

NEW ENGLAND ATHLETICS CONGRESS

ANNUAL MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING

September 18, 1989

The Annual Meeting of the New England Athletics Congress convened at 7:00 pm at the Wellesley College Sports Center, Wellesley, MA.

Governors in attendance: John Babington (President), Steve Vaitones (VP/Track & Field), Will Mason (VP), Don Allison (Managing Director), Marja Bakker (Secretary), Kirk Randall (Masters), Pete Stasz (Men's LDR), Roberta Allison (Women's LDR), Ron Boemker (Youth/Cross Country), Justin Kuo (Race Walking).

Also in attendance: Edward Parrot, Dave Martula (Sugarloaf Mtn AC) - Phil Airolidi (Empire One RC) - Bruce Bickford (NBTC) - Lou Ristaino, Henry Finch, Ed Everett, Michael McHugh (CSU) - Brian Turner, John Berit (GBTC) - Joseph Busa (TriValley Frontrunners) - Nicole McGilpin, Brent Coon, Diane Coon, Gary Crowley (GSH) - Cindy Jacoby, Gary Zientara, Kim Montray, Bob Collins (BAA) - Ed Daniels (NH Tracksters) - Dave Camire, Mary Bourret, Debbie Cole, Karen Rapallo (GLRR), Brian Crowley (Taunton TC) - Jan Samuelson, Robert Sevene, Barry Harwick, Mark Lech (Nike Boston), Geoffrey Hennessey (Quincy TC), Bill Clark (Commonwealth), Alan Sears (Gate City Striders), Tom Knatt (New England Walkers), Martha White (Reebok), Caleb Shulman, Sue Smith, Dotty Welcome (unattached).

John Babington called the meeting to order and introduced the association's officers and sports chairs. Wellesley College was acknowledged for its hospitality and making meeting space available for all NEAC meetings. Special welcome was extended to all college coaches attending the meeting.

The sports chairmen presented their respective reports.

Steve Vaitones, Track and Field, distributed a written report, including feedback on the Jr. International Meet at Brown, NE Invitational/NEAC Indoor Championship, Metrowest Twilight series, NEAC outdoor championship, Eastern Zone Associations Meet and the Bay State Games. Outlines were also given for ongoing and future projects.

Roberta Allison, Women's LDR, reported on the success of the five Grand Prix races held so far in 1989. Plans for 1990 included a women's LDR column in the NEAC newsletter, and increase women's team competition.

Peter Stasz, Men's LDR, concurred with Roberta's feedback on the success of the Grand Prix races. He emphasized that the Grand Prix represented the New England Championships at seven distances, selected by the LDR committee at the December meeting. A request was made to consider a wheelchair division for future championship races. No action was taken.

Justin Kuo, Race Walking, reported on the continued growth of race walking, with more running events adding a race walk division. Classes, clinics, and weekly races at Fresh Pond further enhanced awareness. The National One and Two Hour Championships were scheduled for October 8 at the MIT outdoor Track. Tentatively scheduled for 1990 were a 5Km and 10Km team competition for Eastern zonal teams. The possibility of organizing a judging clinic at the same time was being researched.

Kirk Randall, Masters, commented on the strong competition in the 40-49 and 50-over age groups, and encouraged all clubs to participate at the Grand Prix races. This year had seen the new Boston Masters Meet, in preparation for the National Championships at San Diego, CA and the

Managing Director Don Allison was introduced and presented a "state of the NEAC" report. Responsibilities of the NEAC as TAC representative in the New England area were defined, and included providing information to athletes, coaches and race organizers, adjudication, enhance development of the sports of athletics in all areas.

The Grand Prix series of seven championship races continued to grow. All clubs were urged to participate at individual and team levels. Selection of Grand Prix races was scheduled for the December quarterly meeting, at which time specifications of the series would be reviewed.

Track and Field participation in New England had shown significant growth, special credit was given to the MetroWest series.

NEAC had again coordinated all volunteers for the Manufacturers Hanover Corporate Challenge for Conventures, resulting in financial gain for both the NEAC and the volunteering clubs.

Office automation and registration were being updated, resulting in better communication, i.e., newsletter mailings. TAC card processing for the Boston Marathon had resulted in financial benefit for the NEAC.

The first New England Race Directors workshop, co-sponsored with New England Runner, had been held in conjunction with the New Bedford half marathon. The workshop had been attended by approximately 60 participants and was considered successful.

As the New England representative of TAC/USA, the NEAC was governed by major decisions made by the National office. A full complement of delegates annually represented the NEAC at the TAC convention.

