

THE  
AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION  
OF AUSTRALIA

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE  
OF  
THE UNION  
HELD AT  
MELBOURNE, VICTORIA  
ON  
SEPTEMBER 28th, 1974

THE  
AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION  
OF  
AUSTRALIA

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS.

Amateur Athletic Association of N. S. Wales  
Queensland Amateur Athletic Association  
Sth. Australian Amateur Athletic Association  
Tasmanian Amateur Athletic Association  
Victorian Amateur Athletic Association  
West. Australian Amateur Athletic Association

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Minutes of Proceedings  
of the  
Extraordinary Conference  
of the  
Union

held at

Melbourne, Victoria

on

September 28th 1974

THE AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION OF AUSTRALIA  
EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE OF THE UNION

held at

The Chevron Hotel, 519 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne,  
Victoria

on

September 28th, 1974

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First Session - Sat. Sept. 28th. 9.09am-12.45pm.

Second Session - Sat. Sept. 28th. 2.00pm- 7.40pm.

FIRST DAY - SEPTEMBER 28th

1. OPENING OF CONFERENCE.

The Conference was declared open by the President who welcomed the Officers and Delegates and extended a special welcome to two new Delegates, Messrs. G. A. Anson (Qld) and T. Billingham (Vic).

It was resolved that the notice convening the meeting be taken as read.

2. ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS AND DELEGATES

There were present:-

Officers: President - C. R. Aitken, C.B.E.;  
Vice-Presidents - T. C. Blue and A. W. McDonald;  
Honorary Secretary-Treasurer - A. L. Morrison;  
Honorary Assistant Secretary-Treasurer - C. D. Lee.

Delegates: A.A.A. of New South Wales -

R. M. Durie, D. P. Wilson;  
Queensland -

G. A. Anson, T. C. Blue;

South Australia -

E. R. Graham;

Tasmania -

G. T. Briggs, N. J. Ruddock;

Victoria -

T. Billingham, A. W. McDonald;

Western Australia -

F. J. Day, F. T. Treacy.

### 3. REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. C. D. Lee addressed the meeting in relation to the Report of the Committee appointed at the 1974 Annual Conference to examine certain aspects of the administration of the Union.

Mr. G. T. Briggs presented the Report.

Mr. C. R. Aitken requested that the reference to the fact that he "would be unable to attend meetings of the committee" be amended to that he "thought it would be far preferable that he not attend meetings of the committee".

It was then resolved that items in the Report be dealt with as required.

#### 4.1 (A) Management Committee

There was general discussion on this suggestion, but it was agreed that the question of the position of Secretary should be dealt with first.

It was resolved

- (1) That Conference is firmly of the opinion that the affairs of the Union can be handled efficiently and adequately only by a full-time salaried officer.
- (2) That the Honorary Secretary cost such an appointment; such costing to include a suitable office and equipment and office staff as considered necessary.
- (3) That the Conference should further endeavour to formulate a projected three year budget.
- (4) That the Honorary Secretary investigate all avenues of financing the appointment of a full-time Secretary.

- (5) That, until the March Conference when reports will be received and matters further debated, the office of Honorary Secretary will remain, but that the honorarium be on a more realistic basis.
- (6) That alterations to the Constitution be formulated during the lunch break to provide for the appointment of an Honorary Treasurer.

## 5.2 Domestic Administration

- 5.2.1. (i) Constitution Committee. It was resolved that the Constitution Committee should draft a rule covering the Constitution Committee to replace 128(a).
- (ii) Technical Committee. It was resolved that this Committee should be left as it is.
- (iii) Selection Committee. It was resolved that the Selection Committee should take over the A.A.U. Almanac of Records and Results to the stage of publication.
- (iv) Walking Committee. It was resolved that this Committee should be left as it is.
- (v) Coaching Committee. It was resolved that this Committee should remain as it is for the present, but the Constitution Committee to be requested to look at this between now and the Union Conference to decide on a more suitable wording incorporating the Australian Track and Field Coaches Association.

