

Minutes of the WAVA Assembly in Brisbane, Australia, 11th July 2001

Present:

WAVA Council:

Torsten Carlius (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), César Moreno Bravo (IAAF representative), Bridget Cushen (Women's representative), Hannes Booysen (Africa representative), Hari Chandra (Asia representative), Jacques Serruys (European representative), Brian Oxley (North and Central America & Caribbean representative), Stan Perkins (Oceania representative), José Figueras (South American representative).

Guests:

Organising Committee for Puerto Rico.

Delegates representing WAVA affiliates listed by region with number of delegates in brackets:

AFRICA (4):

Mauritius (1), Namibia (1), South Africa (2)

ASIA (14):

Brunei (1), India (4), Indonesia (1), Japan (4), Hong Kong (1), Lebanon (1), Malaysia (1), Singapore (1)

EUROPE (55):

Austria (2), Belgium (1), Belarus (1), Czech Republic (2), Denmark (1), Estonia (1), Finland (4), France (3), Germany (5), Great Britain and Northern Ireland (5), Greece (1), Ireland (3), Italy (3), Latvia (1), Netherlands (2), Norway (2), Poland (2), Portugal (2), Romania (1), Russia (3), Slovak Republic (1), Slovenia (1), Spain (2), Sweden (3), Switzerland (1), Turkey (1), Ukraine (1)

NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN (13):

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

OCEANIA (7):

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

SOUTH AMERICA (13):

Argentina (3), Bolivia (1), Brazil (3), Chile (1), Colombia (2), Peru (1), Uruguay (1), Venezuela (1)

which together with the 14 Council votes total 122 votes.

1. Opening of the General Assembly:

The President, Mr Torsten Carlius, welcomed the delegates, guests and observers and drew attention to the available English, French and Spanish channels for simultaneous translation. He welcomed particularly our Honorary Life President, Cesare Beccalli, our Honorary Life Members, Al Sheahen and Bob Fine, the Puerto Rican group who would be organising the 2003 Stadia Championships, and the bidders from Auckland, Helsinki, Sacramento and San Sebastian, who are to make their presentations later in the day. Before commencing the business of the General Assembly, he requested all present to pay their respects to and commemorate our deceased Founding President, Don Farquharson by standing for a minute of silence. He mentioned that Don had passed away during July of the previous year and paid tribute to him and the work which he had done in getting WAVA off to a sound footing during the 10 years he held office as President.

Once the Assembly had paid its respects to Don, the Chairman continued with the meeting and reported briefly on the hard work which the Council had done during the previous 2 years, he expressed the expectation of greater commitment and effort to follow. He made mention of the fact that drug use and drug testing were issues that had taken up a considerable amount of the Council's time and that the Council's ambition to do a great deal more than it was already doing, would only be fulfilled once the Council had access to additional funds which it hoped to obtain from sponsors. This problem of inadequate funding, which faces most sporting bodies unable to fund themselves, places greater financial demands on their members than they already bear. He mentioned also that part of WAVA's available funds were earmarked for development purposes, to create an awareness of our sporting discipline in many under-developed areas, particularly in South America and Africa. This awareness was intended to be created by means of seminars and programmes to be held in Africa and South America, similar to that which had already been successfully developed for Oceania with a pilot project in Tonga.

He also mentioned the existence of WAVA's favourable relationship with the IAAF, World Masters Games and the IAAF European Regional Affiliate (EAA) and that bridges were being built with the International Association of Ultra Runners (IAU) and with the new World Anti-Doping Agency in Lausanne (WADA). He then also invited the affiliates (through their delegates) to communicate with the Council from time to time and to draw Council's attention to matters which concerned them, particularly if they felt that they disagreed with the actions which the Council was taking between biennial General Assemblies, reminding the Assembly that the Council bore the heavy burden of having to take decisions between Assemblies without reference to the General Assembly. He then thanked the members of the Council for their efforts and commitment to their duties.

He went on to report that unfortunately San Isidro in Argentina had withdrawn from hosting the 2002 Non-Stadia Championships owing to security problems and financial difficulties which had been encountered. He drew attention to the fact that it was therefore necessary to find a new host for the 2002 Non-Stadia Championships at short notice and invited interest from the Assembly. He also mentioned that plans were afoot for a World Masters/Veterans Indoor Championships, hopefully in 2004 and that the details would be available to the affiliates for consideration at the next General Assembly in Puerto Rico in 2003.

He then went on to mention that there were 3 very strong bids for the 2005 Stadia Championships and that with all the inspection visits that must necessarily be undertaken by the Stadia and Non-Stadia Vice-Chairmen, more time was required for these investigative

visits and that it had therefore become necessary to require bids to be in the hands of the Secretary during September of the year preceding the General Assembly at which the Assembly is to vote on these bids. Only by means of providing this additional time would the Stadia and Non-Stadia Vice-Presidents be in a position to prepare reports and to circularise them amongst the affiliates, for their consideration and evaluation in good time prior to the next General Assembly.

