

THE AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION OF AUSTRALIA

Minutes of
Proceedings of the
Extra-Ordinary Congress
July 1978

Sponsored by

THE COMMONWEALTH BANKING
CORPORATION

THE AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION OF AUSTRALIA

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

Amateur Athletic Association of New South Wales	(founded 1887)
Victorian Amateur Athletic Association	(founded 1891)
Queensland Amateur Athletic Association	(founded 1895)
Tasmanian Amateur Athletic Association	(founded 1902)
South Australian Amateur Athletic Association	(founded 1905)
Western Australian Amateur Athletic Association	(founded 1905 disbanded 1908 reformed 1928)
Victorian Women's Amateur Athletic Association	(founded 1929)
Queensland Women's Amateur Athletic Association	(founded 1929 disbanded 1940 reformed 1948)
New South Wales Women's Amateur Athletic Association	(founded 1932)
Western Australian Women's Amateur Athletic Association	(founded 1936 disbanded 1942 reformed 1946)
South Australian Women's Amateur Athletic Association	(founded 1937)
Tasmanian Women's Amateur Athletic Association	(founded 1937 disbanded 1940 reformed 1951)

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE

OF

THE UNION

HELD AT

MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

ON

15th and 16th JULY, 1978

SPONSORED BY

THE COMMONWEALTH BANKING CORPORATION

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THE AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION OF AUSTRALIA

Minutes of the Extraordinary Conference of the Union held at the Commodore Motel, Queen's Road, Melbourne on Saturday and Sunday, 15th and 16th July, 1978.

First Session	-	Saturday, July 15	-	10.10 a.m. to 12.00 noon
Second Session	-	Saturday, July 15	-	1.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Third Session	-	Sunday, July 16	-	9.20 a.m. to 12.50 p.m.

There were present:

Officers: President - A.W. McDonald, Q.C.; Vice Presidents - T.C. Blue, R.M. Durie; Executive Director - R.W. Pannell; Secretary - A.L. Morrison; Honorary Treasurer - E.J. Sumner.

Delegates: New South Wales - Mrs.F. Wrighter, B.E.M., R.M. Durie, C.D. Lee
Queensland - Mrs.S. McMinn, A.M., T.C. Blue, J.D. Bailey.
South Australia - Mrs.W. Ey, B.E.M, M.R. Aitken, E.R. Graham
Tasmania - Mrs.M. Ebzery, O.A.M., G.T. Briggs, N.J. Ruddock
Victoria - Mrs.M. Mahoney, G.A. James, F.P. Larkins
Western Australia - Mrs.V. Hancock, G. Tempest, F.T. Treacy, O.B.E.

Life Members: Mesdames M. Robinson, M.B.E., M. Cahill, J. Bonwick, M. McQuiston, B.E.M., D.I. Magee, M.B.E.; Misses N. Gould, B.E.M., M.L. Neville; Messrs. C.R. Aitken, C.B.E., C.H. Gardiner.

* * * * *

1. The President declared open the Extraordinary Conference of the Union and it was resolved that the notice convening the meeting be taken as read.

2. The President drew attention to the fact that, through an oversight, the word "Annual" had not been deleted from Law 196. It was resolved that the Secretary correct this by deleting the word in the Handbook as a clerical amendment.

The President formally welcomed the Executive Director, Mr. R.W. Pannell, to the meeting and advised that the Administration Committee had recently appointed Mr. Pannell to the position.

3. MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAD BEEN GIVEN

3.1 General Amendments to Constitution Laws (Agenda item 1)

3.1.1. It was agreed to deal with each point listed under this heading separately.

3.1.2 It was resolved that where the word 'Conference' appears in a law the law be amended by substituting the word 'Congress'.

3.1.3 It was resolved that where the word 'he' appears in a law the law be amended by substituting the words 'he or she'.

3.1.4 It was resolved that where the word 'him' appears in a law the law be amended by substituting the words 'him or her'.

3.1.5 It was resolved that where the word 'himself' appears in a law the law be amended by substituting the words 'himself or herself'.

3.1.6 It was resolved that where the word "schoolboy/s" appears in a law the law be amended by substituting the words "schoolboy/s or schoolgirl/s"/

3.1.7 It was resolved that the proposal to amend 'Secretary' (when it refers to the Secretary of the Union) to read 'Administrative Officer' be not adopted.

3.1.8 It was agreed that the remaining two items listed under this heading be deferred until later in the meeting. (See Minute 3.14).

