



NEW ENGLAND ATHLETICS CONGRESS

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NEAC ANNUAL MEETING

The NEAC 1991 Annual Meeting will take place Monday, September 16th at 7:00 PM at the Wellesley College Sports Centre off Route #135 in Wellesley, Massachusetts. In the past years the annual meeting has been well attended, and all clubs are encouraged to send a representative. There is a strong club structure within the NEAC, with over 100 track, youth, walking, and road running groups taking part in events throughout New England.

New England Association Championship events are held for indoor and outdoor track, Junior Olympics, and the seven race Grand Prix road racing championships. Our goal is always to conduct these events to benefit NEAC clubs and individuals. The other major service that the NEAC provides is disseminating information to the general public. Additionally, TAC/USA provides affordable liability insurance coverage to both events and TAC/USA member athletes. Several hours per week are dedicated to answering questions on the phone on a myriad of subjects. Our computerized database of all NEAC member athletes, clubs, and sanctioned races, allows us to get information to those who need it and use it.

NEAC member clubs have a definite say in what the NEAC office does on a daily basis. We are interested in knowing how clubs feel about the services that the NEAC has been providing and how we might improve in the future. According to our by-laws each member club is entitled to votes at the annual meeting based on the individuals with NEAC membership. There are approximately 2000 members with club affiliations listed. Clubs with 5-15 NEAC members (or TAC Certified officials) are awarded 1 vote; 16-49 = 2 votes; 50-99 = 3 votes; 100-199 = 4 votes; 200 & up = 5 votes. Below we have listed the number of votes your club is allotted and the total number votes to be cast. If you are interested in getting involved in the inner workings of the sport, or know a qualified individual in your club who is, feel free to make a nomination prior to or at the meeting. It can't be stressed enough to you how important your club's attendance at the annual meeting is. With world and national championships coming to the area club input is critical.

Steve Vaitones, Managing Director

Sincerely,

Michael Pieroni, Office Manager

NEW ENGLAND ATHLETICS CONGRESS

ANNUAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 16, 1991

The annual meeting of the New England Athletics Congress was held at Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA. on 16 September 1991.

In attendance were Marja Bakker, Gloria Ratti, Ron Boemker, Steve Vaitones, Michael Pieroni, Stephen Peterson, Dave Dunham, Dave Camire, John Babington, Arthur Demers, Don Allison, Justin Kuo, Thomas Knatt, Edward Daniels, Stephen Kiley, Brian Crowely, Peter Mariani, Art Gray, Martha Post, Kirk Randall, Carolyn and Courtney Bird, Randy Thomas, Lou Ristaino, Henry Finch, Paul Kapustica, Jan Samuelson, Pete Stasz, Jonathan Corso, Barry Harwick, Joe Busa, Ralph Duquette, Sue Smith, David Manigart, Ed Parrot Doug Sweazey, Marilyn Bright, Betsy Harshbarger, Lou Ristaino, Bill Clark, Bob Phinney and Tom Derderian. Affiliations of these individuals are attached as part of these minutes.

Opening remarks were made by the President, Marja Bakker, who introduced the members of the Board of Governors and NEAC employees. Additionally, she reiterated the established and voting rights for this evening's election process.

NEAC OFFICE REPORT

Steve Vaitones provided an update on the activities of the NEAC office which included improved press and media relations, computerization of road race events and data base update. A copy of the NEAC Managing Director's report covering office activities from January to September 1991 is attached as part of these minutes.

REPORTS OF SPORTS CHAIRMEN

TRACK AND FIELD - Jan Samuelson provided a summary of NEAC 1991 Track and Field events which is attached as part of these minutes.

Long Distance Running - Lou Ristaino provided an update on the Grand Prix Series. He explained the reasoning behind the

discrepancies concerning the recent 5K and 8K championship races. Because of the damage caused by Hurricane Bob, the 5K course in Rhode Island had to be re-measured which proved to be 160 meters too long. At the Lowell 8K race, new construction caused the course to be redirected and in addition, the lead vehicle cut off the course. The actual distances were 3.2 and 7.9.

At this juncture, Courtney Bird spoke on the Grand Prix Marathon course which was also devastated by Hurricane Bob. The Selectmen of the town of Falmouth have assured him, however, that the roads will be repaired in time and the race will go on as scheduled.

MASTERS ATHLETICS - Joe Busa advised that since the masters can now score in lower age categories it has made a substantial difference in scoring. This item will, however, be up for review at the next Grand Prix meeting. He further noted that by next year there will be a master's reverse number indicator in time for the Grand Prix events. Courtney Bird advised he will be able to provide these numbers for the Marathon and Ron Boemker is negotiating with a vocational school to provide the numbers and will advise further.

