

**MINUTES OF THE WMA GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN SAN
SEBASTIAN, SPAIN , 30TH AUGUST 2005**

PRESENT:

WMA Council

Tom Jordan (“Tom”) President – Chairman; Rex Harvey (“Rex”) Vice-President Stadia; Ron Bell (“Ron”) Vice President Non-Stadia; Giuseppe Galfetti (“Peppo”) Treasurer; César Moreno Bravo (“César”) IAAF Representative; Marina Hoerneck-Gil (“Marina”) Women’s Representative; Hannes Booysen (“Hannes”) Africa Representative; Hari Chandra (“Hari”) Asia Representative; Dieter Massin (“Dieter”) Europe Representative; Stan Perkins (“Stan”) Oceania Representative; Brian Keaveney (“Brian”) North America/Central America/Caribbean Representative; José Figueras (“José”) South American Representative and Monty Hacker (“Monty”) General Secretary.

Delegates:

The following WMA Affiliates listed below, by region, gave proper and timely notice of their delegates who, in turn, had automatic voting rights. However many of these delegates did not register at the registration desk :

- Africa (10):

South Africa (3), Mauritius (1), Cameroon (1), Ethiopia (1); Ivory Coast (1), Namibia (1), Senegal (1), Zimbabwe (1)

Asia (13):

Japan (3), Hong Kong (1), India (3), Lebanon (1), Malaysia (1), Philippines (1), Singapore (1), Sri Lanka (1), Iran (1)

- Europe (56):

Austria (2), Belgium (2), Croatia (1), Czech Republic (2), Denmark (1), Estonia (1), Finland (3), France (3), Germany (5), G. Britain & N. Ireland (5), Greece (1), Iceland (1), Ireland (3), Italy (3), Lithuania (1), Malta (1), Norway (2), Netherlands (2), Poland (2), Portugal (2), Romania (1), Russia (2), Slovakia (1), San Marino (1), Slovenia (1), Spain (2), Sweden (3), Switzerland (2), Turkey (1).

- North and Central America & the Caribbean (13):

Canada (4), USA (5), Costa Rica (1), Puerto Rico (2), Trinidad & Tobago (1).

- Oceania (9):

New Zealand (4), Australia (5).

- South America (14):

Argentina (2), Colombia (2), Brazil (2), Bolivia (1), Chile (2), Guyana (1), Paraguay (1), Peru (1), Uruguay (1), Venezuela (1).

There was a request from delegates who had not been registered in a timely manner in terms of the provisions of clause 4 (n) of the Constitution (particularly Mexico and Peoples Republic of China), that they be entitled to register and have voting rights at the Assembly. This was put to the vote. The Assembly voted overwhelmingly in favour of allowing these non-registered delegates to be allowed to register and vote and they were then registered and given ballot papers. As a result the number of registered eligible voting delegates in attendance was announced at 121 including the 13 members of the Council. Unfortunately the volunteers who manned the registration desk did not retain and/or deliver to the Secretary the registration forms and it has therefore become impossible to record the precise details of which delegates were in attendance and on behalf of which affiliates.

Guests:

Organising Committees for San Sebastian, ESP, Riccione ITA, Indoors Bidder Clermont-Ferrand, FRA, Stadia Bidders; Silkeborg Aarhus DEN, and Lahti, FIN, Cesare Beccalli (Honorary Life President), Torsten Carlius (previous WMA President) and Borg Anderson (IMGA President).

1. OPENING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

The start of the Assembly was delayed for half an hour both because of transport difficulties which certain delegates encountered and also to allow Dieter the opportunity to confer with his Europe delegates. Consequently the Assembly was opened at 9.30a.m.

The President welcomed the Delegates, Guests and Observers outlining the nature of business to be dealt with. He also explained that he had assumed the Presidency as Torsten Carlius had resigned and was no longer a member of the Council.

2. CERTIFICATION OF THE PROPER CALLING OF THE ASSEMBLY:

The Secretary informed the Assembly that the meeting had been properly convened, notice thereof having been given both by e-mail and by surface mail on January 22nd 2005. The Chairman declared the Assembly properly convened.