3.2 Law 107 (Agenda item 2)

It was resolved that the law be amended by deleting the words "the Members of the Union" and substituting "Congress". Law 107, as amended, will read:

"107. The Headquarters of the Union shall be at such a place as the Congress shall from time to time determine".

3.3 Law 111 (Agenda item 3)

It was resolved that Law 111 be deleted.

3.4 Law 118 (Agenda item 4)

It was resolved that paragraph (1) of the law be deleted.

3.5 Law 124 (Agenda item 5)

It was resolved that the existing law be deleted and the following substituted:

"124.1. The honorary officers of the Union shall be a President and three Vice-Presidents, at least one of whom shall be a woman nominated by a State Women's Association and at least one of whom shall be a man nominated by a State Men's Association, together with a Treasurer. In respect of the offices of President and Vice-Presidents, no two men shall be members of the same State Men's Association and no two women shall be members of the same State Women's Association".

124.2. Such officers shall be elected at the Annual Congress, not necessarily from among delegates, and shall hold office until the thirtieth day of April following the next ensuing Annual Congress, or until a successor is elected as hereinafter provided.

124.3 Neither the President nor the Treasurer shall act as a delegate at Congress, nor exercise a deliberative vote."

3.6 Law 125 (Agenda item 6)

The motion that this law be deleted and the following substituted was not adopted:

"125. The Vice-President polling the highest number of votes shall be deemed to be the Senior Vice-President unless he or she decline the position. In such an event, or if no election be required, the matter shall be resolved by the Congress. The Senior Vice-President shall be empowered to act in substitution for the President during any period of absence by the President."

3.7 It was resolved that standing orders be suspended and the meeting deal with item 15 on the Agenda.

3.8 Law 130 (Agenda item 15)

It was resolved that the law be deleted and the following substituted:

"130. The general management of the Union between Congresses shall be vested in a Board of Management (hereinafter referred to as "the Board"). The Board shall be responsible to and subject to the directions of Congress. It shall comprise of a Chairman who shall be the President of the Union, and seven other members, at least two of whom shall be men nominated by a State Men's Association and at least two of whom shall be women nominated by a State Women's Association.

130.2 The Board shall appoint from among its members an Executive Committee comprising the Chairman, one woman and one man.

130.3 The Board shall meet at least twice in each year.

130.4 At a meeting of the Board four members shall constitute a quorum.

130.5 The Chairman of the Board shall have a deliberative and a casting vote."

3.9 Law 130A (Agenda item 16)

It was resolved that the following new law be adopted:

"130A. Members of the Board shall be elected annually and serving members shall be eligible for re-election."

3.10 Law 130B (Agenda item 17)

The motion that the following new law 130B be inserted was not adopted:

"130B 1. The Chairman of the Board shall be elected annually at Congress from amongst the members of the new Board.

130B 2. The Chairman shall have power to act on behalf of the Union in accordance with the Constitution and the policy defined by Congress."

3.11 Law 130D (Agenda item 18)

It was resolved that the following new law be adopted:

"130D. The following shall be the duties of the Board of Management:

- (a) To conduct the affairs of the Union through the salaried officers in accordance with the Constitution and Union policy determined by Congress.
- (b) To appoint and determine the duties of the salaried officers in accordance with the guidelines in the Constitution.
- (c) To deal with all matter referred to it by Congress.
- (d) To amend, in accordance with the Constitution, the Competition Rules of the Union
- (e) To be responsible for the conduct of all championships of Australia.
- (f) To determine the policy and criteria of selection of Australian teams after receiving the recommendations of the Selection Committee.
- (g) To deal with all matters relating to Australian international teams and athletes.
- (h) To direct and receive reports of standing committees as provided for in the Constitution and distribute them to Associations.
- (i) To appoint ad hoc committees as required to report on specific matters.

- (j) To consider and if appropriate approve Australian record applications.
- (k) To report on its activities to each meeting of Congress.
- (l) To consult the Treasurer on all matters pertaining to finance."

3.12 Law 182 (Agenda item 46)

- (i) It was moved that the law be amended by deleting "A Special Selection Committee of the Union" from the first sentence and substituting "The Board".

An amendment that "Board" be replaced by "Executive of the Board" was defeated. The original motion was also defeated.

- (ii) It was resolved that the law be amended by deleting "and the Australian Women's A.A.U." throughout.

