



**Australian
Athletic Union**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
1985 EXTRA-ORDINARY CONGRESS
MARCH, 1985**

**AND
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
1985 ANNUAL CONGRESS
(62ND CONGRESS)
AUGUST, 1985**

**OFFICIAL SPONSOR
AUSTRALIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY**

AUSTRALIAN ATHLETIC UNION

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

New South Wales Amateur Athletic Association
Queensland Athletic Association
Victorian Athletic Association
Amateur Athletic Association of Tasmania
Athletic Association of South Australia
Athletic Association of Western Australia
Australian Capital Territory Athletic Association
Northern Territory Athletic Association

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Australian Track & Field Coaches Association
Australian Universities Sports Association
Australian Association of Veterans' Athletic Clubs

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

1985 EXTRA-ORDINARY CONGRESS

OF THE UNION

HELD AT CANBERRA, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

ON 28TH MARCH, 1985

AND

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

1985 ANNUAL CONGRESS
(62nd Congress)

OF THE UNION

HELD AT ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ON

SATURDAY, 24TH AUGUST, 1985.

AUSTRALIAN ATHLETIC UNION

Minutes of the 1985 Extra-ordinary Congress, held at University House, Australian National University, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory on Thursday, 28th March, 1985 commencing at 8.00p.m.

There were present:

Officers: President - G.T. Briggs, AM, B.Com, JP (Chairman); Vice President - Mrs. F.E. Wrighter, BEM; General Manager - R.W. Pannell.

Also present: Project Officer - B.S. Roe; Minute Secretary - Mrs. J. Brown.

Delegates: Queensland - C. Stubbings, G. James

New South Wales - Mrs. F.E. Wrighter, BEM, C.D. Lee

Victoria - Mrs. M. Mahony, S. Guilfoyle

Tasmania - Mrs. M. Ebzery, OAM, N. Ruddock

Australian Capital Territory - D.P. Wilson, B. Cook

South Australia - I. Rogers, M. Swift

Western Australia - Mrs. V. Stanton, P. Druitt

Apologies: Mrs. J. Cross, Treasurer; Mrs. M. Robinson, MBE, Miss L. Neville and Mrs. M. McQuiston.

1. The President read the notice convening the Congress and declared the Congress Open.

2. The President welcomed Mrs. V. Stanton, Messrs. S. Guilfoyle and M. Swift to their first Congress.

3. NOTICES UPON MOTION

3.1 It was moved by Mr. C.D. Lee (NSW), seconded by Mrs. F.E. Wrighter (NSW) that this Congress authorise the Board of Management to proceed with the incorporation as a company limited by guarantee to be known as Australian Athletic Union which body is to assume the rights and obligations of the existing unincorporated association known as the Australian Athletic Union as of a date to be determined by the Board of Management.

The motion was carried.

3.1.1 It was noted that the word "amateur" contained in the Memorandum and Articles of Association as presented could be put as an amendment at a later date.

3.2 It was moved by Mr. C.D. Lee (NSW), seconded by Mr. G. James (Qld) that this Congress approved the Memorandum and Articles of Association as tabled by the President and marked for the purposes of identification.

The motion was carried.

3.3 It was moved by Mr. C.D. Lee (NSW), seconded by Mr. G. James (Qld.) that this Congress strongly recommend that the Board of Management of the new incorporated body adopts the By-Laws and Rules tabled by the President and marked for the purposes of identification.

The motion was carried.

- 3.4 It was moved by Mr. C.D. Lee (NSW), seconded by Mrs. M. Mahony (Vic) that this Congress strongly recommend that the Board of Management of the new incorporated body undertakes a revision of the proposed by-laws and rules, such revision to be presented in time for consideration at the 1985 August Congress.

The motion was carried.

- 3.4.1 The Congress moved that a vote of thanks be extended to the Projects Officer and Mr. Allan McDónald for the enormous amount of time and work expended on the incorporation of the Union.
- 3.5 It was moved by the General Manager, seconded by Mr. C.D. Lee (NSW) that this Congress consider the amalgamation of track & field championships to be conducted over a period of one week.
- 3.5.1 Mr. Lee spoke to the motion and stated that a paper had now been prepared on this subject and that the Board of Management would discuss such paper at the next meeting.
- 3.5.2 It was resolved that this matter be further discussed at the conclusion of all other business.
- 3.6 It was moved by Mr. C. Stubbings (Qld), seconded by Mr. D. Wilson (ACT) that Law 6.4.4 be amended by deleting the words "25,000 metres" and inserting the words "15,000 metres" in their stead.