This was then followed by the vote (mentioned above) permitting the non-registered delegates to register and be given ballot papers. In introducing the issue the Secretary informed the Assembly that for the non-registered delegates to be permitted to register and vote, the decision of the Assembly had to be unanimous, as was the requirement in Carolina. The vote was not unanimous although the proposal was

overwhelmingly supported and the Chairman declared the proposal to have been adopted. The delegates from Australia strongly objected. However their objections were overruled by the Chairman who stated that all that was required was a two thirds majority in favour of the proposal and that this had been obtained.

3. ELECTION OF 2 SCRUTINEERS FOR THE MINUTES:

Marilyn Mitchell and Bob Schickert were elected as the Minutes Scrutineers.

4. PRESENTATIONS BY RICCIONE, (ITA), BARILOCHE, ARG., SOLE 2008 INDOORS BIDDER: CLERMONT-FERRAND, (FRA.), 2009 Stadia Bidders; SILKEBORG/ARHUS (DEN.), and LAHTI, (FIN.):

All of the presentations were well received by the Assembly.

In the case of the 2008 WMA Indoor Championships bid by CLERMONT-FERRAND, (FRA.) this city was the only bidder and it was awarded these Championships.

In the case of the 2009 WMA Stadia Championships the decision went to the ballot and the Assembly awarded the event to Lahti (FIN).

5. ELECTION OF 3 PERSONS TO COUNT THE BALLOTS:

Bob Fine, Marilyn Mitchell and Bob Schickert were elected as ballot counters.

6. SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL OF REPORTS:

The following reports numbered 5.1 to 5.6 hereunder, contained in the General Assembly Booklet were addressed to the Assembly by the persons mentioned :

- 6.1 President, at pages 11 to 16. This was addressed by the former President Torsten Carlus, who had resigned;
- 6.2 Executive Vice-President, at page 17. This was addressed by Tom who had assumed the role of President on the resignation of Torsten Carlus;
- 6.3 Vice President, Stadia at pages 18 to 20;
- 6.4 Vice-President Non-Stadia, at pages 20 to 23;
- 6.5 Treasurer, at pages 26 to 29;

6.6 Auditors' Report; and

6.7 Women's Representative, at pages 31 to 32.

All the reports were approved by the Assembly after questions had been raised and answers and explanations given on a number of the reports, particularly on the President's report and the report of the Non-Stadia Vice-President. In the case of the President's report the questions related to IMG A and his representation on the IMG A Board. In the case of the Non-Stadia report the questions were in the form of criticism over the allegation that there had not been adequate consultation on the awarding of Non-Stadia events and the failure to involve the Asia region's representatives in the event held in Asia.

7. SUBMISSION OF REPORT ON WORLD MASTERS GAMES:

Brian Keaveney and Torsten Carlus both submitted most favourable reports on the recent World Masters Games in Edmonton, in which Athletics contributed the largest number of competitors.

8. AMENDMENTS TO THE WMA CONSTITUTION/BYE-LAWS/ RULES OF COMPETITION:

Council proposals

1. Constitution, section 4:

Amendment of paragraph 4 (n)

The present wording has been replaced by:

“The names of Delegates to the General Assembly (including any alternates/substitutes) shall be given in writing by the affiliates to the WMA Secretary not later than 30 days before the opening date of the General Assembly.”

Votes: In favour Unanimous

2. Constitution, section 5, Council:

Addition to paragraph 5 (n)

“Not more than two members of the Council or of any single WMA Committee may come from the same affiliate.”

Votes: In favour Unanimous

3. Constitution, section 6, Election of Officers:

“Athletes holding dual nationality/citizenship may be permitted to change nationality/citizenship and thereby permitted to compete solely for another country (to the exclusion of the country of his/her nationality/citizenship) only when a change in the athlete’s permanent physical address has occurred. Such change must be reported to the WMA Regional Association Secretary and the WMA Secretary and shall only become effective once confirmed in writing by the WMA Secretary.”

<u>Votes:</u>	In favour	Overwhelming in favour
	Against	0
	Abstentions	0

Required two thirds majority obtained.

7. Bye-Laws, section 3, Committees:

Addition to paragraph 3 (2) (b) and (c) – dependant on removal of WMA World Championships Non Stadia.

Removed as a result of failure of proposal to remove WMA Stadia Championships.

