



Athletics Australia
ABN 72 006 447 294

Minutes of 32nd Annual General Meeting of Athletics Australia held on 28 October 2016, at Athletics House, Catherine Freeman Room, 31 Aughtie Drive, Albert Park Victoria commenced at 11pm

Ordinary Business

1. Apologies and obituaries

The Chair opened the meeting at 11.07am and welcomed Directors, Delegates, Life Governors, Life Members and observers.

Present

Mark Arbib
Jan Swinhoe
Brenda LaPorte
Peter Bromley
Anne Lord
Chris Wardlaw
Jan Swinhoe
John Steffensen

Position

President and Chair Athletics Australia
Vice President, Athletics Australia
Vice President, Athletics Australia
Director, Athletics Australia
Director, Athletics Australia
Director, Athletics Australia
Director, Athletics Australia
Director, Athletics Australia
CEO, Athletics Australia
Company Secretary, Athletics Australia

Delegates

Neil Boden President, Athletics Australian Capital Territory
Mal Harford Director, Athletics Western Australia
Desmond Johnson President, Queensland Athletics
Kevin Mulvahil President, Athletics Northern Territory
Rohan Claffey Vice President, Athletics Victoria (for Heather Ridley)
Shelley Miller President, Athletics Tasmania
Brian White President, Athletics New South Wales
Adam Bishop CEO Athletics South Australia (for Joe Stevens)

External Auditors

Tony Rose Director, Lachlan Nielson Partners

Apologies

Ben Sellenger	Director, Athletics Australia
Denis Wilson	Life Governor
David Prince OAM	Life Governor
Ronda Jenkins	Life Governor
Geoffrey Martin OAM	Life Governor
Clive Lee AM	Life Governor
Wayne Fletcher OAM	Life Member
Janet Nixon	Life Member
Gary Bourne	Life Member
Bob Cruise	Life Member
Tony Rice	Life Member
Trevor Vincent OAM	Life Member

Ian Jones	Life Member
Helen Lee	Life Member
Tony Keynes	Life Member
David Cundy	Life Member
Rosemary Owens	Life Member
Jean Harmeay	Life Member
David Culbert	Life Member
Yvonne Mullins	Oceania Athletics Association Executive Director
Wilma Perkins	Masters Athletics
Joe Stevens	President, Athletics South Australia
Dereck Fineberg	President LAA
David Grace QC	Former president
Heather Ridley	President Athletics Victoria
Nathan Deakes	Former AA Director
Matthew Mahon	IAAF Oceania

The Chair welcomed attendees and gave an Acknowledgement of country paying respect to the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land on which the meeting was being held.

The obituaries were noted by the Chair.

Brian Roe read out the obituaries of the Athletics Australia representatives who had passed away since 1 July 2015. (Attached). A moment of silence was observed in memory of those who had passed.

The Chair noted that in accordance with the Athletics Australia constitution the following members would have the right to be heard on the agenda items under discussion at the Annual General Meeting:

- The member associations
- Associate members
- Life governors
- Life members

2. Minutes of the previous Annual General meeting

The minutes of the 31st Annual General Meeting of Athletics Australia held on 28 November 2015 were adopted and signed by the Chair.

3. President's Report

The President's Report on the affairs of the Company was tabled.

The Chair provided the meeting with the following highlights and acknowledgements:

- 2016 had a significant focus on the Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- The Chair congratulated athletes, coaches, support staff, Head Coach Craig Hilliard and High Performance Director Simon Nathan on their performances leading up to and during the Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- The Chair thanked departing High Performance Director Simon Nathan for his wonderful contribution and wished Simon all the best for the future. It was noted that a search for a replacement High Performance Director had commenced.
- A Strategic mission and vision had been adopted by all State Associations and Little Athletics Australia. The long term vision for Athletics in Australia is;

“One Sport with well-supported, seamlessly connected programs and events delivering a range of conventional and complementary athletic activities to all Australians.”