3.13 It was resolved that standing orders be resumed in order to deal with deferred items.

3.14 General Amendments to Constitution Laws (Agenda item 1)

3.14.1 It was resolved that where the words "Executive Committee" appear in a law the law be amended by substituting the words "the Board".

3.14.2 It was resolved that where the words "Administration Committee" appear in a law the law be amended by substituting the words "the Board".

3.15 Law 125A (Agenda item 7)

It was resolved that the following new law be adopted:

"125A. The Vice-Presidents shall not have ex-officio powers within the Union. However they shall not be excluded from election to the Board or to any committee of the Union or as delegates of the Union to other organisations by virtue of their positions as honorary officers of the Union".

3.16 Law 125B (Agenda item 8)

It was resolved that the following new law be adopted:

"125B. The following shall be the power of the Congress:

- (a) To elect honorary officers, life members, the Board of Management, standing committees, trustees and delegates to and representative on other organisations and bestow merit awards in accordance with the Constitution.
- (b) To amend Constitution Laws and General Rules.
- (c) To receive and consider for adoption reports from the Board of Management.
- (d) To receive and consider for adoption audited financial statements.
- (e) To adopt a budget for the ensuing year.
- (f) To determine Union policy on matters pertaining to amateur athletics and give direction to the Board of Management.

3.17 Law 128 (Agenda item 9)

It was resolved that consideration of item 9 on the Agenda Law 128 (a) to (f) stand over to the 1978 Half-Yearly Congress.

3.18 Law 128 (Agenda item 10)

It was resolved to delete the existing paragraph (h) and substitute the following;

"(h). A Selection Committee which shall, until the 1980 Congress, consist of three men and three women."

3.19 Law 128 (Agenda item 11)

It was resolved that paragraph (ff) be deleted and the following substituted:

"(ff). An Honorary Statistician whose duties shall be to gather detailed results of all senior track and field, cross country, road running and road walking competitions and to compile for publication in the Union Almanac Australian ranking lists for senior track and field events and list outstanding performances in senior cross-country, road running and road walking events."

3.20 Law 128 (Agenda item 12)

It was resolved that paragraph (i) be deleted.

3.21 Law 128 (Agenda item 13)

It was resolved that paragraph (g) be amended by inserting after the words "Two Delegates" the words "one man and one woman until the 1981 Congress. The paragraph, as amended, will read:

"(g). Two Delegates, one man and one woman until the 1981 Congress, not necessarily from among the Congress delegates, to each of the Australian Olympic Federation and the Australian Commonwealth Games Association. Nominations for these positions....."

3.22 Law 129A (Agenda item 14)

It was resolved that the following new law be adopted:

"129A. The ballot for the election of honorary officers, members of committees and persons to be delegates of the Union, as referred to and provided in Laws 124, 125, 128, 129, 130 and 132, together with the election for such other posts and positions as may be determined from time to time by the Union at Congress, shall be a secret exhaustive ballot."

3.23 Law 131 (Agenda item 19)

It was resolved that the law be deleted and the following substituted:

"131.1 The salaried officers of the Union shall be a National Executive Director, a National Technical and Coaching Director, a Secretary and such office staff as may be determined from time to time by the Board."

131.2 A National Executive Director shall be appointed by and be responsible to the Board. His or her duties shall be:

- To prepare development programmes and co-ordinate and implement same in liaison with State Associations.

- To promote athletics, as distinct from administration.
- To prepare and disseminate promotional publications.
- To be responsible for publicity and public relations.
- To attend National Championships and assist in the promotion and publicising of same.
- To attend all Union Congresses.
- To co-ordinate State activities and liaise with States.
- To deal with licences and endorsements.
- To attend to such other duties as may be determined from time to time by Congress and/or the Board."

131.3 A National and Coaching Director shall be appointed by the Board and shall be responsible to the National Executive Director.

131.4 A Secretary shall be appointed by and be responsible to the Board."

3.24 It was resolved that consideration of the duties of the National Technical and Coaching Director be deferred until the 1978 Half-yearly Congress.

3.25 It was resolved that the National Executive Director and the Secretary prepare a submission relating to the duties of the Secretary for consideration by the 1978 Half-yearly Congress.