8. Rules of Competition, section 1, Championships:

Amendment of paragraph 1 (1) – to remove the WMA World Championships Non-Stadia and the placing its events with WMA Championships Stadia and Indoors.

<u>Votes:</u>	In favour	51
	Against	41
	Abstentions	0

Proposal ruled by Chairman Tom to have failed because a two-thirds majority approval was not obtained. However as this was not a Constitutional amendment, only a simple majority was required the chairman erred and ruled incorrectly. (As this error was not brought to the attention of the Assembly at the time, the ruling remains in effect *pro tem* and can only be rectified, at earliest, at the next General Assembly in Riccione).

9. Rules of Competition, section 1, Championships:

Amendment of paragraph 1 (4) for deletion of present text and its replacement with the text:

“The WMA World Championships Stadia shall include marathon, 10K road race and 20K road race”.

This proposal was withdrawn by Council.

10. Rules of Competition, section 1, Championships:

Amendment of paragraph 1 (2) by the deletion of the last three sentences, to be replaced by:

“The WMA Council revises, if necessary, the grading and awards the Championships to the highest graded Bid City. The Council reports its decision to the General Assembly and the city presents itself at the General Assembly”.

This proposal was defeated.

11. Rules of Competition, section 1, Championships:

Addition to paragraph 1 (6) to be altered to read:

“WMA shall sanction such other road, cross-country and mountain running races as may be approved by the General Assembly, including the holding of a World Championships 100K Road Race in odd-numbered years and a WMA World Championships Mountain Running in even-numbered years”.

This proposal was adopted by an overwhelming majority.

9. WMA AFFILIATE MOTIONS:

- 9.1 New Zealand proposal to amend Constitution section 4(c) to include Honorary Life Presidents and Honorary Life members.

This proposal was defeated.

- 9.2 U.S.A. Masters proposal for the addition of a new paragraph 4 (o) to the Constitution, giving the General Assembly the power to determine the rights and entry fees for Stadia Championships, two championships in advance.

This proposal was defeated.

- 9.3 **Constitution, section 6, Election of Officers**

Amendment of paragraph 6 (d) fixing the terms of office of elected members of Council and their eligibility for re-election to the same Council office.

The adoption of this proposal, as amended, has been dealt with under paragraph 3 above.

- 9.4 **Constitution, section 6, Election of Officers**

Amendment of paragraph 6(d) regulating candidate nominations for election to Council.

The adoption of this proposal, as amended, has been dealt with under paragraph 4 above.

9.5 **Rules of Competition, section 1, Championships**

Australian Masters proposal for amendment to paragraph 1(3), in substitution for the existing last line:

“separate walks for men and women in each of the distances 5K track walk, and 10K and 20K road walks.”

This proposal was adopted by an overwhelming majority

9.6 **Rules of Competition, section 4, Age Groups**

Amendment to present paragraph 4 (3).

Proposal by Germany, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden that age groups for athletes be determined by year of birth.

This proposal was defeated by an overwhelming majority.

9.7 **Rules of Competition, section 1, Championships**

Addition of new paragraph 1 (2).

British Masters withdrew their proposal that there be no more than two consecutive WMA Championships in any one Region.

9.8 **Rules of Competition, section 18, Throwing the weight**

Amendment of present text in 18 (2).

British Masters withdrew their proposal that in weight throws either or both hands can be used.

9.9 **Rules of Competition**

British Masters also withdrew their proposals numbered 10, 11, 12 and 13 in the General Assembly booklet, all of which deal with field events, save in the case of 12 which dealt with combined events.

9.10 **Rules of Competition Appendix “A”**

Reduction of weights for M80+shot and W80+discus:

- 9.10.1 That the weight of the shot and the hammer for the age group M80+ be reduced from 4kg to 3kg, - British Masters affiliates proposal number 9, and;

- 9.10.2 That the weight of the discuss for the age group W80+ be fixed at 750g - Finnish Veteran Athletics, affiliates proposal number 14.

Both of these proposals were adopted by an overwhelming majority.

9.11 **Rules of Competition**

Additional Rule proposed by the French Athletic Federation that the 200 meter events for men and women be retained in the WMA Championships Indoors.