YOUTH ATLETICS - Ron Boemker advised that the numbers are very healthy insofar as youth athletes are concerned. He anticipates bidding for the 1993 National Junior Cross Country to be held at Bryant College. Additionally, he has a strong lead for a \$5,000 sponsor for the super cross country meet. Ron identified the prize structure (copy of which is attached) and advised these funds will go to the teams and not to individuals.

RACE WALKING - Justin Kuo provided an in depth report which is attached as part of these minutes.

CROSS COUNTRY - Sue Smith advised that the new cross country course at Boston's Franklin Park will be officially opened on Sunday, October 27th. The opening and dedication will take place during the 590 Fund Mayor's Cross Country Run. There will be three events: a 1K for children 12 and under; a 3K event for teenagers (13-19) and an open 5.9K cross country run for individuals 20 and over. Her committee is anxious to bring world wide attention to this part of the country to stage future cross country events. Additionally, Massport and MBTA will be sponsors as well as Boston Trolley and there will be an intense campaign to urge individuals to travel by public transportation to Franklin Park.

At this juncture, Dave Post, Official's Rep., advised that officials must be TAC certified for upcoming cross country meets. There are 152 individuals in New England currently certified -- 30 of which were added within the past three or four months. Officials will be required to attend clinics to remain certified or be removed from the list of qualified officials. Dave may be reached through the local NEAC office for additional information.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Doug Sweazey provided a current Treasurer's Report which is attached as part of these minutes. The Report was approved as submitted.

ELECTION OF SPORTS CHAIRMEN

The following individuals were elected to the following chairs:

Track and Field	Jan Samuelson
Men's Long Distance Chairman	Lou Ristaino
Women's Long Distance Chairman	Marilyn Bright
Youth Athletes	Ron Boemker
Master's Athletics	Joe Busa
Cross Country Chairman	Randy Thomas
Race Walking Chairman	Justin Kuo
Athlete's Rep. (Women)	Betsy Harshbarger
Athlete's Rep. (Men)	Dave Dunham.

The entire slate was voted in by acclamation.

TAC CONVENTION REPRESENTATIVES

NEAC will fund up to \$400.00 per individual to attend the TAC Convention at New Orleans, LA. on December 2-7, 1991. The following individuals expressed a desire to attend the convention: Jan Samuelson, Lou Ristaino, Ed Parrot, Marilyn Bright, Marja Bakker, Steve Vaitones, Mike Pieroni, Kirk Randall, Sue Smith, Ron Boemker, John Babington, Pete Stasz, Randy Thomas, Dave Post, Betsy Harshbarger, Tom Derderian, Barry Harwick, Justin Kuo and Bill Clark.

Those individuals selected were Boemker, Bakker, Clark, Kuo, Pieroni, Smith, Vaitones, Post, Samuelson, Randall, Babington, Harshbarger and Ristaino. Harwick and Stasz were selected as Alternates.

NEW BUSINESS

1992 GRAND PRIX PLANS - A discussion was held regarding the feasibility of conducting the 5K and 8K championships because of the damage caused by Hurricane Bob. It was agreed that insofar as alternative courses were able to be established in time for the events to be conducted, it was the wisest course of action under the circumstances. There was no threat of injury to either participants or viewers and because of the time constraints both events were held and it was agreed, rather successfully. Ron Boemker did advise, however, he will not bid on the next Grand Prix. The matter of including cross country meets and the Relay Race at Lake Winnipesaukee were suggestions for future Grand Prix selections.

Jan Samuelson advised that the Level I coaching needs someone to prepare the paperwork and it was agreed that the local NEAC official will provide assistance.

Mr. Mory Brenner of Pittsfield, MA. requested the committee's permission to have a combined "1 Mile and 10K Championship" on November 16, 1991 in Pittsfield, MA. He was advised he could not identify his race as a "championship race", however, it would be permissible to call it a NEAC Development or NEAC Pilot Program Race.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Gloria G. Ratti
Secretary



NEAC Managing Director's Report - Steve Vaitones
Activities - January to September 1991

Despite having been involved in the organization on a volunteer basis for nearly 10 years, much time was spent in the first few months getting settled after our move, "learning the ropes" of the daily and monthly activities of the office, and catching up on the general running of the office. Not until August did the office appear to be gaining on regular activities.

The new office has proved to be convenient in all aspects. 2001 Beacon street is larger than the old office and it is easy to find and reach. Walk-in traffic is higher than prior years. We also have very good relations with our landlord.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICITY

A brochure describing the NEAC was printed in the spring and proved to be a useful tool in explaining and promoting the organization. There is no substitute for talking to hand meeting athletes and event directors, and we have taken care to "go the extra step" with callers, asking questions regarding inquiries they make.

A college intern worked with us from January to May. He designed the previously mentioned brochure and set up the newsletter format to present a more professional look.

