



The History of Little Athletics in Queensland



By Don Yourell

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Foreword

The purpose of this paper is to place on record details of the formation and growth of Little Athletics Queensland, from inception to March 1991, working primarily from the minutes of meetings and supplementing those with detail from persons who were heavily involved in that history, while they are still available to provide it. (March 1991 marked the date the author's involvement in Little Athletics moved from State to National Level as a member of the Australian Little Athletics Union Board of Management).

This history is important, to ensure that those who are interested in the reasons for the basic principles and procedures of the organisation, know how and why they came about.

The motto “**F**amily **F**un and **F**itness” is not just words, but is the very basis for the movement's structure from the beginning, to hopefully, well into the future.

The sport of athletics is a good medium to develop the family, the fun and the fitness components of that motto. Providing a variety and large range of events, children of all athletic abilities can participate at all levels. From the initial attempts, they can improve, thus gaining satisfaction from the effort expended, whilst learning new skills. Further, in order to operate a Little Athletics meeting properly, a high degree of input is required from parents and that encourages a whole of family involvement.

The life experiences to be gained from this movement, will definitely assist all participants, to be able to meet the day-to-day challenges that life places in front of every one of us.

Many of us who have moved through the organisation, gain a certain satisfaction from watching the Commonwealth or Olympic Games and know what those athletes are achieving, how they are achieving such levels and indeed, that many of those performers have come through The Little Athletics movement from within Australia. Some of those athletes are in fact known by many viewers, who have come through the system, either as Little Athletes themselves, or as parents or grandparents of those Little Athletes, past or present.

Children in Little Athletics are encouraged to aim for improved performances, rather than always aiming to win. Only one winner is possible per event, whereas every competitor can improve his or her best performance. The sport also allows those who are so inclined, to gain experience by competing against better athletes of the same age. It is designed to cater for competitors of all levels.

Little Athletics teaches how to operate within a team atmosphere, whilst maintaining the role of the individual. A good example to follow throughout life.

Hence the mission statement “to develop children of all abilities, by promoting positive attitudes and a healthy lifestyle, through family and community involvement in athletics activities”.

This paper was written with the knowledge of the high level of conflict that surrounded the earlier years and the level headed foresight of some parents of earlier children, who were

involved at the highest levels of the sport. Without that parental strength, there is no doubt that this sport would not have reached the levels it has attained today.

It is hoped that the readers of these words gain a greater insight of the organisation and are encouraged to continue to progress these ideals for the good of the majority.

The author has taken the liberty of making the occasional comment during the paper, which is always shown within the brackets [].

It must also be stated that the author had a great deal of assistance from George Harvey, in the finalisation of the paper.

The Beginnings of Little Athletics

Little Athletics is a uniquely Australian concept, which had its beginnings in the Victorian City of Geelong in the early 1960's.

The movement came into being because Australia's pre-existing athletics organisations were mostly catering for senior athletes only. Little Athletics allows younger children to participate in the sport, to enable them to learn the techniques of each event and to gain some form of healthy wellbeing and physical development. It provides an excellent skill base for all sports and many great Australian sports people have emerged from these small beginnings; from athletics to almost, if not all, of the sports that this country provides.

Before looking at how Little Athletics commenced within Queensland, it is important to understand how and why Little Athletics had first come into existence.

A gentleman by the name of Trevor Billingham was arena manager at the Geelong Centre of the Victorian Athletic Association (men's seniors) in 1963, when three young boys came up to him, to ask if they could compete. At that time the general rule at senior athletics, was that children had to be 14 years of age, to be able to compete within that organisation.

Trevor asked them how old they were – one was 12 and the other two were 11 years of age. Trevor had to say that they were not old enough. Trevor is reported to have said that "one little fellow cried and they walked off, all dressed in white shorts, shirts, socks and sand shoes. You don't forget those things".

The following year - 1964 - a coaching clinic was held, which was attended by only a handful of teenagers of the appropriate ages for Senior Athletics – the rest were "too young". There was very little available at any 'out of school' forums for these children, so Trevor suggested the younger ones continue to attend on Saturday mornings (senior athletics was held in the afternoon) and he would arrange something for them. This was against the wishes of many within the senior body, but he continued nevertheless.

Following an advertisement in the local newspaper, he actually had 70 boys and girls turn up for events, however in spite of the senior body reluctantly agreeing to the idea, Trevor was the only official to turn up from that body. Because the parents of these children were expecting the events to be organised by the senior body and no officials turned up, Trevor asked his wife Christine to go to the finish line and she judged, timed and recorded, whilst Trevor started the events.

From little beginnings, large things have developed. But not without a great deal of work and effort by Trevor Billingham and those that gradually arrived to assist him and his wife, and to participate in the new organisation.

During that first season, a Mrs June Triscott drove past Landy field (named after John Landy) one morning with her 11 year old daughter and saw the events being conducted. Because she and

her daughter were interested in athletics, they returned home to June's husband Alan, to ask what was happening and that started Alan Triscott's involvement in the sport.

Trevor and Alan became the two main drivers of the fledgling sport; Trevor the "Ideas" man, Alan the "implementer", who brought the ideas to life. For example, they wanted the children to be able to participate in all events, but the senior implements in so many cases (hurdles, shot put, discus and so on) were just too large for young children. These days we take it for granted. You can just go down to the local sports store and buy a small rubber discus for young children. Alan Triscott couldn't; he had to design, test and arrange manufacture; they were his invention. Similarly for the other scaled down implements.

In 1965-66, Little Athletics still operated under the auspices of the Senior Amateur Athletics Associations, but when Trevor – a Senior member of the Men's Amateur Athletics Association Management Committee - asked them for assistance, because of the growth of the new group, he was told that he should drop the younger age competition and spend more time caring for the senior athletes. The senior body did not think that there was a place for children within their sport.

Trevor was, of course, suitably angered by this suggestion and with or without their support, embarked on the development of an independent organisation called Geelong Little Athletics Centre. He was able to arrange a ten member interim committee, one of whom of course was Alan Triscott, by then an integral part of the organisation.

Ultimately, the Senior bodies did not condone the ongoing development of this organisation and Little Athletics split from the Senior Men's and Women's Associations.

[The publication **"FAMILY FUN & FITNESS, The Little Athletics Phenomenon [History of Australian Little Athletics]"** by Robin Newton has been a valuable source and anyone wanting more details on the history of Little Athletics, should refer to it. Enquire at Little Athletics Association offices.]

The Spread of Little Athletics throughout Australia

As indicated already the first few years were difficult, as is usually the case with a new concept; particularly one which depends so much on parental support for its survival.

From those initial approaches in 1963, which sowed the seeds in Trevor Billingham's mind, it took until December 1965 for things to develop sufficiently to have a number of Clubs formed within the Geelong Little Athletics Centre and for the Centre's first Inter Club competition to be held.

In September 1966 Trevor, acting in his Senior Athletics role, was sent to Bendigo to revive Senior Athletics in that city. Only two people showed enough interest in this to attend the meeting he arranged, so he suggested they forget about Senior Athletics and start Little Athletics in the area.

This resulted in the formation of a Little Athletics Centre at Bendigo, the second Centre ever and suddenly, the floodgates opened and within three months, there were a total of seven Little Athletics Centres operating in Victoria.

In March of 1967, the Victorian Little Athletics Association was formed and then the spread to the other States began.

First were **Western Australia** and **New South Wales** where Little Athletics started in 1968.

They were followed by the **Northern Territory** in June 1970; the **Australian Capital Territory** in the summer of 1970-71 and **South Australia** in April 1971.

This left only Queensland and Tasmania without Little Athletics and the reason they were the last to start, I am sure was tied to the fact that these were the two states where the Amateur Athletics Associations did run programmes for children as young as 8 years.

It is an interesting fact, that even in Little Athletics where the focus is on mass participation of children of all abilities, the majority of adults with the commitment and drive to get onto management committees, are the parents of children perceived to have greater potential. It follows that where the Senior Associations already catered for young children, a large percentage of these 'talented' children and their parents, were already committed and there was also stronger opposition from the Senior bodies, who saw a threat to their numbers of competitors and officials, as well as their finances.

This meant the talent pool of both children and parents was significantly reduced, particularly when looking at starting something new. This caused Queensland in particular to turn to the Y.M.C.A. for assistance.

Thus talks in **Queensland** got under way in 1972 between Little Athletics Association members (headed up by Alan Triscott) and the Brisbane Y.M.C.A.. The Y.M.C.A. of course had many similar aims and goals to Little Athletics and had in fact been involved in at least two other Associations. The Secretary of the Darwin Y.M.C.A. was the individual who started Little Athletics in the

Northern Territory and the Y.M.C.A. was involved in sponsoring Little Athletics in the Australian Capital Territory.

However the level of Y.M.C.A. involvement proposed in Queensland was much greater, requiring the Y.M.C.A. to have Administrative and Financial input and control as well as the actual registered ownership of the name “Little Athletics” in Queensland. Consequently it took twelve months of discussions and meetings to sort out the details and it was not until August 1973 that agreements were signed and public meetings could be held, with the aim of starting two Centres. The Redcliffe and Mitchelton Centres in fact started operations in September 1973 and early 1974 respectively.

Tasmania did not start talks until early 1973, but driven by a very determined parent who had been involved in Western Australia, things progressed quickly and by August 1973, Little Athletics got underway in Launceston, the major city in the north of the State.

Bringing Little Athletics to Queensland

The Roles of the Y.M.C.A. & The Australian Little Athletics Union (ALAU)

In outline the processes involved in chronological order were as follows:

(From a paper by Mr Williams of the Y.M.C.A. tabled at the first Annual General Meeting of the Little Athletics Association of Queensland, dated 17th June 1975.)

- ❖ Oct to Dec 1972: Consultations between the Y.M.C.A. of Brisbane, the Little Athletics Association of N.S.W. and the Australian Little Athletics Union (ALAU).
- ❖ 12 Dec. 1972: A 6 hour consultation in Melbourne between the Executive Director of the Y.M.C.A. of Brisbane and the Secretary of the ALAU.
- ❖ December 1972:
 - a. The Y.M.C.A. received letters dated 14 & 23 December 1972, in which were summarised the discussions which took place on 12 December 1972.
 - b. The Y.M.C.A. was also advised that the letters of 14 & 23 December, had been sent to all members of the Executive Committee of the ALAU seeking objections, but that as at 21 December, no objections had been received.
- ❖ 25 January 1973: The Y.M.C.A. of Brisbane wrote to the ALAU, seeking confirmation that “the Y.M.C.A. of Brisbane and only the Y.M.C.A. of Brisbane, will be authorised to introduce and manage Little Athletics within Queensland”.
- ❖ February 1973: A letter was received from the ALAU, which contained provisions in conflict with the contents of their letters dated 14 and 23 December 1972.
- ❖ March 1973: The Constitution of the Y.M.C.A. of Brisbane was amended at the Annual General Meeting, in order to allow for the introduction of Little Athletics.

