

Minutes of the WAVA Assembly in Gateshead, England, 5th August 1999

PRESENT:

WAVA COUNCIL (15 total);

Torsten Carlus (President) in the chair, Tom Jordan (Executive Vice President), Jim Blair (Vice President, Stadia), Ron Bell (Vice President, Non-Stadia), Giuseppe Galfetti (Treasurer), Monty Hacker (Secretary), Cesar Moreno Bravo (IAAF Representative), Cesare Beccalli (Immediate Past President), Bridget Cushen (Womens' Representative), Hannes Booyesen (Africa Representative), Hari Chandra (Asia Representative), Jacques Serruys (Europe Representative), Brian Oxley (North and Central America and Caribbean Representative), Stan Perkins (Oceania Representative), Jose Figueras (South America Representative)

GUESTS (non voting); Organising Committee for Brisbane, Australia.

DELEGATES representing WAVA Affiliates listed by region, with number of delegates in brackets;

AFRICA (5 total);

South Africa(4), Mauritius(1)

ASIA (15 total);

Hong Kong(1), India(4), Japan(5), Kazakhstan(1), Lebanon(1), Malaysia(1), Pakistan(1), Singapore(1),

EUROPE (52 total);

Albania(1), Armenia(1), Austria(2), Belgium(1), Czech Republic(2), Denmark(1), Estonia(1), Finland(4), France(3), Germany(5), Great Britain and N. Ireland(5), Greece(1), Ireland(1), Italy(2), Latvia(1), Malta(1), Netherlands(1), Norway(2), Poland(1), Portugal(2), Romania(1), Russia(3), Spain(1), San Marino(1), Slovakia(1), Switzerland(2), Sweden(3), Turkey(1), Ukraine(1),

NORTH and CENTRAL AMERICA & CARIBBEAN (14 total);

Canada(5), Mexico(2), Puerto Rico(1), Trinidad and Tobago(1), USA(5),

OCEANIA (9 total);

Australia(5), New Zealand(3), Norfolk Island(1),

SOUTH AMERICA (13 total);

Argentina(2), Brazil(4), Bolivia(1), Chile(2), Colombia(1), Peru(1), Uruguay(1), Venezuela(1);

which adds up to a total of 108 Delegate votes

1. OPENING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

The President Mr. Torsten Carlius welcomes the delegates, guests and observers.

By way of introduction the President indicated specific topics which would be dealt with more fully during the Assembly to demonstrate the progress which WAVA was making, including technical aspects to improve the quality of the World Championships, the greater and more successful use of the Hy-Tek programme, closer co-operation with the International Masters Games Association ("IMGGA") and the proposed WAVA name change with the view to making the association that much more appealing to prospective sponsors. With that Mr. Carlius declares the General Assembly open.

2. CESAR Moreno BRAVO, the IAAF Representative on the Council addresses the Assembly:

On behalf of the IAAF, its President and the IAAF Veterans' Committee, he welcomes delegates to the General Assembly stating that the IAAF has been following WAVA's progress with keen interest. He points out that the links between the IAAF and WAVA had thus far been successful and productive, to the advantage of both organisations and he expresses the wish that these mutual benefits will continue in the future. He expresses the further hope and wish that these links be promoted not only at the Regional level but also at national levels. Mr. Carlius then thanks him for his kind words and assures him of co-operation between WAVA and the IAAF in the future.

3. CERTIFICATION of the PROPER CALLING of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

The WAVA Secretary Monty Hacker, accounts for the calling of the General Assembly, which was distributed to all WAVA affiliates by mail on the 8th December 1998, whereafter the agenda with all information was distributed on the 3rd June 1999 in compliance with the provisions of section 4(j) of the WAVA Constitution. The Secretary informs the meeting that the Assembly had been properly and timeously convened in terms of the Constitution and that it was attended by 108 delegates from 55 affiliated member countries out of a total of 126 Affiliates.

4. ELECTION of TWO SCRUTINEERS for the MINUTES:

Keith Whitaker (GBR) and Karri Wichmann (FIN) are elected as scrutineers to certify the minutes.