- The Chair acknowledged the importance of recreational running and noted a Memorandum of Understanding had been signed with parkrun Australia.
- The Chair thanked the Board for their contributions and thanked Nathan Deakes who had served as Athlete Director and had resigned from the Board of Directors in 2016.
- The Chair thanked all involved in the sport from athletes, volunteers, officials and support staff.

4. CEO's Report

The CEO's Report on the affairs of the Company was tabled.

The CEO provided the meeting with the following highlights and acknowledgements:

- The CEO noted the Olympic/Paralympic results in Rio had been very good and an improvement overall on London 2012.
- It was noted the athletes presented themselves well in Rio, particularly in the media zone immediately following their event. The CEO noted the development of a good culture noting the genuine spirit of cooperation in the pre-games training camp in Florida.
- Athletics Australia remains focussed on supporting emerging talent and continuing to invest in the local level.
- The CEO reported that there was likely to be a reduction in government funding in the 16/17 financial year. The importance of developing additional revenue streams to ensure sustainability and less reliance on government funding was noted.
- The competition structure review would produce a joint junior and senior national championships in 2017. The NSW Government was thanked for their support; it is a significant change and positive step for athletics.
- The CEO noted the Strategic Plan was an ongoing rolling plan, reviewed annually. The opportunity for input and feedback will be provided regularly to AA stakeholders.
- It was noted that the majority of recommendations from the Independent Review of Athletics had been implemented or are in the final stages of implementation by AA.
- The Relationship with the ATFCA had not progressed, however discussions continue in good faith and AA hopes that a suitable resolution is reached soon.
- The CEO advised several management changes had occurred in 2016. The management team's commitment to contributing to the development of the sport was noted.
- The CEO thanked the President and Board for their support.

5. Financial Statements and Reports

The financial statements of the Company and its controlled entities and the reports of the directors and auditor for the financial year ended 30 June 2016 were tabled.

6. Election/Ratification of Directors

The Chair reported that Peter Bromley, being eligible, had offered himself for election for a further term in accordance with Clause 28.3 of the Constitution.

The Chair noted that pursuant to clause 25.1 of the Athletics Australia Constitution, it had unanimously been agreed by the Members that Peter Bromley be re-elected as a director of the company in accordance with Clause 28.3 of the Company's Constitution.

The Chair reported that the Members had given due consideration to appoint as Directors of the Company Mr Chris Wardlaw and Mr John Steffensen, who being eligible, had offered themselves for election in accordance with Clause 29.1 of the Constitution.

The Chair reported that pursuant to clause 25.1 of the Athletics Australia Constitution, the voting members had unanimously agreed that Chris Wardlaw and John Steffensen be ratified as directors of the company.

7. Election of Auditors

Pursuant to clause 25.1 of the Athletics Australia Constitution the voting members had unanimously agreed that:

Lachlan Nielson Partners be ratified as the Company's auditor for the 2016-17 financial year.

8. Special Awards

Nominations made by the Special Awards Committee under clause 11.2.1(a) of the Company's By-laws were noted.

Pursuant to clause 25.1 of the Athletics Australia Constitution it was unanimously agreed that:

Life Governorship pursuant to Clause 7.7 of the Athletics Australia Constitution be conferred upon Ian Boswell; and

Life Membership pursuant to Clause 7.7 of the Athletics Australia Constitution be conferred upon Richard Lawysz and Mark Stewart.

9. Other Business

Mr Rob Fildes, former AA President and Life Governor addressed the meeting:

Mr Fildes congratulated the Board on what had been achieved thus far in 2016 and addressed the following points:

- Mr Fildes congratulated Peter Bromley, Chris Wardlaw and John Steffensen on their election/ratification as Directors.
- He wished all the Directors the best in fulfilling their roles and particularly welcomed John Steffensen's return to the sport and wished him all the best.
- The struggles AA had faced to get back on track after some lean years post the 2004 Athens Olympics were noted and Mr Fildes noted the optimistic outlook for the sport going forward.

Life Governor Margaret Mahony also addressed the meeting participants.

Ms Mahony congratulated the Chair on his appointment to the Board of the AOC and addressed the following points:

- An improvement in communication between Athletics Australia and the athletics community particularly with reference to Board reporting was noted by Ms Mahony.
- An update on the Glasgow Review was requested, in particular the implementation of the High Performance Advisory Committee, Athletes Committee and an Honorary Ombudsman.