- ❖ 12 March 1973: A reply was forwarded to the ALAU, in response to their letter dated 13 February 1973. Major points of difficulty, which were drawn to the attention of the Little Athletics Union were:
- The Little Athletics Union, in their letter, had referred to the “ultimate control of the Queensland Little Athletics Association being with the Committee of Management, (being an Executive elected by the delegates of the Centres). During the formation period, this Committee of Management, will be assisted by two ex-officio members of the Board of Directors of the Y.M.C.A. of Brisbane”. In the Y.M.C.A. reply, the point was made that this proposal “conflicts with their constitution which, as you know, was amended to specifically conform to the requirements of the Little Athletics Union, as expressed in your letter dated 14 December 1972.” We believe that the terms of our constitution demand that {ultimate control} in relation to matters of policy, must rest with the Board of Directors of the Y.M.C.A. of Brisbane, as the group of people legally responsible for all activities of the Association. We believe, and the Constitution allows control for all practical purposes, to be delegated to an elected Committee of Management.
 - The Little Athletics Union in their letter, had referred to the provision of Y.M.C.A. finance and secretarial assistance (during the formation period). In the reply to Little Athletics, the Y.M.C.A. made the point they cannot accept the position that they provide staff, buildings, equipment, administrative support and other facilities, (during the formation period) and then presumably relinquish all involvement in Little Athletics, other than participation of our clubs. We believe that we now have, or can readily acquire, the essential back-up organisation necessary to make Little Athletics a going proposition in the State. The Y.M.C.A. of Brisbane, is prepared to provide this back-up, to an elected Committee of Management on a non-profit basis; however, we cannot accept a proposition which, for all practical purposes, amounts to the “Y” making an unsecured, interest free loan to the body, which will be completely independent of the “Y”, except that it will be assisted by two ex officio members of the “Y”’s Board of Directors.
 - In a further paragraph of the letter the Y.M.C.A. stated, “Alan, a minor point that you have raised and which needs correction, is your assumption that all Little Athletic Centres will be provided with equipment “on a plate”. This is not so, but we do believe that the first centres formed, must have access to adequate equipment, to enable Little Athletics to show itself as a viable proposition in Queensland.”

- ❖ August 1973: After further discussions, the following motion was proposed by the ALAU and was subsequently passed by a unanimous affirmative vote:
 - **“That the body known as the South-East region of the Queensland Little Athletics Association, formed under the auspices of the Y.M.C.A. of Brisbane, being the only Little Athletics body in Queensland, be granted affiliation with the Union, as the body controlling Little Athletics for both boys and girls in Queensland”.**
- ❖ 9 August 1973: Refer also to Items a, b and c from the report on this meeting on the following page.

The Little Athletics Association of South-East Queensland

[Responsible to the Brisbane Y.M.C.A. for the management of Little Athletics in Queensland.]

Following closely on from the decision by the ALAU in early August 1973 to allow the formation of this body:

The inaugural meeting of the Little Athletics Association of South-East Queensland was held on 9th August 1973.

The following is an extract from the meeting's minutes:

- "a. Mr N.T.J. Williams summarised negotiations which had been conducted with the Little Athletics Union and which had culminated with the Y.M.C.A. being appointed, to introduce the sport into Queensland.***
 - b. Mr Williams stated that the intentions of the Y.M.C.A. were:***
 - I. To assist in the conduct and administration of Little Athletics by the provision of staff, administrative support and equipment.***
 - II. To provide a legal identity for the Little Athletics Association of South-East Queensland***
 - III. To assist in the development of a sport, which would be open to boys and girls above the age of seven. But below the age of twelve, irrespective of each individual's ability to pay registration fees.***
 - c. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Committee of Management of the Little Athletics Association of South East Queensland, would be an elected body responsible for the management of the sport, but responsible to the Brisbane and Metropolitan Y.M.C.A. Youth Clubs Committee of Management, in relation to financial and legal matters."***
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After many months of lead up planning, the formal creation of the Little Athletics Association of South-East Queensland allowed things to move much more quickly.

Alan Triscott representing the Little Athletics Union and Noel Williams, the Executive Director of Y.M.C.A. Brisbane, had played pivotal roles in introducing Little Athletics into Queensland. This co-sponsorship with Y.M.C.A. was needed initially for reasons already mentioned and was

possible, because the policies of Little Athletics ran parallel with Y.M.C.A. objectives, i.e., “the promotion of an activity in which boys and girls could take part, without stressful competition, or the cultivation of champions, thus encouraging family unity”.

- ❖ As noted above, the ALAU approved the formation of the Little Athletics Association of South-East Queensland in **early August 1973**;
- ❖ On **9th August 1973** the inaugural meeting of **The Little Athletics Association of South-East Queensland** took place.

Mr Peter Browne was appointed President and Chairman of the interim Committee of Management, as a result of a discussion, said to have been between the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, the Little Athletics Union and the Y.M.C.A. of Brisbane.

- ❖ On **10th August 1973** the Y.M.C.A. Board of Directors approved the purchase of sufficient equipment to establish two centres within Brisbane, as well as to provide sufficient Y.M.C.A. staff to meet administrative and clerical duties. At that meeting Mr Troeger, representing the Salisbury Soccer Club, a then affiliate of the Salisbury Athletic Club, was recorded as being able to convince that organisation, that Y.M.C.A., acting as trustees for the **B.M.Y.C. Youth Clubs** (the Brisbane and Metropolitan Y.M.C.A. Youth Clubs), to accept a gift of land at Salisbury. This was provided from a company referred to as Robertson Developments (1) Pty. Ltd. This land contained restrictions on use, in that it must be used to gain capital for the development of playing fields, or other facilities, for the welfare of Salisbury youth, including members of the Salisbury Soccer Club.

He requested that the Y.M.C.A. receive the land and sell same, to raise finance to develop sports fields at Salisbury, on land which the Salisbury Soccer Club would obtain on lease, from the Brisbane City Council.

The Salisbury Soccer Club was then to grant perpetual use of that leased land, including facilities on the land, for conducting youth clubs, including Little Athletics.

It seems also, that the B.M.Y.C. Youth Clubs played a large role in providing the funding for the initial equipment purchases and as indicated in later minutes (14 November 1975) also had an ongoing role in the provision of Administration, Financial and Legal support and the body to whom the Little Athletics Committee was responsible in respect to those aspects.

- ❖ As indicated previously the Redcliffe and Mitchelton Centres started operations in **September 1973** and **early 1974** respectively.
- ❖ An attempt was also made to open a Centre in Sandgate, but was unsuccessful due to the inability to obtain use of an oval that had been surveyed and marked for athletics.
- ❖ In **October 1974** approval was given by the ALAU to change the name to **The Little Athletics Association of Queensland**, so as to reflect the desire to establish Little

Athletics state wide and to allow this to happen. The South-East Queensland name had been more in line with the coverage the Brisbane Y.M.C.A. had within the State.

Sponsorships

Because the Commonwealth Bank supported Little Athletics in other States, they agreed to finance production of promotional brochures and all event stationery including results tickets.

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("Get with the Strength" and the Elephant were part of the Commonwealth Bank's advertising strategies at that time.)

Radio station 4KQ offered on-air promotion and broadcasting information for the organisation.

Registration numbers for the front of the uniforms were provided by Associated Products Distribution P/L (Twisties), who also supported the ALAU.

The Brisbane Milk Board provided age group badges.

The first Inter-Centre Games were held in November 1974, with generous grants from Coca Cola Bottlers (Brisbane) P/L.

LITTLE ATHLETICS ASSN.
SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND

Finished

Get with the Strength

Date 8.11.75

Name M.C. HARVEY

Event V8 400M

Time 1-32

Authors Note:

Up to this point, the research into the history of Little Athletics in Queensland has been hampered by the fact that minutes of meetings have been difficult to locate and much of the history has been pieced together from various and miscellaneous sources. Despite this, it does I believe give a good account of what actually happened.

From this point on, a virtually complete set of minutes exists and so the balance of the paper will largely be a condensed account of the important issues contained in those minutes, with limited comment where considered necessary.

The Little Athletics Association of Queensland

[Responsible to the Brisbane Y.M.C.A. for the management of Little Athletics in Queensland.]

The next record in the files, is the **first Annual General Meeting of Little Athletics Association of Queensland, dated 17th June 1975.**

The retiring President, Mr Peter Browne chaired the meeting.

The meeting was held with Mr E. G. Lefever, Mr P Lacey, Mr Gil Wright and Mr R Wilson, representing Mt Gravatt Centre. Mr H Awyzio, Mr A Bettens from Redcliffe centre and Mr G Williams, representing Zillmere Centre attending. Mr Berther resigned as Treasurer/Registrar.

The Chairman furnished a report advising that, since the initial foundation discussions, during September 1972, things progressed to the stage where the interim Management Committee of the **Little Athletics Association of South-East Queensland was formed in August 1973**, from interested citizens and have since built on the extensive lead up work, to launch the first four Centres in Queensland under the banner of the **L.A.A.S-E.Q.**

The report stated that "Considerable foundation work was carried out before we launched the first centre – it was necessary to write, design and print a publicity brochure and to prepare the considerable variety of stationery required, to conduct our programmes efficiently. The Committee of Management had to locate suitable ovals, conduct local meetings to generate public interest and to form committees to run the local centres."

He said that public meetings were held in Redcliffe and Mitchelton in September 1973 and early 1974 respectively, which resulted in centres being opened, using State High School ovals.

An attempt was also made to open a Centre in Sandgate, but was unsuccessful due to being unable to obtain the use of an oval that had been surveyed and a track marked.

In July 1974, the Secretary of Mt Gravatt Centre met with Zillmere North Stars Sports Club and a Centre was established there. It was planned that they meet in the winter, because North Star used the facilities in the summer. Mount Gravatt Centre was commenced November 1974 at the Seville Road State School, Holland Park.

The President stated that in **October 1974, approval was given by the ALAU for a change of name to Little Athletics Association of Queensland (L.A.A.Q.)**, to enable the sport to be expanded throughout Queensland.

Membership of the centres was growing slowly, so new ideas and incentives were introduced, although coaching was becoming a major concern.

Action had been taken towards setting up Centres in Moranbah, Acacia Ridge and Kenmore.

He told the Committee that the Queensland Government, through the Y.M.C.A., provided substantial subsidies for equipment and coaching and for the construction of an oval at Acacia Ridge. The Bushell Trust also contributed and Mt Gravatt Centre commenced, with funds from the Rotary Club of Stones Corner.

Registration numbers for the front of the uniforms were provided by Associated Products Distribution P/L (Twisties), who also supported the ALAU.