5. ELECTION of TWO PERSONS to COUNT the BALLOTS:

Charles DesJardins (USA), and Thangam Chandra, (SIN), are elected to count the ballots.

6. REPORTS of the WAVA OFFICERS:

The reports, as distributed by the WAVA Secretary are a matter of Record and the Officers concerned make brief comments on their respective reports:

6.1. The President, Torsten Carlius states that:

6.1.1 He wishes to add briefly to his report to highlight the position with regard to WAVA vis a vis the World Masters Games. He points out that our relationship with IMGAs has become a positive one and that with specific reference to the forthcoming World Masters Games in Melbourne, (AUS), we will be responsible for all the track and field events with our own WAVA technical supervisor, namely Jim Blair, our Vice President (Stadia). This in turn means that the track and field events will be conducted subject to our age groups, our events, our weights and implements our system of entry booklets, our system of drug testing and in fact all our rules and regulations as per our Handbook. For the future however, the WAVA Council has resolved that what has been done to date constitutes step number one and that in Brisbane we will review the taking of the second step. That second step will hopefully be for WAVA and others of the large International sporting bodies who have not yet supported the World Masters Games to do so. He expresses the opinion that the World Masters Games have now come to stay and that they will develop into something like the Olympic Games for Veterans. The WAVA Council therefore prefers to be on the inside, with a seat on the IMGAs Council, so as to be in a position to influence the direction which the World Masters Games may be taking in the future. We will however wait until Brisbane before we will be making any attempts at calendar co-ordination with IMGAs;

6.1.2 An Invitation has been received to attend the European Athletic Association's Annual Congress in Funchal (POR), during October and that WAVA will be represented at this Congress together with representatives from Valladolid and Brisbane. This, he regards as a wonderful opportunity for Veteran Athletics to gain exposure at one of the largest athletic congresses;

6.1.3. The Council has decided for purposes of Development in certain regions to subsidise Oceania and Africa to the extent of US\$1000.00 per annum each, to enable Oceania to realize a three year development programme in Tonga and Africa to host Regional Championships in Cairo with the support of the IAAF Development Centre. He also points that a similar subsidy would be made available to South America to enable it to have printed material translated from English into Spanish for the benefit of the region's Spanish speaking athletes.

Comments and Questions:

(i) Winston Thomas asks if the Council has considered aiding the affiliates in purchasing the Hy-Tek EPD system. The President replies that recent discussions with Hy-Tek reveal that the system would soon be available on Windows which will make it far more accessible and user friendly to affiliates. He also told the Assembly that Rex Harvey is the WAVA liaison person with Hy-Tek, as is Winston Thomas and that any queries can be addressed to either of them. He mentioned also that a database is being planned, with information concerning all athletes who have competed in all previous WAVA World and Regional Championships. This, he said, means that in future it will not be necessary to produce birth certificates, passports or other documents to prove age or sex with entry forms.

(ii) Winston Thomas expresses thanks to the Council on behalf of Women athletes for making the awards available to the regions and he also congratulated the regional winners upon receiving their awards.

(iii) Don Farquharson questions the wisdom of a WAVA relationship with IMGAs and feels that if that link were to be established, our athletes would suffer. He makes the further point that WAVA does not share the IMGAs aims and objectives and he therefore urges the Council to approach any linkage with IMGAs with the utmost caution and not to make any major

decisions creating a *fait accompli* without the approval of the General Assembly. The president then assured Mr. Farquharson that the Council shares his views relative to all his comments.

(iv) A Central American delegate asked whether subsidies might be made available to the Central American countries and the President responds by stating that the Council requires a motivation and that upon receipt of such a motivation, will give favourable consideration to the proposal.

(v) Peter Crombie, (AUS), urges caution about combining with IMGGA because of the number of competitors which the large number of participating sporting disciplines caters for. Growth in these numbers, he pointed out can create a nightmare for the organisers and in turn for the participating athletes. Again the President responds by assuring that no decisions with regard to IMGGA will be made without the approval of the Assembly and that the issue will only be addressed again at the next General Assembly in Brisbane.