World Veterans Championships in Eugene, OR. Both the Nationals and Worlds had proven well organized events with outstanding competition. Kirk also invited all clubs to participate at the NEAC Cross Country championship in November, which would include masters team competition.

There was a discussion regarding masters scoring for open and/or masters teams, and pre-race declaration of division. The matter was referred to the December meeting.

As more masters were entering the one mile race walk at Track and Field competition, R. Boemker suggested adding a one mile fitness walk, possibly resolving the question of proper technique and judging. No decision was made.

Ron Boemker, Youth and Cross Country, distributed information on the Super Cross Country meet scheduled for November. No sponsor had as yet been found for the meet. A suggestion was made to add the cross country championship to the Grand Prix series. It was argued that road racing and cross country should be kept separate. The matter was referred for future review. Currently a three-race cross country series was scheduled for 1989. Ron recommended that Dan Dillon be considered to take over as cross country chair.

The report on youth events included the successful Jr. Olympics, New England Jr. Meet, and the International Jr. Meet at Brown University. A request was made to include racewalking competition for youth. It was suggested to refer the matter to the interscholastic league, or request the National Race Walk Committee to make development funds available for youth.

The president requested nominations for the various sports chairmen.

A motion was made and seconded to nominate the slate of sports chairmen as currently in office.

The motion was amended and seconded as amended, showing R. Boemker declining the cross country chair, and nominating Dan Dillon for same.

Sports chairmen elected were:

Steve Vaitones - Track and Field, Peter Stasz - Men's LDR,  
Roberta Allison - Women's LDR, Ron Boemker - Youth, Kirk Randall  
- Masters, Justin Kuo - Race Walking, Dan Dillon - Cross Country.

The president requested nominations for two active athletes to serve on the Board of Governors.

Nominated were Barry Harwick, Bruce Bickford, Dave Camire, Brent Coon, Nicole McGilpin, Lou Ristaino. Background was given on all nominees.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, athletes elected by a majority of votes were:

Barry Harwick and Bruce Bickford.

The president requested nominations for seven members of the membership (registration) committee.

Nominated were Dave Camire, Peter Stasz, Meredith Nelson, Allan Sears, Don Allison, Lou Ristaino, Joseph Busa.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, all nominees were elected as committee members.

Expense reimbursement for convention delegates as proposed by the Board of Governors was presented by S. Vaitones. A discussion followed.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted:

that the delegates to the TAC Convention be entitled to expense reimbursement based on the number of board and quarterly meetings attended as follows:

8 or more meetings attended	100% reimbursement
4-7 meetings attended	75% reimbursement
3 or less meetings attended	50% reimbursement

Reimbursement would be cost of most economical flight, plus \$50 per day for hotel expenses. 50% of the total reimbursement would be deducted if the delegate did not attend the Saturday General Meeting.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was voted:

that delegates to the convention would be Don Allison, Marja Bakker, John Babington, Ron Boemker, Dan Dillon, Justin Kuo, Kirk Randall, Jan Samuelson, Steve Vaitones, Barry Harwick, Bill Clark and Pete Stasz, with alternates Roberta Allison, Mark Lech, John McGrath and Tom Knatt.

Under new business, Steve Vaitones commented on the 1990 Eastern Zonal series, culminating in a Championship Meet preceding the New York International Meet. Scheduling the New England outdoor championship for June 30, following the Twilight Meet series, would enable athletes to qualify for the zonal championship. It was argued that top athletes would be leaving for competition in Europe, and that lacking their participation might result in lack of sponsors for the New England Meet. No action was taken.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Marja Bakker  
Secretary

TRACK AND FIELD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT  
1989 NEAC ANNUAL MEETING - September 18, 1989  
Steve Vaitones

The 1988-1989 year saw the continued resurgence of interest and quality of track and field in the New England association.

While we are still not ready to challenge the south and west for schedule depth and quantity of athletes, we have a program that offers a full season of competition for those looking for meets and quality that can seldom be matched on an open level.

The association submitted a bid to host the 1989 Junior National T & F Meet at Brown University. While that bid was unsuccessful (losing to Ohio State), it did serve as the base for being awarded the site of an international junior meet attended by the US, Canada, Japan, Jamaica, and Cuba. It was the first international meet held in this association since 1979. Coordinated by Brown and the RI Track & Field Foundation, it gave this region a chance to see tomorrow's Olympians. Competing in the meet were 5 New Englanders: Andy LeMoi and Paul Kortick (both from RI and in the hammer), Paul Shea (Stoneham MA/5000M), Tasha Downing (Boston MA/Relay) and Karen Phillips (Norwell MA/Triple jump). Kortick and Phillips won their events. Thanks to the efforts of Rick Marshall (RI T&F Foundation), Ron Boemker, and Bob Rothenberg and Mike Muska (Brown) for the orchestration of the event. It is TAC/USA's plan for these events to become an annual event in various cities around the country, and we hope that the efforts of NEAC and Brown can have the association become one of the permanent sites for the meet. The key will be finding full sponsorship for the event; a decision on requesting to host the event in 1990 will be made in mid-November.