The first Inter-Centre Games were held in November 1974, with generous grants from Coca Cola Bottlers (Brisbane) P/L and the Brisbane Milk Board, who provided age group badges.

At that inaugural Annual General Meeting, the Vice President took the chair and Mr Peter Browne was elected President. The President re-took the chair and Mr R Wilson was elected Vice President. No Treasurer was nominated, and as a result, the Vice President agreed to carry out the Treasury duties. Mr Groenevelt was elected Technical Advisor.

Mr Browne drew attention to the fact that business pressures on himself and the Secretary were becoming large and asked that all seek voluntary assistance with the administrative duties, particularly due to the resignation of Mr Berther.

Specific mention was made by Mr Williams that they frowned on use of competition, as a reason for the need for the Association's operating and called for the introduction of incentives, to promote personal improvement, rather than competition.

This meeting was accompanied by a Treasurer's statement showing funds received from Centres totalling \$1403 from registration fees and attendance fees – with a \$1 donation from Sandgate Centre.

A further schedule showed the break-up of these funds by Centre and that **all of those funds were paid to the Y.M.C.A.**, including the \$1 donation.

The next meeting recorded of the Association, was a **Special Meeting on 14th November 1975**. The members recorded as present were:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| ○ P Browne | President |
| ○ R Wilson | Vice President |
| ○ P Lacey | Secretary |
| ○ J Lightbody | Mitchelton Centre |
| ○ G Wright | Mt Gravatt Centre |
| ○ D Nutting | Acacia Ridge Centre |
| ○ N Williams | Y.M.C.A. (Executive Director) |
| ○ G Farrell | Y.M.C.A. (Assistant Executive Director) |

The purpose of this meeting was stated as “to clarify the relationship between the Y.M.C.A. of Brisbane and the Little Athletics Association of Queensland, as well as to discuss budget projections”.

Mr Williams tabled a document titled “**Chronological Sequence of Establishment Events**”

The minutes stated “**this document clearly defined the position of the Y.M.C.A. as the ultimate controlling body of Little Athletics in Queensland and the position of the LAAQ Management Committee, as the elected body responsible for management of the sport, but responsible to the BMYC Management Committee, in relation to financial and legal matters.**”

“Mr Williams pointed out, that the Y.M.C.A. had introduced the sport into Queensland and had been responsible for its finance and development, up to and including the present time. The Y.M.C.A. intended to continue its support and control of the activity into the future. At no time had the Y.M.C.A. interfered with the day-to-day management of Little Athletics, nor did it intend to in the future. This was the realm of the Committee of Management of the LAAQ.”

NOTE: For the sake of providing a chronology of events that is in its correct time sequence and therefore more easily followed, this “Chronological Sequence of Establishment Events” document is produced in essence on pages 8 to 12 rather than here, where we are really dealing with events happening nearly two years later.

The minutes of 14 November 1975 went on to state that Acacia Ridge had special status. The aim of Y.M.C.A was the total development of youth and apart from Acacia Ridge, it was not possible for Y.M.C.A. to achieve that aim. Therefore they encourage, but don’t insist on, Little Athletics participants, to become members of Y.M.C.A.

However, this practice was not acceptable at Acacia Ridge, where a Y.M.C.A. Centre was operational. Therefore, at Acacia Ridge, the Little Athletics Centre must exist as a part of the Y.M.C.A. and registered participants must be members of the Y.M.C.A. and engage in wider activities. In order to facilitate the changeover, the Y.M.C.A. is prepared to give subsidised membership to current registrants.

Those minutes also refer to a problem with equipment, in that the Y.M.C.A. apparently bought (at a cost to that date of \$6416.14) and lent equipment to Little Athletics Centres for a two year period, at the end of which time, the equipment should have been bought by the Centre, or returned to the Y.M.C.A.

Centres using Y.M.C.A. equipment were to pay \$100 per annum for that use. Policy was then set to ensure that the two year loan period be enforced.

The following is a copy of the Y.M.C.A. budget for Little Athletics at that time:

○ Income:	Registration fees (1000 participants x \$2.50	\$2500
	• Government grant	\$2000
	• A.P.D. (Twisties) grant	\$ 375
	• Fund raising	\$ 300
	• Acacia Ridge Y.M.C.A. grant (100 x \$2.50)	\$ 250
	• Affiliation (10 centres @ \$2.50)	\$ 25
	• Total	\$5450

○ Expenditure	Salaries (L/S/L/ & superannuation)	\$2500
	• Insurance – equipment	\$ 50
	• Members and voluntary workers	\$ 80
	• Affiliation ALAU	\$ 20
	• Film hire, printing and coaching expenditure	\$1000
	• Equipment maintenance	\$ -
	• Local travel expenses	\$ 500
	• Delegate expenses, Inter Centre games and	
	• Inter-State travel	\$1000
	• Surplus	\$ -
	• Total	\$5450

That meeting also advised of Government support from the Australian Government of \$4140 to Little Athletics in Queensland. It was said that this money could be used to acquire equipment and cover films, printing etc. for coaching.

Y.M.C.A. then stated that their support to that date was \$6416, less subsidies of \$3912.61, showing deficits of \$612.52 for 1973, \$204.47 for 1974 and \$130.96 for 1975, to 30.09.75. A total deficit of \$947.95

The papers next show a notice of a meeting to be called for 18.5.76 and seeking nominations for the positions of President, Vice President and Treasurer of Little Athletics, as per Little Athletics constitution, indicating that the incumbents at that time will accept nominations.

This was the **Second Annual General Meeting of the Association dated 22.6.76**, solely for the election of the Board of Management and showed the following as present at that meeting:

R Wilson	G Wright	P Madden	L Turner
A Ollis	K Anderson	D Beavis	H Awyzio

Miss R Morley and Mr J Edwards were listed as absent.

Mr Turner took the chair for the election and Mr R Wilson was unanimously elected as President. Mr R Wilson then re-took the chair for the remaining elections and Messrs. Peter Madden and John Edwards stood for Vice President and Peter Madden was elected.

Mr Gill Wright nominated Miss R Morley as technical adviser (in her absence) and she was elected.

Then a **Special Committee Meeting** was held at the residence of the Chairman on **12th May 1977**, which was chaired by G Wright, in the absence of the Chairman at that time. The following persons were listed as present –

R Wilson (from a later time), Gil Wright, Derry Beavis, K Anderson, Peter Lonsdale, John Edwards, B Ollis, Sandra Bloch and Don Bloch.

The purpose of that meeting is stated as a need to discuss the financial and legal aspects of divorcing the Little Athletics Association of Queensland from the Y.M.C.A. of Brisbane.

Gil Wright tabled the papers from the Y.M.C.A., relevant to the debt being carried by the Y.M.C.A., on behalf of Little Athletics and the interest being borne by that organisation, for overdraft interest on that debt.

These matters were discussed at length and then another paper was tabled from a previous meeting, showing different figures than those presented by Y.M.C.A. Gil Wright was asked to investigate those differences.

A considerable amount of correspondence was tabled regarding the then earlier years of the formation, including a letter from the Y.M.C.A., stating that they would not apply to the Brisbane City Council to acquire land, explaining the inadequacy of the situation at Acacia Ridge.

The paperwork is said to have showed that a lot of questions remain unanswered, to the satisfaction of Little Athletics Association of Queensland.

Gill Wright was asked to consult a solicitor regarding separation, as a matter of urgency, before they held discussions with the Y.M.C.A., but that that separation should be advanced on the most equitable basis possible. A further Special Meeting was to be called before discussions with the Y.M.C.A. are held.

The next meeting minutes on file are the **Annual General Meeting dated 28.6.77** held at the Y.M.C.A. building in Brisbane.

Attendees are listed as:

R Wilson	Chairman	G Wright	Treasurer/Registrar
L Turner	Secretary (Y.M.C.A.)	D Bloch,	Bundamba Centre
S Bloch,	Bundamba Centre	J Edwards,	Kenmore Centre
B Czulowski,	Gold Coast Centre	K Anderson,	Mt Gravatt Centre
D Beavis,	Mt Gravatt Centre	C Hammond,	proposed Strathpine Centre
P Krause,	Redcliffe Centre.		

B Ollis, M Ollis from Acacia Ridge Centre and P Lonsdale from Mt Gravatt Centre, were listed as apologies.

At that meeting, the Chairman presented a report stating that:

“Centres at the beginning of that year were Acacia Ridge, Kenmore, Moranbah, Mt Gravatt and Redcliffe. Mitchelton were operating the previous year, but ceased to exist this year. However, Bundamba and Gold Coast were opened at the beginning of that season and were most successful.

Mitchelton and Zillmere closures were the result of being too small (100 registrations) and having been run by one man, who was no longer available and no one was trained to take over afterwards.

Mitchelton was formed by parents of talented children, who opened the Amateur Athletics Club in the area, leaving the Centre with no regular parents.

Zillmere Centre was controlled and hampered by the local sports club, of which it was an offshoot, which resulted in the closure.

The two Centres that closed and two others that were shaky, were stated to be the result of establishing Centres in wanted geographical areas, rather than where sufficient parents were willing and able to run a Centre.

The Chairman advised the meeting of the need to, in future, establish Centres only on a demand basis (i.e. sufficient parents wishing and able to run a Centre). Of the five Centres that were opened under the geographical policy, three have closed and two others are shaky. The Association needs to ensure that sufficient parents were willing and able to run a Centre in future.

To that end, the Association has decided to ensure that future applications to form a Centre, need to be accompanied with assurances that the demand is available and that sufficient parents are available and willing to officiate.

To that date, the strength of the Association was supported by television, radio, newspapers promotion and Centre representatives handing out promotional vouchers at shopping centres.

The athletics programme that year was 24 normal Centre meetings, a Relay Championship (425 children), an Inter Centre Games (676 children) an Individual Championship and a Relaython (470 children).

Membership grew that year from 900 to 1602 children, after closing of those two Centres, which had 200 children. However they were experiencing a participation fall off after Christmas of 40% of the children.

Sponsorship at that time was:

Sunday Sun newspaper	- Achievement award scheme
Exacto	- T-shirts for all centres at reduced prices
Coca Cola Bottlers	- Relay and Individual Championships
State Government	- \$2880 for coaching and \$234 for equipment

Adidas

- State team uniforms

The ALAU insists that all Association's bank with the Commonwealth Bank, because of the sponsorship from that bank. But because all the Queensland Association's banking is through the Y.M.C.A, who banks with the ANZ Bank, the Association is unable to meet the requirements of the Union, until the two bodies separate.

The Association membership had climbed to 3000 and many possible new Centres were listed, including affiliation of Richmond River Little Athletics Centre, from N.S.W.

The Association saw the introduction to Queensland of a Grade 1 coaching course, carried out by the Track and Field Coaches Association, which was particularly aimed at Primary School coaches, as well as Little Athletics coaches. 25 People qualified in that year from Little Athletics. This was the first introduction to correct track and field techniques, which will see those who qualified, teach our children those techniques.