Dealing with World Masters Games and our good relations with them, he mentioned that in the year 2005, there will be a clash as it is in that year that the holding of the World Masters Games will have changed from an even to an odd year. For the moment, we would not be doing anything about this clash and, hoped that our 2005 event would be more attractive to the athletes than the Masters Games Athletics event in the same year and this would then allow us the opportunity to gauge the impact of the clash on our event. Obviously, some form of co-ordination would be necessary to ensure that we do not poach athletes from each other.

He mentioned there had been a change of venue for our 2003 Stadia Championships and the contract has already been signed with Puerto Rico as the new venue. This, he said, not only has the support of the Governor of Puerto Rico, but also the IAAF and that Council are confident that the event will be a great success.

Finally he reported that a group has been set up to investigate and report on better communications with the affiliates so that access to information of and concerning WAVA's activities can be made more readily accessible to affiliates and athletes.

He then concluded his message to the delegates, once again welcomed them to the Assembly and declared the Assembly open.

2. César Moreno Bravo, the IAAF representative on the Council, was then invited by the Chairman to address the Assembly. He did so and conveyed very best regards to the Assembly from the IAAF.

He then went on to speak about communication within the WAVA organisation and drew attention to the fact that one of the six regions, namely South America, is not an English-speaking region and is almost exclusively Spanish-speaking, requiring the language of this region to receive consideration. He welcomed the availability of Spanish as part of the simultaneous translation facility available at the General Assembly, not only for the benefit of the South American affiliates, but also for the benefit of a large number of the Spanish-speaking affiliates in the North and Central America and Caribbean region. With those few words and the hopes for better communication, he wished all well.

3. Certification of the proper calling of the General Assembly:

On 22 December 2000, the WAVA Secretary, Monty Hacker, sent out the notices of today's date for the General Assembly to all affiliates. This was more than 120 days prior to the date of today's General Assembly. This was in conformity with the provisions of our Constitution which has therefore been properly and timeously convened.

4. Election of two Scrutineers for the minutes:

Heidi Pratsch, GER, and Jack Castle, CAN, were nominated and unanimously approved as scrutineers to certify the Minutes.

5. Election of two persons to count the ballots:

Thanga Chandra, SIN and Charles DesJardins, USA, were nominated and unanimously elected to count the ballots.

6. Submission and approval of reports of the WAVA officers:

The reports, as published in the General Assembly booklet, are a matter of record and the officers concerned made brief comments on their respective reports:

6.1 The President, Torsten Carlus, touched on the issues which had been dealt with more fully in his report, namely:

6.1.1 a drug testing policy for the future;

6.1.2 athletics congresses, particularly the European IAAF region (EAA) at which valuable contacts are made, with the forthcoming conference being in Moscow in October 2001 and at which WAVA would be represented;

6.1.3 the WAVA/IAAF Annual Co-ordination Meeting in Monaco at which the past year's events are discussed as well as plans made for the ensuing year;

6.1.4 co-operation with the IAU (International Association of Ultra Runners);

6.1.5 the WAVA archives are being built up by Bob Fine and Wilhelm Koester. He added that Bob, who was present, would be invited to present a report later;

6.1.6 WAVA committees where stronger core groups are required to be established;

6.1.7 co-operation with World Masters Games;

6.1.8 a brief background to the decision to transfer the 2003 Stadia Championships from Malaysia to Puerto Rico, explaining that the Council's requirements of Kuala Lumpur for the hosting of the 2003 Championships were ignored, despite the fact that Kuala Lumpur was given an adequate opportunity to comply with these requirements in accordance with Council's warning to Kuala Lumpur that it would forfeit the event if it failed to comply with Council's requirements. Unfortunately, Kuala Lumpur failed to comply and in the result, the Championships were withdrawn from them and awarded to Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico has satisfied all of the Council's requirements and Council was therefore confident that they will put on a good Championships. The Chairman, on noticing the raised hand of Malaysia's Mr Abdullah Dom, invited him to address the Assembly. Mr Dom duly did so and went into great length to explain Kuala Lumpur's version of the facts relating to the loss of the 2003 Championships by Malaysia/ Kuala Lumpur. In doing so, he joined issue with the President on the circumstances that gave rise to the withdrawal of the Championships from Malaysia/ Kuala Lumpur and he disputed that the Council had the right to withdraw the event from Malaysia/ Kuala Lumpur.

The President then invited further questions on his report and, as there were none, he then invited the Executive Vice-President, Tom Jordan, to deal with his report.

6.2 Tom Jordan explained that most of his duties on the Council revolved around future bids, the bidders' booklet and the refining of the process to choose future host cities. His other duty was chairing the new Organisational Advisory Committee which oversees the non-competition aspects of the Championships including items such as transportation, ceremonies, accommodation, signage and so on. He also mentioned that there was the need for this committee to prepare a guide book so as to guide and assist future organising committees in the streamlining of their non-competition activities. Tom then invited question from the floor and there were none.

6.3 Jim Blair, Vice-President Stadia, then dealt with his report and pointed out that the Stadia Committee had functioned well, that a sub-Committee consisting of Al Sheahen and Rex Harvey was working on certain technical aspects and that a technical recommendation would, hopefully, be implemented by October 2001. He also endorsed the need for early investigations/inspection visits to the sites of future bid cities and he made mention of the fact that as the Stadia Championships progressed, it becomes more and more difficult to cater for certain of the events which have to be crowded into a limited number of days.