The Law would then read:

L6.4.4 15,000 metres for men

The motion was carried.

- 3.7 It was moved by the General Manager, seconded by Mr. I. Rogers (SA) that Law 3.5.9 Road Running & Cross Country selection Committee be deleted.

The motion was lost.

- 3.8 A motion was put by the General Manager that L3.5.7 be amended to read:

"L3.5.7 A selection Committee of three members, responsible for the selection of teams and individuals to represent Australia. Each selector shall hold office for a period of three years.

The implementation of this rule will take place at the 1985 Annual Congress with the selector securing the highest number of votes for that year being the first selector to hold office for three years. In 1986 the person with the highest number of votes shall hold office for the following three years and in 1987 the person securing the highest number of votes shall hold office for the following three years.

The motion was withdrawn

- 3.9 It was resolved that the matter of the amalgamation of track & field championships should be further discussed at this point.
- 3.9.1 It was moved by Mr. C.D. Lee (NSW), seconded by Mr. G. James (Qld.) that the matter be referred to the Board for consideration at the Board Meeting together with the paper which has been tabled and the Board, after consideration, submit recommendations in the form of by-law and rule amendments to the August Congress.

The motion was lost.

- 3.9.2 It was moved Mr. C.D. Lee (NSW), seconded by Mr. G. James (Qld.) that the paper submitted by Mr. C.D. Lee be circularised to Member Associations for discussion and that the matter be dealt with at the 1985 Annual Congress.

The Congress closed at 9.00p.m.

AUSTRALIAN ATHLETIC UNION

Minutes of the Annual Congress of the Union, the Sixty-second Congress, held at the Parkroyal Travelodge, Adelaide, South Australia on Saturday, 24th August, 1985.

There were present:

Officers: President - G.T. Briggs, AM, B.Com, JP (Chairman); Vice President - Mrs. F.E. Wrighter, BEM; General Manager - R.W. Pannell, Honorary Treasurer - Mrs. J. Cross.

Also present: Coaching Co-ordinator - H.F. McEwen; Competitions Manager - J. Lambert; Minute Secretary - Mrs. J. Brown.

Delegates: Queensland - C.G. Stubbings, R. Brandis

New South Wales - Mrs. F. Wrighter, OAM, BEM, C.D. Lee

Victoria - Mrs. M. Mahony, S. Guilfoyle

Tasmania - Mrs. M. Ebzery, OAM, N.J. Ruddock

South Australia - P. Brebner, I Rogers

Western Australia - P. Druitt, G. Garnett

Australian Capital Territory - D. Wilson, P. Hamilton

Northern Territory - W. Smith

Australian Track & Field Coaches Association - Ms. M. Mathews, AM.

Australian Association of Veterans Athletic Clubs - Mrs. M. Smith

World Cup Four - B. Roe

Observers: M. Hastie, D. Blythe, Australian Little Athletics Union;

A. Eustace (President NZAAA & Secretary Oceania AAA); G. Melsom (WA)

Apologies: Mrs. M. Robinson, MBE, Miss L. Neville, Mrs. D. Magee, AM, MBE, Mrs. M. McQuiston, MBE.

1. READING OF NOTICE CONVENING THE CONGRESS

1.1 The General Manager read the Notice convening the Congress.

1.2 The President declared open the Annual Congress of the Union and extended a warm welcome to all present, especially Mr. Arthur Eustace, President of the NZAAA and Secretary of the Oceania AAA and Mr. Mal Hastie and Mr. Don Blythe of the Australian Little Athletics Union.

1.3 The President welcomed Messrs. Brebner, Hamilton, Garnett, Smith and Brandis to their first Congress as delegates and Congress agreed it was delighted to have representatives from the Northern Territory AA in attendance. A welcome was also extended to Mrs. Peg Smith from the Australian Association of Veterans Athletic Clubs.

2. ADMISSION OF MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

2.1 It was resolved to admit press and broadcasting representative to the Congress, subject to their not reporting the substance of any discussion held in camera, and to submitting for approval any statements on controversial issues.

3. OBITUARY

3.1 The President paid tribute to the memory of Mr. Herb Lowe and Mr. Theo Treacy who had passed away in the past few months commenting on their outstanding contribution athletics over a period of many years.

4. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

In my address to the Congress last year, I said that at the time when I had taken office four months earlier it had seemed to me that the time was opportune for change. Well there have been changes during the year.

