

AUSTRALIA SOCIETY FOR SPORTS HISTORY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 2001

[Enclosed are draft minutes, prepared by Rob Hess, of the minutes of the ASSH November 2001 AGM. Although these minutes have yet to be adopted (and amended if necessary), I believe that it is appropriate for ASSH members to be informed of the discussions that took place at this meeting – Richard Cashman].

Minutes of the AGM of the Society, held at the Centre for Olympic Studies, University of New South Wales, Cliffbrook Campus, on Friday, 2 November 2001. The meeting commenced at 9.40 am. The President, Richard Cashman, took the Chair. An agenda had been previously circulated to members.

1. Apologies, Attendance and Proxies: a) In the absence of the Secretary, Rob Hess was appointed Minutes Secretary. b) Present: Rob Hess, John Cordner, Michael Christie, Craig Wilson, Dwight Zakus, Bruce Coe, Peter Kadar, Imke Fischer, Anthony Hughes, John O'Hara, Richard Cashman, Daryl Adair and Robert Bennett c) Apologies were received from Tara Magdalinski, Dave Nadel, Ian Warren, Kristine Toohey, Lynn Embrey, Murray Phillips, J. Neville Turner, Angela Burroughs, Roy Hay, John Deane, and Kitty O'Brien. d) It was noted that proxy forms had not been distributed with the notice of the AGM. However, correspondence from J. Neville Turner indicated that he wished John O'Hara to have his proxy vote.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: a) The minutes of the previous meeting, held in Adelaide in July 2001, were tabled and adopted without correction. b) It was noted that correspondence from J. Neville Turner raised the matter of whether a Victorian delegate should be co-opted to the Executive. The meeting agreed that the recent relocation of the Secretary to Melbourne met the concerns expressed by the Society's branch in Victoria. c) Clarification of the process by which the assistant editor was appointed was sought. The Publications Officer responded that the process had been approved by the outgoing Executive, although the matter would be discussed further later in this meeting. d) The meeting endorsed the election of those office-bearers who were nominated at the meeting in Adelaide. e) The meeting agreed that general meetings of the Society should commence at a specific starting time, rather than at the conclusions of a session — as had occurred at Adelaide. It was also agreed that this protocol should become part of the Society's proposed conference policy.

3. President's Report: a) The President delivered a verbal report, raising the following matters: Society policies and procedures should be set out in written

form thereby achieving greater professionalism, more continuity from Executive to Executive and greater transparency. The President stated that he wanted to allocate specific tasks to individual Executive members. He also dealt with constitutional issues noting that the financial matters of the Society needed to be finalised by 30 April each year. A meeting was then needed to be held within five months of this date so that the report of the Treasurer could be ratified. However, he noted that he was awaiting some material regarding procedural matters from the former Secretary, John Deane, who is now the Public Officer of ASSH. It was agreed that whenever possible such meetings should be held in conjunction with the Biennial meetings of the Society. It was also noted that previous changes re gender bias in the Constitution needed to be incorporated into a new version of the Constitution **[Action: Angela Burroughs]**. The next general meeting of the society was likely to be held in June/July 2002, possibly on a Saturday to ensure greater attendance.

4. Treasurer's Report: a) A Financial Report was tabled. The Treasurer stressed the need for invoices to be presented in a timely manner. It was also noted that no royalty payments for ASSH publications such as OCAS had been made to contributors because the authors had waived these payments. A small number of recent editions of OCAS were now available at a reduced cost to members. The Report was adopted on the motion of Imke Fischer and John O'Hara. b) In matters arising from the Report, it was noted that: Website income in US dollars from the AAFL in Los Angeles was very advantageous to the Society. It was agreed that Society income should be used to directly benefit members and a sub-committee (appointed by the President) comprising Kristine Toohey (chair), Daryl Adair and Imke Fischer, was to be formed to consider how the income of the Society might be better used in terms of education, promotion, publicity and prizes. Members would be asked for feedback on a range of proposals, including increasing support for postgraduate students, publishing a new index for *Sporting Traditions*, and distributing publications of the Society to libraries. **[Action: Kristine Toohey to set up this committee]**.

