

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Society for Sports History Inc. held at 9.30am on 3 August 2002 in the Council Room, Australian Catholic University, North Sydney campus.

Present: Richard Cashman (Chair), Angela Burroughs, Michael Christie, Tara Magdalinski, Imke Fischer, John O'Hara, Rob Hess, Daryl Adair, Kristine Toohey.

Apologies were received from Lynn Embrey, Marnie Haig-Muir, Roy Hay, Denise Jones, Dave Nadel, Murray Phillips Neville Turner, and Dwight Zakus.

Proxy votes were received from Philip Mosely, Oliver Pearson, Bruce Kidd, John McCarthy, Neville Turner, Lynn Embrey, Wray Vamplew, Malcolm MacLean, Joseph Arbena, Doug Booth, Ian Andrews, Ian Jobling, Roy Hay, Marnie Haig-Muir and Dave Nadel.

1. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 2 November 2001 were approved subject to minor amendment correctly the spelling of the title of the Association.

2. Business arising from the minutes

It was noted that the matters concerning possible changes to the Constitution and uses of income generated from the Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles (AAFLA) were yet to be actioned, but that all other business arising had been dealt with or appeared elsewhere in the agenda.

3. President's Report

The President reported on a range of initiatives, including ways of enhancing the professionalism of ASSH and of more effectively transferring information from one executive committee to the next. It was agreed that:

- A policy and procedures document should be developed as a form of operating guidelines for the Executive Committee. Eg, guidelines should be available on the expectations over use of funds from bequests, process for nominating and approving life memberships, relationship between ASSH Executive and ASSH conference host. (Action: Secretary)

- Alternative models of the composition of the Executive Committee should be considered to assist a seamless transition of committees. The NASSH model which incorporated the future, current and immediate past president was suggested as worthy of further consideration.
- The Sydney 2003 and Melbourne 2005 conferences should be used to expand media presence and increase membership in ASSH.

The President tabled a number of documents that are referred to under other business, below.

4. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported on the progress to date with the tender process for designing and publishing *Sporting Traditions* and on the status of the assessment of student submissions for the ASSH dissertation and essay prizes.

*{Secretary's Note: Student prizes were subsequently awarded to: Sonsia Jiang (UNSW) for her essay titled *Upping the Ante: Antitrust, anti-competitive, and exclusionary practices in Australian sport*, and Jackie Hartley (UNSW) for her dissertation titled *Black, White...and Red? The Redfern All Blacks Rugby League Club in the Early 1960s.*}*

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer tabled a Financial Report for 2001/2 which was subsequently adopted by the meeting. The significant income stream generated through the Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles (AAFLA) website agreement was noted and the meeting discussed ways of using this income stream that would benefit members. Discussion focused on a proposal that funding be made available to some form of publication that enabled the ASSH conference proceedings to be published. Issues of concern to emerge related to the retention of copyright for authors and the relationship between the conference hosts and ASSH executive.

A motion was proposed and adopted that in principle agreement be given to the notion of a conference publication subsidy of \$2000 subject to a satisfactory proposal being fully developed.

Rob Hess requested that his objection to the motion be recorded and that the meeting be informed that a sub-committee had been established at the previous AGM to advise on the best use of the Society's income.

Tara Magdalinski updated the meeting on the current status of individual and institutional memberships.

6. Publication Officer/Editor's Report

The Publications Officer reported that:

- The publication of *Sporting Traditions* and the Bulletin had been proceeding well with sufficient but not a substantial volume of contributions by members. There were still some issues of concern about consistency and quality control but measures to address these had been adopted as part of the tender process for a new designer of the publications.
- Although submissions to ASSH Studies had been slow, a new volume had been published since the last report and another volume was anticipated later in 2002. A major issue of concern was that the Society was still seeking a replacement ASSH Studies editor. It was suggested that the Society should revisit the purpose of the series. (Action: Publications Committee)
- Tara Magdalinski had been instrumental in establishing a website for ASSH, and that future developments would enable greater use of webpages for information on conferences.
- He would be retiring from the position of Editor, *Sporting Traditions* at the end of 2002. The appointment of a replacement Editor formed the major item of discussion and was the subject of a tabled report from the Publications Officer.

The report referred to concerns raised at the previous AGM where members had stressed the need for the transition process to the next editor of *Sporting Traditions* to be conducted as an open/transparent process, and had expressed concerns that developments concerning editorial positions in recent times had led to practices which were unconstitutional. In relation to the first issue the position of the Editor would be advertised in the August 2002 Bulletin, with the appointment determined by the Executive Committee, as per the Constitution. The meeting considered a range of possible solutions to the second matter. It was noted that Rule 8 (ii) stipulates that the Editor shall not appoint to the Publications Committee more than one person who is a member of the Executive Committee, but currently all four members of the Committee are also members of the Executive. It was noted that the original intention of this rule was to bring more people into the structure and to avoid a concentration of power. An alternative view was put forward that there was a need to provide flexibility.

It was agreed that an amendment to the Constitution be sought involving the deletion of clause (ii) of Rule 8 and that the Society's honorary legal officer be informed of the current problem, and unless advised otherwise, the Publications Committee remain unchanged until a resolution was achieved. (Action: Secretary)

7. Other business

ASSH Honorary Life membership and service awards

The meeting discussed a draft paper tabled by the President concerning conditions for awards of the Society. It was noted that the Constitution currently provided for the title of Fellow of the Society to be conferred upon any person who had made an outstanding contribution to the history of sport and life membership could also be conferred upon any individual for contributions made to the Society. It was agreed that the provisions of the Constitution should be utilized but that documentation of procedures for these awards should be further developed. (Action: President and Secretary).

Encouraging members from New Zealand

The meeting discussed a paper tabled by the President reflecting on ways to strengthen the New Zealand component of ASSH. The significance of the ASSH conference venue was noted as an important issue that should be pursued further, particularly in relation to more frequently using Australian east coast venues. In the course of the discussions, the meeting agreed that closer relationships should be developed between ASSH and the Australian Historical Association (AHA), and the President agreed to pursue the matter. In particular the possibility of affiliation with the AHA was mooted, as well as formal participation by ASSH in future AHA conferences. (Action: President).

There being no further business the meeting closed. Members in attendance were then invited to participate in a tour of the venue and facilities for the ASSH 2003 conference.