There being no further questions or comments the President's Report is adopted unanimously

6.2. Ron Bell, Vice President, Non-Stadia, refers the Assembly to his report and adds that his committee had prepared a Bidders Manual which contained all the pre-requisites for bidding for a Non-Stadia Championships. He then invites comments and questions on his report:

(i) Sean Cooney, (IRL), criticises the fact that the cross country did not allow an adequate passageway for an ambulance to reach collapsed athletes without interfering with the field of cross country athletes. He requests that in future courses be so designed so as to be mindful of the need for an ambulance to reach athletes in need of assistance, and without interfering with the field of athletes. Mr. Bell responds that his committee would take note of the suggestion.

(ii) Brian Foley, (AUS), questions holding the marathon, the 10km on the track and the cross country at those times when the weather is too hot and he suggests that in future championships attention be paid to starting these events much earlier to avoid unnecessary stress to athletes by weather conditions. In response, Mr. Bell apologises for the weather and explains that the extremely hot weather encountered was both unseasonal and unpredicted. Jim Blair then interjects stating that too many athletes are entering too many events which, in turn, causes problems in designing suitable programmes;

(iii) A Mexican delegate suggests that to meet the financial burdens which athletes faced in attending world champion-

ships the regions should award winners cups in both stadia and non-stadia events so that these winners could obtain financial assistance to attend world championships. The President responded that suggestions of this nature should be submitted in writing to and for the consideration of the stadia and non-stadia committees;

(iv) Winston Thomas, picking up on Jim Blair's comment about the possible need to extend the duration of the championships recommends that the Council makes suggestions and puts forward proposals to accommodate the large number of entries.

The President responds that the issue is being studied by the stadia committee which, will present ideas to solve the problem;

(v) Doug Smith, (CAN), referring to the proposal of winners cups expresses the view that the principle of veteran athletics is participation and that Canada was totally opposed to any form of elitism and will oppose any move towards elitism.

The report is adopted unanimously.

6.2 Monty Hacker, the Secretary, refers to his report in the Assembly booklet and is questioned by Monica Tang Wing, (TRI) concerning the loss by a number of her members of hotel deposits paid for the Durban event and which despite the timeous cancellation of hotel reservations, were not refunded by the Durban organisers. The President interjects saying that this was not the forum to debate the issue and that she should deal with and address the matter after the Assembly.

6.4. Giuseppe Galfetti, the Treasurer, goes through his financial report and corrects some printing errors. The President interjects and suggests that before going onto the budget questions on the accounts could be put to the Treasurer from the floor:

(i) Bill Purvis, (HKG), then questions the amount of the bank charges against the small amount of the investment. However, in response the President points out that the magnitude of the bank charges is only U.S \$853.41 and not the figure mentioned by Mr. Purvis;

(ii) Al Sheahen, USA, raises three queries, namely; a) The high cost of stationery, with which the Treasurer concurs, adding that the high cost included letterheads and cards for each of the Council members as well as Xmas cards. The President then mentions that this cost went beyond the two year period reported on and that the stationery would still last another two years; b) The investment of US\$150 000.00 in bonds was criticised because if they were to be cashed in the short term, current market conditions would cause a loss to be sustained on this investment.

The Treasurer replies that this is not a short term investment as the capital is not earmarked for any specific purpose in the foreseeable future;

c) The need for an audit every two years instead of every six years was questioned and it was suggested that the Council consider auditing its accounts at longer intervals than two years. The President responds that the Council feels very strongly about having its accounts being audited properly and regularly with the view to demonstrating a transparent accountability to the affiliates.

The Treasurer then deals with the budget, advises the Assembly that the Council has already approved the budget at a Council meeting on 27th July 1999, but with the correction, that office expenses should read \$19500 and not \$195,000. The President then calls for comments and /or questions on the budget.

a) Al Sheahen said he wants the Assembly to be aware that the two year budget approved in Durban has in fact been exceeded by approximately \$12000, which he concedes is the Council's prerogative to do. He also made the point that dividing the two year budget into separate one year periods made it a little difficult to follow. The President responds that increased income leads to increased expenditure and that the present budget, submitted to Council and the affiliates, awaits approval from the Assembly.