First we had the introduction of Category E athletes into our system. The so-called professional athletes entered into events up to State Championship level with a great deal of enthusiasm in some States and I would hope that shortly we will be able to report that this matter will be brought to a conclusion which is satisfactory to all parties. I find it absolutely hypocritical that we allow our top international athletes to be paid large sums of money - albeit into their trust funds and in accordance with the Rules of the IAAF - but that we deny top competition to these people who race for what amounts to pittance and when expenses are deducted probably make very little from the sport at all. There have been other changes, we have moved office, we have a new address. We have some new members of staff and we have lost Jean Roberts who resigned in February her position as Coaching Director of the Union. Jean had been with us for six years and was our first National Coaching Director. It was Jean who established the liaison with the Australian Track & Field Coaches Association, Rothmans National Sports Foundation and the Australian Institute of Sport. Also during the year Brian Roe resigned from the position which he held as Project Officer of the Union. Brian's main job, as you know, was to organise and conduct the Wang Australian Marathon Championship. That he did this so successfully is a tribute to his administrative skill and his enthusiasm for the sport and I am certain that Brian will be missed. In his place we welcome Jeff Lambert who has just taken up his appointment in Sydney. His position will be a little different than that held by Brian in that in addition to his duties associated with the Wang Marathon he will be responsible for the co-ordination of all other national Championships. This should take a great deal of weight off the shoulder of our General Manager. Fletcher McEwen was appointed National Coaching Co-ordinator succeeding Jean Roberts and we are delighted to be able to welcome Fletcher, a well-known name in Australian athletics, to our Union. In addition Dale Horrobin has taken up the position of Junior Development Officer following the establishment of the Junior Development Commission which became possible after the arrangements for the Australian Sugar Industry sponsorship. That has been another change but a certain change for the better. Finally, following a report on the administration of the Union commissioned by the Board by Management consultants W.D. Scott & Co., Mr. Tony Lahy has been appointed in the office and he will take over the duties formerly undertaken by Mrs. Davey of whom we were grateful but as Tony will be working full time he will also be responsible for all office management. Those changes were certainly significant but were they sufficiently significant to ensure the continued progress of this Union. In May, 1984 we had what we were all agreed to label as exciting the "Athletics Towards 2000" Seminar. There is little doubt that all who attended that seminar left Canberra in a wave of euphoria vowing to undertake all sorts of changes and introduce new aspects. It can be said fairly I think that the outcome of that seminar was a big factor in the negotiations of the Australian Sugar Industry sponsorship and the establishment of the Junior Development Commission. That is, of course, the most important step forward in the development of Australian athletics and the Sugar Industry is to be commended for its initiative in undertaking such a move. It is up to us to ensure that the Australian Sugar Industry receives our absolute support in the Junior Development Commission and other initiatives developed as a result of this sponsorship so that we may ensure that that sponsorship continues and that the reputation that we gain as good supporters of our sponsors enables us to gain sponsorships for other ventures. When I spoke last year I said that it seems to me that the overwhelming opinion from the "Athletics Towards 2000" Seminar was that we must become a national united body - a Union - and not a hopscotch collection of separate bodies. I said that we must take the lead in the formation of a controlling body for Australian athletics, that body comprising representatives from Little Athletics, our AAU and the Veterans, the so-called professional body and the road runners body. We must look at our format of competition so that