3.26 Law 135 (Agenda item 20)

It was resolved that the law be amended by adding the words "or earlier if directed by the Board" after the words "three months" in the third line; deleting "the President and the Secretary" and substituting "the Board". The law, as amended, will read:

"135. Delegates from the Union to any other organisation and managers and persons whose duty it is to make reports to the Union shall within three months, or earlier if directed by the Board, of any meeting of such other organisation or occasion in respect of which a report should be made, submit to the Union a written report. A copy of such report, or of extracts therefrom, shall within a further period of one month be forwarded by the Secretary to each Association unless considered inadvisable to do so by the Board. In such case the report will be submitted to the following Congress of the Union for consideration and appropriate action."

3.27 Law 137 (Agenda item 21)

It was resolved that on appointment of the Board, sub-paragraph (a) be deleted.

3.28 Law 138 (Agenda item 22)

It was resolved that the law be amended by inserting after the word "Treasurer" the words "the Board". The relevant part of the law, as amended, will read:

"nominations for the offices of President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, the Board and all statutory committees of the Union shall be in writing....."

3.29 Law 138 (Agenda item 23)

It was resolved that the law be amended by inserting the words "of the Board or" after "or for membership" and deleting the words "only by Associations" and inserting "by Associations or Life Members....." The relevant part of the law, as amended, will read:

"Nominations for the offices of President, Vice-Presidents or Treasurer of the Union, or for membership of the Board or of the Union Statutory Committees.....may be made by Associations or Life Members....."

3.30 Law 141 (Agenda item 24)

It was resolved that the law be deleted and the following substituted:

"141. In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Board between Annual Congresses, nominations shall be invited from Associations and a successor shall be elected at the next Congress. Nominations shall close twenty-one days before the holding of such Congress."

3.31 Law 143 (Agenda item 25)

It was resolved that the law be amended by deleting the words "the President and the Secretary" and substituting "the Board". The law, as amended, will read:

"143. In the event of the Secretary or the Treasurer being absent from Australia or being unable for a period to carry out his duties the Board shall appoint an Acting Secretary or Acting Treasurer as may be required."

3.32 Law 144 (Agenda item 26)

A proposal that the law and the heading be deleted was withdrawn.

3.33 Law 145 (Agenda item 27)

A proposal that the law be deleted was withdrawn.

3.34 Law 151 (Agenda item 28)

It was resolved that on the appointment of the Board the law be deleted.

3.35 Law 157 (Agenda item 29)

A motion that the law be deleted and the following substituted was lost.

"157. The Annual Congress of the Union shall be held at Melbourne during the week-end which includes the third Saturday of the month of September in each year."

3.36 Agenda items 30 - 42 (Laws 124, 126, 146, 148, 152, 156, 163, 163A, 158, 162, 162A, and 164), being consequential to Law 157, were withdrawn.

3.37 Law 167 (Agenda item 43)

It was resolved that the law be amended by deleting the words "and the Secretary" and inserting "or the Board". The law, as amended, will read:

"167. An Extraordinary Congress of the Union shall be held between Congresses either on the President or the Board deciding that such Congress is required or on three Associations notifying the Secretary in writing of the requirement that such Congress be held."

3.38 Law 168 (Agenda item 44)

It was resolved that the law be amended by deleting "and the Secretary" and substituting "or the Board". The law, as amended, will read:

"168. The matters to be considered at an Extraordinary Congress shall be those raised by the President or the Board when so calling the Conference.....aforesaid matters."

3.39 Law 171 (Agenda item 45)

It was resolved that on the Board being established Law 171 be deleted.

3.40 Law 183 (Agenda item 47)

It was resolved that the law be amended by deleting the word "British" in the second line and also the fourth sentence "The Australian Women's A.A.U..... staff position."

3.41 Law 184 (Agenda item 48)

A motion that the first sentence of the law be amended by inserting after the word "Australia" the words "and the Women's Track and Field Championships of Australia" was withdrawn.

3.42 Law 185 (Agenda item 49)

3.42.1 A motion that the first sentence of the law be amended by inserting after the word "Australia" the words "and the Women's Junior Track and Field Championships of Australia" was withdrawn.

3.42.2 It was resolved to delete the second sentence of Law 185 reading "A Junior for the purpose of these Championships shall be an athlete who is under the age of nineteen years on the date of his event" and substitute a new Law 190A to read as follows:

"190A. A male junior for the purpose of Championships of Australia shall be an athlete who is under the age of nineteen years on the date of his event. A female junior for the purpose of Championships of Australia shall be an athlete who is under the age of eighteen years on the date of her event."