6.5 Ron Bell in his capacity as Commercial Manager reports that he has produced the first video for potential sponsors which has been viewed and approved by Council and becomes part of the WAVA portfolio. He also mentions that he has commissioned a Photographer for these championships to take photographs for use in a publication which will be made available to potential sponsors. The plan, he said, is not to sell individual championships but to sell WAVA in total to help to fund the development plan which has already been mentioned.

6.6 Bridget Cushen, Womens representative, reports that there is no need for her to go beyond her report published in the booklet, and that she merely wishes to report on the outcome of the Womens General Assembly held on the 2nd August. Amongst the topics discussed was the role WAVA had played in promoting Women in Athletics and the awarding of special prizes to the best female performers in each of our six Regions. She also expressed thanks to the President for his interest. Furthermore the six Regional representatives reported increased activity in each of their regions, but that they still have a problem with a lack of qualified coaches, unavailability of equipment and instructional booklets in local languages. These problems she said were being discussed with the IAAF.

The President then invites comment and/or questions on the reports of the Commercial Manager and the Womens Representative:

a) Winston Thomas asks whether the activities of the Commercial Manager would possibly benefit a region and he also asks what the general principles are governing the ambit of the Manager's activities and what the outline of his duties was. Ron Bell responded by pointing out that his brief was to work for WAVA and not for the individual regions, but states he would nevertheless be willing to deal with requests from the regions. Furthermore, he will be willing to submit a report to the regions concerning his activities and his progress with them.

Winston Thomas also made the request that in future these reports be made available to the affiliates a great deal earlier to enable them to be carefully studied well in advance of the General Assembly.

The President gives the assurance that this would be the position in the future.

b) Mr. Sivapragrasam, (MAL), draws the attention of the Assembly to page 63 of the booklet and pointed out that that the names of the Regional award winners did not appear correctly under their photographs.

6.7 The reports of the Executive Vice President, Tom Jordan and the Vice President Stadia, Jim Blair were duly dealt with by the respective officers without comments or questions from the floor. There being no further comments or questions concerning the reports, the President asks the Assembly to approve all the reports and they are all duly approved unanimously.

7. NOTIFICATION of the APPOINTMENT of WOMENS REPRESENTATIVE:

There is some confusion as to whether an election to appoint the Womens Representative had been held at the Womens Assembly on August 2nd 1999 and the issue stands over to be dealt with under paragraph 7(9) of the agenda. The President, however noted that Bridget Cushen is appointed Womens' Representative for another two years.

8. AMENDMENTS to the WAVA CONSTITUTION/BY-LAWS/RULES of COMPETITION:

8.1. Recommendations submitted by the Council:

8.1.1 Name change from World Association of Veteran Athletes to World Association of Masters' Athletes:

The President explains the rationale behind the proposal, namely the commercial need to make the Association's name more attractive to prospective sponsors being approached by the Commercial Manager. He also explained that the word "Veteran" means different things in different languages and in different countries.

The motion was put to the vote by written ballot and, requiring a two thirds majority, it failed to obtain this majority, the voting being as follows:

In favour 73 votes, Against 46 votes, Invalid votes 2

As this motion failed the President announced that motion number 2, dependant as it was on motion number 1, to change all references in the constitution to "veterans" to "Masters", now fell away.

8.1.2. Amendment/Addition to By-Laws Section 4, paragraph 3(m)-Uniform Enforcement of Suspensions.

The reasons for this amendment/addition were addressed by Stan Perkins who informed the Assembly that there had been certain modifications to the motion proposed both by the Law and Legislation committee and the Council, and that the motion should therefore be voted on as amended, namely: "Any athlete suspended by an affiliate pursuant to the provisions of BY-LAW 4(3)(b) shall automatically become ineligible to participate in any WAVA affiliate's events for the duration of such suspension. To enforce such prohibition it shall be the obligation of the secretary of the suspending affiliate to notify the WAVA Secretary in writing of such suspension within 30 days thereof, including the nature of the offence. Upon receipt of such notification the Secretary shall, as soon as possible thereafter notify all affiliates in writing of such suspension and the details thereof. The lifting of the suspension shall be dealt with in the same manner."