He then dealt with a development programme which he had introduced into Tonga and explained its success, stating that a similar programme would be available for the Africa region where a great need for development existed.

He concluded by thanking his Stadia Committee for the hard work which it had done during the period just ended and he invited questions from the floor. There were none.

6.4 Ron Bell, Vice-President Non-Stadia, dealt with his report and mentioned that he had had some tremendous meetings. He pointed out that the 2000 Non-Stadia Championships in Valladolid ESP, were the best Non-Stadia Championships that he had witnessed. The only sad thing, he pointed out, was that there were not enough people to appreciate the quality of the organisation and the performances.

He then went on to deal with ultra running and mentioned that WAVA can safely give its patronage to the IAU. He then expressed his disappointment at the withdrawal of the 2002 Non-Stadia event from San Isidro, ARG. He mentioned that in looking for a host to replace San Isidro, he had received expressions of interest from Russia, USA, Italy, Spain and Taiwan. He pointed out that 2002 was to have been the first Non-Stadia competition using the new programme and added that to entice a prospective host to come forward to replace San Isidro, his committee would be prepared to revert (for 2002) to the old Non-Stadia programme. With those words, he invited interested affiliates to make contact with him.

In conclusion, Ron Bell invited questions from the floor. Brian Oxley asked whether he would prefer the immediate introduction of a new programme and Ron Bell replied that he would. Luis Grammacioni, ARG, explained briefly that San Isidro's inability to provide adequate security was the main reason from withdrawing from the 2002 Non-Stadia Championships. He regretted the fact that San Isidro had lost the opportunity to become the first country in South America to stage a World Championships event and he sought the forgiveness of the WAVA affiliates. The President thanked him for his words and assured him that the Assembly sympathized with him and his organising committee.

6.5 Monty Hacker, Secretary, referring to his report, made mention of some of the matters which required major attention during the past two year period, such as the prevalence of athletes testing positive to doping offences, the circumstances which gave rise to the

withdrawal of the 2003 Stadia Championships from Kuala Lumpur and the insufficient number of handbooks which were distributed to affiliates and committee members as a result of a mis-understanding within the distribution offices at IAAF. It was hoped that these incidents would not be repeated in the future and that insofar as the handbooks were concerned, steps would be taken to ensure that a larger number of copies would be printed in future. Nevertheless, he drew attention to the fact that insofar as the insufficiency of handbooks was concerned, it was possible to address the problem by accessing a copy of the handbook from the WAVA website.

He also reported on progress being made in the increase of the number of affiliates which presently stood at 137.

Finally, he once again appealed to the Assembly to ensure that more efficient communications between the affiliates and the Council and between the affiliates and the secretariat were established by means of more and more of the affiliates providing e-mail addresses to him.

There being no questions to the Secretary's report, the report of the Treasurer followed.

6.6 Giuseppe Galfetti, Treasurer, referred to his report in the booklet, stating that he had little to add to his report. He wished only to refer to his financial report and its balance for 31 December 2000, namely approximately US\$199 000. He also pointed out that we had cash in the bank amounting to US\$10 519 plus bonds to the value of US\$170 000. Furthermore, the independent auditors have confirmed that all bonds are rated AAA, with one exception which is A1. In addition he added that we have accruals being the interest accrued during the years and which would be received only after 31 December 2000, because of the deadline for the bonds when the banks give us a statement for our deposit. Only then could he determine what amount was available on each of the bonds. However, this accrual he estimated at US\$9 115 and that it represented approximately 4.78% of the deposits at the end of the year 2000. Against these deposits we would have to take account of expenses which relate to events occurring subsequent to December 2000 including the current Brisbane Championships. However, looking at our net current position, he reported that we have net current assets of US\$184 670 with a very small surplus of US\$2 468,67. He then drew attention to the profit and loss account and mentioned the continuation of the IAAF grant of US\$40 000 for which he thanked César Moreno Bravo, as a member of the IAAF.

He went on to mention that other revenue items were not easy to predict because of fluctuations in the number of entries, entry fees and fluctuating rates of interest. As for expenses, there was a US\$4 000 investments in networks and in the previous period, US\$9 000. He mentioned also the large provision for regional assistance (US\$30 000) in terms whereof each of the 6 regions receive US\$5 000. To add to this, there is the cost of Council meetings held at the Stadia Championships and also the inspection visits approximately 16 months before the Stadia Championships and that provision also has to be made for General Assembly expenses, particularly the lunch and the Women's Assembly. In addition, the activities of the Stadia Committee (which was very active) caused expenditure to exceed budget, but on the other hand, Non-Stadia activities were slightly below budget. However, the bottom line was that instead of going into deficit, we were able to show a small surplus of US\$2 468,67 as previously indicated.

There being no questions the President thanked Peppo for avoiding a deficit and presenting a small surplus.