This year, the Association was looking to train officials in the correct methods of officiating and judging and Shell training films had arrived to assist.

This was the first year that the Association fielded a State team, who performed very well, although came fifth. The coach was Gil Wright and John and Mrs Edwards were team managers.

He stated that moves were underway to separate from Y.M.C.A. and the Executive Director and Secretariat of that organisation, agreed that this was a desirable course.

He finished the report by stating that much has been made of the training of coaches and officials, but that the Association has a twofold purpose-

1. To provide an organised recreational activity for children, with no external pressure applied
2. To ensure that we show the children correct techniques, only and to conduct our activities so that our claims of performance have credibility
3. Training must always be optional and carried out at a different session to the normal weekly meetings, at which we fulfil our national slogan of "LITTLE ATHLETICS FOR FAMILY FUN AND FITNESS"

This meeting produced the following election results:

R Wilson Chairman/President

J Edwards Vice President

G Wright Treasurer/Registrar

This report shows an expenditure of \$1747.05 by Centres, for which the Government grant should be \$660.24. The Association owed \$400 to the Y.M.C.A. and a surplus of \$917.66 was the result.

The meeting thanked Mr Turner from the Y.M.C.A. (Association Secretary) and took the decision that the future Executive of the Association should consist of the following elected positions:

President

Vice President

Secretary

Programme Manager/Technical Officer

Equipment Co-Ordinator

The next meeting is listed as a **Special General Meeting on 12th July 1977** at the house of the Chairman, called specially to consider separation from the Y.M.C.A.

The Chairman stated that there was an urgent need to have an Administration Officer appointed, to carry out the day-to-day activities of the Association, until a Secretary may be appointed. A motion had been prepared for circulation, appointing Derry Beavis to that role and a list of limitations to his authority was tabled. This person was to take minutes of meetings for circulation to Centres, as well as agendas for future meetings.

John Edwards offered the board meeting room at Barclay Bros for the next meeting and K Anderson was asked to look into holding future meetings at his offices in the city.

The meeting was advised of a new national achievement award scheme for athletes, which was accepted in principle, until more details were gained.

The age groups for the Association were decided to be from Under 8 to Under 13, after which time, children would be encouraged to become officials at events.

The Gold Coast Centre was to produce a handbook for children, the best performances of Centre children and the Chairman displayed a new A.P.D. (Twisties) logo, to be part of the registration numbers worn by children.

Insurance was discussed, with the N.S.W. supplier of insurance agreed on. Union stationery was discussed, as well a new badge for the Association, to be worn at the following Australian Teams Championship. Although, the current stock of 564 was to be sold by Centres, before ordering the new badge.

The future of Acacia Ridge was discussed, although no detail is supplied in the minutes.

Another **Special Meeting was called on 12th July**, for a meeting on 5th October 1977. That agenda called for approval for the appointment of an Administration Officer, to operate from his home, for various reasons listed. These reasons included the proximity of his house to the current Executive, his telephone number is presently listed as that of the Association, he has typing and duplicating facilities (he is on the Mt Gravatt Executive) and he has safe storage for records.

A motion was moved to that effect. Another for Derry Beavis to use Mt Gravatt moneys as required, to be later reimbursed by the Association on invoice. It also authorised Derry's address be used on Association paperwork and for him to be shown as Administration Officer of the Association. Although a further motion was agreed, that Derry Beavis NOT be empowered to act on behalf of the Association, other than as directed by the Association Executive and for those directions to be ratified at the next available meeting of the Association.

The previous A.G.M. called for the Secretaries position to be a non-elected position.

The Y.M.C.A. would invoice the Association for secretarial duties, but it was desirable for the Association to have its own Secretary/Administrator in the future. Until separation takes place, the Association needed to follow the structure of the constitution, so an Administration Officer was to be pursued.

Although formal separation was some months off, agreement had been reached and amendments needed to be made to the constitution, in preparation.

The meeting on **5th October 1977 is listed as a Special Meeting**, with John Edwards, Barry Martin, Gil Wright, Don Bloch and Derry Beavis being present. Derry Beavis took the minutes as Administration Officer.

This meeting was held at Barclay Bros building. It is said to have been called to discuss possible changes to the venue for the Relay Championships and Inter-Centre Games, from Holland Park to QE11. The date was also changed to fit into the venue availability.

An entrance fee of 20 cents was decided, payable for any persons attending of Little A age, or over.

Gill Wright was listed as Programme Manager, Peter Lonsdale as Arena Manager, Joan Wellen as Announcer, R Wilson and Don Bloch as Appeals Tribunal and B Waters and I Bowen, as Chief Judges.

Eight Centres were listed then – Acacia Ridge, Bundamba, Kenmore, Mt Gravatt, Redcliffe, Gold Coast, Strathpine and the Gap, with Richmond River written in, as a late nomination.

The rules for the Relay Championship are listed, the Programme and a map of the grounds, were also sent to centres.

The next meeting of the Association on file is listed as a **Special Meeting of the Committee of Management dated 31.5.78**. It was held at Biggs and Biggs, called to consider a motion “to rescind a previous motion, carried at the 19th April meeting, to authorise the Administration Officer to advise the Association solicitor, John Nagel, to withhold action in respect of formation of the Little Athletics governing body, pending further advice”. That the solicitors be advised that his (previous) instructions as for the letter of 12th April 1978, be carried out.”

The Vice President read the motion to the meeting and explained that he had spoken against the action of the President, who had authorised the solicitor to go ahead with the incorporation of the Association.

The Administration Officer reported on telephone conversations he had had with Mrs Pridham from Y.M.C.A., concerning the separation of L.A.A.Q. from the Y.M.C.A. Mrs Pridham stated that, at no time, did the Y.M.C.A. require the L.A.A.Q. to incorporate, as a condition of separation and stated that all that remained to be done, was to have the constitution of the L.A.A.Q. amended to delete all reference to the Y.M.C.A. She said that The Trustees should request the Y.M.C.A. to release the registration of the name “Little Athletics”, request the Y.M.C.A to inform the ALAU of the release of the name and finally for the L.A.A.Q. to submit an apology, for statements made earlier about the Y.M.C.A. – No mention is in the files to show what that statement was.

That report was discussed at length, as was the need to incorporate, but that the incorporation could be delayed because of time problems, until after separation was finalised.

That motion was lost on a show of hands.

The Administration Officer read the motion to amend the constitution, but that that matter would be discussed at the A.G.M.

The Administration Officer read the letter that had been prepared to send to the Y.M.C.A. and the meeting agreed that matters contained in that letter, would be sufficient at that stage, but if the Y.M.C.A. requested a more detailed apology, the Association should be prepared to go ahead, in order to complete the separation without delay.

The possibility of the Y.M.C.A. rejecting the amendments, as well as the apology, was discussed and the meeting, which decided to pass a motion as follows:

“The Committee of Management agrees, that because of the present circumstances, a special meeting of the Committee of Management can if necessary, be called by the Administration Officer at the earliest opportunity.” This motion was moved by Gil Wright, seconded by George Harvey (the first meeting he attended) representing Kenmore Centre and carried.

The Vice President requested the Administration Officer to contact Joe Keeling (ALAU) and request from him an apology to the Y.M.C.A., to be held by the Association and only used as may be necessary.

A motion was then passed, to send all constitution amendments and correspondence to the Y.M.C.A.

The next meeting minutes on file were for the **Annual General Meeting, held on 21st June 1978**, held at the State Services Union building. This meeting was chaired by John Edwards, as Vice President and he read the Chairman's report, on behalf of the President, who had resigned. This was signed by the Vice President.

The President had held that position since 1976 until his resignation on 1st May 1978, with the Executive being the President, the Vice President (John Edwards) and the Treasurer/Registrar Gil Wright.

The President advised that Centres at the beginning of that season were Acacia Ridge, Bundamba, Capricorn Coast (Yeppoon), Kenmore, Gold Coast, Moranbah, Mt Gravatt, Redcliffe and Strathpine. Townsville, under Bob McCullough, had since affiliated, and this Centre became the nucleus of the northern (Winter Season) Centres, although that Centre was closely associated with Amateur Athletics.

He advised that Richmond River (northern N.S.W.), under Centre Manager Stan Perkins, also affiliated with Queensland, although it was expected that they would move back to the N.S.W. Association, who were expanding into northern N.S.W. at that time.

Acacia Ridge then incorporated with Mt Gravatt, due to lack of parental support.

Membership was held at the upper age of Under 13, because to do otherwise would tax the management resources of the Association. Membership stood at 1839 – an increase of only 216, with Mt Gravatt exceeding 300 members and Bundamba at 246. Participation stood at 60% prior to Christmas, falling to 30% afterwards.

The President said that Centre and Association days attracted good numbers, although the Relaython and Intra Centre Games, were poorly attended. The Relay Championships were attended by 8 Brisbane Centres, were held at QE11 on tartan, whereas the Inter Centre games were conducted at Kenmore Centre. Two busloads of competitors and supporters attended the Inter Centre Games from Richmond River, which was said to be a reflection of the concept of Little Athletics "Family Fun and Fitness".

The Queensland Individual Championships involved 11 Centres, including Richmond River and Capricorn Coast, with 202 events and good inter centre rivalry. The Queensland Minister of Sport (Mr Tom Newberry) and the President of the Queensland Women's' Amateur Athletics Association, were in attendance and were full of praise.

The Association fielded a team at the Australian Teams Championship and performed well under coach Gill Wright and Managers, Derry and Robin Beavis. They achieved fifth place.

Sponsors remained the same:

Commonwealth Bank of Australia.	Recording sheets, performance books and tickets
Coca Cola Bottlers (Brisbane) Ltd.	Operation costs of Championships and Inter Centre Games
Queensland Government.	Coaching subsidies and grounds

Associated Product Distributors.	Children's registration numbers
Milk Board.	Age labels
Exacto Knitwear Pty Ltd.	T shirts at reduced prices
The Sunday Sun newspaper.	Achievement award ribbons
Adidas.	Uniforms for State teams

The Association had been approached to establish centres at Laidley (Esk), Springwood, Dalby, Cairns and Ingham, so he thought the movement was gaining momentum.

The Association had prepared an "Instruction Manual for Centre Managers".

Separation from the Y.M.C.A. was well in hand and the Chairman hoped the Y.M.C.A. would vote to ratify this, at their next meeting.

The President and Administration Officer had arranged for the Women's Amateur Athletics Association to accept registrations of Little Athletes and the Association was hoping for the men's to do the same. [This never happened]

That Annual General Meeting saw Peter Lonsdale elected President from a field of three (John Edwards and Gil Wright were unsuccessful). Peter Lonsdale then took the chair in the absence of a President at that time.