3.43 Law 186 (Agenda item 50)

It was resolved that the law be amended to read:

"186. The Marathon Championship of Australia for Men shall be held annually."

3.44 Law 186A (Agenda item 51)

It was resolved that the following new law be adopted:

"186A. The 12,000 Metres Cross Country Championship of Australia for Men and the 5,000 Metres Cross Country Championship of Australia for Women shall be annually."

3.45 Law 186B (Agenda item 52)

It was resolved that the following new law be adopted:

"186B. The 8,000 Meters Junior Cross Country Championship of Australia for Men and the 3,000 Metres Junior Cross Country Championship of Australia for Women shall be held annually."

3.46 It was resolved to adjourn without debate until the 1978 Half-yearly Congress a motion from the floor that the following new law be adopted:

"186C. A 1500 Metres Sub-Junior Cross Country Championship of Australia for Women shall be held annually."

3.47 The President ruled that all 1978 Australian Championship events which had already been planned and organised are valid.

3.48 Laws 187 and 188 (Agenda item 53)

It was resolved that the existing laws be deleted and the following substituted:

"187. The 20 Kilometres Road Walk Championships of Australia for Men shall be held biennially in each even numbered year."

"188. The 50 Kilometres Road Walk Championship of Australia for Men and the Junior 10 Kilometres Road Walk Championship of Australia for Men shall be held biennially in each odd numbered year."

3.49 Law 188A (Agenda item 54)

It was resolved that the following new law be adopted:

"188A. The 5,000 Metres Road Walk Championship of Australia for Women and the Junior 3,000 Metres Road Walk Championship of Australia for Women shall be held annually."

3.50 Law 188B (Agenda item 55)

It was resolved that discussion on the following proposed new law be adjourned until the 1978 Half-yearly Congress:

"188B. The 3 x 3000 Metres Road Relay Championship of Australia for Women and the Junior 3 x 2000 Metres Road Relay Championship of Australia for Women shall be held annually."

3.51 General Rule 210

It was resolved at this stage to refer to General Rule 210. It was resolved that:

"Championships of Australia be held in the following events:

For Men: 100 metres, 200 metres, 400 metres, 800 metres, 1500 metres, 5000 metres, 10000 metres, 3000 metres walk, 110 metres hurdles, 400 metres hurdles, 3000 metres steeplechase, long jump, triple jump, high jump, pole vault, shot put, discus throw, javelin throw, hammer throw, decathlon, 400 metres relay, 1600 metres relay.

For Women: 100 metres, 200 metres, 400 metres, 800 metres, 1500 metres, 3000 metres, 5000 metres walk, 100 metres hurdles, 400 metres hurdles, long jump, high jump, shot put, discus throw, javelin throw, pentathlon, 400 metres relay, 1600 metres relay.

Junior Championships of Australia shall be held in the following events:

For Men: 100 metres, 200 metres, 400 metres, 800 metres, 1500 metres, 5000 metres, 3000 metres walk, 110 metres hurdles, 400 metres hurdles, 2000 metres steeplechase, long jump, triple jump, pole vault, shot put, discus throw, javelin throw, hammer throw, decathlon, 400 metres relay, 1600 metres relay.

For Women: 100 metres, 200 metres, 400 metres, 800 metres, 1500 metres, 3000 metres, 3000 metres walk, 100 metres hurdles, 400 metres hurdles, long jump, high jump, shot put, discus throw, javelin throw, pentathlon, 400 metres relay, 1600 metres relay."

3.52 Law 128 (Agenda item 9)

It was resolved that the matters listed under item 9 on the Agenda be adjourned to the 1978 Half-yearly Congress and that the convenor of each committee be requested to ensure that a woman be invited to serve as a co-opted member of that committee.

3.53 Law 188C (Agenda item 56)

It was moved that a new law reading as follows be adopted:

"188C. In a case where both a men's association and a women's association in the same State are affiliated with the Union, the men's association shall not be entitled to enter an official team for a women's championship event nor shall a women's association enter an official team for a men's championship event. Either association may enter individual competitors who have reached the qualifying standard for the event, if any, during the prescribed period."

Various amendments were moved and it was resolved that the following be adopted:

"188C. In a case where two Associations in the same State are affiliated with the Union, the Women's Association shall be the only one entitled to enter an official team for a Women's Championship event, but both Associations are entitled to enter women as individual competitors provided that such competitors have reached the qualifying standard, if any, for the particular event during the prescribed period."

