

Port Hunter Zone Little Athletics Inc.
Minutes of General Meeting held 1st May 2014
At Raymond Terrace Bowling Club

Meeting opened: 7.45 pm following the AGM

Present: Barbara Inglis Raymond Terrace; Anne Watts Woodberry; Troy Morrison Tilligerry; Brian Cox ANL; Lee-Anne O'Sullivan, Stockton; Lee Grant & Victor Marshall Wallsend; Janet Hall Newcastle City

Apologies:

Melisa Brown Myall Coast, Grahame Searles Woodberry, John Terranova Raymond Terrace & Derek Nolan Thornton

Previous Minutes:

Moved by Lee-Anne O'Sullivan and 2nd by Troy Morrison that the previous minutes be accepted.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

Victor wanted to know why the previous meeting was against the U13-U17 athletes going straight to Region.

A formal vote has yet to be made on this from our centres.

Incoming Mail:

Email from James Lorang Newcastle City asking to be removed as Newcastle City Zone representative.

Email from Grahame Searles putting in his apologies for AGM & General Meeting and giving account balance for meeting.

Board Minutes

- **Zone Coordinator Nominations**

Three zones are without nominations (Mid South Coast, Western Plains and Port Hunter). Kerry to liaise with the outgoing zone coordinators regarding the process going forward. Where possible Kerry will attend a zone meeting to talk to centres involved.

- **2015 State Multi-Event Championships**

Discussion took place on the proposal for the 2015 State Multi-Event Championships to be held at the SOPAC, with the view that a Sydney based event will expose even more athletes to this event. It was confirmed that irrespective of whether the event achieves its target, the State Multi-Event Championships in 2016 will return to a country venue. Thorough investigation into logistics has been taking place. It was agreed that a cap on entries will apply, however this number will be considerably increased on previous years, due to the ability to utilise two tracks. The exact number is still to be determined based on programs timing calculations. It was also confirmed that age groups will be split into groups of no more than 40-50 athletes. Other initiatives discussed included staggered age group starting times and the allocation of specific times for age groups to be able to take part in partnered activities around SOPAC (e.g. aquatic centre, trampoline park, amusement rides etc). Final details are to be reviewed over the next month.

- **AWD Events at State Championships**

It has been agreed that an 800m event will be added to the events for Athletes with A Disability at the State Track & Field Championships from 2015. There will now be a 100m, 800m, long jump and discus.

- **Championship Patches**

Very large quantities of patches are left over after each championship as they are not collected. Patches in the past were provided to ensure that all participating athletes received something from the championships. This was at a time when only the top 8 athletes received certificates. Now that all athletes receive a certificate, the demand for patches does not exist.

- **Sponsorship**

A continuation of the McDonalds sponsorship has been ratified by their executive, and endorsed by licensees for a further two years.

- **Working with Children Road Shows**

We still need to determine dates/venues/speakers for possible road shows on WWC and WHS. Kerry updated on recent Working with Children Forum that she and other LANSW staff attended and has provided indicative costs for the road shows for inclusion in the budget.

LANSW Newsletter

- **Annual General Meeting & Conference - 19 & 20 July 2014 “Unity through Identity”**

We extend an invitation to all centres, to send delegates to our Annual Conference which is to be held in Cessnock on the weekend of 19 and 20 July 2014.

Whether your member position assigns you to a defined group, such as, a volunteer official, parent-helper, centre committee member, age manager or coach, LANSW parent or Little Athlete, the strength of the sport will come through all of these groups acting together as the one identity.

In light of the conference theme, we are requesting all centres supply one jpeg photo image (can be mobile phone image) of each centre member who will be attending conference this year. Please name the file as the members name and send through to gboost@lansw.com.au.

Conference is a gathering of LANSW staff, directors and other LANSW representatives, together with specially selected presenters and centre delegates.

By attending, delegates will have the opportunity to:

- Listen and learn about what is happening in the world of Little Athletics and how other centres operate in the State;
- Find out more about how and why things are done or why they are not;
- Attend workshops, feedback sessions, forums, networking sessions;
- Share ideas and opinions about matters which may benefit your centre and/or you personally;
- Meet and socialise with many other people involved in Little Athletics and, quite possibly, make new friends.

Download a full copy of the Conference Flyer, which includes the agenda and workshop topics for the weekend, and also the AGM and Conference attendance form from LA website.

- **Annual Reporting**

A friendly reminder that the appropriate financial and annual reporting data needs to be sent to LANSW, as well as NSW Fair Trading, promptly following Annual General Meetings. Memos relating to the submission of these reports and a copy of the Annual Summary of Financial Affairs form can be found on the website.

- **Gala Day Dates for Calendar of Events**

LANSW will again be producing a calendar for the 2014/15 season. The calendar will outline dates for gala days, championship events, camps, coaching courses, etc. A sufficient quantity of this calendar will be supplied to all centres for distribution to families at the time of registration. In order to include as many events as possible, centres and zones are requested to provide information regarding activities, gala days, etc. To allow time for compilation and printing of the calendar, all information must be received at the LANSW office no later than *Friday, 9 May 2014*.

- **Volunteer of the Year**

A reminder that nominations for the LANSW Volunteer of the Year will close on 23 May 2014. The Volunteer of the Year award will be presented at the Little Athletics NSW Annual Conference, which will be held in Cessnock on 19 & 20 July 2014. Nominations can be made by downloading and completing a copy of the nomination form.