The NEAC staff is available to meet with any club or group for a presentation or questions and answers at their convenience.

NEWSLETTER

Six editions have already been printed, with three going to the full membership. This is an increase from the past. The most recent issue was our largest, with 12 pages.

STAFF ACTIVITY

Besides daily in-office activities, the staff works with several outside projects wearing an NEAC hat. Steve is a member of the Boston Cross Country Committee, attending bi-weekly organizational meetings on TAC/USA and IAAF World Cross Country Championships. Michael attends monthly meetings of the revitalized Mass. Governor's Council on Fitness and Sports. He is the only member of a regional sports organization to attend these meetings.

A regular column is written for New England Runner magazine which covers news, results, and views of office activities. We generally receive about a full page of space.

The NEAC has secured an informational booth at the Walking Magazine exposition on Saturday September 21 in Cambridge.

Steve was invited to the planning meeting held by the Maine TAC association in April. Steve and Michael attended the TAC regional workshop in Pittsburgh in August (with TAC/USA reimbursing NEAC \$400 of the \$550 cost) and also attended

FUTURE

Locally, the NEAC office is working on securing sponsors for several events. Our championships are our most important properties and can be developed to become premiere regional events. The marketing of the Junior Olympic program and finding opportunities for New England's emerging elite athletes to compete out of the area top our priorities.

We plan to meet with more specific groups of event directors, as we recently did with youth athletics activists. We will work to encourage TAC membership on all levels, and promote the sport in general. A mobile information display for expos and championship sites is being planned.

Nationally, the NEAC will play roles in both the TAC National and IAAF World Cross Country events.

The office is assisting with preparations - Bidin to host the national masters 5K road race championst in 1993, and, for the third consecutive year, the TAC racewalking championships at 1 Hour (women) and 2 hours (women).

The NEAC, with youth chairman Ron Boemker preparing the bid, plans to present a bid to host the 1993 TAC/National Junior Olympic Cross Country Championships in December 1993 at Bryant College, Smithfield RI. If successful, it will be the first National JO event to be held in New England states.

SUMMARY

The NEAC office is here to serve the athletes and administrators of the sport in the region. We believe we have made great strides in increasing our visibility and integrity within the athletics community. We're eager to assist the NEAC officers and sports chairmen to better our sport, and are available to help clubs and athletes in any way possible.

NEAC 1991 TRACK AND FIELD SUMMARY

The following is a summary of the events that were undertaken by the NEAC organization during the past indoor and outdoor track and field seasons. Since I was appointed as track and field chairman late in the game, I wish to thank Steve Vaitones and all of the other NEAC members who helped bail me out of situations where my schedule got unbelievably hectic.

Championships - The Greater Boston Track Club Meet was held on January 26th and served as the NEAC Indoor Championships. The meet was held at Harvard and team titles were won by the Waltham Track Club Women and the Nike Boston Men.

The outdoor track and field championships were run by the NEAC at Northeastern University on Saturday, June 29th. Two hundred and sixty eight athletes competed and that included athletes from Canada and Bermuda. Team titles were won by the Waltham Track Club on both the men's and women's sides. It should be noted that athletes who were classified as "unattached athletes" still won more points than those athletes who represented clubs. This shows the need for more club recruitment especially in the areas of the non distance running events.

Decisions on the 1991 sites and dates have not been made and input is welcome.

Association Team Events - The 7th annual NEAC vs MAC dual indoor meet was held again at Boston University. The meet was held on February 3rd and the NEAC won the women's title for the first time. The men from the MAC team won their portion of the title at a meet where there were nine national qualifying performances and four meet records.

A new meet which could turn into a tremendous annual function was a six way interassociation meet which was run by the Adirondack Association at the State University of New York at Albany's new track. The meet grew out of informal discussions with the Adirondack and Quebec Federation. NEAC men were second as a team and the women placed fourth. NEAC athletes won eleven events. Participation was much lower than we would have liked however, as there were no NEAC competitors in 12 events. It is hoped that a coaching staff can be appointed next year and that we will be able to provide transportation to the 1992 meet which is scheduled to be hosted by the Quebec federation in Montreal.

Schedule conflicts with the Bay State Games and hot temperatures kept participation in the East Region meet to only a token few. The meet served as a warmup meet to the New York International Games for the third year. Next year's meet will be tentatively held prior to the national club relays to be held on July 18th as the New York Games are scheduled for June 7th. This date is prior to most association championships. This date was set at the regional meeting in August at the TAC workshops.

Other Events - The TAC Women's Development Camp which was originally scheduled for Dartmouth College was cancelled due to funding problems. A level 1 coaching school in NEAC depends on the schedule of the few lead instructors in the region. Only those individuals with level II certification and approved as lead instructors can coordinate any aspect of the course. A level I school is presently to be held at UNH in February or March.