- Ms Mahony noted that traditionally volunteers had been used, rather than Athletics Australia staff, as team managers for the Australian team. Ms Mahony expressed a view that the use of volunteers in these team manager roles had worked well in the past.
- Ms Mahony requested an update on the recruitment of a new High Performance Director for the AGM attendees; and
- Clarification on the status of the relationship between AA and the AFTCA in delivering Athletics coaching was sought by Ms Mahony.

The Chair thanked Ms Mahony for her comments and he and Phil Jones responded to the following matters raised in Ms Mahony's address;

- Improved communication between AA and the athletics community had already commenced. Summary reports of the minutes of the Board meetings were being provided to Member Associations and in future will be posted on the AA website following each board meeting. In addition, a bulletin from the President will be completed monthly and several new social media initiatives will be implemented in 2017.
- The recommendations from the Glasgow Report had been combined with the recommendations of the Independent Review of Athletics in Australia. The Athletics Review Monitoring Committee, which included members of the AA Board and the Australian Sports Commission would soon provide a report on the overall progress of the recommendations.
- The High Performance Advisory Committee is currently being established to review the HP Director recruitment process and HP Strategy.
- Members of the Athletics Australia Athletes Committee are meeting in two weeks' time to progress the committee's status. A new terms of reference had been drafted in 2016.
- It was noted the search for a replacement High Performance Director had already commenced.
- It was noted Athletics Australia were very keen to work with the ATFCA to develop a future plan for coaching. The Chair noted the need for good faith discussions and compromise.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 12.14 pm.

Signed as a true and correct record.

.....
Chair

.....
Date

ATHLETICS AUSTRALIA – SPECIAL AWARDS COMMITTEE

OBITUARIES

DURING 2014 – 2015 REPORT YEAR

Sylvia Abbott (Vic) – AV Life Member and National Technical Official

DURING 2015 – 2016 REPORT YEAR

James Achurch (NSW) – Commonwealth Champion

Mike Agostini (NSW) – Olympian and Publisher

Phyllis Andersson OAM (Vic) – AA and AV Life Member

Geoff Barclay (Qld) – National Technical Official

Betty (Judge) Beazley (WA) – President AWAAU, World Record Holder (880 yards), National Champion

Jim Beisty (NSW) – Athlete, Coach and Club Administrator

Elvina Brodie (NSW) – ANSW Service Merit Award

John Cheney (TAS) – AT Merit Award

Brenda (Cox) Laidlaw (Qld)

Judy Joy Davies (Vic) – AA Life Member

Lola Downes OAM (Vic) – AV Life Member and National Technical Official

Geoff Grant (Vic) – AV Life Member and National Technical Official

Jurgen Guldberg (SA) - ASA Life Member and National Technical Official

Merv Lincoln (Vic) – Olympian and National Champion

Laurie Hutton (NSW) – AA Life Member and National Team Manager

RK (Reg) Moore (TAS) – AT Merit Award

Graeme Nicholls (Vic) – National Champion

Gordon Noble (Vic)- Commonwealth games Representative

Brian Oliver (WA) – Commonwealth Champion

Keith Ollerenshaw (NSW)

Norm Osborne OAM (Vic) – AA Life Member

Roger Pedrick (SA) - Coach

Duncan Proudfoot (Vic) – AV Life Member and National Technical Official

John Purdie (SA) - ASA Life Member and National Technical Official

Harry Scouller (NSW) – Oceania Champion

Andrew Willis (TAS) – AT Life Member and National Technical Official

Mavis Young (NSW) – ANSW Service Merit Award

SINCE 1 JULY 2016

Gai Kapernick (Qld) – National Representative

Jennifer Lennon (TAS) - AT Merit Award

Jack Pennington (ACT) – Athlete and founder of ACT Cross Country

Patricia Peters AM (SA) – Life Member Athletics Australia and Athletics South Australia

Judy (Canty) Wilson (ACT) – Olympian and National Champion