Nominees for Vice President were Keith Anderson, Sandra Bloch, Ed Laycock and Peter Lonsdale, the latter withdrawing, as he had been elected President. Sandra Bloch was then elected Vice President.

Gil Wright was elected Treasurer/Registrar, with Ivan Bowen unsuccessful.

The Association then carried a motion, as amended, to dissolve the connection to the Y.M.C.A. The solicitors proposed that the motion need not use the words "the Y.M.C.A." as this could be making a commitment to affiliate with the Y.M.C.A., the whole point of the motion was to take any reference away from the Y.M.C.A. The words "any body" would suffice. A further motion was put forward, to add the words "provided that the dissolution is complete" and this was carried. Other amendments were also put and carried.

Brian Czulowski from Gold Coast Centre, proposed a motion that Derry Beavis be appointed Association Secretary until the next General Meeting and this was carried.

Gil Wright nominated Brian Czulowski, John Edwards and Ray Fischer as Trustees of the Association and this was carried.

Keith Anderson moved that the Y.M.C.A. of Brisbane be informed of our acceptance of the amendments and the appointments, as passed at the General Meeting. This was seconded by Gil Wright and carried.

The next minutes on file are an **Executive Committee Meeting dated 28.6.78**, which is said to have been called to discuss matters that were not discussed at the June meeting, due to the lateness of the hour at that meeting. No attendees were listed for this meeting.

This meeting discussed the need for Centres to conduct a Relaython, to raise money for the State Team, to be sent to the next Australian Teams Championships. Centres were to be allowed to retain 10% or \$10, whichever was the lesser, from the funds raised and for those funds to be used as a prize for the child who raised the most funds. The Association would then provide a prize to the child who raised the most money overall.

The dates and locations of Association events were discussed.

All Centres were asked to canvas parents of members, for a person to nominate for Public Relations Officer of the Association.

Discussion also covered the production of a “hand bill” for school notice boards and shop windows, as well as paid advertising in newspapers.

The Little Athletics Association of Queensland

[Operating as an Independent Body affiliated with the ALAU.]

The files then show a **Special General meeting dated 26.7.78** held at the State Services Union building.

The President (Peter Lonsdale) announced that the separation from Y.M.C.A. was completed on 30.6.78 and that the Y.M.C.A. had signed a release form for the name Little Athletics Association of Queensland.

Derry Beavis was the only nominee for Association Secretary and he was duly elected.

The President tabled the sub-committee recommendation for amendments to the constitution – such constitution to remain in force only until such time as a totally new constitution was prepared and adopted. These motions were carried and the President undertook to prepare one fully amended constitution, to be sent to each Centre.

The President informed the meeting of his discussions with the State Corporate Affairs Department, on different methods of registering the Association. The Association was eligible to register as a Friendly Society and the President read to the meeting some of the requirements for registering under that act, including the need for some amendments to the constitution.

Ray Fischer moved a motion, that the Association was desirous of registering under the Friendly Societies Act and that the constitution sub-committee meet to prepare amendments to the constitution. This was seconded by Keith Anderson.

George Harvey asked whether the Association should look further into that act before registering. This act was said to be similar to that which the Western Australian Association was registered under. George Harvey moved an amendment to the motion, to add that the Association considers it desirable to examine registration under etc. This was carried.

The President then tabled a paper titled “**Discussion Paper on Specialist Members of the Committee of Management**” as a means of restricting the length of committee meetings. These positions would become sub-committees of the Board of Management and would report to the then board. This should result in the late hours of meetings being reduced, some members currently having to leave early, because they needed to travel long distances. Also this sharing of the work load and responsibilities, will allow for a group of members to meet between normal meetings.

This paper included various duties for each specialist group, which involved:

- Publicity and Public Relations Officer
- Technical and Education Co-Ordinator

- Major Competition Co-Ordinator
- Finance and Development (added at the meeting)

Gil Wright moved that Ed Laycock be appointed to Major Competition Co-Ordinator, which was seconded by Keith Anderson and carried. No other nominations were received and the other positions were to be considered at monthly meetings, with Kenmore Centre being asked to find someone from that centre, for Public Relations Officer.

The financial report showed total revenue of \$13682.86 and expenditure of \$12208.42.

A Special General Meeting was held on 20th September 1978, to discuss a postal ballot, to be pre-circulated for a later meeting, regarding the registration of the Association under the Friendly Societies Act.

A covering paper was sent to Centres, explaining that the Association would register under that act, as a "Social Society". The Board of Management considered registering the name "Little Athletics" as a business name, which was unacceptable to the Board of Management for a few reasons and was unacceptable to the State Government Business Affairs Department. Registering as individuals was also unacceptable, as that would not achieve the aim of securing the name of the Association and prove to be too onerous on any individual, as he/they would need to carry unlimited liability.

Registration under the Company's Act was to be pursued and instructions were given to the solicitor to commence the initial steps for incorporation in that manner. But because of the high cost and other matters, the solicitor was advised to cease that action.

Other methods were sought and the Friendly Society method was considered best because:

1. It secures the name of the Association (note that it would not be possible for another organisation to register as a business name whilst the Association is registered under the Friendly Societies Act)
2. This method limits liability to members
3. This method is less onerous in terms of company reports
4. This method is a great deal cheaper

The Centres were told that, at the 20th September meeting, the Board of Management approved amendments to the constitution, which would be required to allow registration and also decided to arrange this postal vote to be sent to Centres.

The note went on to advise Centres that, the Board of Management had been involved in discussions as to whether registering the name was important and Centres were advised that the Victorian Little Athletics Association had already had a business Association try to register the "Little Athlete" name, for use for commercial reasons.

If that happened in Queensland, without some form of security of our name, we could well find that we would not be permitted to continue the use of our name.

The motion in the ballot paper was moved by Keith Anderson and seconded by Pat Krause. The minutes of the meeting (with the ballot papers and note), was sent to Centres under signature of Derry Beavis as Secretary.

Notice of a Special Committee Meeting of the Association (to be held on 8th November) was sent out to Centres on 28th October 1978, under signature of the Secretary, Derry Beavis. This meeting was said to have been called by Bundamba Centre (two delegates) as well as the Vice President, Sandra Bloch from Bundamba Centre, as Vice President of the Association. A supporting letter from the Vice President accompanied that advice.

The notice stated that Centres would recall that, at the October monthly meeting, the Secretary advised that the QE11 track was not available on the date advertised in the handbook (26th November) and that he had made a tentative booking for the following weekend (3rd December).

The Vice President spoke against the date in December, stating that the Bundamba parents did not want the children of that centre, running in the December heat and that the QE11 track was available on the November weekend.

From the information from the Vice President, the QE11 track was to be booked for the 26th November and the Secretary was appointed to make that booking.

He stated that the information from the Vice President, as to that availability was in fact incorrect. The December date was booked, the President and Treasurer were contacted by telephone, and they ratified that decision.

The Vice President was said to be unavailable by telephone, until the following Saturday. When she was contacted, she said that she did not agree to that decision (by the President and Treasurer) and the following Monday, contacted Bremer High School, where an oval was available. The Secretary is said to have advised the Vice president that he would have to contact the President and all Centres, to ascertain if they were prepared to change the venue to Ipswich.

The President advised that a ballot would be required by telephone for the change, which was carried out on Monday night and Tuesday morning. This resulted in only 2 votes being recorded in favour of the change – the Vice President and Bundamba Centre. All other votes were for the QE11 venue on 3rd December.

On being advised of the result of the telephone ballot, the Vice president is said to have advised that she was not satisfied with that result and that she would call for a special meeting.

Centres were advised that, if they were unable to attend (some were in the Country areas), that they could complete an attached postal ballot paper and that those ballot papers, would not be opened prior to that meeting.

The signatories were concerned that a telephone ballot could over-ride the motions passed at meetings.

The postal vote provided for the Centre to indicate which of two venues would be preferred, as well as allowed the Centre/s to sign a statement that they were prepared to accept telephone

voting, for extraordinary circumstances, where it is considered impractical to conduct a special meeting. This was provided that all Centres take part in the telephone vote and that the telephone vote be confirmed at the subsequent meeting of the Committee of Management.

Centres were also given the opportunity to comment in writing on any matter in the papers.

The paper also provided for Centres, under signature, to state that a representative of that Centre was unable to attend the meeting and requesting leave.

The **Special Meeting of the Committee of Management was held 8.11.78** and was attended by Mt Gravatt, Kenmore, Bundamba and Gold Coast Centres and the President called on the Vice President to open discussion. She tabled letters from Queensland University and Kedron Teachers College, indicating that Queensland University was available, but that the Teachers College was not.

The Vice President (Sandra Bloch) moved a motion that the University or Bremer High School be the venue on the 26th November, which was seconded by Don Bloch.

Don spoke in favour of the motion, referring to the previous year's Inter-Centre Games held at Kenmore in extreme heat and that they lost members as a result.

The Secretary advised that the Weather Bureau had supplied average monthly temperatures of November and December for the past 5 years and the variation was in the order of 1 degree.

The Treasurer stated that Kenmore was not suitable for all day events, due to the location, which made the grounds very hot and humid. He stated that QE11 with the tartan track, was the only suitable venue.

The motion was put and lost. It was therefore decided that QE11 in December, be the venue on 3rd December.

The Treasurer moved a motion that all Association events be conducted at QE11 in future, which was seconded by Don Bloch and carried.

The Vice President moved a motion, seconded by John Lock, that telephone voting not be permitted, which resulted in a discussion on the size of the present Committee. Certain powers were to be given to the Executive and allowing Centre delegates to be able to discuss matters with their Centre committees, prior to voting. The motion was put and lost.

Don Bloch moved a motion, that telephone voting shall only be permitted within the Association, on matters of urgency and that Centres be required to return their telephone votes within 72 hours from the time of initial contact. This motion was carried.

John Lock moved a motion, that under no circumstances shall telephone voting be conducted to rescind motions previously passes at Committee of Management meetings. This was seconded by Gil Wright and carried.

The next meeting minutes on file was an **Annual General Meeting held on 18th July 1979** at the State Service Union offices. The first President's Report from Peter Lonsdale was presented to the meeting. He touched on the strength of the Association to conduct major events – probably one of the most efficient of the sporting bodies in Queensland, in terms of handling and conduct.

He advised that the Committee of Management met monthly and office bearers were then as follows:

President	Peter Lonsdale
Vice President	Sandra Bloch
Treasurer/Registrar	Gil Wright
Secretary	Derry Beavis until his resignation 23.3.79 Joan Wellen appointed 18.4.79
Technical Officer	Bob Doocey

He said that the Association year was marred by internal conflict – the tendency to “play politics” in the Association is completely out of place in an organisation dedicated to the welfare of children and he personally disliked it. The end result of this conflict has been to have unnecessarily affected the activities of the Association, remove the powers of the Executive and reduce the effectiveness of the Committee of Management, to a level below that which should be acceptable to us as an Association. There still exists a tendency among some delegates to the Association, to equate action decisions, on the basis of what is best for individual Centres, rather than what is best for the Association, as a whole. If we are to function effectively as an Association, then we need to THINK and ACT as an Association, rather than an amalgamation of individual interests.

