



MINUTES OF ATHLETICS VICTORIA SUMMER GENERAL MEETING HELD AT OLYMPIC PARK ON 29/4/2009

1. PRESENT

As per register

2. APOLOGIES

As per register

3. WELCOME

The President, Anne Lord, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

She especially welcomed the following Life Members :

Margaret Dunbar, Ronda Jenkins, Richard Lawysz and Arthur Whitchell
(She noted that apologies had been received from Tony Williams and Laurie Preston)

The President introduced the Board Members :

Lisa Hasker, Russell Clowes, Eric Sigmont, Richard Burnet, Ian Jones and Brett Moore (Pat Scammell had apologized for not attending the meeting)

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

On the motion of Preston AC, seconded by Doncaster AC, the minutes of the 2008 Summer General Meeting held on 25/6/2008 were confirmed.

There were no items of business to arise from the minutes.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President thanks Michelle James (AV staff member) and Marian O'Shaughnessy (Summer Competition Manager) for their hard work during what was a very successful season.

The President noted that the Association's members had again increased in numbers and that participation in the Shield Competition had been excellent. She indicated that tonight's meeting would address some issues relating to overcrowding at East Region which resulted in some athletes having limited competition opportunities.

The President also referred to issues relating to eligibility and the scoring system. The eligibility issue has been addressed by the Summer Competition Sub-Committee. Concerning the scoring system, the President indicated that the Association is aware of, and is addressing, the underlying problems. She indicated that further testing would be carried out in coming months and a back up system explored.

The President applauded the AV Office for its splendid efforts in promoting the sport. She highlighted the introduction of the Olympian cards and the efforts in getting several Olympians to attend competition meets to distribute and sign cards.

The President thanked the Summer Competition Sub-Committee for its work and its aim to continually improve competition by seeking feedback. She highlighted the survey and the review meeting and noted that a series of focus groups would meet in coming weeks to review the ways of further improving competition.

The President thanked Clubs for their feedback on the review of the Association's constitution.

The President congratulated the winning Clubs at the Region and Shield Finals.

The President thanked the officials for their work during the season and congratulated the Officials of the Year : Pam Noden and John Coleman.

6. SUMMER COMPETITION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

The Manager of the Summer Competition Sub-Committee, Marian O'Shaughnessy, thanks her Committee for their dedicated work and the AV Office, especially Michelle James, for its support.

Marian indicated that the Committee had developed a Mission Statement for future activities (this statement was distributed to delegates prior to the start of the meeting).

Marian reported that the Committee had developed a number of short term goals designed to address those aspects of competition which need refining. She highlighted issues such as competition scheduling and competitions running over time. She noted that notices of motion to be considered later at this meeting would address some of these matters.

Marian indicated that it was necessary to accommodate issues such as lighting and starting pistol curfews at some venues which limited the time available for twilight and night meets.

Marian noted the significant differences in time taken to start heats at some venues and indicated the need to speed up the marshalling and starting of heats.

Marian indicated the hope that ways could be found to increase the level of participation of country regions - one suggestion was to conduct virtual competition between regions.

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

The President asked Board Member, Ian Jones, to speak to the background issues which resulted in a complete review of the Association's Constitution.

Ian indicated that the review had been an interesting task. While the constitution has been completely overhauled there is nothing radical in the proposals. He advised that there were a number of changes needed to accommodate government changes.

Ian indicated that a copy of the new constitution together with a copy of the meeting's resolution needed to be forwarded to the Department of Consumer Affairs if the meeting approves the new document.

Ian reported that the review process had been inclusive and thanked clubs for their feedback.

He indicated that a Question and Answer document had been prepared and distributed to all clubs.

Ian moved on behalf of the Board the following motion :

7.1 That the new constitution be adopted with effect from the next Annual General Meeting

The motion was seconded by the Glenhuntly Club.

The President put the motion and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

7.2 That the Metropolitan Regions have similar numbers of athletes.

The motion was moved by the Diamond Valley Club and seconded by the Glenhuntly Club.

In the subsequent discussion the following issues emerged :

- there are two distinct options 1. Create a new Region 2. Even out the numbers amongst the existing Regions (The meeting was advised that the Board felt that it was not viable at this stage to create another Region due to lack of suitable venues and sufficient officials)
- it may be preferable to base the numbers on participants rather than members
- due to the shift in demographics it may be necessary to review the matter on a regular basis
- what happens if clubs do not wish to move ?
- clubs are given the option every 3 years as to the Region they wish to compete in

The President put the motion to the vote and it was **CARRIED.**

7.3 That the Shield Competition be a two day program (events to be held every second week instead of the two out of three as last season).

The following issues were raised during discussion of the motion :

- the motion was unclear
- the hammer event at some venues needs to be conducted before or after normal competition

- does conducting an event every second week give sufficient opportunity for grass roots athletes ?
- there is need to speed up the program at regions especially East Region

An amendment to the motion was put by Knox Club seconded by Oakleigh that the motion be changed to read :

That the Shield Competition be a two day program with events to be conducted every second week.

The amendment was put and **CARRIED**.

The amended motion was put and **CARRIED**.