6.7 Ron Bell, in his capacity as Commercial Manager, drew attention to his report in the booklet, which he declared to be a grim report because major international companies (sponsors) were not taking WAVA seriously mainly because it did not have a home and did not have any staff. This position, he reported, had now been addressed in that we now have a home at the IAAF offices in Monaco and that we also have access to the staff there.

The second problem he stated, is the use of the word "veteran" in our name, because of the perception which it creates amongst prospective sponsors. He also drew attention to the fact that a major problem which he encounters is that the international rights which attach to our championships vest in the respective organising committees, thereby leaving very little for him to market, as our Commercial Manager,. One of the global partners whom he had lined-up for the Kuala Lumpur event was Malaysian Airlines but, understandably, with the withdrawal of the event from Malaysia, there was a similar withdrawal of sponsorship interest on the part of Malaysian Airlines. He had a full package of commercial material including videos, available and was confident that with the name change from "veterans" to "masters" more progress would be made in linking up with global partners in the future.

He then invited questions on his report.

6.7.1 Peter Crombie, AUS questioned the item of US\$20 000 for sponsorship in the budget. Ron responded by stating that this figure was achievable with the name change from "veterans" to "masters", but was unlikely to be achieved if there was no name change.

6.7.2 Marina Hoernecke-Gill, ESP requested information about the staff in Monaco and Ron answered, informing the meeting that his long-distance secretary is Laetitia Theophage at the IAAF offices in Monaco, at no cost to WAVA.

6.8 The President then requested the Assembly's approval of the reports as presented and this approval was given unanimously, once there were no further comments or questions concerning these reports.

7 Awarding of WAVA Honorary Pins:

Each of the 6 WAVA regions were invited to submit nominations for the award of WAVA Honorary Pins to those persons who had rendered exemplary service to WAVA. Having received nominations, the Council had approved the award of honorary pins to the following 17 persons, namely:

David Payne, USA (absent); Fernando Ferreira, POR; Vadim Marshev, RUS; Wilhelm Kôster, GER (absent); Enno Akkel, EST; Keith Whitaker, GBR (absent); Barbara Dunsford, GBR; Ian Anderson, NFI; Colleena Blair, NZL; Jim and Helen Tobin, NZL; Fred O'Connor, AUS; Kerry Thew, AUS; Prince Hariomataram, INA (absent); Joseph Yan Kok Peng, SIN; Abdul Razak, Bongsu BRU; Takuro Miura, JPN.

The President then requested those of the 17 named who were present at the Assembly to come forward to be presented with their pins. To the applause of the Assembly, those present, received their Honorary Pins from the President. He thanked all who had been awarded Honorary Pins for their contribution to veteran athletics and its development in their respective regions.

8 Election of WAVA Office Bearers:

The Chairman drew attention to the fact that only one office is up for election, namely that of the Vice-President, Stadia. All other offices, he pointed out, namely those of President, Executive Vice-President, Vice-President Non-Stadia, Treasurer and Secretary are not contested and that the present incumbents are automatically re-elected. The candidates for the office of Vice-President, Stadia were Jim Blair, the present Stadia Vice-President, nominated by the Council and Rex Harvey, nominated by South Africa, the USA and the North and Central America and Caribbean regions. The election was held by secret ballot after each of the candidates was afforded two minutes in which to address the Assembly on the merits of their respective candidacy. In accordance with the established precedent, the challenger, Rex Harvey, addressed the Assembly first, followed by Jim Blair. The result of the election was 71 votes in favour of Rex Harvey and 47 in favour of Jim Blair. In congratulating Rex Harvey on his election as Vice-President, Stadia, the Chairman announced that the new Council takes office immediately after the conclusion of the closing ceremony and that the existing Council remains in office until then. The new Council was announced as:

President - Torsten Carlus, SWE;

Executive Vice-President - Tom Jordan, USA;

Vice-President, Stadia - Rex Harvey, USA;

Vice-President, Non-Stadia - Ron Bell, GBR;

Treasurer - Giuseppe Galfetti, SUI;

Secretary - Monty Hacker, RSA.

The Chairman also announced that the new Council will hold office for a four-year period and that with the exception of Rex Harvey, all other office bearers will not be eligible for re-election in the current offices held by them upon the expiry of their current terms of office as they will, by then, have served the maximum eight year terms of office as provided for in the Constitution.

9 Notification of the Appointment of the Women's Representative:

Bridget Cushen presented her report as Womens Representative and this was followed by a discussion on the Council Motion that the Womens Assembly be replaced by the Womens Committee. As for the election of the Womens Representative there was a dispute concerning the procedure which had been followed and in the result the Chairman called for fresh nominations for the post of Women's representative. The seconded nominations which followed were for Suzy Hess, USA; Sharon Gibbons, AUS; Bridget Cushen, GBR; Marina Hoernecke-Gill, ESP. The Chairman then announced that ballot papers would be distributed for delegates to cast their votes for one of the four nominees and he pointed out that if any one candidate obtained 50% of the votes cast, she would automatically be elected, but if no candidate obtained 50% of the votes, the election would then proceed to a second ballot with the two candidates receiving the lowest number of votes in the first ballot dropping out of the second ballot. The candidates were then invited to say a few words to the Assembly to support their candidacy and each of them did so. The delegates then cast their votes and Marina Hoernecke-Gill was elected Women's representative with 62 of 115 votes cast, followed by Bridget Cushen (26), Sharon Gibbons (15) and Suzy Hess (12).