The Motion, as amended, was then unanimously approved by the Assembly.

8.1.3. Council Recommendation No. 4 to alter the accounting period provided for in BY-LAW Section 2 paragraph 2 by the substitution of "odd numbered year" for "even numbered year":

Al Sheahan states that he will vote against the motion because he did not believe that it is workable. However, he nevertheless respected the Council's sincerity in its recommendation of the motion.

The Motion was then was put to the vote, with the following result:

In Favour 102 votes, Against 15 votes, Abstentions 2 votes

The motion was accordingly adopted by an overwhelming majority.

8.1.4. Recommendation 5, being the addition to the Constitution by means of a new Section 9(h), to make provision, under "Standing Committees", for a Womens' Committee, to represent the interests of Women Athletes was adopted unanimously.

8.1.5. Recommendation 6 to amend BY-LAW section 4, Paragraph(8) by the addition of the Womens' Committee, i.e.;

"Women's Committee

(a) The Women's Committee shall be chaired by the Women's Representative.

(b) There shall be six members of the Committee plus the chair-lady. The Committee shall be comprised of:

(1) the chairlady;

(2) one delegate from each of the six Regions, and;

(3) the Committee shall be charged with the duty of representing the interests of Women Athletes."

was unanimously adopted with one amendment, namely the substitution in sub paragraph (b)(i) of the Words " Womens' Representative" for the words "the chairlady" as Bridget Cushen explains that this was the decision taken at the Womens Assembly.

8.1.6. Recommendation 7-The addition to the Constitution of a new sub-section (vii) under Section 4, paragraph (e) to provide for Honorary Members. This motion is introduced by the President, who explains that the honoraria proposed by the Council were divided into two categories namely the one for persons who had served on the Council (and who would be eligible for Honorary Life membership) and the other for members who had rendered outstanding services to WAVA but never served on the Council. The nature of the awards, the President explains would consist of pins, Gold for Honorary Life Presidents, Silver for Honorary Life members and Bronze for Honorary members. He also points out that in respect of the first category, which would provide for Honorary Life Presidency and Honorary Life Membership, these awards would be made with the approval of the General Assembly and that the other category would be awarded by the Council. The President mentions also that the previous recipients of what, at the time, were unconstitutional Honorary Life Vice Presidency awards, would be regarded as recipients of WAVA Honorary Life Membership awards.

Bob Fine then proposed an amendment recommended by the Law and Legislation committee, that there be only one category of Life Membership and not two as proposed by Council.

After this proposed amendment was seconded it was put to the vote and was defeated by 79 votes against it and 34 in favour, with 2 abstentions. On a motion from the floor the President then put to the vote the separate categories of the Motion to the vote and it was adopted by the Assembly as follows:

8.1.6.1. Honorary Life Presidents:

In favour 90 votes, Against 16 votes, Abstentions 7

8.1.6.2. Honorary Life Members:

In favour Overwhelming, Against 1 vote, Abstentions 0

8.1.6.3. Those outside Council to be eligible for Bronze Pins

and with Council having the power to make such awards for outstanding service to persons not eligible under categories 8.1.6.1 and 8.1.6.2. above:

In favour 99 votes, Against 3 votes, Abstentions 3

These amendments to the Constitution, pursuant to Motion no. 7, as amended, and as approved by the Assembly, are as follows:

(a) By the addition of a new sub-section (vii), in Section 4 paragraph (e): "Have the power and authority to elect WAVA Honorary Members: On proposals from the Council the General Assembly may appoint as WAVA Honorary Members:

(i) Honorary Life Presidents for which only former WAVA Presidents shall be eligible and/or;

(ii) Honorary Life Members consisting of former WAVA office bearers."

(b) By the addition a new sub-clause (m) in Section 5 of the Constitution reading:

"The Council shall have the power to award WAVA Bronze Pins to persons who have rendered outstanding services to WAVA and who are not eligible for Honorary Life MEMBERSHIP as provided for in section 4, paragraph (e)(vii)."

