reported that the 5,000m and 10,000m events had incurred losses, while the indoor T&F had made a small profit. Maggie Statham-Berry reported that the Battersea Park series of road races and walks had made a loss overall because two of the four events had used chip timing which was expensive. However, she noted that the loss was offset by VAC's share (around £500) of the profit made by the BMAF on its 5K championship in Battersea Park which VAC had hosted. It was agreed that, in principle, VAC's events should break even overall and that entry fees should be set at a level to break even. It was agreed that accounts should be produced for each event to assist in the decisions on pricing.

Andy Murray reported that the committee did not propose to increase the current £12 member's subscription for 2024-25. They would review the level during the year and if necessary, would put forward a proposal at the next AGM for a changed amount in 2025-26.

The Treasurer's report and the Income and Expenditure Account for 2022-23 were approved (proposed by Peter Torre, seconded by Dennis Williams).

6. APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT

Anna Garnier had reached the end of her term as President and handed back the Chain of Office. The Committee's proposal that Dennis Williams should be the President for 2023-24 was approved (proposed by Ros Tabor, seconded by Andy Murray).

7. PROPOSALS

Peter Kennedy introduced the Committee's proposal to examine the case for converting VAC into a limited company. He explained that currently, VAC officers were at risk from litigation and may be held personally liable for any mishap. Becoming a limited company would offer legal and financial protection. Having a company structure would make it easier to pay or employ people for services rendered and for companies to sponsor VAC's events. Peter proposed a company structure with company members guaranteeing the company with a £1 payment per head. Company members would be drawn from VAC's membership, asking them to opt in. A Company Secretary would be needed. Advice and guidance on the company structure would be sought from experts in order to submit a firm proposal to the 2024 AGM.

The proposal that the Committee should examine the case for changing VAC into a limited company with a view to making a recommendation for a suitable model at the 2024 AGM was approved (proposed by Peter Kennedy, seconded by Maggie Statham-Berry).

8. REPORTS FROM DISCIPLINES

a) Track and Field

Ros Tabor presented a summary of her report for 2022-23, attached at Annex 5. She reported that the club

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had managed to hold competitions as well as send teams to the Inter-Area challenges despite the lack of a Track and Field Secretary. To develop what the club can offer, it was essential to recruit one or more people to take on these responsibilities. VAC had combined with Eastern Masters for the club's indoor T&F championship at Lee Valley, which helped with recruiting officials. The summer championship had been more difficult in terms of finding a suitable date and venue and recruiting officials in a crowded calendar. Thanks go to Peter Kennedy for persevering and masterminding the successful outdoor T&F champs held at Finsbury Park in September. It was marketed as a London-wide Masters event and clubs were encouraged to supply officials as well competitors. VAC plans to repeat this model in 2024.

b) Road

Maggie Statham Berry presented a summary of her report for 2022-23, attached at Annex 6. The Battersea Park summer series of four races, managed by Ben Noad, had been well supported and highly competitive, with more than 100 starters in each of the 5k and 5 mile races. VAC's other road championships were held within other races, namely the Westminster Mile, the BMAF 10 mile champs at Cyclopark and the Ranelagh Richmond 10k. VAC's hosting of the BMAF 5k champs in Battersea Park in December 2022 proved to be a great success and the event is being repeated there in December 2023.

c) Walking

Dave Hoben presented a summary of his report for 2022-23, attached at Annex 7. Walks hosted by VAC included the VAC and Counties 10 track walk, the Cecil Gittins Memorial Walk and the Battersea Park race walks. In addition, the club's walkers were represented at the indoor and outdoor Inter-Area Challenges and the indoor and outdoor World and European Masters events. However, he pointed out that race walking as a discipline was in serious decline with possibly only about 65 competitive walkers in the whole of Britain. He said that VAC could take credit for continuing to boost the sport by laying on events.

In discussion, Joe Aspinall asked whether parkrun walkers could be attracted to race walking. Dave said that the disparity in walking paces and styles would make it difficult for parkrunners to compete in a serious race walk. There would be a high risk of disqualification for being too slow and technically incorrect.

d) Cross Country

Maggie Statham-Berry presented a summary of her report for 2022-23, attached at Annex 8. VAC's cross country championships in January 2023 had been well supported, with 76 finishers. The Surrey Cross Country League provided an excellent opportunity for VAC team competition. The men's team of around twenty in each of the four matches finished fifth in their division, within touching distance of promotion. There was a welcome return to the Surrey League for VAC's women after an absence of around ten years. The team of at least five for each fixture did well to finish 10th out of the 29 clubs. Thanks go to the Team managers, Paddy Clark and Helen Davies.

Maggie reported that VAC had stepped forward to host the EMEA Inter Area Cross Country Challenge at Lloyd Park in March 2023, resulting in VAC reclaiming the winner's trophy last held by the club in 2016. On the international stage, VAC was proud of the 18 members who were selected to represent their nations in the British and Irish Masters CC International in Dublin in November 2022.

Acceptance of the four reports was proposed by Martin Garrett and seconded by Joe Aspinall.

9. ELECTION OF VAC OFFICERS

All current members of the Committee were content to stand. In addition, Dennis Williams accepted the nomination as VAC President. As these were not contested, the members of the Committee listed below were elected en bloc (proposed by Peter Torre, seconded by Dennis Williams). In addition, Anna Garnier was co-opted as a Committee member.

The members of the Committee for 2023-24 are as follows:

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President	Dennis Williams
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
Officials Secretary	Ros Tabor
Minutes Secretary	Mike Mann
Delegates to BMAF/EMAA	Andy Murray/ Mike Mann
Co-opted Member	Anna Garnier

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 (adviser on selecting the Inter Area T&F teams). Their dedication was commended and much appreciated.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

11. DATE OF NEXT AGM

Thursday 19 September 2024.

Annex 1: Apologies for Absence

The following members sent apologies: Sarah Allen, Norman Arnold, Jonathan Ashman, Vera Blei, Sue Boyman, Diane Bradley, Keith Brown, Richard Burke, Ron Carr, Neil Colvin, Gina Coulson, Helen Davies, Malcolm Davies, Penny Elliott, Richard Evans, Chris Flint, Michael Franklin, Stacey Gonzalez Betancourt, Heather Graz, Michael Graz, Courtney Gunn, Charmaine Johnson, Jerry Lockspeiser, Douglas Maughan, Chris Michael, Laurence Miller-Bryce, Lucy Moore-Fox, Glen Morgan, Neil Morrissey, Liam O'Hare, Noelle O'Regan, Tom Richards, Annie Ross, Andrew Simms, Debbie Singleton, Clive Walker.

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: Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2023

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