3.54 Laws 189 and 189A. (Agenda item 57)

It was resolved that the existing laws be deleted and the following substituted:

"189. The Union at each Annual Congress held in an odd numbered year and at each Annual Congress held in an even numbered year shall allocate the championships which are due to be held in the next odd numbered year or even numbered year respectively, each to an Association or Associations. The Association or Associations to which a championship is so allocated shall seek approval for the date and venue of such championship at the next succeeding Congress".

3.55 Law 198 (Agenda item 58)

It was resolved that the existing law be deleted and following substituted:

"198.1 Amendments to General (including Competition) Rules formulated under this Constitution may be effected at a Congress of the Union or by a mail vote of Associations.

198.2 The Competition Rules may be also amended at a meeting of the Board either on the Board's own initiative or in consequence of a proposal submitted by an Association to the Secretary."

3.56 Law 199 (Agenda item 58)

A motion to delete Law 199 and substitute the following new law lapsed:

"198.3 An amendment proposed by an Association shall be specific and shall refer to the article and paragraph concerned, specifying the words to be deleted and the words (if any) to be inserted and shall then quote the paragraph sought to be amended or the relevant portion of such paragraph, as it would appear if amended."

3.57 Term of Office of Honorary Officers etc.(Agenda item 59 & 60)

These motions lapsed in consequence of the defeat of the motion set out in Agenda item 29 (Minute 3.35).

3.58 Election of the Board:

It was resolved that notwithstanding other provisions of the Constitution the first Board shall be elected at the 1978 Half-yearly Congress, to hold office until the 1979 Annual Congress, and that nominations close for positions on the Board on the 21st August 1978. Such nominations are to notified to Association by the 30th August 1978.

3.59 Notices of Motion:

It was resolved that notwithstanding other provisions of the Constitution notices of motion for the 1978 Half-yearly Congress be accepted by the 14th August and notified to Associations by the 23rd August 1978.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS4.1 Vice Presidents:

It was resolved that Mrs. M. Robinson's positions as Vice-President be confirmed and acknowledged by the Union.

4.2 Executive and Administration Committees:

It was resolved that notwithstanding the provisions of the Constitution the Executive Committee and the Administration Committee shall continue in office until the election of the Board at the 1978 Half-yearly Congress.

4.3 1979 Track and Field Championships:

It was resolved that the Technical Committee be asked to consider the programme for the Championships as submitted by the Western Australian Organising Committee, further consider Law 211 and report to the 1978 Half-yearly Congress.

4.4 Congress:

It was resolved that the 1978 Half-yearly Congress be held on Saturday and Sunday, 16th and 17th September, 1978.

4.5 President's Report:

The President reported on matters dealt with by the Administration Committee:

- a) Appointment of the National Executive Director.
- b) An advertisement for a National Technical and Coaching Director had been placed in newspapers in all Australian States and selected overseas countries.
- c) Associations had been informed of assurances required by the Union in respect of sponsorship etc. before it would issue invitations for overseas athletes to compete at meetings in Australia.
- d) Mrs. June Cann of June Cann Management, Sydney, had been appointed as consultant to act for the Union in negotiations for sponsorship involving the use of athletes for advertising.

4.6 World Cross Country - Selection:

The Selectors had been asked to establish criteria for the selection of the Cross Country Team for the 1979 I.A.A.F Cross Country Championships. It was resolved that criteria and the question of sending a women's team be referred to the Executive Committee for decision.

4.7 Selection Committee:

It was resolved that the election of a new Selection Committee be conducted at the 1978 Half-yearly Congress and that nominations be called for on the same basis as had been decided for the election of the Board; this Selection Committee to remain in office until the 1979 Annual Congress.

4.8 Report by the Executive Director:

Mr. Pannell referred to the use of athletes for advertising in terms of the I.A.A.F Rules, but stressed that they would not be expected to participate if unwilling so to do.

In reply to a question by Mr. Lee, the Secretary reported that the I.A.A.F had not replied to a request for a ruling on the suggestion that the benefit of the relevant rule might be extended to affiliated associations and clubs.

Mr. Pannell requested information from Associations on any approaches made by them to potential sponsors so that the Union could avoid any clash with State sponsorship. He requested that State Associations discuss with him the question of air travel and gave a brief outline of a proposed agreement.