The Assembly then unanimously ratified the appointment of Clem Green, Roland Jerneryd and Alistair Lynn as Honorary Life Members of WAVA.

8.1.7. Council recommendation no.8 to extend the Duration of the Non-Stadia WAVA Championships and also the Programme in terms of Rules of Competition, section I, paragraph 4:

Ron Bell explains to the Assembly that the WAVA Non Stadia Championships have to be made more attractive to encourage athletes from all over the world to participate and so transform these championships from a Regional event into a World event.

The president then invites discussion on the proposal:

8.1.7.1. Karel Matzner (CZE), proposed that these Championships be extended to three days and not four and that the programme be varied as well. After this motion was seconded it was put to the vote and failed with 27 votes in favour and 59 against and 8 abstentions.

8.1.7.2. Bob Carter (NZL), then proposes that the duration be extended to five days with one rest day in between and that the days of the event be referred to as day one, day two etc. and not by the days of the week. At that point the President announces that the Non-Stadia

Chairman was happy with the proposed amendment and that the Council would take the amendment as its own and put the motion to the vote as amended.

The motion as amended was adopted by the Assembly as follows:

In favour 49 votes, Against 41 votes, Abstentions 14

Accordingly the adopted motion, as amended reads:

"The duration of the Non-Stadia World Veterans' Championships is a minimum of four days of competition with the following suggested programme:

Day One-----Cross country relay, 5x4k. M.40-59, 3x4k. M.60+ and Women 50k. Walk and Run (men and women)

Day Two-----Ekiden at Marathon distance (men and women)

Day Three-----10k. Road Walk (men and Women)

Day Four-----Half Marathon (Men and Women, 20k. Road Walk(Women, 30k. Road Walk(Men)

Rest day between days one and four".

8.1.8 Item 9 - Clarification of Decision taken by the 1997

General Assembly:

Brian Oxley, on behalf of the Council, reads a prepared statement explaining the issue concerning the terms of office of the immediate Past President and the Womens' Representative, arising out of the 1997 Durban General Assembly at which the term of office of the elected WAVA officers was extended. As sections 5(a)(x) and 6(b) and (d) of the Constitution were not voted on (insofar as concerns the extension of the tenure of office to one term) at the Durban General Assembly he suggested that the only way in which the matter could be satisfactorily resolved would be for them to be voted upon as a motion from the Council at this General Assembly.

The separate voting resulted as follows:

b) Insofar as the Past President was concerned:

In favour 63 votes, Against 58 votes

The President accordingly ruled that the two year term for the Past President remained;

c) Insofar as the Womens' Representative was concerned:

In favour 76 votes, Against 38 votes

As this constituted a two thirds majority for the Womens' Representative, the President then announced that the term of office of the Women's Representative is accordingly extended to

four years and that Section 6(b) of the Constitution is therefore amended as and by means of the substitution of the word "quadrennial" for the word "biennial" and that Section 4(c)(ii) be amended in line two by the addition of the words "but one" between the words "next" and "meeting".

8.2 PROPOSALS from WAVA AFFILIATES:

8.2.1. Proposals 1 and 3, submitted by Colombia and Chile, that Regional Representatives to the WAVA Council be able to read, speak and understand the English language, were dealt with as one. The President informed the Assembly that Council was against this motion and as there were no votes supporting the motion, it was rejected unanimously by the Assembly.

8.2.2. Germany's motion that German be one of the languages offered for translation by the General Assembly by Germany was also rejected unanimously by the Assembly, with the President ruling that the only languages of the General Assembly were English, French and Spanish.

8.2.3. The USA's Proposal 2(I). to increase the long hurdles from 300m. hurdles to 400m. was addressed by Al Sheahen, with an amendment to Limit the proposal, in the case of men to M.60 and M65 and W50+. Jim Blair informed the Assembly that the Stadia committee did not support the proposal. After a brief debate during which it became apparent that the proposal was not supported, the proposal was voted on and it was defeated unanimously.