He stated that he believes that we, as an Association, need to tackle the following tasks, to improve the conduct of the Association:

- a. Remove unnecessary restrictions placed on the Committee of Management
- b. Place a time limit on Association meetings, to avoid the frequent late hours experienced recently
- c. Organise standing committees to handle recurring activities, so that the Association is not required to deal with these in detail, at Committee of Management meetings
- d. Most importantly, for all Centres, delegates and Executives, to reassess their attitudes to the conduct of the Association, so that we can effectively guide the Association in the direction it should be going – FORWARD - with ever increasing momentum.

Fifteen Centres were operating at that date, with 3 centres in excess of 200 registrations. Richmond River had moved back to the N.S.W. Association, with Biloela, Backwater, Goodna, Mt Tarampa and Ferny Hills opening during the year. Of those, Ferny Hills were fully affiliated, the required forms had been received for Goodna and Biloela and Blackwood had yet to apply. Approaches had been received from Gladstone, Jindalee and Woodridge/Kingston.

The Public Relations position still had not been filled.

He advised that the Association had entered into an agreement with Shoppers Bonanza, allowing the Association's name to be used to promote shopper dockets.

Under the heading "Future Development of the Association", he stated that the scope of this subject is far too complex for discussion within the context of that report and he had therefore prepared a separate discussion paper (not attached) from which, he hoped policy decisions will evolve, that will carry the Association from strength to strength into 1980. He hastened to point out, that the paper contains only his own thoughts on future development. It was not intended as a firm plan for future development and is not intended for discussion at that meeting.

He went on to state, that there were some things that needed to be said in that report. "We have been through a consolidation period and have emerged from those things, which may have previously held us back. We now need to make firm policy decisions, to decide where we are going from here and what the role of the Association is to be in the future. We cannot, in my opinion, sit back and wait for things to happen, but we actively and aggressively promote Little Athletics as a sport, based on the principle of Family Fun and Fitness. If we are to grow, we must make it happen and not expect others to do our development work for us. It will require a unified, single minded approach and a lot of hard work to succeed, but I believe we can.

One of the foremost considerations will be the decision on our management structure in the future. We can retain our present structure, or move to regional management control, to provide more efficient management functions and give the Country Centres a more effective voice in the management of Little Athletics in the area.

I believe there is a great future for Little Athletics in Queensland, but we MUST decide this year, where we are going, how we are going to get there and what we propose to do when we arrive."

The Treasurers report showed total receipts as \$25354.16 and debits of \$27559.20, leaving a bank balance of \$1287.96.

The meeting detailed the result of elections as being:

President	George Harvey
Vice President	John McNee
Treasurer/Registrar	Gil Wright
Secretary	Joan Wellen

One of the motions carried at that meeting, was that that meeting appoint a sub-committee to re-draft the constitution, in line with the contents of the notice of motion from Kenmore Centre. As well as Peter Lonsdale's paper, to be presented to a special meeting. The sub-committee to consist of Peter Lonsdale, John Edwards (chairman), Bob Doocey and George Harvey.

Behind the scenes, Don Bloch (Centre Manager, Bundamba) had contacted George Harvey (Kenmore Centre Delegate) and advised him that Don commanded a block of votes from

his and a number of other Centres sufficient to sway the vote - and thus the direction the Association would take - whichever way they voted. He advised they were in favour of the structures and direction proposed by John Edwards (Centre Manager, Kenmore) but would not vote for him as President. If that was their only option they would vote for Peter Lonsdale and his proposals. Don asked George to stand for President against John Edwards and Peter Lonsdale, so the Association could follow the path most considered best at that time. This created an uncomfortable situation as George had been travelling around the Centres with the Kenmore delegation canvassing for John Edwards to be elected as President. Eventually however he did agree to accept Bundamba's nomination in order to ensure the Association continued to move forward in the way the Kenmore Delegation had been proposing.

As indicated above he was duly elected President and served as such for the next 10 years until he was elected President of the ALAU in 1989.

A Special General Meeting was held 19.9.79 at the State Services Union building, to consider changes to the constitution, with Noel Mason standing in as acting Secretary (Joan Wellen was an absentee, as well as John Edwards).

This meeting lists George Harvey as President of the Association and was attended by the sub-committee members, as well as:

The Gap Centre	Noel Mason
Kenmore	John Lock
Mt Gravatt	Derry Beavis
Goodna	L Bould
K Anderson	
K Bould	

President George Harvey outlined the purpose of the meeting, the format of how discussions could take place and explained that the use of a postal ballot, was to allow Country Centres to be included as part of the full voting representation. It was decided that all Centres should have a vote, should see the full recommendations of the sub-committee, as well as all comments from Centres.

A motion to this effect was put by Derry Beavis (Mt Gravatt President) and seconded by Don Bloch, from Bundamba Centre. Comments from the meeting were also to be circulated and that motion was carried.

The Constitutional Sub-Committee stated that a total revision was needed and recognised that the State team was important, but was not part of the objectives and powers. The revision that they proposed would be restricted to:

- a. an autonomous Association Committee of Management
- b. the introduction of Zone Committees of Management

The explanation for the motions:

1. Was to ensure that the Committee of Management becomes an autonomous body, in which a decision may be effected by four (4) favourable votes from a quorum of six (6).
2. The powers and responsibilities of Zone Committees of Management are to be laid down in by-laws.
3. The affiliation procedure for Centres, is to be laid down by the Committee of Management.
4. The constitution to clarify the term “member.”

The Sub-Committee was listed as consisting of John Edwards (signed the form), Peter Lonsdale, George Harvey and Bob Doocey.

The motions included inter alia:

- That the day-to-day control of the affairs of the Association shall be vested in a Committee of Management consisting of:
 - President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer/Registrar
 - Manager Championships and Special Meetings
 - Manager Public Relations, Publications and Promotion
 - Manager Officials, Technical and Equipment
 - Manager Coaching and Education
 - Manager Development
 - Manager Centre Liaison and Operations
 - Manager Financial Affairs
 - One Zone delegate from each Zone, appointed by the Zone Committee of Management
- That members of the Association’s Committee of Management shall be elected by ballot at the Association’s Annual General Meeting, or any adjournment thereof and many motions were sent to Centres, including:
 - The Secretary shall be the returning officer
 - Six weeks notification to Centres for nominating of members to the Committee of Management
 - Retiring members would automatically be available and nominations from Centres must be in writing, signed by at least two Centre delegates and be accompanied by written consent from the person nominated.
 - Nominations must be accompanied by job specification and profile.

- Nominations not including profiles, will be considered invalid
- Ballot papers would be circulated by the Secretary, if more than one nomination is submitted to the Committee of Management
- Voting shall not be taken until after adoption, or rejection, of the Annual Report and audited Statement of Accounts
- The Committee of Management will have the power to fill casual vacancies, until the next Annual General Meeting
- Should a member of the Association Committee of Management be absent from three or more ordinary meetings without leave, his or her seat shall be declared vacant and he or she shall thereupon cease to hold office
- The Association Committee of Management shall meet monthly
- Special meetings of the Committee of Management shall be convened by the Secretary, or the requisition in writing of not less than five (5) members of the Committee of Management, which requisition shall clearly state the reasons why such Special Meeting is being convened and the nature of the business to be transacted thereat
- A quorum shall be six (6) members
- Elections are to be held every two years, half each year, with terms being two years
- The Vice President is to be deleted from the then current list of members
- One delegate per Centre for meetings that they attend
- A motion shall only be carried at Committee of Management Meetings, if passed by a majority of members present

Accompanying Centre comments were basically as follows:

Mt Gravatt, signed by Derry Beavis as Centre Manager

- Vice President needs to be added to Committee of Management
- Take Education from Manager Coaching
- Position of Vice President added to the list of Managers, to stand for election the year that the President does not stand
- They wanted the Zone representation back into the Committee of Management meetings
- Country Zones should have the right to appoint Brisbane city persons, to represent them at meetings
- The Centre would have no part of the Kenmore suggestion, regarding the best person to fill a Committee of Management position. They would not be

dictated to by a person from outside the Association. [It is presumed that they meant, by a person who had not come through the Centre/Zone system]

- They would not agree to a Kenmore suggestion, that a duly elected member of the Committee of Management, could be dismissed by the Committee of Management. [This apparently was in regard to the lack of attendance of three meetings in a row, without an apology]
- They made the point, that all decisions taken at meetings, since the Special General Meeting the year before, are un-constitutional, because of the restrictions imposed at that meeting of members of the Committee of Management
- They were critical of the member from Kenmore Centre and totally against decisions being undertaken by the Board of Management, without Centre or Zone representation.
- They were also concerned that no paper had been presented on what represented a Zone

Bundamba – Two representatives needed to be part of each Committee of Management meeting

- Every meeting of the Committee of Management should have at least three (3) members of Zone committees, as part of the quorum of seven (7)
- Positions on the Committee of Management be for one (1) year only
- Each of the two Zone members should have a right to vote at meetings of the Committee of Management. [This was designed to keep control of the Association to the Centres, through the Zones]
- Centres not be represented at Association meetings. [This would have the effect of building a power base for Zone representatives].

Two **Special General Meetings were held 19.3.80**, at State Services Union building, with George Harvey as President and Chairman. Bundamba was an apology, but the Centres were represented by Kenmore, Bundamba, Goodna, Gold coast, Mt Gravatt and Ferny Hills.

The first meeting carried the motions to:

- Alter the constitution, to allow postal or proxy votes, but that those votes may only be used for the matters that were specified. That alterations and

additions to the constitution must be agreed to by four fifths of those present, as well as postal votes from Country Centres.

- Proxy voting shall not be allowed, except as permitted by the constitution

The second meeting carried all motions presented by the Board, with the exception of the motion to delete the position of Vice President.

An additional motion was carried, that the constitution be submitted to the Annual General Meeting, for ratification and adoption.

The **Annual General Meeting dated 21.5.80** was held at the State Services Union building which had the President, Mr George Harvey in the chair and he presented his first report as President.

He stated that “he was faced with very mixed feelings about the past season. The year was of enormous turmoil in the Association, with much drawn out debate and an unprecedented uncertainty of tenancy, on the part of the office bearers.

The reasons underlying most of these troubles are tied up in our struggle to re-structure the Association in Queensland and re-draft our constitution accordingly. Tonight, I trust, that this year’s long struggles will be made worthwhile, by the formal acceptance of our new constitution and the election of the new Board of Management (Officers of the Association) who, with the new Zone delegates, will form our new Committee of Management.