This proposal was withdrawn once the proposer was informed that the proposal was unnecessary because there was no intention to remove the events.

10. ELECTIONS:

Prior to the elections proceeding, the Assembly was informed by Monty of the opinion of the Law and Legislation Committee on the need for the Assembly to decide on the hiatus which existed concerning the limitation of any officer's term of office to two consecutive terms of four years each. This, he informed the Assembly, was in issue because of the fact that Cesare Beccalli (candidate for President) had eight years previously held the office of President for five consecutive terms of two years each. Furthermore, it was not clear whether Constitution clause 6 (c), in the last sentence thereof, permitted the return to the same office, even after a break, after serving for two consecutive periods of four years each. The Chairman therefore ruled that the decision was to be made by the Assembly and ballot papers prepared by the Secretary were handed out. These ballot papers called for a decision on whether Cesare Beccalli was eligible for election to the office of WMA President. Dieter immediately objected, contending that the ballot paper was incorrectly worded and that it should refer to the eligibility of both candidates for this office and not just one of them. Accordingly, the Chairman upheld this objection and new ballot papers were prepared and distributed. These new ballot papers called upon the Assembly to decide whether both candidates (Cesare Beccalli and Stan Perkins) were eligible for election to the office of WMA President.

The Assembly duly voted and held that both candidates were eligible for election.

Each of the nominated candidates for election to offices which were contested by two or more candidates were permitted one minute in which to address the Assembly before the Assembly was asked to cast their votes by secret ballots.

10.1 **PRESIDENT**

Candidates: Cesare Beccalli and Stan Perkins.

<u>Votes:</u>	In favour of	Cesare Beccalli	65
	In favour of	Stan Perkins	55

Cesare Beccalli was elected President.

10.2 **EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT**

Outright majority required from 109 votes - 55

First Ballot

Candidates:	Ron Bell, Monty Hacker, Vadim Marshev and Winston Thomas
<u>Votes:</u>	Monty Hacker 54
	Winston Thomas 34
	Vadim Marshev 12
	Ron Bell 9

Ron Bell was eliminated from the second ballot

Second Ballot

<u>Votes:</u>	Monty Hacker 73
	Winston Thomas 34
	Vadim Marshev 15

Monty Hacker was elected Executive Vice-President.

10.3 **VICE-PRESIDENT, STADIA**

Candidates: Jean-Pierre Clamaran Danzelle and Rex Harvey

<u>Votes:</u>	In favour of Jean-Pierre Clamaran Danzelle	23
	In favour of Rex Harvey	97

Rex Harvey was elected Vice-President, Stadia.

10.4 **VICE-PRESIDENT, NON-STADIA**

Nominations from the floor: Sole nominee Brian Keaveney

Brian Keaveney was elected unopposed.

10.5 **SECRETARY**

The Law and Legislation Committee Opinion, as in the case of the eligibility of Cesare Beccalli recommended General Assembly approval of the eligibility of Torsten Carlus for election to this office. The reason was that the Constitution prescribes that upon the election of a new President the former President (Torsten Carlus) becomes “past President for a period of two years (clause 5 (a) x), and in terms of clause 6 (c) no officer may hold more than one office. It was however the opinion of the Committee that there was nothing to prevent Torsten from resigning his office as past President immediately upon assuming this office, but that this would require the approval of the Assembly. In this case as well the Chairman ruled that the

Assembly must vote on the eligibility of both candidates for office, namely Torsten Carlius and Brian Oxley.

The Assembly duly voted and held that both candidates were eligible for election.

Candidates: Torsten Carlius and Brian Oxley.

<u>Votes:</u>	In favour of	Torsten Carlius	68
	In favour of	Brian Oxley	47

Torsten Carlius was elected Secretary.

10.6 **UNOPPOSED NOMINATIONS and APPOINTMENTS**

10.6.1 **TREASURER** Friedel Schunk

10.6.2 **WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE** Marina Hoernecke-Gil

11. NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY AWARDS - PINS:

Upon the nomination by Brian Keaveney, for the award of a Bronze Pin to Pete Mundel, USA, the Assembly unanimously approved this award to him for services rendered by him as WMA Statistician.

Monty Hacker
WMA Secretary
Sandton, RSA.
30th November 2005

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