7.4 That qualifying standards be introduced for events in the Shield Final Open Divisions.

The motion was moved by Athletics Bendigo and seconded by Bellarine Club.

In speaking to the motion, Peter Barrett indicated that the main reasons for the motion were :

- to remove concerns about athletes not being competent in some events
- to restore the credibility of the Shield Final as a major event on the competition calendar

In the subsequent discussions, the following issues were raised :

- there is a related issue of top level athletes competing in lower grades at the Shield Final
- need for qualifying standards during the rounds of Shield Competition ?
- appropriate to change the rules only for the Shield Final ?
- need to change the motion to include Region Finals ?
- how to cater for women who compete in the Men's teams at the Shield Final ?
- use qualifying standards as an experiment in the 2009/10 Shield Final and then review ?
- need to review the qualifying standards ?
- phase in during Shield Competition ?
- motion relates to qualifying standards not eligibility (On eligibility Marian O'Shaughnessy advised delegates that the eligibility requirement for the

2009/10 season would be that an athlete must have competed once in any event and have competed at 33.3% of Shield Competition rounds.)

The Knox Club, seconded by Glenhuntly Club, moved the following amended motion :

That qualifying standards be introduced for Shield Region Finals and the Shield Final.

The amended motion was put and was **LOST**.

The original motion was put and was **LOST**.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1. Relocation to Albert Park

The President reported that the letter from the Athletics Australia President regarding insufficient funding for the relocation to Albert Park was published without Athletics Victoria being consulted.

The President advised that Association representatives had met with Athletics Australia earlier today and prepared a wish list of requirements. The President reported that the Association has not signed off on the Memorandum of Understanding.

The Chief Executive Officer, Nick Honey, reported that the time lines for the project are :

- commence building mid 2009 (unlikely to be met as schematic drawings only have been prepared at this stage)
- first competition to be held in early 2011

8.2 Additional Field Event Attempts at Shield Competition

The President introduced and welcomed John Boas, a highly qualified coach and invited him to speak.

John indicated that he was speaking on behalf of athletes and coaches about the lack of extra field event attempts at Shield Competition for those

athletes who achieve a high bench mark. He indicated that AV used to allow such attempts and other State Associations allow them.

John indicated that Athletics Australia's ruling on permit meets had created some confusion on this matter and the matter of allowing extra attempts is not consistent across all metropolitan regions.

John reported that the main reasons for athletes and coaches wanting the extra 3 attempts, included :

- it provides additional experience for these athletes when they compete at national events
- top athletes want more than just 3 attempts and many do not compete in Shield Competition because the extra attempts are not allowed

John recommended that the Summer Competition Sub-Committee review this matter.

Marian O'Shaughnessy indicated that the Sub-Committee had received several complaints that young athletes were not being permitted to enter field events at some regions due to the numbers wishing to compete.

It was agreed that initially the matters be looked at the forthcoming focus groups.

9. APPOINTMENT OF SUB COMMITTEE MANAGER, SUMMER COMPETITION

The President reported that Mrs Marian O'Shaughnessy had been reappointed to this position. Delegates applauded the announcement.

10. DRAFT COMPETITION CALENDAR

The President referred to the draft competition calendar distributed at the meeting. She indicated that the Association is still waiting confirmation on some dates from Athletics Australia.

The President encouraged clubs to provide feedback on the draft calendar to Jade Borella at the Association Office.

11. PRESENTATIONS

The Presidents presented banners and trophies to the following Clubs :

NORTH WEST REGION

Keilor St Bernards : Women U14, U18
 Western Athletics : Men U20, Women Div 2
 Coburg : Men 40+
 Athletics Essendon : Women Div 1
 Preston : Men Div 1, Div 2, Div 3, U14, U16, U18
 Women U16

SOUTH EAST REGION

Glenhuntly : Women Div 1, Men Div 1 (tied with Athletics Waverley)
 Athletics Waverley : Men Div 1, Div 2, 40+, U18, Women Div 2, U18
 Oakleigh : Men Div 3
 Knox : Men U14, U16, U20, Women U14, U16, U20

EAST REGION

Box Hill : Men Div 1, U18, Women U18
 Diamond Valley : Men 40+, U16, Women U16, U20
 St Stephens : Women Div 1, Div 2
 Croydon : Women U14
 Richmond : Men Div 2
 Ivanhoe : Men Div 3
 Doncaster : Men U20
 Ringwood : Men U14

BENDIGO REGION

Eaglehawk : Men 40+, U18, U14, Women U14, U16, U18
 South Bendigo : Men Div 2, Div 3, Women Div 1, Div 2, U16

BALLARAT REGION

Wendouree : Men 40+
 Eureka : Men U18, Women Div 1, Div 2



Ballarat YCW : Men Div 1, Div 2, Div 3, U14, U16 Women U14, U16,
U18

The President congratulated all clubs on their achievements.

She also congratulated them on their recruitment and thanked Tim Crosbie, Club Development Manager for his work with the clubs.

In response to a question about awards for relays in the South East Region, Lyn Owen advised that certificates had been prepared and would be presented at a Region meeting.

12. CLOSE OF MEETING

The President thanked all for attending the meeting and for their active participation in the discussions.