Additional local activities on the track and field scene included the following. Indoors:

We have seen increased cooperation among event directors, but still have some conflicts in scheduling. A meeting of indoor directors in October '88 smoothed out most conflicts and began to standardize meet procedures (e.g., all metric meets). The 1989 Championship was part of the New England Invitational meet and produced several more meet records. The 1990 championship will again be the NE Invitational to be held on January 21 at Harvard. The New England vs New York meet continues to grow in popularity and the 6th annual will be at Boston University on February 4, 1990.

Outdoors:

The Metrowest Twilight series, directed by Bill Clark, Mark Lech, Bob Sevene, and Steve Vaitones, did not suffer from a "sophomore jinx", as nearly 50 national - NCAA or TAC - championship qualifiers were recorded. Meets were increased from 4 to 5 and all events except the pole vault were contested. Tentative plans for 1990 include holding national development events in the steeplechase, 1500, and hammer as part of the five meet series.

Over 200 performers took part at the NEAC championship; the lower numbers seem to be due to a problem with info distribution. The format may be reworked, and a production and promotion schedule will be drawn up for 1990. 14 New Englanders competed at the US Olympic Festival, the most this region has had in this major national competition.

The Eastern Zone associations (Maine down to Virginia) held a championship-type meet prior to the New York Games in July. While marginally successful due to standard first year problems, the format has been restructured for 1990. The top 2 finishers from each association championship will qualify for full or partial lodging expenses at the 1990 meet (again in NYC). Nine of 11 associations have agreed to open their meets to any athletes wishing to compete, and to cooperatively promote their meets, thereby giving the east a slate of meets running from May 27 to July 8 and culminating in the Zone meet.

The Bay State Games, Massachusetts' amateur sports festival, has had all state funding cut, and all competitions for 1990 are in jeopardy. In an

effort to get BSG meets to be a bigger part of the NE schedule, and to help prevent this loss of competitive opportunities for over several hundred athletes, a meeting is scheduled to discuss closer work between the BSG offices and the NEAC. This could also lead to similar state track competitions in RI, NH, and VT.

#### Communications:

A newsletter has been instituted and distributed to all college coaches in the New England states in attempt to have them become more a part of the TAC scene and to encourage their assistance and participation in the growth of the sport. The newsletters will be distributed four times each year; two issues have been sent this year.

We are close to finalizing the sponsorship of printing and distribution of the track schedules in an handy and attractive glossy paper format. This will help us distribute up to 10,000 copies to all individual NEAC members, and east coast clubs, colleges, and athletes. They will be available in late November (indoor) and March (outdoor).

#### Projects:

I have proposals prepared for National development fund money to conduct several clinics for women's track and field events. These clinics would be held early in the indoor season and will focus on several technical events found in HS indoor track. They will be for both athletes and coaches.

On the down side, there is a distinct lack of general talent and numbers in the technical track and field events. Why this is and what can be done to promote these events must be addressed. The first step will be to assemble a committee which represents the various regions in NEAC to provide input and to distribute information in their areas.

Track clubs which focus on track and field are limited if they exist at all - most clubs are road running oriented. There is a need for use of full facilities and for coaches who will work with developing and near-elite athletes. Sponsorship still lags in track and field, when in most cases, the amounts needed are relatively small.

For year 1990, those of us working with track & field plan the following:

- Bid to host a future edition of the National Scholastic championship meet

- Bid to host a future US vs GreatBritain indoor dual meet

- Bid to host US trial races in 200m and 400m for world championships in 1991

- Extend the season by adding a competition with Quebec or Atlantic Canada.

- Make the Eastern Zone meet a focal point of the summer season, qualify a full NEAC team out of the championship meet, and fund travel to the meet.

- Work in conjunction with the Bay State Games to promote and conduct those regional competitions.

As usual, though, the development of the sport still falls on too few individuals who do the bulk of the work. I would like to thank the administrators and officials who generously give their time to help keep track and field progressing in the NEAC, and encourage everyone who has any interest in track and field to get involved with these NEAC projects.