The concurrent formation of Zones and Zone Management Committees, provides us with a whole new structure, which will benefit us at all levels and must in particular remove from the Board Room, the pre-occupation with Centre policies, promotions and politics, which has marred our Association for some years.”

He went on to state that development and growth has seen new Centres formed at Ayr, Goodna, Leichardt and Runaway Bay, to total 18 centres (increase of 40%) with registrations at 2500.

Generous support from sponsors, including Shoppers Bonanza, bring a bank balance of \$13500. Jacaranda Milk and Ansett Airlines were added as sponsors that year.

Shoppers Bonanza created some problems, with the way they conducted fund raising activities, which resulted in a “smell” accorded to the Association.

He said that strong support from the Australian Track and Field Coaches Association has resulted on the Association being able to boast upwards of 40 grade 1 coaches and about 6 grade 2 coaches, which is having a great success in lifting our children’s performances. The year’s Individual Championships produced 80, out of 146, State best performances, as well as 6 Australian best performances – a record un-heard of in previous years. The official’s area needed some work, to achieve sufficient fully accredited officials at Association competitions in future.

George believed that the Association had “now turned off the somewhat bumpy path we have travelled the past few seasons, and will be able to move more quickly towards developing Little Athletics to its full potential in this State”.

The Treasurers report showed receipts of \$25468.86 and expenditure of \$23480.52. Registrations recorded Kenmore and Mt Gravatt as having more than 400.

Motions included one moved by Gill Wright, seconded by Derry Beavis, that if a person held a position on the Executive of the Association, Zone, Centre or Club, they would be in-eligible for another position. This motion was lost

Another was to have the Association address being the home address of the Secretary, which was carried and to ratify the new constitution, which was also carried.

President: George Harvey was elected – Don Bloch was unsuccessful

Vice President: Don Yourell from the Gold Coast, was elected. He stood at the request of John Edwards – Don Bloch and Joan Wellen were un-successful.

Treasurer/Registrar: Dugald Henderson was elected and Joan Wellen was un-successful

Centre Liaison and Operations: was not filled – both nominees withdrew

Development: John Edwards was elected and Don Bloch was un-successful

Coaching: Bob Doocey was elected – Don Bloch was un-successful

Championships & Special Meetings: John Lock was elected and Gill Wright was un-successful

Officials & Education: was not filled, with two withdrawals

Public Relations & Publications: Derry Beavis was elected, with 2 withdrawals

Financial Affairs: not filled, with 2 withdrawals

Technical & Equipment: John Lock was elected

A motion was carried that the President of the Association should attend National Teams Championships, in his capacity as President and representative of the State. This resulted in his resignation as 1st Assistant Coach, on the understanding that the Association would not send a Second Assistant coach.

Another motion was carried, that all appointments or proposed appointments, to ALAU Committees or Sub-Committees, must first receive formal approval in an L.A.A.Q. Committee of Management Meeting, before being ratified.

The meeting passed another motion, to rescind the motion to conduct Under 7 competition at Association level, as well as a motion to accept a new Adidas sponsorship.

An **Extra-Ordinary General Meeting was called for 6.7.80** at QE11 to cover mundane housekeeping items. All Committee of Management Committee members were present, excluding John McNee, who was at another athletics meeting. Four Zones attended, namely, Northern, Metropolitan, Ipswich and District and South Coast.

This meeting covered the change to the State Team uniform, because of Adidas' inability to meet the previous colours. It was decided to have the boy's uniform as white shorts, with a maroon stripe and a maroon singlet, with maroon shorts and white tops for girls.

Office accommodation was being sought at QE11 offices, part of the Secretary's telephone account was to be paid by the Association, Committee of Management registration fee of \$2 for meetings be paid, some telephone costs of the Manager for Development be paid, that future minutes show the Zone representation at meetings, Relay Championships point scoring be half fun and half for competition, Centre to be formed at Riverview, a budget be created for the Development Officer and that Derry Beavis be appointed Assistant Coach, from a field of three.

Minutes of an informal meeting were read to this meeting and a submission was made by a committee consisting H & C Van Dijk, stating that many parents in that area could not travel to existing Centres and the Centres concerned agreed that they do not have many registrations from the Riverview area. Consequently, a motion was passed for Riverview to be affiliated.

A motion to create a budget for development amounting to \$6500 was approved. A coaching committee was to be formed from Zone committees and a budget was approved for that of \$1200.

Registration fees for the coming year were agreed to be \$3 for metropolitan and \$1 for country areas – for this decision it was decided that "country" be any Centre that was too far from the metropolitan area, to be able to gain the full benefits of the Association.

A **meeting was to be held on 23.7.80**, but was abandoned for lack of a quorum. However a Treasurers report was available at that meeting, showing receipts of \$ 67124.72 and expenditure of \$63909.43, leaving a bank balance of \$3871.22.

A budget, with receipts totalling \$44778 and expenditure of \$47800 was available.

A **General Meeting of the Association was held on 28.11.80**, was attended by seven centres, as well as the Board. Motions were carried to introduce 800 metre event for Under 10 girls and another for 800 metres for boys, but the decision was taken, by motion, to present this position as a separate notice of motion, to the next General Meeting.

The meeting was advised that the next Grade 2 coaching course had 80 Little Athletics people attending. A grade 1 coaching course was to be held at Kelvin Grove Teachers College, to be supervised by the Grade 1 Coaching Sub-Committee of Les Hudson, Bruce McDonald and John Hegarty. Lecturers were to be Derry Beavis on the role of the Coach, High Jump and Sprints, John

McNee on training and walking, Arthur Watson on Shot, Discus and Javelin, with George Harvey, on Long Jump and Hurdles.

A coaching camp was being organised and Zone Coaching Co-Ordinators were listed as:

Derry Beavis	Metro South
Cec Van Dijk	Ipswich and District
Des Bell	South Coast
Ken Bould	Metro West
Ken Watson	Northern

Officials Exam Papers were now available; new Centres had been established at Aspley and Capalaba and that Mt Gravatt Centre now had 2 clubs forming part of that Centre – Springwood and Sunnybank.

The meeting was told that the N.S.W. Association now has 3 full time Development Officers and that they have offered to lend 2 of those to Queensland, to assist development in our State.

Hosting of the Australian Teams Championship by Queensland was well under way, with Coca Cola offering \$5000 toward the day.

The President's report is not attached to the minutes as indicated and motions were put to the meeting as follows:

1. That parents accompanying children representing the State Team at National Meetings, be allowed to accommodate their own children, if they so desire – This was a negative motion, to reverse a "custom" and was lost.
2. That age labels of a better size and quality be made available for the next season – this was carried
3. That top 24 day be cancelled for future seasons. This was moved because of the need to limit top level athletes and concentrate on the "family, fun and fitness" aspects of the Association. This was carried.
4. That a Committee comprising Ken Watson, John Edwards, Ann Saunders, K Bridger and Dugald Henderson, be formed to consider whether Centres should be involved with other sporting bodies, or sporting committees, which was carried

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 21st January 1981** covered various matters including:

- Transfer of children between Centres
- Tenders for catering for Association events
- Approval for Association to run raffles
- Appointment of Team Manager and Manageress

- Establishment of a sub-committee to consider coaching camp
- Decision to appoint a coach for the State Team
- Decision to delay decision on spikes for relay day

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 18th February 1981** was attended by the board members, plus 5 Zones and covered the following:

- Records ratification
- Copies of constitution have been read
- Insurance coverage of children
- Sports Medicine course discussed
- Catering for State Championships
- Equipment for Centres, including new Centres
- Officials' numbers were discussed, with particular attention to the up-coming Inter State Teams Championships
- Uniforms for all events was a major discussion
- Springwood Little Athletics Centre was affiliated
- Sunnybank Little Athletics Centre was affiliated

A **General Meeting of the Association was held on 25.2.81** at Kelvin Grove College of advanced Education, attended by 12 Centres.

This meeting considered the motion to provide an Under 9 boys 800 metres event and this motion was left to stand, until further discussion could take place.

A letter was received and discussed from Metropolitan North Zone, indicating disgust over the grading of a certain Centre. The President advised that the Mt Gravatt Centre probably misinterpreted the rules for the grading of the children and to guard against this occurring again, rules and guidelines for all major competitions should be stated clearly and in full, in a handbook.

John Edwards, as Development Manager, said that interest had been shown to start Centres in Charters Towers, Gordonvale, Caboolture and Brighton and in view of the growth potential, the Association should look to creating a fully paid, full time, Development Officer, to take advantage of that interest.

The President reported that a newsletter had commenced, to be sent to all Centres and By-Laws have been written and ratified for:

- Transferring children between Centres
- Applications for catering at Association events
- Recognition of records from Interstate Teams Championships
- Rules for selecting State Team Managers
- Raffles
- Centres purchasing equipment through the Association

- Association uniforms for casual, formal use, as well as officials uniforms

Two motions were lost, that tried to restrict persons holding positions on Centres, as well as at Association level. A further motion was lost to restrict the Board of Management of the Association, to 11 members.

A motion was put and carried, for the L.A.A.Q. to have the power to stop Centres from affiliating with other sporting bodies, or organisations. Any Centre wishing to so affiliate, are to submit full details and constitutions to the Association for consideration. [This motion was designed to stop other bodies from controlling our Centres].

A motion was carried, for the Under 9 boys to be accepted at Association level, whilst one was lost, for Under 7 age group to be recognised at Association level.

A motion for spikes to be worn by Under 11, 12 and 13 competitors at Association competitions at QE11, in laned events, was submitted and lost.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 29th April 1981** covered various matters, including:

- Payment of an Ansett account,
- Details of previous State Team members for record purposes,
- Training of boys from Ross River for up-coming State Team members,
- Media coverage over Easter weekend,
- Training day for officials was very successful,
- Success of clash and substitution forms,
- Wheelies events were very successful,
- Mulgrave Little Athletics Centre begun with 60 children,
- Technique training was raised,
- A.T.F.C.A. had agreed to a Grade 2 Coaches course,
- Deception Bay was affiliated,
- Zone structure was re-considered and a submission was to be made for some changes,
- A sub-committee was established to look at all Association events,
- A sub-committee was established to consider a fully paid position for the Association.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 18th May 1981** covered many items from State team to Centre sponsorship from a hotel.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 20th May 1981** decided to double the coaching fee paid to the coaches from that date, due to the huge amount of time those persons were

spending on Little Athletics coaching, which was growing enormously. Those coaches are listed as:

Les Hudson

Arthur Watson

B Hutchinson

Alan Boosey

K Porter

Bob Doocey

Mulgrave Little Athletics Centre was affiliated

The balance of this meeting was taken up with planning the timing of all matters relevant to the up-coming Annual General Meeting. This covered:

- Who can vote?
- What happens if only one nomination is received for each position?
- What happens if a person changes his or her mind after nominating?
- When the incoming Committee of Management people take up those duties
- Term of office for casual vacancies
- Order of voting
- Vote required for constitutional motions
- Terms of sub-committees

An Annual General Meeting was held on 27.5.81, and proved to be one of the most significant meetings for the Association's future.

