



Athletics Victoria
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News from the AV Board – February 2015

Some of the recent feedback to the Board has focused on communication – or more specifically, deficiencies in communication. The Board is obviously concerned about this.

One of the recommendations requires the Board to communicate better with the general membership, regularly letting members know what has been on the Board's agenda, and what decisions are being made at Board level.

The bulletin that you are now reading is the second response to that requirement. Bulletins such as this one will appear after each meeting of the Board.

We want to stress that communication is a two-way street. If you have feedback for the Board, or an item that needs attention from the Board, please address such items to president@athsvic.org.au.

These newsletters from the Board are publicly available on the Athletics Victoria website, and can be viewed by going to <http://athsvic.org.au/about/board/>. Then go the heading **AV Board News**, and click on the item of interest.

Budget

The Board is maintaining a very close watch on the financial results against budget. In the October issue of News from the Board I reported that indications at the halfway point of our current financial year were that we would be close to even at the end of March 2015. That projection has now been updated to indicate a probable small deficit over the 2014-15 financial year, in line with the budget.

With fluctuations in items such as membership and championship entries, it is impossible to be precise.

The Board is insistent on keeping our finances under strict control, but, given our reserves of over half a million dollars, is comfortable with a moderate deficit outcome.

Special Awards Committee

I reported in the October issue of News from the Board that the awards committee has been re-established with revised terms of reference, and broader responsibilities. I am pleased to advise that the following persons have agreed to serve on the Special Awards Committee:

- Maureen Austen (Convener/Chair),
- Paul Jenès, and
- Len Johnson.

On behalf of Athletics Victoria I thank them for volunteering their time for this important work. The terms of reference for the Special Awards Committee can be viewed by going to <http://athsvic.org.au/about/board/>. Then go the heading **AV Committee News**, and click on the item of interest.

Development Officers

Consideration of Development Officers (see the October issue of News from the Board) has been deferred until April 2015.

Membership Categories and Registration Fees

The Board continued the discussion from the previous meeting and considered refinements to the model that had been prepared by the CEO. The next stage of the revision process will need to involve representative clubs. The new “membership model” will require concomitant IT development, and we hope that it will all be ready for introduction from April 2016 (not 2015!).

Athletics Victoria Advisory Group

The Board was pleased to receive a volunteer for service on this important committee, and hopes that the full membership will be finalised before the end of March.

The History of Athletics in Victoria

The Board supported *in principle* a proposal from Ron Carlton and Paul Jenes to write a history of athletics in Victoria. The funding for the project has not been defined at this stage, and the Board has made no commitments in this regard.

The development of this project will require access to considerable resource material, much of which is held by clubs or treasured individuals.

Ron and Paul are to be commended for this initiative.

Revitalising summer competitions

Board members have received comments and feedback to the effect that our Shield competitions and the Zone vs Zone competitions are lacking in atmosphere, in spite of many outstanding performances. The board discussed this issue, will await advice from the Athletics Victoria Advisory Group.

Various Reports

The Board received and noted information on the following.

Australian Sports Awards – 9 October

At the 30th Annual Induction and Awards Gala Dinner for the Sport Australia Hall of Fame, the following awards were noted:

- Betty Cuthbert’s victory in the 400m at the Tokyo Olympics was enshrined as a “Great Sporting Moment”,

- Dick Telford was inducted into the Australian Hall of Fame, and
- Sally Pearson won the Don Award – for the sportsperson who “conducts life with dignity, with integrity, courage and perhaps most of all, with modesty”. Michael Shelley was also one of the seven finalists for this award.

APS Athletics - 18 October

The APS athletics always exhibits a spirited and combative team element as various schools cheer enthusiastically for their competitors. These sports show that there is a latent interest in the team format of athletics. How to harness that outside of the school system is our challenge.

Athletics Australia Awards Night - 23 October

The annual awards night for Australian athletics was held very successfully at Crown. Brunswick Athletic Club are to be commended for putting together a table for this event. Inductees into the Athletics Australia Hall of Fame were Darren Clark, Lisa Ondieki, Jennifer Lamy and Louise Sauvage. Athlete of the Year Awards went to **Michael Shelley** (Qld) and new Australian javelin record holder **Kim Mickle** (WA).

Para-Athletes of the Year were **Angela Ballard** (NSW) and **Michael Roeger** (SA).

High jump sensation **Eleanor Patterson** (Vic) was declared the best Australian Junior.

Athletics Australia Presidents' Meeting and AGM - 24 October

The nominations to the Board of AA of Jan Swinhoe and Brenda LaPorte were endorsed. **Pat Clohessy AM** was announced as a Life Governor of Athletics Australia, and **Max Binnington, Chris Bradshaw, Mike Hurst** and **Peter Lawler** were all granted Life Member status.

All Schools Championships – 7 to 9 November

There were many very good performances at these championships, providing great promise for the future. These championships are also a time to reflect on the amazing contributions of our staff and officials ... 3 long days!

Tom Kelly – 6 and 8 November

The Doncaster track was renamed and dedicated to the memory of Tom Kelly in conjunction with the Victorian 5000m Championships on 6 November. This was followed on 8 November by the Tom Kelly Athletics Track Celebratory Ball.

The event was very well supported, and saw the launch of the *Tom Kelly Development Scholarship*, which will support athletes and coaches.

The Doncaster club is to be commended on the way it has responded to the tragedy of Tom's premature death.

Phillip Hughes

Following the tragic death of cricketer Phillip Hughes, the Board has written to the Board of Cricket Australia to express our condolences and our fraternal support, and refocused our own attention on managing the considerable risks associated with track and field athletics.

The 'Glasgow Review'

As you know, Athletics Australia commissioned a review following the well-publicised events concerning athletics at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. The investigating panel comprised Chris Wardlaw (Chair), Anne Lord, Jan Swinhoe and Peter Bromley.

The panel submitted its report in December, and the AA President, David Grace, immediately convened a meeting of State and Territory presidents and CEOs to discuss the 21 recommendations. The mood was accepting of the recommendations.

The actions to ensue will be finalised after the release of the 'whole of sport' review being conducted under the auspices of the Australian Sports Commission. This latter report is expected by the end of February.

Zatopek 10

This meet was held at Lakeside on 11 December. Once again it was a great meet. The racing was fantastic. When we conduct a meet such as this, we need to focus on what our objectives are. It is a difficult meeting to sell to the public but the dilemma we face is not only to attract members of the public but our own membership.

CEO of Athletics Australia

AA has appointed an interim CEO, Phil Jones who will assist with the recruitment of the new CEO.

AV Shield Final

This was a great event great event – and a very long day. Thank you to the office and AV staff, and the volunteers and officials, some of whom worked for very long spells. The program ran on time, with progressive scores constantly updated on the scoreboard. The entire event was a credit to our sport.

Engagement with Little Athletics

Athletics Victoria and Little Athletics Victoria jointly hosted earlier this month the first Joint Summit of all the state and territory CEOs of Athletics Associations and Little Athletics Associations. A report on the meeting will be available after the April meeting of the AV Board.

XCR'15 (2015)

Preparations for upcoming season in XCR and Track and field are underway.

Clubs conducting competitions

The Board is pleased to see clubs conducting athletic meetings when there is an available opportunity in our busy Statewide schedule. Essendon had scheduled a competition, but unfortunately needed repairs to the Aberfeldie track led to the event being cancelled.

Board Committees

The Board is currently reviewing the terms of reference for the following Board Sub-Committees:

- Finance
- Nominations and Awards
- Marketing
- Risk Management
- Remuneration and Nominations.

Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for 7 April 2015.