

## USATF-NEW ENGLAND

### Annual Meeting

Monday, September 17, 2001

Shapiro Athletic Facility, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts

#### In Attendance:

Board Members: Marja Bakker, Ron Boemker, Harry Brooks, Phil Byrne, Betsy Harshbarger, Justin Kuo, Mike Nary, Kathy Nary, James O'Brien, Tom Petranoff, Dave Post, Lou Ristaino.

#### Club representatives:

Michael Pieroni (BAA), Glenn O'Connor, Kim O'Connor (CSU), Courtney Bird (Falmouth TC), David Callum, Tom Derderian, Chris Simpson (Gr.Boston TC), Peter Stasz (Gr.Springfield Harriers), Jim Carroll, Dave xxx (Heartbreak Hill Striders), Lance Turley (Nashua Area WW TC), Jon Russell (New Balance), Ed Daniels (NH Tracksters), John Babington (North Medford Club), Steve Burton, Nancy Given, Steve Pepe (Somerville RR), Bill Durette, Mary Martin (Stellar RC), Joe Tranchita (Waltham TC), Pat Lavelle (Western MA TF Officials)

#### Also in attendance:

Laurie Boemker, Carolyn Bird

Meeting Opened at 7:15 p.m.

Opening Remarks: A quorum was established; Marja Bakker reported 15 clubs were represented and so the requirement of a quorum of 10% of total club membership was established

Marja continued with opening remarks, a year synopsis which presented an overall good year, and our need to focus on membership, clubs, officials. She thanked the Board and everyone who attended meetings and helped at events.

Office Report: Steve Vaitones, Managing Director referred to his printed report but made several other points. First, that the office objective is top customer service. This year was the first in over 15 years that association championship events were held in each of the four NE states, and that activities were taking place all around the region. He gave a brief report on the recent 5K Championship. He noted that the office was a resource to be used locally and beyond and the staff enjoyed serving the sport.

Treasurer's Report: James O'Brien, Treasurer. Jim presented a year to date report and a comparison to last year. He pointed out that we continue to operate with a deficit, but much of this year's was due to catching up on an audit and financial review for several past years.

Membership and dues, although slightly increased over 2000, were still down in comparison with several years ago; staff expenses included two full time employees.

Convention expenses for 2001 would be significantly reduced.

Pete asked how to "stop the bleeding" of running over revenues.

Marja stated that sponsorships will be pursued for existing events, some major events are scheduled to be organized by the association for the next two years and others will be pursued, and entry fees for our events may have to go up.

Also noted was the fact that the National portion of a membership fee is going up from \$5.50 to \$7.50, and New England fees were going to \$20 for adult and \$15 for youth. The association will get a dollar "rebate" if they are entered on line, which we currently do. Report was approved.

**OTHER REPORTS:** Printed reports were available from most sports chairs and officers, while some others gave brief reports. Pete asked if events were being recruited for next year's LDR Grand Prix. Betsy responded that some contacts have been made. A key point is letting the races know that there is not a large layer of administrative work added when hosting a championship.

**ELECTIONS:** 2001 is a year for Sports Chair and Athlete Rep elections, but the Secretary position needed to be filled due to the resignation of Katie Brace due to job conflicts.

Nominations were made and seconded as follows:

Secretary: Laurie Boemker. Elected by acclamation

Sports Chairs: Cross Country	Dan Hart
Mountain/Trail Running	Dave Dunham
Race Walking	Justin Kuo
Youth Athletics	Ron Boemker
Track & Field	Michael Nary
Masters Track & Field	Phil Byrne
LDR Men	Ken Robichaud
LDR Women	Betsy Harshbarger
LDR Masters	Lou Ristaino

Athlete Reps: Jon Russell (New Balance) and Chris Simpson (Gr.Boston TC)

With no contested positions, the slate was elected by voice.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES:** New England is eligible to have 12 voting delegates represent the association at the USATF National Convention, November 27th - December 1st, in Mobile, Alabama. Given the budget, the board had earlier voted to only reimburse the registration fee (\$150) for delegates, contingent on attendance at the meetings and submitting a wrap-up report.

A motion was made (Ron B) and passed to establish delegates in order of number of votes received for the first twelve nominees, to verify categories which need to be represented, and, if changes are necessary, fill them by individuals with the next highest number of votes. The vote was taken, and ballots were collected for counting.

#### BY LAW AMENDMENTS:

John Babington chaired this portion of the meeting. He explained the restructuring process, the need for associations to select one of three options for association voting. It was noted of the need to comply by the National convention, though Steve noted that the opinion was that as long as associations were making progress on this issue they would be seated; that is, proposals might be tabled or need to be rewritten.

The first item was complying with USATF Regulation 15 (voting procedures). The NE Law and Legislation working committee and the by-law committee proposed the "open meeting ballot" which was straight one member - one vote, versus a mail ballot or a balanced meeting ballot which allocated percentages of votes to different member groups. Pete then presented three reasons for dissenting: going back to the era of "paper clubs" controlling the voting, that there was geographic bias in open meetings, and he believed that we were already in compliance. The last was rejected by John, who noted we were similar but not matching a balanced meeting.

Additional discussion touched on notification and the compliance date with respect to convention credentialing. The question of tabling the motion arose.

Tom D suggested looking at the other articles that would need changes to see if some could be voted on and then return to or table the voting procedure. John led a review of each article that was to be voted on. After a continued exchange of ideas and opinions, VP Harry Brooks made a motion (seconded by Betsy) to approve the full schedule of amendments as proposed. Tom D asked if this applied to other meetings such as the Grand Prix meeting as well. The answer was yes. The motion passed and the By-Law changes were approved. The vote totals: 25 yes; 6 no; 1 abstention.

Delegate count was reported, and, in alphabetical order, the following persons were elected as delegates to the 2001 USATF Annual Meeting:

John Babington  
Marja Bakker  
Laurie Boemker  
Ron Boemker  
Phil Byrne  
Mike Collins  
Dave Dunham  
Justin Kuo  
Kathy Nary  
Ken Robichaud  
Steve Vaitones

The 12th position was a tie of Peter Stasz and Ed Daniels; Ed took 12th in runoff. Alternates will be allowed in the following order: 13.Pete Stasz; 14.Pat Lavelle; 15.Tom Petranoff; 16.Harry Brooks; 17.Jim Garcia; 18.Joe Lemar.

With ByLaw changes passed, Ron stated that a third athlete representative was now in order. The election was re-opened to elect a third Athlete Rep: Nominees were Dave Callum (GBTC) and Ed Daniels (NHT). Ed was elected.

Dave Callum asked where the association stood on prize money for championships, as roads and cross country had such, but track and field did not. Marja responded that money at road events came from the events themselves, and that other events had to look at income being generated for that championship. Prize money for Track & Field Championships would be considered if a sponsor for the meet could be found.

Marja thanked everyone, and stated that new ideas and new people would be welcome to and necessary for the Association.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Minutes from Betsy Harshbarger and Steve Vaitones