10 Amendments to the WAVA Constitution / Bye-Laws / Rules of Competition:

10.1 Recommendations submitted by the Council:

10.1.1 Composition of the Stadia and Non-Stadia Committees and the Doping and Medical Committees: that Section 9(a) and (b) of the Constitution as read with Section 4(1) and (2) of the by-laws (in relation to the Stadia and Non-Stadia Committees) and Section 9(a) and (b) of the Constitution as read with Section 4(4) of the by-laws (in the case of the Doping and Medical Committees), be amended in such a way:

"That the number of members of these Committees be reduced to 6 (six) (plus the Chairmen) and that they be appointed by the President, based upon nominations submitted to him by the respective Chairmen."

The Chairman explained to the Assembly that the reason for this recommended amendment was to ensure that the size of these Committees be reduced and that these Committees be comprised of people who, in the opinion of the respective Chairmen and the President, are capable of delivering the required service rather than that these Committees be comprised of regional nominees who fail to render a service.

The Chairman then invited comments on the motion and as there were none, he put the motion to the Assembly and it was therefore deemed to be approved unanimously. However, thereafter, Al Sheahen claimed that there was dissent on the motion and he called for a vote on it. The motions numbered 1 and 2 on page 29 of the General Assembly Booklet were put to the vote and they were overwhelmingly approved, with 104 votes in favour and 7 votes cast against it, with 2 abstentions.

Accordingly, sub-paragraphs (b) and (d) of By-Laws Sections 4(1) and (2) shall be amended accordingly and sub-paragraph (c) shall be deleted from By-Laws Section 4, paragraphs 1 and 2, and sub-paragraphs (a) and (d) of By-Laws Section 4(4) shall be amended accordingly and sub-paragraphs (b) and (c) thereof shall be deleted and substituted therefor shall be new sub-paragraphs (b) and (c) providing respectively for the Women's representative to be an ex officio member of the Medical and Doping Committee and for the Council to appoint the Chairman of this committee from amongst its ranks.

CONSEQUENTLY;

10.1.1.1 sub-paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of Section 4(1) of the By-Laws are henceforth amended to read :

"(b) there shall be 6 (six) members of the Committee plus the Chairman;

(c) the 6 (six) members of the Committee shall be appointed by the President, based upon nominations submitted to him by the Chairman;

10.1.1.2 sub-paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of Section 4(2) of the By-Laws are hereby amended to read :

"(b) there shall be 6 (six) members of the Committee plus the Chairman;

(c) the 6 (six) members of the Committee shall be appointed by the President, based upon nominations submitted to him by the Chairman;

10.1.1.3 sub-paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d) of Section 4(4) of the By-Laws are hereby amended to read :

"(a) there shall be 6 (six) members of the Committee plus the Chairman;

(b) the 6 (six) members of the Committee shall be appointed by the President, based upon nominations submitted to him by the Chairman;

(c) the Women's representative shall be an ex officio member of the Committee.";

(d) the Chairman shall be appointed by the Council from amongst its ranks."

10.1.2 That the Women's Committee replaces the Women's Assembly:

Bridget then reported that the majority at the Women's Assembly voted in favour of the motion. The Chairman then addressed the Assembly and repeated the assurances which he had given to the Women's Assembly, namely that women would become a greater part of the decision-making process by means of the Women's Assembly being replaced by the Women's Committee and he then called for a vote on the motion. The motion was then carried overwhelmingly with 109 votes in favour, 2 against and no abstentions.

CONSEQUENTLY;

10.1.2.1 section 8 of the Constitution is hereby deleted;

10.1.2.2 section 4(e)(i) a new sub-section (g) "Women's representative" is added to the Constitution;

10.1.2.3 sub-section 4(e)(ii) is deleted from the Constitution;

10.1.2.4 sub-section 6(b) of the Constitution is hereby amended by means of the deletion of the first sentence thereof;

10.1.2.5 in sub-section 6(a) of the Constitution, a comma shall be inserted after "Secretary" and the following word "and" shall be deleted, and "Treasurer" shall be followed by the words "and the Women's representative", all in line 2 thereof;

10.1.2.6 by-law 3(1) is hereby amended by the deletion in line 3 thereof of the words "and/or" and by the addition of the words "and/or the Women's representative" immediately after the word "Treasurer";

10.1.2.7 any reference in the Constitution and the By-Laws to the "Women's Assembly" is henceforth to be deleted, and;

10.1.3 Recommendation/motion number 5 was, on a motion from the floor by Jim Tobin, amended in the first sentence thereof, to read :

"That where possible it be recommended that the members of the Doping and Medical Committee include some persons with medical and legal experience".

This amended motion was then voted on and it was carried overwhelmingly, with 1 abstention. Accordingly By-law 4(4)(a) shall now read :

"There shall be 6 members of the Committee plus the Chairman, with some of the members having medical and legal experience".