4.9 Australian Winter Championships 1979:

The following dates were confirmed for Winter Championships 1979:

Cross Country, Saturday, 8th September
 Women's Road Relays, Sunday, 9th September
 Women's Road Walking, 8th and 9th September
 Men's Road Walks, 11th August
 Marathon, 12th August.

4.10 Women's Cross Country Team:

The Secretary announced that Rosemary Bell (NSW), Diane Chettle (Vic) (Captain), Lois Bickley (Vic), Linda Cox (NSW), Ann Lord (Vic) and Kathryn Wilkinson (Vic) have been selected to compete in New Zealand on the 12th August 1978.

4.11 Standards for Women's Track and Field Championships:

It was agreed that women's standards for Australian Track and Field Championships be distributed to all Associations.

4.12 1979 Annual Congress:

Mr. Treacy stressed the importance of making early payment of deposits for accommodation in respect of the 1979 Annual Congress.

4.13 Women's Cross Country Match versus New Zealand:

A.A.A. of N.S.W. delegates raised the question of the women's team just announced to compete in New Zealand - all Associations had not been notified of the trials and method of selection. An explanation was received that arrangements made prior to the amalgamation of the Unions were to stand. However, it was noted that in future all Associations were to be informed on all such matters.

4.14 1978 Cross Country Championships:

Mrs. F. Wrighter asked all States entering teams in the Australian Cross Country Championships to endeavour to use the same flights in order to facilitate transport.

4.15 Australia versus New Zealand:

The Secretary stressed the importance of conducting an Australia v New Zealand Track and Field Match in Australia during the 1978/79 season. It was resolved that the National Executive Director and the Secretary investigate this matter and Associations be asked to co-operate with plans in this regard.

5. PRESENTATION TO C. RONALD AITKEN, C.B.E.:

At the conclusion of business on the first day of the Congress the President referred to the fact that at the 1977 Conference of the Union it had been intended to make a presentation to the then President of the Union, Mr. C. Ronald Aitken, C.B.E., upon his impending retirement from the position of President. In view of the distressing event that had occurred at that time it had not been possible to proceed with the presentation as planned. The President called upon the Senior Vice-President Mr. T.C. Blue, to make the presentation to Mr. Aitken. Mr. Blue then rose and made the following remarks:

"Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are gathered here to-day mainly, of course, to deal with matter appertaining to the Conference, but would also like to take the opportunity of paying tribute to Ron Aitken and the immense contribution he has made to Track and Field Athletics throughout Australia.

I have been told that to become involved in amateur sporting administration one has to be a little crazy....if this is so, then Ron Aitken must be a little crazier than most, as over many years he has dedicated an enormous amount of time, effort and energy to promoting, fostering and administering Track and Field Athletics and he has made our sport and our Union a force to contend with in the amateur sporting world.

Being National President can be a difficult, thankless task to say the least and frequently decisions must be made - in the best interests of the sport - which may be unpopular in some quarters. Ron has never wavered, nor turned away from a difficult situation - and I am sure there have been many over his long term of service. He has brought his expertise and wealth of knowledge to our aid on countless occasions and his has been the final decision on many contentious, controversial matters.

Ron has worked unceasingly to up-grade facilities and his liaison with top Federal and State officials has been of tremendous benefit in ensuring that the best possible venues and conditions were available to our athletes at all levels of competition. Indeed, he can be gratified to know that, due to his efforts to a large degree, Australia can boast of athletic tracks in most States equal to the best in the world.

In all aspects, we in the sport, competitors and officials alike, have been extremely lucky to have had a man of the stature of Ron Aitken to head our National body.

When Ron informed us in Hobart last year that he would not be standing for re-election as President I was approached by delegates from all States with a request that I arrange a suitable presentation for him as a small token of our gratitude and appreciation for the assistance he has rendered to all State Associations and the immeasurable contribution he has made to the Amateur Athletic Union of Australia.

This was a most difficult assignment - but in consultation with Murray and after further reference to each State Association - it was decided that a painting would be the most appropriate token.

Ron - we hope it gives you pleasure - it represents a combined States' appreciation for the great service you have rendered over a long term of office and a measure of our esteem for you personally."

On behalf of the A.A.U. of Australia Mr. Blue presented to Mr. Aitken a landscape oil painting to which all States had contributed.

Mr. Aitken, in accepting the painting, replied and thanked all State Associations and Union officers for their support over many years.

6. A vote of thanks was extended to the Chairman at the conclusion of the business on the second day of the Conference.

The meeting closed at 12.50 p.m.