(vi) International Affairs Committee: It was resolved that the Union representatives on the I.A.A.F. Congress, Council or any of its Committees, the Oceania Group of the I.A.A.F., A.O.F., A.B.C.G.A., and P.C.G. should form a committee of the Union and report annually.

It was resolved that the Constitution and Rules Committee be requested to draft new rules covering the abovementioned amendments to the Constitution for submission to the Annual Conference.

It was then resolved that in Laws 124, 126, 127, 128, 128(f), 129, 130, 131, 133, 134, 136, 137, 139 and 144 where the title Secretary-Treasurer appears it be deleted and replaced with the word "Secretary".

It was further resolved that in Laws 134, 135 and 137 the words "and Treasurer" be inserted after the word "Secretary", and that the Constitution and Rules Committee be requested to fully examine the Handbook of Constitution Laws and Rules to ascertain where it may further be necessary to delete the title "Secretary-Treasurer" and insert either "Secretary and Treasurer" or "Secretary or Treasurer".

5.2.4. Publications of the Union. It was resolved that

(i) Handbook of Constitution Laws and General Rules. The material should be prepared by the Constitution and Rules Committee and the publication should be the responsibility of the Secretary.

(ii) Almanac of Records and results. Already dealt with.

(iii) Minutes of Conference. These should be the responsibility of the Secretary.

(iv) Annual Report of the Union. This should be prepared by the Secretary in conjunction with the Management Committee and it should contain -

- (a) a general review of each calendar year including a brief report on the activities of each Member Association;
- (b) edited annual reports of each standing committee;
- (c) a report on membership of the Union;
- (d) the financial statements of the Union.

At this stage the Chairman declared a lunch break; the meeting to resume at 2.00.p.m.

Management Committee: It was resolved that the question of the formation of a Management Committee and/or alterations to the Executive Committee be drafted by the Constitution and Rules Committee as a notice of motion for submission to the next Union Conference.

Honorary Treasurer: It was resolved that an Acting Honorary Treasurer be appointed until the next Union Conference. Upon a recommendation from the Honorary Secretary it was agreed that Mr. E. J. Sumner be appointed as Acting Honorary Treasurer.

It was resolved that Laws 141 and 142 shall refer to the Honorary Treasurer and not the Honorary Secretary.

Honorary Assistant Secretary-Treasurer:

As discussed at the Special Meeting, if all proposals are adopted with regard to the Management Committee, then there would be no need in the future for an Assistant Secretary. It was resolved that the Constitution and Rules Committee be asked to remove the position of Honorary Assistant Secretary-Treasurer and any matters pertaining thereto.

4.5 This item from the Special Report reads as follows:

"The committee resolved by majority to recommend that the following have the right to attend the annual conference of the Union: the president, the senior vice-president, the junior vice-president, the secretary, the treasurer (see para 7) one delegate from each member association and a representative of each of the standing committees of the Union.

It recommends further that the delegates of the member associations and officers of the Union should have the right to vote, the president having the right of a casting vote as well as the right of a deliberative vote. A general agreement was expressed with the view that not more than two observers from each member association should be enabled to attend conference but without voting rights.

It is recommended also that the Union bear the expense of attendance at the Conference of the president and secretary and if considered appropriate by the secretary, a clerical assistant to the secretary."

The proposals to alter the laws relating to the number of delegates, to confer voting rights upon the Officers and to extend to Association observers and representatives of Standing Committees the right to attend Conferences were not approved.

It was agreed that provision be made for inviting representatives of Standing Committees to attend Conference on relevant matters and that the payment of expenses for attendance at Conference of a clerical assistant be at the discretion of the President and Secretary.



5.2.3 This item from the Special Report reads as follows:

"A majority of the members of the committee agreed that the members of each committee should appoint the chairman of the committee. The dissenting view was that the annual conference of the Union should appoint the chairman of the committee.

The President ruled that the Convenor of a Committee is not necessarily the Chairman of that Committee, but the Chairman should be determined by the members of the Committee in default of which the President of the Union shall name him.