10.1.4 Motion number 6, that provision be made in the Constitution, the By-Laws and the Rules of Competition, for holding a 100 K. World Championship Road Race during each odd-numbered years, commencing 2003 :

Ron Bell addressed the Assembly and informed it that the IAU hosts a well-organised event and that he, on behalf of the Non-Stadia Committee, would be very proud to be associated with such an event as a World Championships. He asked the Assembly therefore to support this motion. Jim Tobin proposed an amendment to this Council proposal but his proposed amendment was defeated on a show of hands by the delegates. The Council proposal was accordingly voted on and it was overwhelmingly approved with 99 votes for, 4 against and 6 abstentions. Accordingly Rules of Competition 1(6) is amended to read :

"WAVA shall sanction such other road and cross country races as may be approved by the General Assembly, including the holding of a 100 K. World Championship Road Race during each of the odd-numbered years, commencing 2003."

In addition, Section 9(b)(i) of the Constitution is to be altered to read :

"Road Running (including a 100 K. World Championship Road Race during each of the odd-numbered years commencing 2003".

10.1.5 That the IAAF Rules, Regulations and Guidelines concerning Doping and the use or presence of Banned Substances be adopted by WAVA as provided for in the IAAF Constitution and its Procedural Guidelines for Doping Control ("the Guidelines"), as amended from time to time. Stan Perkins, on behalf of the Council, distributed a paper, setting out more fully the Council's recommendation. On reading this paper, Canada's motion, which was along similar lines, was withdrawn and Canada (through Jack Castle), expressed its support for the Council motion. This paper sets out the WAVA Anti-Doping Policy as follows :

"Belonging to the international sports world and being one of the leading associations in the veterans/masters area, WAVA disassociates itself strongly and fights against any drug abuse with the intention to keep veteran athletics clean from drugs. All athletes must be aware that drug abuse is not accepted and anyone caught with banned substances, shall be suspended. The WAVA Anti-Doping Policy is carried out in very close co-operation with the IAAF and has the same attitude and will apply the same measures as the athletics family worldwide. The WAVA Anti-Doping Policy rests on the following grounds:

1. WAVA has adopted the IAAF Rules for anti-doping and the IAAF procedures for doping offences;
2. WAVA performs drug testing at each WAVA World Championships, both Stadia and Non-Stadia;

3. WAVA will initiate discussions with WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) re. possible future co-operation between our organisations;
4. The WAVA Council will look at all decisions on the WAVA Anti-Doping Programme with due regard to and recommendations from the WAVA Doping and Medical Committee;
5. The WAVA Doping and Medical Committee will be responsible for doping control at all WAVA World Championships and will advise the WAVA Council on all matters relating to doping;
6. WAVA will establish an arbitration panel to handle all appeals in doping cases;
7. WAVA shall stimulate the Regions to set up their own doping programme for drug testing at Regional Championships;"

The Chairman then invited questions or comments and as there were none, he put the motion to the vote and it was carried overwhelmingly with only 1 vote against its adoption.

10.1.6 The proposed amendment to the Constitution to incorporate a new Section 15 to define WAVA's status as an independent body, totally independent from its members and that it incurs separate liability for its acts or omissions, totally unrelated to its members or members of the Council:

10.1.6.1 Monty Hacker explained the need for this amendment to exclude personal liability from members and/or the Council arising from any acts or omissions of WAVA or the Council unless any individual incurs a personal liability and thereby renders himself/herself personally liable to any other person/s by operation of law. This proposal was unanimously adopted and will be incorporated as a new Section 15 in the Constitution, as follows "

"15. STATUS

15.1 WAVA is an independent body, totally independent from its members and it thereby incurs separate liability for its acts or omissions, totally unrelated to its members, or members of its Council. Accordingly, none of them shall incur any personal liability for any such acts or omissions by WAVA or by its Council, unless any individual incurs a personal liability and thereby renders himself/herself personally liable to any other person/s by operation of law."

10.1.7 The introduction of a new Section 4(n) to the Constitution, to provide for the names of delegates to the General Assembly to be given in writing to the Secretary not later than 30 days before the General Assembly:

Monty Hacker addressed the Assembly and pointed out that this proposal merely constitutes good housekeeping, to ensure that timeous notification is received concerning the identity of the delegates who will be representing the affiliates at the General Assembly. There were two proposed amendments to this proposal, the one being that provision be made for alternates/reserves and the second proposed amendment was that also included should be the delegates' addresses and that the information be posted on the WAVA website by the Secretary not less than 20 days before the General Assembly. The proposal, as per these amendments, was then accepted by an overwhelming majority, with only 3 votes against it.

10.1.7.1 Accordingly, the new Section 4(n) of the Constitution will now read :

"The names and addresses of delegates to the General Assembly (including any alternates/reserves) shall be given in writing to the Secretary not later than 30 days before the General Assembly. The Secretary shall then be required to post this information on the WAVA website not less than 20 days before the General Assembly."

10.1.8 The addition of a new Section 9(i) to the Constitution reading :

"Meetings of the Stadia, the Non-Stadia and the Women's Committees are to be held as "open" meetings (to be attended by any athletes wishing to do so) during each of the WAVA Stadia Championships."