we cater for all classes of athletes from the Olympian down to the mug and to the recreational runner. We have proceeded along the line proposed there in some sort of fashion during the year. We have admitted the professional athletes to our competition to State Championship level. We had the President of the Australian Little Athletics Union with us at our last Congress and I am delighted that he and his Secretary will be with us today. The World Veteran Championships are to be held in Melbourne in November, 1987 and the Organising Committee for that body will be working out of our office in Moonee Ponds so we will have great co-operation there and it is great to see Peg Smith with us. We have had another meeting with the major fun run organisers and at its last meeting the Board asked Mr. Col Stubbings to take whatever steps he could to prepare recommendations to the Board to ensure that there is greater co-operation between our Union and their organisations. Since our last Congress the growth of roadrunning has been enormous in Australia and organisations quite separate from ours are springing up and will continue to spring up throughout the country. From the point of view of recreational activity on the part of Australian citizens this is great. From the point of view of an administrative structure and organisation of the sport in the country it is absolutely absurd. By this I do not mean to criticise the organisers of these events. They are doing what they honestly believe is the right thing to do and they are catering for what is quite obviously what recreational runners and even serious runners want in the mid 80's. But these people who take part in these events should also have the opportunity to compete at a higher level if they wish to. They should be able to compete in a state championship, in a national championship, in an Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and Pacific Conference Games and any other meet that is held anywhere in the world so we must ask ourselves 'why do these people form separate organisations and why don't the people join our organisation'. I say it is because we are not presenting to people the type of competition and activity which they desire these days. So it is paramount that within the next twelve months we make every effort to ensure that fun run organisations and road runners organisations and the Union are proceeding in the same direction, hand in hand. We have the identical aims and purposes in our organisations and we must be not only compatible but married and not living in a *de facto* situation as we are now. That to me is the most serious aspect confronting this Union at the present time. We must take more positive steps towards the formation of a controlling body of Australian athletics. I think also that we must continue a close examination of an administrative structure not only of the Union but of its Member Association with the ultimate aim of the elimination, which is not a good word, of State Associations in their present form and the establishment of the one AAU throughout Australia. We have talked about this for two years. We talked about it at the "Athletics Towards 2000" Seminar but regretfully we have not taken one step forward in that direction. Perhaps that may be regarded as a criticism of what I have done in office and if that is so I accept that but I must also say that I find a singular lack of desire upon anybody else to move toward that. It is so sensible that it is almost ridiculous to continue to talk about it. The Australian Sugar Industry Sponsorship could never have been gained to the extent that it was by one Association and the market place is wide open for our sport to be packaged and sold to sponsors to the mutual benefit of the sponsor and the Union. I cannot see how this can happen unless we are an integrated organisation working together so I appeal to delegates to go back home and to continue, or perhaps start, thinking along those lines. I am pleased to note that our mutual relationships with the Australian Track & Field Coaches Association are now in a much better shape than they were some years ago. I am delighted to be able to report to you that the World Cup in Canberra in a few weeks will be a highly successful meeting. Hopefully at this stage it will be financially viable. It will not be as financially beneficial to the Union as I had hoped twelve months ago. but nonetheless the fact that the event has been held here is going to create a lot of interest in the sport and I look forward to hearing from Brian Roe later in the Congress about the latest situation. I am delighted also to be able to welcome the President of the New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association to the Congress. I was delighted to accept

an invitation from the New Zealand Association to attend their annual meeting last year and it is very pleasing to see Arthur who, I must add, is an excellent representative of Oceania at the IAAF Council Meetings, to the meeting. I pay tribute to the Board of Management for the excellent work during the year and the many, many hours which they have devoted to the administration of the sport within Australia. There is a lot of work on the Board's table. They do it cheerfully, not always in complete agreement and I think that that is a good thing but they give of their time freely and I guess I should emphasise that word, and to good effect. The General Manager has had a very busy year. We have had athletes competing at nine international meetings since the last Congress and there is an enormous amount of work involved in that and he was busily engaged with negotiations for the Australian Sugar Industry sponsorship and with other marketing matters. His loyalty to this Union is something that must never be overlooked nor must the loyalty and dedication of our hardworking staff who often work beyond the bounds of what might be reasonably expected of them and on your behalf I wish to pay tribute to them.

Thank you. I trust that we have a fruitful Congress. I trust that we debate each matter and we follow each election sensibly and with one thought in mind, the development of Australian athletics as a whole.

I wish you well in your deliberations.

5. READING AND CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 1984 ANNUAL CONGRESS

5.1 It was resolved that the Minutes of the 1984 Annual Congress be adopted as a true and correct record.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE 1984 ANNUAL CONGRESS

6.1 A motion was put by Mr. C.D. Lee (NSW), seconded by Mrs. F.E. Wrighter (NSW) that Minute 13.50 and Minute 13.50.1 recorded in the Minutes of the 1984 Annual Congress be rescinded.

6.1.1 The motion was lost.

7. READING AND CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 1985 EXTRA ORDINARY CONGRESS

7.1 It was resolved that the Minutes of the 1985 Extra Ordinary Congress be adopted as a true and correct record.

8. SPECIAL BUSINESS

8.1 A motion was put by Mr. C.D. Lee (NSW), seconded by Mrs. F.E. Wrighter (NSW) that notwithstanding Law 4.7.3 that all assets and liabilities of the Australian Athletic Union be transferred to the incorporated body known as Australian Athletic Union as of this date.

8.1.1 The motion was carried.

8.2 A motion was put by Mr. D.C. Lee (NSW), seconded by Mrs. F.E. Wrighter (NSW) that this unincorporated body be dissolved as of the date hereof.

8.2.1 The motion was carried.

The President declared the Congress closed and the Australian Athletic Union dissolved.