8.2.4. The USA's Proposal 2(ii), to increase the permissible number of throws in the Weight Pentathlon to four in each of the five events was responded to by Jim Blair who informed the Assembly, that the Stadia committee had rejected it. The Proposal was voted on and it was defeated overwhelmingly with a near unanimous vote against it.

8.2.5. Hurdles:

8.2.5.1. Australia's proposals 6(v) providing for the reduction of the W60 hurdle height to 0.650m. was withdrawn; **8.2.5.2.** The remaining hurdles proposals being proposals numbered; 6(iv), providing for the height of the hurdles in the W60 300m. to be reduced to 0.650m.;

7(i), providing for changes to the height and flight distances in the M60 100m hurdles to be changed and;

7(ii) providing for the reduction of the hurdle height in the W60+ and the M70+ 80m. hurdles;

were all canvassed by Jim Blair by means of a flip chart, and at the same time explaining the position and recommendations of the Stadia Committee on these issues. After much debate Jim Blair put the proposals, in the form in which they were approved by the Stadia Committee to the Assembly for voting. The Assembly voted overwhelmingly for the acceptance of these proposals, with two abstentions, The effect of the adoption of these proposals was to amend Appendix A 1 in the WAVA Handbook in the following respects:

a) In the W.60+ Indoor and Short Hurdles, the hurdle height drops to 0.686m. (27 inches);

b) In the W.60+ Long Hurdles, the hurdle height drops to 0.686m. (27 inches);

c) In the M.60-69 Indoor and Short Hurdles, the distance to the first hurdle increases to 16m., the spacing between hurdles is reduced 8.0m. and the distance to the finish changes to 12m.;

d) In the M.70+ Long hurdles, the hurdle height drops to 0.686m. (27 inches);

e) In the M80+ Indoor and Short Hurdles, the hurdle height drops to 0.686m. (27 inches).

8.2.6. Australia's Proposal 6(i) for world record performances for five year age groups in track events of 400m or less to be maintained in separate listings for electronic and hand timing was addressed by Jim Blair on behalf of the Stadia Committee. He stated that the committee was against the proposal and supported only electronic times. It was however accepted, without objection, that hand timed world records shall continue to be listed until improved upon by intrinsically better fully automatic times.

8.2.7. Australia's Proposal 6(ii) - Proposed Rule Change 18(3) for Combined events, that the athlete must commence each event in order to continue in the competition and to be included in the final placings of the event was adopted overwhelmingly, the voting being;

In favour 102 votes, Against 2 votes, Abstentions 0

Accordingly WAVA Rule of Competition 18(3) is deleted and IAAF Rule 195(10) shall apply.

8.2.8. Great Britain's Proposal 7(iii), providing for changes to the Javelin weights was addressed by Jim Blair who stated that the proposal was supported by the Stadia Committee. He called on Winston Thomas, to address the Assembly and Winston pointed out that part of the proposal as submitted to the secretary was inadvertently omitted and he then explained precisely what the proposed changes in the javelin implements should have stated, namely;

W.50-59 500grams

M.50-59 700grams

M.70-79 500grams

M.80+ 400grams

Jim Blair confirmed that the Stadia Committee was aware of these amendments to the printed proposal and that it supported the proposal as amended. He stated further that his committee had satisfied itself that javelins in the affected weights were currently available for purchase.

The President then called for a vote on the proposal and it carried overwhelmingly, as follows:

In favour 82 votes, Against 13 votes, Abstentions 5

8.2.9. New Zealand's Proposal 5, providing for Rule 1(3) of the Rules of Competition to be amended so that the mens' and womens' 10km. cross country are both on the same 8km course was addressed by Ron Bell who stated that the Non- Stadia Committee had no objection to the proposed 8km. course for the Womens' Cross Country but he pointed out that whatever the distance, it should be the same for men and women. Bridget Cushen reported that at the

Womens' Assembly a decision was taken to retain the 10km. distance for the Womens' cross country. An amendment proposed by Brian Oxley that the distance be between 10km. and 8km., dependant upon the recommendation of the Non-Stadia Committee was voted on and adopted.