- **State Track & Field Championships Officials**

Another successful championship has been completed. Thank you to the LANSW officials who helped make our State Championship a success. There were a number of officials who officiated for the first time at this year's State and we welcome them to our band of officials who regularly officiate at Little Athletics NSW carnivals.

Thank you also to the centre helpers who fulfilled the duties allocated to their particular centre. All the duties allocated to centres assist in the smooth running of the event.

It was disappointing that a number of duties were not filled by centres. Some of these were only for one session (eg. an hour or so) but in other instances a whole duty was

missed. One zone failed to fill any of their allocated duties. There was only one person from that zone who signed on and that was for 15 minutes at an event not allocated to them. Zone Coordinators will be advised of those centres that did not fulfil their allocated duty.

For further information, please contact the Little Athletics NSW office.

- **2015 State Multi-Event Championships**

As previously advised, a proposal is being considered for the 2015 State Multi-Event Championships to be held at the Sydney Olympic Park Athletic Centre (SOPAC) on 7 & 8 March 2015. As this will be 25 years since the first official State Multi-Event, the board is hoping to test the theory that a Sydney based event will expose even more athletes to this event. It should be noted however, that irrespective of whether the event achieves its target, the State Multi-Event Championships in 2016 will return to a country venue.

As it is anticipated that a metropolitan based event will attract larger numbers than usual, thorough investigation into logistics has been taking place. It can be confirmed that a cap on entries will apply, however this number will be considerably increased on previous years, due to the ability to utilise two tracks. It can also be confirmed that age groups will be split into groups of no more than 40-50 athletes.

Other initiatives that are also being include staggered age group starting times and the allocation of specific times for age groups to be able to take part in partnered activities around SOPAC (e.g. aquatic centre, trampoline park, amusement rides etc). It is hoped that the board will have reviewed the relevant historical data and considered all of the necessary details for a decision to be made within the next month.

- **Little Athletics NSW Skills Clinics**

Expressions of interest are now being taken for centres to host skills clinics for the July and October 2014 school holidays. Now that the regular competition season has finished, hosting a clinic is a great opportunity to promote your centre and also continue to develop current member's athletic skills. With the school athletics season nearly upon us here is the chance for potential new members to "come and try" Little Athletics at your centre.

- **"Desire to Inspire" school visits - Be a part of it... Don't miss out!**

The regular 2013/14 season is now complete and believe it or not this can be the first easy step for next season preparation.

"Desire to Inspire" is a fast-paced, educational, fun, inspirational and motivational presentation to the school. This is a mass promotion initiative open to all Little Athletics centres and is a great opportunity to promote your centre to your local kids. A LANSW representative visits your suburb/town and delivers a highly motivated, inspiring, educational and fun presentation to a school. The aim is to inspire and motivate kids to be active through the Little Athletics "Be Your Best" attitude and to register with the local centre.

- **Introduction to Coaching Courses**

An ITC (Introduction to Coaching) Course is a course specifically designed for parents, beginner coaches, teachers and other interested people who want to coach/teach beginner athletics. It is an event specific track and field course designed to give people the ability and confidence to coach basic level athletics to children aged 5-15 years. Best of all, there is no exam or assessment task required to be completed.

We are looking at organising some predetermined venues for ITC courses throughout NSW. The aim is to cover/offer an ITC to most zones/combined zones.

The benefits are:

- Providing a definite date and venue so planning and advertising opportunities are maximised.
- Continuity of courses provided i.e. in each area and time of year.
- Less pressure for centres to be forced to host/conduct a course.

We would like to develop a coach education course calendar for the 2014-2015.

If your centre would like to host a course or if you want more information, please contact the Little Athletics office.

Current proposed ITC dates:

- Cessnock Friday, 18 July 2014
- Lismore Saturday, 18 October 2014 us now!

Outstanding Registration numbers as at 18th March 2014

Centre	#'s issued	Rego's Received	Lost #'s	Balance to return
Wallsend	275	274		1

Out going mail: Nil

Treasurers Report:

Balance as at 30th April 2014 \$3,580.75

General Business:

Victor Marshall - would like to see the Zone carnival moved back to the first weekend in December or the 29th & 30th November as it used to be.

Wallsend are to put 2 discussion items up for the Annual conference at Cessnock.

1. Organising Relays for Zone - proposed change: 'competing at the Zone Championship' becomes 'competing on Sunday at the Zone Championship'
2. Organising Relays for Zone - proposed change: 'If a centre does not have any competitors in one of the age groups (U9-U15) competing at the Zone Championship' becomes 'If a centre does not have any competitors in one of the age groups (U9 - U15) willing or able to compete in the relays at the Zone Championship'

Janet Hall - Newcastle City - they have quite a few refugee children registered with their centre but don't have parent helpers with the children which restrict the number of helpers that they have available for Zone etc. The feeling of the meeting is that it is up to Newcastle City to overcome this problem as it would not be fair for other centres to have to do extra duties just because Newcastle entered these athletes but were not able to get their parents/carers to go to the carnival.

Meeting closed 8.45 pm

Next Meeting: 5th June - 7.30 pm at Raymond Terrace Bowling Club - hopefully Kerry will be able to attend from LANSW.