

ATHLETICS AUSTRALIA

Minutes of the Special General Meeting of Athletics Australia held at Rydges Melbourne Hotel, Exhibition Street, Melbourne on Saturday, 2nd November, 1996.

1. ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS AND DELEGATES

OFFICERS

President	T. Dwyer
Treasurer	J.Z. Makarucha
National Executive Director	N.A. King
Board Secretary	G.A. Rowe

DELEGATES

Australian Capital Territory	D. Wilson	J. Collins
New South Wales	M. Harrison	R. Doubell
Northern Territory	R. Ralph	
Queensland	P. O'Brien	G. Harvey
South Australia	G. Sargent	B. Stanton
Tasmania	N. Ruddock	
Victoria	K. Dynan	M. Scholes
Western Australia	J. Hancy	C. Porter

BOARD MEMBERS

R. Brandis	M. Mahony
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ALSO PRESENT

A. Rice	Australian T & F Coaches Ass
P. Bowman	Australian Institute of Sport
R. Crawford	Athletics NSW
M. Thompson	Athletics Victoria
P. Spring	ACT Athletics
M. Thompson	ACT Athletics
K. Sharp	Athletics Victoria
S. Hampstead	Athletics NSW
J. O'Meara	Queensland Athletics
B. Bailey	SOCOG

STAFF PRESENT

B. Roe	Competitions Manager
D. Culbert	Media Liaison Manager
M. Favier	National Development Manager
S. Culbert	Competition Officer
F. Anstee	Accountant
D. Booth	Media Liaison Officer
K. Clifford	Administration Assistant
J. Hellwig	Development Officer
L. Grigg	Development Officer

VISITORS

Y. Mullins	Athletics North Queensland
J. Minehane	Athletics North Queensland
J. Gaviglio	Athletics North Queensland
S. Baker	R. Grant
L. Johnson	R. Lay
H. Lay	

2. NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

- 2.1 In accordance with the Articles of Association of Athletics Australia, a Special General Meeting had been called on 7 October 1996 following the receipt of an Application for Membership of the Federation from Athletics North Queensland. An application is required to be submitted to a General Meeting of the Federation within six months of the application in accordance with Clause 3(e) of the Articles of Association. The application was received at the registered National Office of Athletics Australia on 15 September 1997.

3. PRESENTATION BY APPLICANT

The President invited the representatives from Athletics North Queensland to address the meeting.

The Athletics North Queensland President Ms. Yvonne Mullins.

Ms. Mullins outlined the application, speaking specifically of the clubs in far north Queensland, their isolation, the demography, and the untapped athletic talent in the region. She also spoke of the tyranny of distance, the difficult climatic conditions compared to southern regions, and the expense of traveling to competitions in the south.

Ms. Mullins spoke of the strengths of the northern region, including the experience in conducting events, the high number of well qualified officials, and the significantly high number of registered athletes compared to existing Member Associations. She pointed out that a Member Association in north Queensland could be financially viable and the benefits flowing to members from an anticipated sound level of sponsorship.

Ms. Mullins briefly outlined the difficulties encountered in the past and presently with the operation and administration of Queensland Athletics.

4. RESPONSE FROM QUEENSLAND ATHLETICS

The President invited Queensland Athletics to respond.

The General Manager of Queensland Athletics, Mr. George Harvey.

Mr. Harvey acknowledged the difficulties encountered by the clubs in north Queensland which were primarily brought about by the extremes of distance in the state. He agreed that not all which could be done for the north Queensland clubs had been done, but that there were plans in place for a greater emphasis on regional operations in the future. He refuted some of the claims that the northern clubs had not been as well serviced administratively as the southern clubs.

Mr. Harvey said that the Queensland Board believed that the greatest strength for the future of athletics in Queensland would be if there was a single strong united body. He gave an undertaking to work more closely with all clubs in Queensland in the future.

5. OPEN DISCUSSION

The President opened the floor for questions and discussion.

Mr. Rik Ralph spoke on behalf of Northern Territory Athletics.

Mr. Malcolm Harrison spoke on behalf of Athletics New South Wales.

Questions from Mr. D. Wilson (ACT Athletics), Mr. G. Sargent (Athletics South Australia) were answered by both Ms. Mullins and Mr. Harvey.

Mr. C. Porter made a statement on behalf of the Athletic Association of Western Australia.

6. CONCLUSION

Mr. P. O'Brien (President) closed the discussion on behalf of Queensland Athletics reiterating the preparedness of his Board to work more closely with the clubs in north Queensland to ensure that they were well serviced and that athletics in the region was given every opportunity to flourish.

Ms. Mullins closed the debate on behalf of the applicant (Athletics North Queensland) requesting the Member Associations of Athletics Australia to give serious consideration to this application to provide athletes in the region every opportunity to participate in the sport from a recreational standard to the highest possible level.

7. RESOLUTION

It was noted by the President that the Board of Athletics Australia had determined not to make a recommendation to this Special General Meeting on the application.

Resolved: that following a ballot of the Member Associations that the Application for Membership of Athletics Australia from Athletics North Queensland not be endorsed.

