

Bedford and County Athletics Club

AGM – Postponed from the 25th May 2021 due to C-19 restrictions) – 8 June 2021

Location – Bedford and County Stadium Stand

Present – P Webster (PW), D Johnson (DJ), C Gunn (CG), C Emmerson (CE), B Thompson (BT), H Darbon (HD), S Bass (SB), M Blackwell (MB), P Carpenter (PC), P Butcher (PB), T James (TJ), T Blackwell (TB)

Apologies – G Packman

Only 13 Members were present, and so after a discussion, where HD noted that the 2019/20 accounts required to be closed urgently as it was affecting Grant Claims for the Wheelchair Section. (note 2019/20 Accounts were submitted on the 30th June 2021 – just within the extension period).

As this meeting was the postponed meeting of the 25th May, 30 members not 10, were required to be quorate. As only 13 were present the meeting waited 10 minutes, as required, before moving to the agenda in order to approve decisions.

Club Performance

This has not been a normal year (2020/21), with significant restrictions due to C-19. There have been difficulties with the Stadium Operator during the previous year, limited access to the stadium and limited competitions. Leagues are starting again in June 2021. All noted that the club is in a good overall financial position with just under £50k in reserves. It was noted that numbers had been reducing over the previous 2 years (prior to C-19) and the club needed to try and build numbers – especially in the lower age groups. Despite the lack of access to facilities and competition there were still club records posted during this period to Sadie Werrett (Javelin), Gracie Wall (Pentathlon), Dan Jarvis (Steeplechase), and Etienne Maughan (Hurdles)

Auditor Approval

Same Auditors as previous years were approved

Nomination of Club Positions

The following Appointments were approved

- President – Bob Thompson
- Chairman – Martyn Blackwell
- Vice Chair – Penny Butcher
- Hon Secretary – Rachel Welbourn
- Hon Treasurer – Pete Carpenter

Budget and Membership Fees

Club Membership fees will remain at the same level at previous years – the only increase will be the Fusion Element (for those memberships where this is applicable)

The Hon Treasurer took the AGM through a draft budget for the 2021/22 financial year, although he noted that actual expenditure might vary greatly due to C-19 and any linked restrictions.

Overall, the club was budgeting to make a £5-7k loss during the year, noting the importance in getting activities up and running and the potential lag in membership numbers.

Proposed EGM

It was agreed that an EGM should be put in the calendar in February 2022 to agree the 2022/23 draft budget and set membership fees.

Future of Track and Field – Proposal submitted by DJ/TJ

The proposal submitted, linking to the restricted access to training during the C-19 restrictions and the 4 bullets around restrictions/use setting out that the club should be “Putting the athlete first” and making maximum use of its limited resources.

There was an extended conversation on the proposal where it was noted that

- Many zones were not being fully used – especially on Sunday’s where there was up to 75% underutilisation, and others depending on the day and time which was wasting scarce resources
- It was noted that Multi Event athletes were significantly affected by the present restrictions on use as they required access to multiple areas for their training requirements
- All agreed that
 - Athletes should be able to use slots to the fullest extent
 - That vacant space should be minimised
- It was also noted that:
 - At the moment the Club were not accepting many new Members due to these training restrictions
 - That EA did allow larger training groups than was presently being allowed
- It was agreed at the meeting that
 - Wider use than the present restrictions would be allowed to ensure vacant/underutilised slots were used
 - That there would not be a restriction on number of hours use by an athlete per week if space was available
 - Athletes/Coaches could move across within the 1 Hr sessions if another area was vacant
 - If preferable it would be ideal to know vacancies 24 hours before the training session times

Any Other Business

- There was a Matter Arising from the May 2019 AGM that minutes of the monthly Committee Meetings should be published. This has not been happening . It was agreed this should happen (with redactions where necessary).

Meeting finished 8.30 PM