A hammer clinic will be held on Columbus Day weekend at Brown University. Tom Kohlhepp has arranged for Stewart Togher and Lance Deal to travel in to do the clinic as they did in 1990.

Olympic Festival - There was more participation by New England athletes than ever before at the Olympic Festival. This included several medalists.

Schedules - 2000 indoor and outdoor schedules were produced by the NEAC office staff. These were directly mailed to all track athletes and clubs.

Interest in track and field continues to grow in the New England Area. Many people have come up with new ideas that will make the sport more exciting. My suggestion is the formation of a new committee of those people who are interested in track and field in the New England area. This would allow more input from people involved in track and field on the club, college, youth and other special areas which will enrich the sport in New England.

**New England Athletics Congress
Annual Report on
Men's and Women's Race Walking
September 16, 1991**

Race walking, in New England, is maintained be a small, dedicated, group of individuals. In New England, there are approximately 200 race walkers, with a large number of these athletes belonging to *NEAC* registered clubs. Although the numbers are small, it continues to grow. We have been boosted, at least in part, by the fitness boom. Many of our race walkers have been fitness walkers that were looking for something more aerobic.

A small group of race walkers continues to meet every Saturday morning at Fresh Pond, and another group meets every Tuesday evening in Boston. New comers are encouraged to come to one of these locations. Instructions on technique as well as information on any upcoming events are offered.

This year we have introduced race walking to several running events. For events that already have a run and a walk walk, it is a natural step to open their event to race walkers. For running events, adding a race walk, or walk division can increase the number of entries by involving people who would not run the event but are excited to walk.

Some notable race walks in the New England area have been:

Merrimac Lions Club 5 mile Race Walk, Merrimac, MA

High Rock Walk, Needham, MA

Five on the First, Winchester, MA

Brown University 1 mile race walk developmental meets. Brown University indoor track, Providence, RI

New England Invitational Indoor 1 mile race walk, Harvard University's indoor track, Brighton, MA

Greater Boston Track Club, Indoor 1 mile race walk, Harvard University's indoor track, Brighton, MA

7th Annual Brown University Masters Track & Field Invitational 1 mile race walk, Brown University indoor track, Providence, RI

7th Annual N.E.A.C. vs M.A.C. Dual Meet, 1 mile women's and 3000 meter men's race walk, Boston University's indoor track, Boston, MA

Brockton's 3.8 mile Race Walk, Brockton, MA

Boston Marathon, Boston, MA

Bedford Rotary Memorial 3 mile Race Walk, Bedford, NH

Mike Eruizone 5 kilometer Race Walk, Winthrop, MA

Project Pacer 5 mile Race Walk, Needham, MA

N.E.A.C. Twilight Series. 3000 meter race walk.

N.E.A.C. Outdoor T & F Championship, 5000 meter race walk, Northeastern University track in Dedham, Massachusetts

14th Annual Town of Dedham, 4th of July 10 kilometer Race Walk, Dedham, MA

Newburyport Lions Club 5 kilometer Race Walk, Newburyport, MA

N.E.A.C. 5 kilometer Men's and Women's Race Walk Championship, E. Greenwich RI

Win Benton 20 kilometer, Taunton, MA

Last fall, New England was proud to host the *TAC/USA National 1 Hour and 2 Hour Race Walking Championships*. The event, held at the M.I.T. outdoor track in Cambridge, consisted of three events. The first was the 1 hour Junior and Master Men's championships, followed by the 1 hour Junior, Senior, and Master Women's championships. The final event was the 2 hour senior Men's championship. Over 50 athletes from throughout the country participated in the events. Race walk officials from New England, and New York provided high quality judging. Two American records were set. Victoria Herazo, of Sherman Oaks, California, set the senior women's 1 hour record with a distance of 12,346 meters. And, Gretchen Eastler, a Simmons College student, set the Junior women's 1 hour record of 10,743 meters. Many of the athletes doubled as lap counters, and a computer was used for the first time to help sort the numerous categories.

Last November, at the *National Convention*, in Seattle, New England was again awarded the *TAC/USA National 1 and 2 Hour Race Walking Championship*. This event will be held on October 20, 1991, again at the M.I.T. outdoor track in Cambridge. Preparations for this event are underway and with our past experience, this event promises to be a success.

New England race walkers have competed in events throughout the country. National race walk team members, Mark Fenton and Steve Vaitones have added excitement and interest to the sport in this area with their instruction and enthusiasm.

Once again, several New England race walkers helped host the *Massachusetts Special Olympics Senior Sports Tournament*, in Brewster. Over 150 walkers competed in track race walks of various distances.

Race walking is still in its infancy in New England. We will continue to promote and develop all aspects of race walking and look forward to a good year in 1992.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin F. Kuo, New England Athletics Congress, Race Walk Chair