This proposed Council amendment was carried overwhelmingly with 1 abstention.

10.1.9 Name change from "World Association of Veteran Athletes" to "World Association of Masters' Athletes", (hereinafter referred to as "WAMA") - Constitution - Section 1 :

10.1.9.1 This motion was addressed on behalf of the Council by Ron Bell (in his capacity as Commercial Manager) who also explained fully the motivation for it. After lengthy debates and an amendment proposed by Jack Castle that the new name be "World Masters' Athletics", the proposal, as per Jack Castle's amendment was then put to the vote. The proposed name change, as amended to "World Masters' Athletics (WMA)" was then adopted with 93 votes in favour of the name change, 16 against and 4 abstentions.

10.1.10 Accordingly, all references in the Constitution, the By-Laws and the Rules of Competition to "veteran/s and WAVA (World Association of Veteran Athletes)" are to be replaced by the words "master/s and WMA (World Masters' Athletics)" respectively;

10.1.11 Motion number 13 in the General Assembly Booklet was withdrawn by Council;

10.1.12 That Rule 1(1) of the Rules of Competition be altered to include the following additional sentence at the end, namely :

"Written notification from the affiliate of the Bid City nominated, duly signed by the Bid City, must be in the hands of the Secretary at least 180 days prior to the General Assembly and no more than one Bid City from any affiliate may be nominated".

10.1.12.1 The motion was addressed on behalf of the Council by Tom Jordan. Tom explained why the Council needed more time to know who the bidding cities were and to deal with the bids, more particularly, from the point of view of arranging inspection visits in good time, for reports to be prepared and distributed. He also explained that as more time was needed for the preparation of these reports by the Stadia, Non-Stadia Vice-Chairmen, the proposal has been amended by Council to provide for the required notification to be in the hands of the Secretary not 180 days prior to the General Assembly, but by not later than 1st September in the year preceding the Championships. He also explained that along with that, the bid must be signed by the Bid City and not more than one bid may be submitted by an affiliate. The Chairman then invited discussion on the Council proposal, as amended by Council, and as there was none, he asked if there were any objections to it, or indeed any abstentions and here too, there were none. Accordingly, this amended Council motion was carried unanimously.

10.1.12.2 Consequently, paragraph 1(1) of the Rules of Competition are hereby altered to include the following additional sentence at the end, namely :

"Written notification from the affiliate of the Bid City nominated, duly signed by the Bid City, must be in the hands of the Secretary by not later than 1st September in the year prior to the General Assembly at which the bid is to be considered, and no more than one Bid City may be nominated by an affiliate."

10.1.13 Council proposal of number 15 was addressed, on behalf of the Council, by Tom Jordan, who explained that it was necessary for the last sentence of paragraph 1(2) of the Rules of Competition to be altered to provide for the contract to also bear the signatures of the mayor of the Bid City and the head of the country's IAAF N.G.B., so as to ensure that WMA was not just dealing with a bid from a club and/or a WAVA affiliate. He explained that the Council has found that in order to guarantee the financial stability and security of the Championships, Council must receive a commitment from the city and the IAAF National Governing Body of the affiliate concerned. Therefore the signatures of the mayor of the Bid City and the head of the country's IAAF N.G.B. are required to appear on the contract.

The Chairman invited discussion on the proposal and as there was none, he asked if there were any votes against the proposal. There was only 1 vote against the proposal and no abstentions. The motion was therefore adopted overwhelmingly.

10.1.13.1 Consequently, the second sentence of paragraph 1(2) of the WMA Rules of Competition is hereby altered to read :

"The contract must be signed by the affiliate, the city's organising committee, the mayor of the Bid City and the head of the country's IAAF N.G.B. and delivered to the Secretary at least 60 days before the General Assembly."

10.1.13.2 Furthermore, the following further sentence is to be added to this sub-paragraph, namely :

"Moreover, the inspection visits to the sites of the prospective bidders shall take place not less than 60 nor more than 179 days prior to the General Assembly and it is to be made by not more than 3 members of the Council, whose airfare, plus food and accommodation for three nights, shall be provided by the prospective Bid City at its cost. Furthermore, following upon such inspection visits, it shall be the duty of the members visiting the Bid Cities to compile reports on these inspection visits, reflecting their grading of the Bid Cities and to be place such grading before the General Assembly prior to the commencement of the formal bid proceedings thereat."

10.2 Proposals from WMA Affiliates to the General Assembly:

10.2.1 Motion number 1 from Canada has been withdrawn;

10.2.2 From New Zealand :

10.2.2.1 The motion to amend Rules 4(1) and 4(3) of the WMA Rules of Competition by the deletion at the end of 4(1) of the words "Men and Women must compete in separate sections.", and by the provision in 4(3) for men and women to compete together in two or more age groups.

Justification for the motion was explained by Jim Tobin and he questioned the strict adherence to the IAAF Rule which disallows the recognition of records established at a

combined event. Jim Blair reported that the Stadia Committee supports both motions. After some debate, the Chairman invited the delegates to vote on the motion before it and it was carried overwhelmingly with 7 votes against and 1 abstention. Accordingly, WMA Rules of Competition 4(3) is hereby amended to read :

"Two or more groups, and men and women, may compete together, provided that there shall be separate results and awards for each group of men and women."

