

**Welcome ladies and gentlemen to the Mid Atlantic Athletic Club's Annual General Meeting, 2017.**

It is on this occasion that I get a chance to praise our achievements and try to pass quickly over any failures that we might have had!

MAAC as we all know has several facets to it. Which, when all put together make it quite an organization. Like any organization we have an executive board, in MAAC this is our Executive Committee. To start I would like to immediately say a big thank you to the Executive committee who participate in the running and decision making process of the club, (some) are present here but here is the list of our executive committee members from last year.

Darin Cassidy	Vice President.
Ian Davies	Treasurer
Sharon Craig	Secretary, MAAC clothing
John Thompson	Newsletter
Liz Craig	Web site
Stephen Ortiz	Training and membership
Mairi Redmond	MAAC clothing
Victoria Fiddick	MAAC Juniors coach
Natalie Dryli	PR and Facebook, photographer
Catherine Mello	Race Coordinator

Regretfully some of the above have stepped down from the committee, and in this respect I want to say a big thank you for the help they have brought to MAAC. So obviously we are looking forward to hearing from members who want to assist in the running of the club and bring some fresh ideas along too.

I also want to give another heart felt word of thanks to all the Race Directors that help MAAC organize all the road running events we hold every year and we now organize a total of 19 race events each year. Without members who step up and take on the organization of a race we would not be able to enjoy the broad selection of races that MAAC has to offer our membership. Our Races are a statement as to how keen our membership is and I hope that more members will step up to offer their services as Race Directors. Yes it does require some work, some organizing skills but at the end of it all it is also a very rewarding feeling to have been able to have given many people the pleasure of participation and challenge of the race that we all know and enjoy. I like to think we look after our Race Directors as we give them the first option on The London Marathon spaces we get each year and take them all out for dinner as a gesture of appreciation.

MAAC has for many years operated a program for our aspiring junior runners and those who hope to one day be snatching the winners ribbon. This program is organized and run by our Junior Coach Victoria Fiddick and her assistant Julie Marshall, together they do an amazing job and I am forever impressed as to how they manage so many juniors at one time. MAAC juniors have claimed the top positions in many of the junior categories of races and have been selected for CARIFTA and other overseas events. This year we've re structured the MAAC Juniors and moved to an annual fee rather than a trimestral fee. This has eased the administration tasks and allowed Victoria to what she does best..... Coach!

MAAC is also well known for MAAC Track and the training sessions at the Stadium with our adult coach Steve Burgess. MAAC Track continues along its successful path of bringing the attendees towards the

two major events in our racing calendar, the January Race weekend and the Bermuda Half Marathon derby. It is a tough set of training sessions but the hard work pays off and generally everyone who goes the distance comes out with a better race result.

I would like to thank Steve and Tony, his assistant, for all the time and effort they put into supporting MAAC Track.

What would MAAC be without it's Social events!!

Our Christmas drinks, End of season drinks and Awards Dinner are all the product of the hard work of the social events organizer Sharon Craig. She tirelessly arranges these great events where we all have a chance to meet up without being hot and sweaty after a race! This year, our Awards dinner took a new format and one that I am sure will gain popularity as it incorporates dinner and dancing with a DJ at Four Ways. I would also like to thank Sharon for all the time and effort she puts into MAAC as she is of course our secretary as well....

As usual none of this would be possible without a good control of the finances. Ian Davies our Treasurer does a great job of watching the expenses and managing our finances for us. MAAC remains in a healthy financial situation and I trust Ian is there to keep us on the starlight and narrow.

In 2017 our membership dropped slightly from 597 in 2016 to 533, this is attributable to many people leaving Bermuda for work reasons as we are all familiar with. Hopefully we will see an increase in numbers again next year as the economy slowly improves.

MAAC continues to be an affiliated member of the Bermuda National Athletic Association and is represented on the Road Running Committee that serves as discussion forum for all issues associated with the road running community. I sit on this committee along with John Thompson and Sharon is usually present as well.

In the coming year I hope we will all be able to continue to serve you, the members as best we can and be open to your thoughts, ideas and whenever the need calls, your complaints too!!

I would like to close by saying a final word of thanks for all the volunteers who give their free time to make sure we are all safe during our races. I certainly appreciate their time as without you we would not have the great running club that we have.

As you have read above, MAAC is dependent on many people who volunteer their time to assist with the club, races, events etc. I would like to appeal to all of you as members, to think about assisting in some way in the above events as we are often looking for help in some event or other. In the great words of President J. F. Kennedy, (slightly modified!) 'Think not what MAAC can do for you, but what you can do for MAAC '.....

Give something back.....it is a reward in itself.

Finally I want to thank everyone for their trust and support in my role as club President and I look forward to seeing you out there on the roads and trails of Bermuda.

To everyone out there remember:

**REAL ATHLETES RUN, OTHERS JUST PLAY GAMES!**