The amended proposal was then voted on and carried almost unanimously.

8.2.10. Australia's Proposal 6(vi), was on a point of clarification, of the words "registered member." Brian Oxley informed the Assembly that there was disagreement on this point in the Records Committee and suggested that the issue be referred for consideration to the next Council meeting, based on the Records Committees recommendations.

9. PRESENTATION OF HONORARY AWARDS:

Before proceeding to the Bidding for the forthcoming Stadia and Non-Stadia Championships the President interposed the presentation of Honorary awards pursuant to adopted Council Motion number 7. Accordingly, the following presentations were made with the unanimous approval of the Assembly:

9.1 To Don Farquharson (one of the WAVA founders) and **Cesare Beccalli**, Gold Pins, as Honorary Life Presidents and each made brief acceptance speeches thanking the Assembly for the honour accorded to them;

9.2 To Bob Fine, Al Sheahen, and Hans Axmann(in absentia), WAVA Silver Pins, as Honorary Life Members.

10 BIDS for 2003 STADIA and 2002 NON-STADIA CHAMPIONSHIPS:

10.1 2003 Stadia:

Each of the three contenders, Cesenatico, (ITA), Kuala Lumpur, (MAL), and Caguas, (PUR), and in that order, made their respective presentations to the Assembly. The Kuala Lumpur presentation appealed particularly to the Assembly because it promised "extra benefits", namely:

a) The hosting by the Malaysian Government of 20 countries with a maximum of 5 athletes each, with free board and lodging, the object being to help WAVA to expand. For the purpose the organising committee would request the WAVA President to help them to choose the 20 countries which would benefit from this gesture. The gesture was explained as the bidder's contribution towards helping WAVA to expand the number of its affiliates to 150;

b) A half day complimentary countryside tour for all athletes;

c) Spouses and children would be provided with their own programmes;

d) Discounted tours would be made available and that the National carrier Malaysian Airlines would provide one free destination to anywhere in Malaysia (to athletes flying into the country on Malaysian Airlines);

e) Athletes flying in on other airlines would also enjoy the benefit of one free stop-over within Malaysia. At the conclusion of the presentations the President asks the Assembly to use their ballot papers to vote.

This duly done, the first ballot resulted in Cesenatico being eliminated with 30 votes, leaving Kuala Lumpur with 49 votes and Caguas with 37 votes, to contest the second ballot. At the second ballot Kuala Lumpur defeated Caguas by 62 votes to 55. The President announced that as a consequence the 2003 Stadia Championships would be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

10.2 2002 Non- Stadia:

Each of the two competing bidders (after Auckland, New Zealand had withdrawn), were Upice, (CZE), and San Isidro,(ARG). Both made their presentations and there was a straight ballot. The successful bidder was Argentina with 64 votes against Upice's 46 votes.

The President then announced that the 2002 Non-Stadia Championships would be held in San Isidro, Argentina.

11 BRISBANE REPORT AND PRESENTATION:

David Lloyd, on behalf of the Brisbane L.O.C., made a brief presentation to the Assembly to indicate what athletes to Brisbane 2001 can expect. The presentation whetted the appetites of athletes for the next WAVA Stadia Championships.

12 CLOSING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

The President, on behalf of the Council thanks delegates for the productive and long day and expressed the hope that the Assembly had taken such decisions that when we meet again in Brisbane in two years it will be shown that these decisions helped to promote the cause and interests of Veteran Athletics. Before declaring the 1999 WAVA General Assembly closed he drew attention to the fact that the Rule Changes concerning the Hurdles and Javelin would come into effect from October 1st 1999 and that the Cross Country changes come into effect from the commencement of the 2002 WAVA Non-Stadia Championships in Argentina.

The President then declares the General Assembly closed.

(sgd)Monty Hacker

WAVA Secy

Sandton, 4/1/00.

(sgd)Torsten Carlius, (sgd)Keith Whitaker, (sgd)Karri Wichmann

WAVA President Scrutineer Scrutineer

Helsingborg, 27/12/99. Harrogate,22/12/99. Helsinki, 3/1/00.