10.2.2.2 The addition of a new sub-paragraph 19(9) to the WMA Rules of Competition reading :

"Performances achieved in mixed (i.e. men/women) competition will be acceptable for recognition as World Records."

Tom Jordan expressed reservations about this proposal indicating that it was open to abuse. However, Bridget Cushen explained that at the Women's Assembly, the women supported this proposal. Marina Hoernecke-Gill expressed the view that the concession of accepting records established in mixed events should not be permitted. Further debate followed and when the motion was put to the vote, it was adopted with 71 votes in favour, 30 against and 5 abstentions.

10.2.2.3 Remit number 3 from New Zealand dealing with the hammer was withdrawn.

10.2.3 From Australia :

10.2.3.1 The motion that the distance for the cross country event be fixed at 8 K. was carried overwhelmingly with 1 vote against and 1 abstention. Accordingly, at the end of paragraph 8(8) of the WMA Rules of Competition, the following sentence shall be added, namely :

"The distance for the cross country event shall be 8 (eight) K.

10.2.3.2 The proposed amendment to WMA Rules of Competition paragraph 3 requiring the use of the two outer lanes for events longer than 1500 metres was debated and carried overwhelmingly with 1 vote against and 1 abstention. Accordingly, paragraph 3(3) of the WMA Rules of Competition is hereby amended to read :

"In WMA Championships, in track events longer than 1500 metres, competitors may be restricted to the two outer lanes at any time within five minutes of the scheduled commencement time of the next track event at that venue."

10.2.3.3 The motion for the wearing of clothing approved by the affiliate's national governing body applying IAAF Rule 143.1 as read with Rule 12.1(a), 2(h).

There was debate on the proposal and the proposal was eventually altered to read :

"That all competitors in WMA World Championships must wear a singlet or vest that is approved by their national governing body."

This amended proposal was then voted on and it was carried overwhelmingly with 6 votes against and 1 abstention. Accordingly, this amendment will be inserted as a new paragraph 8(11) in the WMA Rules of Competition.

10.2.4 From Belgium :

The proposal that "each affiliate shall also be entitled to one only additional delegate for 100 or more competitors in the last 3 WAVA Non-Stadia Championships, provided, however, that the limit of 5 delegates is not exceeded".

10.2.4.1 This motion was debated and then put to the vote where it was overwhelmingly defeated with only 14 votes in favour and 2 abstentions.

11 Bids Presentation for future WAVA Championships:

The Chairman announced that before proceeding with the bids for the 2004 Non-Stadia Championships and the 2005 Stadia Championships be proposed inviting the Puerto Rico organising committee to address the Assembly on what could be expected from the 2003 Stadia Championships in Puerto Rico. Accordingly, Michael Seralto introduced the members of the organising committee and then presented a video on the facilities available for the event in the city of Carolina. The video was well-received by the Assembly and it was then followed by a brief address from the Chairman of the organising committee, Mr William Aléman.

11.1 The Chairman then invited the bidders to make their presentations in the order of :

11.1.1 Auckland, New Zealand, in respect of the 2004 Non-Stadia Championships.

This bid was presented and was well-received by the Assembly. It was unnecessary to vote on the bid as Auckland was the only bid city for this 2004 event and the event was accordingly awarded to Auckland, unopposed;

11.1.2 In respect of the 2005 Stadia Championships:

11.1.2.1 Helsinki made their presentation, also making use of a video and the presentation was well-received by the Assembly;

11.1.2.2 Sacramento then made its presentation and likewise, supplemented the presentation with a video. This presentation was also well received by the Assembly, and;

11.1.2.3 San Sebastian then made its presentation through an international events management company, "Octagon" and remarkably, no member of the San Sebastian organising committee was present to promote the bid, likewise supplemented by a video. This bid too was well-received by the Assembly;

11.1.2.4 The Chairman then called for the casting of votes for the selection of the bid city for the 2005 Stadia Championships and rejected requests for questions to be put to the 3 Stadia bid cities as the General Assembly had already exceeded its allocated time. Upon a request by a delegate that 10 minutes question time be permitted for each of the 3 Stadia bid cities, the request was put to the Assembly and with 1 abstention, the motion proposing question time was overwhelmingly defeated. Voting then proceeded by secret ballot and San Sebastian won on the first and only ballot with 63 votes in its favour, followed by Helsinki with 29 votes and Sacramento with 26 votes.

The Chairman then congratulated San Sebastian on its success at being approved as the bid city for the 2005 WMA Stadia Championships. He then thanked the delegates for their attendance and their contributions to the Assembly and the Assembly was then closed.

Monty Hacker, WMA Secretary, Sandton, RSA, 12th December 2001

Torsten Carlius, WMA President, Helsingborg SWE, 15th December 2001

Heidi Pratsch, Scrutineer, Grafeling, GER, 18th December 2001

Jack Castle, Scrutineer, Scarborough, CAN, 17th December 2001