Following a report from Mr. A. W. McDonald concerning the implications of the changes to the various Laws and Rules it was resolved that within the period from this Conference to the next Annual Conference the following rules shall apply and the Constitution shall be read and construed and be amended where necessary to give validity and effect to the same:

- (1) The position of Secretary shall not incorporate and include that of the Treasurer.
- (2) There shall be appointed for the said period an Acting Treasurer separate from the Secretary whose duties shall be those set out in Laws 141 and 142.
- (3) All payments made by the Union shall be made by cheque and shall be signed by any two of the President, Secretary and Treasurer.

A new Rule 144A should be inserted to read:

In the event of the Treasurer being absent from Australia, or being unable for a period to carry out his duties, the President, in consultation with the Vice-Presidents, shall appoint a person to act as Treasurer for the interim.

The President drew the attention of the meeting to the section referring to the amount of work done by Mr. Hodsdon.

It was resolved that Mr. Hodsdon and his wife be invited to attend the next Championships in Adelaide at the Union's expense and that a function be held one night and a presentation made to him. The President to discuss with the Secretary the form of presentation.

The President complimented the Committee on the work done and asked that appreciation be recorded.

It was resolved that an honorarium of \$75 per week be paid to the Honorary Secretary until the next Union Conference when the matter will be reviewed.

#### 4. REPORT OF WALKING COMMITTEE

Following recommendations received from the Walking Committee it was resolved that -

- (i) The Union pass on to the States a recommendation that the 10k track walk be added to the proposed Under 23 Match versus New Zealand and that the standard of 49m be set initially for selection in this event.

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- (2) An international match over 20k be held between New Zealand and Australia in alternate countries in each two years between the Olympic Games and the Commonwealth Games and that there be no financial expense to the Union.

The Honorary Secretary pointed out that if there is to be any approach to the Government for sponsorship, this must be made through the Union.

- (3) A team shall constitute four walkers of which three shall count; together with a Manager and an I.A.A.F. Walking Judge. All appointments to be made by the Union under the Union Constitution.
- (4) The first match to be scheduled for 1975 in New Zealand, preferably in March, but this open for final negotiation.

It was pointed out that the proposed Under 23 Match versus New Zealand was scheduled for Australia in March and April in 1975.

- (5) That a supporting event be held for juniors over 10K, to be open to all juniors from either country who wish to participate.

5. THIRD INTERNATIONAL I.A.A.F. CROSS COUNTRY  
COMPETITION

It was resolved that the Honorary Secretary write to the Australian Government to enquire as to whether consideration could be given for a grant to send a team to Rabat, Morocco for the International I.A.A.F. Cross Country Competition to be held on the 16th March, stressing the fact that entries close on the 1st December, 1974.

6. REPORT OF PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE PREPARATION AND SELECTION OF THE TEAM FOR THE 1976 OLYMPIC GAMES.

The Report from the Special Committee was tabled and discussion took place on the various matters contained therein.

(a) New Zealand and European Tours:

It was resolved that the New Zealand and European Tours be not approved on the grounds of impracticability.

(b) Australian Marathon and 20 Mile Walking Championships:

It was resolved that the special selection trials for the marathon and 20K Walk Championships be not conducted in the period August/September 1975, but be conducted as late as possible in 1976 and after the Australian Track and Field Championships.

It was resolved that the question of Associations being invited to submit applications to stage these Championships be discussed at the next Union Conference.

(c) Cross-Country:

It was resolved that the suggestion that every effort should be made to have an Australian Team included in the New Zealand Cross Country Titles in 1975 be not proceeded with owing to impracticability.

(d) 1976 Track and Field Season:

The question of State Championships, particularly in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia being planned so that they do not clash was discussed and it was agreed that it be

discussed further at the next Union Conference.

(e) National Championships and Final Olympic Trials:

The New South Wales delegates indicated that New South Wales would not be interested in staging the Championships and Final Olympic Trials and the Tasmanian Delegate indicated that they felt that their new track would be available for the 1976 Australian Championships.