5. Publication Officer's Report: a) The Publication Officer delivered a verbal report, raising the following matters: There was currently not a large backlog of material for the journal of the Society, although usually the Society's biennial conference generated sufficient material for two or three issues. A new *ASSH Studies* had been published in 2001. The current editor, Daryl Adair, was standing down from the position and, as yet, there had been no expressions of interest in his position. Another call for expressions of interest may need to be forthcoming. There were a number of potential *ASSH Studies* in the 'pipeline', but some difficulties had been experienced in bringing these projects to fruition; A sub-committee had compiled the criteria for the appointment of a designer for *Sporting Traditions* and the *Bulletin*. This document would be distributed in the New Year, with a submission date for

tenders allowing for an appointment to be made early in 2002. The issues of the process of the appointment of an Editor and the composition of the Publications Committee were also discussed. The processes governing the appointment of Rob Hess as the new assistant editor for *Sporting Traditions*, as outlined in a previous call for expressions of interest in the position, were clarified. The advantages of having a gradual induction, or apprenticeship, for a new editor were also outlined. It was agreed that the Publications Officer would draw up and circulate a policy document outlining the process for the appointment of a new editor. Such a policy document would also clarify what changes might need to be made to the Constitution to bring it in line with either preferred or current practice **[Action: The Editor to prepare a report on these issues for circulation]**.

6. Membership Officer's Report: a) A report on Society membership was tabled. It was noted that there had been a disappointing decline in membership of the Society and it was agreed that a membership base of at least 300 was desirable. After discussion, it was agreed that the Society should market itself better both in Australia and New Zealand, perhaps by way of a glossy brochure. This matter was to be referred to the sub-committee chaired by Kristine Toohey.

7. Conference Report: a) The meeting accepted tabled correspondence from Richard Cashman and Rob Hess indicating that agreement had been reached on the hosting of the biennial conference of the Society by Sydney in 2003 and Melbourne in 2005. It was anticipated that both conferences would be held in the month of July. It was also anticipated that the Society's email list would be used to disseminate information about the conferences. b) A report on future conference policy was tabled. This report outlined the items that would be need to be addressed by all potential bidders for future conferences. Members were urged to send further items for consideration to Dwight Zakus before a revised document was circulated to the Executive. The revised document would also include stipulations regarding institutional support and the arrangements for keynote addresses. It was expected that the policy for future conferences would be in operation for the 2007 conference. **[Action: Dwight Zakus to prepare a revised version of his report for future circulation]**.

8. ASSH/NASSH Conference: a) A report on the status of the proposed ASSH/NASSH conference was tabled. It was agreed that the Hawaii option was too expensive for ASSH members. However, it was agreed that Tara Magdalinski continue to explore other options for a possible joint conference. **[Action: Tara Magdalinski to continue negotiations]**.

9. Media Liaison: a) A verbal report was presented by the Media Liaison Officer. The following suggestions for action were made: Provide media with brochure (and website link) re skills and expertise of members; Have the

Media Liaison Officer act as the Society's initial contact with the media; Issue press releases marking significant achievements of members; Issue conference invitations to media writers and commentators; Similarly to NASSH, publish a directory of scholars, or at least a list of those scholars willing to engage with the media; Add 'Media Liaison' as a specified role in the conference policy document **[Action: Daryl Adair to continue with these initiatives]**.

10. New Zealand Relationships: a) The President tabled a report from Doug Booth on the matter of New Zealand relationships. Given that there only five current New Zealand members of the Society, action to promote sports studies in New Zealand is welcome and desirable. However, the meeting believed that it was important that in addition to a possible name change, ASSH should explore wider issues of a possible relationship — what should this relationship consist of, say in terms of representation on the Executive or Conference sharing?. It was agreed that a general survey of the views of members regarding future relationships with New Zealand should be canvassed **[Action: Richard Cashman and Doug Booth]**.

11. Email List: a) It was noted that the email contact list of Society members was growing. It was also noted that a Society email list could be useful to keep members informed of ASSH activities. Daryl Adair agreed to pursue the matter of an ASSH listserv, similar to that provided by Sporthist listserv **[Action: Anthony Hughes to further develop the ASSH email list]**.

12. ASSH Publicity: a) It was noted that matters relating to this item had been discussed in Item (4) above.

13. ASSH Website and Bulletin: a) Reports on the ASSH website and *Bulletin* were tabled. As stipulated at a previous Executive meeting, it was noted that all material posted on the website needed to be 'cleared' by the Publications Officer. **[Action: John O'Hara]**.

14. Tom Brock Bequest: a) The President tabled a report on matters relating to the Tom Brock Bequest. After discussion, it was agreed that the President would make investigations regarding widening the terms of the Bequest. He would then report back to the Executive after liaising with the Tom Brock Bequest Committee **[Action: Richard Cashman]**.

15. Award of Honorary Life Memberships: a) After discussion, it was agreed that the President and Wray Vamplew would draw up a policy document to develop guidelines about the nature of the award and the process by which people can be nominated and selected for the award. So far, there have been two life memberships and two service awards given out. **[Action: Richard Cashman and Wray Vamplew to develop a policy document]**.

16. Close: a) The meeting closed at 12.33 pm.