(f) European Tour (Pre-Games):

It was agreed that this matter be left until the next Union Conference and in the meantime instruct the Delegates to the A.O.F. that consideration is being given to staging a pre-Games competition tour,

It was resolved that the remainder of the Report be dealt with at the next Union Conference.

## 7. HEADQUARTERS

It was resolved that from the 21st August, 1974 the Headquarters of the Union be Melbourne, Victoria.

## 8. INTERIM REPORT ON I.A.A.F. CONGRESS:

At the request of the Delegate presenting the report, Mr. C. D. Lee, it was resolved that the Conference move into camera.

Mr. Lee explained to the Conference a dilemma that had faced Australia's Delegates at the Congress in relation to a recommendation from the Council of the I.A.A.F. that all restrictions against South Africa be lifted.

This recommendation had occasioned lengthy and sometimes acrimonious debate. The final

voting at Congress had been 152 votes cast for the recognition and 103 against. Mr. Lee requested that Conference should indicate what attitude Australian Delegates should take in the future.

It was agreed that no action be taken other than to inform future Union Delegates that they should vote according to how their conscience dictates.

It was resolved to instruct the Honorary Secretary to write to Mr. G. B. Stringer drawing his attention to the fact that motions from the Oceania Group's Congress held at Christchurch in January, 1974, were not referred to the I.A.A.F Congress.

Mr. Lee referred to the meeting of the Pacific Conference Games Permanent Committee held in Rome at the time of the European Games. He advised that there had been some difficulty in obtaining clarification from the I.A.A.F. as to whether under the new rules adopted at the Congress China would be permitted to compete in the Pacific Conference Games at Canberra in 1977. It was resolved that the Honorary Secretary be requested to write to the I.A.A.F. as a matter of urgency seeking clarification of the Congress decision.

It was resolved that the two Delegates be thanked for their able representation and it was resolved that the Interim Report be received. It was noted that the final report would be tabled and discussed at the next Union Conference.

9. REPORT BY UNION DELEGATES ON THE MEETING  
OF THE PACIFIC CONFERENCE GAMES PERMANENT  
COMMITTEE

Mr. C. D. Lee, on behalf of his co-delegate, presented a report on the Pacific Conference Games Permanent Committee meeting held in Rome in August, 1974. A copy of the report and a copy of the new five nation Agreement was tabled.

It was noted that the Agreement called for the appointment of Delegates to the Committee on a four year period and it was resolved that at the next Union Conference the two Delegates appointed should be for this four year period.

It was further resolved to ratify the appointment of Mr. C. D. Lee as Chairman of the Pacific Conference Games Permanent Committee until the next Union Conference.

Mr. Lee then referred to the discussion that had been held with representatives of the Pacific Conference Games countries and the European Athletic Association regarding the possibility of a full match Pacific Conference Games versus Europe, details of which were contained in the report.

It was resolved that Australia support in principle the proposition subject to satisfactory financial arrangements being made.

It was resolved that the Conference move out of camera.

It was resolved that the Five Nation Agreement, Minutes of the Meeting of the Pacific Conference Games Permanent Committee and a report of the Delegates to the Pacific Conference Games Permanent Committee be received.

Mr. Denis Wilson, a member of the Third Pacific Games Organising Committee referred to problems with the National Capital Development Commission and the construction of the Athletic Stadia for the Games.

Certain factions within the N.C.D.C. had been questioning the necessity for an all-weather track for the Games. After discussion, it was resolved that the Honorary Secretary should write to the N.C.D.C. and state that the Union would not consider holding the Pacific Conference Games in Canberra unless there is a world standard all-weather track.

The New South Wales Association was requested to table at the next Union Conference a progress report on all matters pertaining to the Third Pacific Conference Games.

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The President thanked all Delegates for their attendance and complimented them on the manner in which they had handled the controversial issues which had been raised at the Conference.

He declared the meeting closed at  
7.40.p.m.

A. L. Morrison  
Honorary Secretary