The meeting was attended by George Harvey as President, Don Yourell as Vice President, Dugald Henderson as Treasurer/Registrar, Robin Tyson as Secretary, John Lock as Manager Technical and Equipment.

The following Centres also attended:

Redcliffe	Ferny Hills	Aspley	The Gap
Riverview	Goodna	Runaway Bay	Bundamba
Gold Coast	Mt Gravatt	Springwood	Redlands
Sunnybank	Kenmore		

The meeting was preceded with a notice of the meeting, giving very full details of the requirements for people wishing to nominate for either of the positions of President, Manager Public Relations, Manager Coaching, Manager Centre Liaison and Operations, or Manager

Championships and Special Events. The section of the constitution relevant to how people interested, were to submit those nominations and how each Centre was to be represented, to be able to vote, was also attached.

Additionally, the Centres received details of the very important motions that were to be considered at the meeting, covering the elections, as well as Centre representation. A copy of the report from the Sub-Committee regarding the appointment of a fully paid employee, a report from the Manager Technical and Equipment, regarding standardisation of equipment, as well as a report from the organising committee on the Australian Teams Championships and a report on recommendations for future planning of Association competitions, were also attached.

This meeting called for a motion to change the agenda, to consider the correspondence, which included a late letter received from John Edwards, which included his resignation, his withdrawal of his nomination for the position at the election and his resignation from the Committee of Management. This matter was of great importance, because of the involvement by John from the Association's commencement and he was also a Trustee of the Association. A motion was put and carried, to accept the resignation.

The Treasurers Report was tabled, which called for an increase in the registration fee by \$1, to cover a paid position of Development Officer. This motion was carried.

The President's report was very detailed as follows:

"The past season has been one of enormous importance to Little Athletics Association of Queensland, having seen a number of significant introductions or changes.

Tonight, for example, marks the end of our first full season under the re-styled management structure, wherein we have designated managers looking after specific responsibility areas.

Correspondingly, it marks the end of the first season in which the Association has exercised its control over the Management Committee, on a quarterly basis, instead of month-by-month. Here I think it is necessary to redefine "Association" – "The Little Athletics Association of Queensland" or "the Association", which consists of all Centre delegates, plus the eleven elected Committee Members. That is the policy making and controlling body of Little Athletics in Queensland, and that body now meets four times per year, to set new policies and/or to give policy guidance, to the Management Committee. The Management Committee is only responsible for running affairs on a day to day basis, between those quarterly meetings and for putting forward policy initiatives, for the Association to either accept or reject.

The season was not all plain sailing from the management level. There was, I believe, an initial euphoria on the part of the Managers, at the feeling of increased responsibility and freedom that they enjoyed, and not feeling hamstrung, by having to report back to the Association every month. Mid way through the season however, many of the types of problems we had experienced previously, had re-surfaced. There will always be personality clashes in a body of a dozen or so people, but I re-iterate here, what I said over and over again and that is, that clashes of this nature tend to be magnified disproportionately, when people are trying to serve two or

three masters at once. This is the very situation we have whilst we have Managers and Management Committee Members, who are also Centre or Zone executives.

It would be naïve to imagine that, what is best for the Association as a whole, will always be exactly what every Centre and/or Zone would like, or indeed will always be the “best” for every individual Centre. But those are the sort of questions which must continually be faced by the Committee of Management. It is necessary to be aware of all the problems facing the individual Centres or Zones and I know that it is the reason given for having such people on the Committee, but I don’t believe it works.

Once you have a conflict of loyalties, it is only natural to favour one over the other, and as soon as every one’s loyalties are not 100% with the Association as a whole, we are faced with continual argument, which hamper the production and advancement of overall policy and operational guidelines, of the type that the Committee of Management should be working on.

Fortunately, toward the end of the season, these differences were largely shelved, whilst everyone put an enormous amount of effort into preparing for and conducting, the 1981 Little Athletics Interstate Teams Championships here over Easter. This event was an unqualified success and I must again congratulate everyone who was in any way involved. It was undoubtedly one of the best Championships ever held and proved, not only to the rest of Australia, but more importantly, to ourselves, just what we can do for Little Athletics in Queensland, if we all work together. We have come of age.

Let us now continue to exhibit the same maturity, in dealing with our internal affairs.

It is barely one month since the last of our Interstate visitors left, and yet in that time, we have had two Management Committee Meetings, which were among the most productive I have attended. I mentioned before, two basic types of functions the Committee should perform:

1. The day-to-day management between quarterly meetings
2. The production of policy initiatives and longer term plans, for the Association to consider and act upon

We have formerly spent too much time on the day-to-day – or more often crisis to crisis – type management, not grasping the fact that more effort directed to the longer term objectives, will effectively eliminate most of the day-to-day crises. We seem at least to have recognised this and it is, I believe, a sign of the maturity mentioned earlier.

In general business, you will be presented with two (2) reports which will have far reaching effects on Little Athletics in Queensland.

One concerns a re-arranging of our Zones and the introduction of the Zone concept into our Championships calendar. The other concerns, the introduction of salaried staff, into our Association.

These reports have both been prepared in a very short period of time and there are still many aspects needing much more detailed consideration, but the principles are clear and I recommend both of them to you. You will be asked tonight to decide whether or not you accept these principles and if we can therefore apply them to the coming season.

The notice is admittedly very short and they have not even been generally circulated as yet, but I believe they are sound concepts that we, like most other States, are being forced into, by sheer size. It is important that they be accepted now – at least in principle – if they are to be implemented properly for the coming year.

My report will be followed by individual reports from the various Managers, who will be seeking ratification of several other proposals and it is opportune now, in closing, to thank them sincerely for working with me for the past year – not forgetting of course, the Treasurer, who has already given his report. The Vice President and the Secretary both get out of having to present reports. Also, thank you to those Zone delegates who have assisted with their contributions.

I have learnt a great deal in my two years as President. I have enjoyed the experience and for that, I thank you. I am of course standing for re-election and would welcome the opportunity to serve you for a further period of time. If I am not elected however, May I wish my successor the very best and assure him/her of my support.”

(John Edwards was standing for the position as well, but had withdrawn since this report was printed).

Considerable discussion took place regarding the order of the elections, with John Lock indicating that he felt that the order should follow the order used by Country Centres on the ballot papers, that they had been supplied with. The President (George Harvey) considered that, in effect, this would cause no change, so far as the Country votes were concerned. John Lock tried to have Financial Affairs filled before that of President, but the President stated that the voting should be in order of importance, i.e., President before Financial Affairs.

A motion was moved, that enabled the order to be that of the Country voting paper, which placed the vote for President first. This was carried.

The Vice president (Don Yourell) took the chair and appointed scrutineers and tellers for the election. Because John Edwards had withdrawn his nomination, George Harvey was elected by a show of hands only.

The election of the Manager Championships and Special Events was between Gil Wright and Wilma Perkins and Gil Wright was elected to that position.

The vote for the position of Manager Financial Affairs again caused some controversy, in that a motion was put to remove the name of Gil Wright as a nominee for the position. This was questioned by The Gap Centre representative, in view of the previous ruling that a nominee's name would not be removed from the ballot paper, but the President advised the meeting that the name was not being removed, as once a person was appointed to a position, they were then ineligible under the constitution, to be considered for a second position.

This left four positions that were not filled by elections – namely, Public Relations, Development, Officials and Financial Affairs, all of which were to be filled as casual vacancies by the Board of Management, as per the constitution.

The President re-took the chair.

The motion from Mt Gravatt, that “to be eligible for election to the Committee of Management, a person must be a parent of a registered Little Athlete” was discussed at length. Although it was moved by Derry Beavis (Centre Manager), he would not speak to the motion and John McNee would do so on their behalf. John stated that he had no idea whether this motion was aimed at any specific delegate, but considered that any person elected to the Committee of Management, should be involved at Centre level.

R Butten spoke against the motion, on the basis that when a person had children, who had already passed through Little Athletics, they should still be able to be involved.

Derry Beavis then spoke to the motion, stating that new people should come through to management level and cited the many people who were involved at the recent A.T.C., most of which were parents and that they should have their say.

A delegate from The Gap Centre questioned the word “parent” and asked whether a grandparent could be considered a “parent” for the purposes of this motion. The President ruled that scenario out and then the delegate asked whether an “adopted parent” could be considered. John McNee stated that an adopted parent was the legal parent.

A delegate from Goodna Centre stated that, if this motion was passed, then the Centre Manager would have to resign, as he had no children actively involved.

This motion was put and lost.

John McNee then put his motion that “for a person to be eligible for election to the Committee of Management of the L.A.A.Q., such person must have demonstrated, active and continuing role at Centre level”.

Rod Griffin spoke against the motion on the basis it was too restrictive, as it prevents people with expertise from management level.

Derry Beavis from Mt Gravatt Centre spoke in favour of the motion, saying that without changes to section 5 of the constitution, he finds this area too open for grossly unsuitable people ...”

Des Bell from Gold Coast Centre stated that profiles are required to be submitted with nominations and these could be used as guidelines for voting.

Stan Perkins moved an amendment to the motion, to the effect that “for persons to be eligible, they must have an interest in Little Athletics”.

This amendment was put and lost.

Stan Perkins then stated that, persons involved at Centre level were too busy to be interested in Committee of Management positions.

John McNee stated that people who had previously been involved at management level and were now considering re-entering the Committee of Management, were possibly not appropriate for a new and fast moving Association.

This motion was then put and lost.

The Bundamba motion that "Each Zone of the L.A.A.Q. shall be entitled to nominate three competitors in each event conducted at the Qld Individual State Championships, and that the present system of nomination, by individual Centres, shall be discontinued, except in the case of isolated Centres, situated in excess of 200 km's of Brisbane."

This motion was deferred until discussion of the sub-committee report.

The motion that was discussed and voted upon at the June meeting of the Committee of Management and was to be voted upon at this meeting, for the future planning of Association competition was discussed. Derry Beavis indicated that he disagrees with the nomination fee for Zone Championships. R Butten stated that he agrees with the report in principle, but would like more time to study it and H Van Dijk requested deferment, until the next General Meeting.

A motion was put and agreed to extend the meeting beyond 11.00 pm.

Lengthy discussion then took place regarding a fully paid position, to be employed for developing the Association, new Centres and assisting the present Centres. The discussion covered funding, including a raffle for a car specifically (the Victorian Association had one which was a disaster) and the Treasurer commented that we wanted a person to develop the Association, not to gather his/her own salary.

This motion to approve a fully paid position was finally moved and carried.

The report from the Manager Championships and Special Events (Dr John McNee) giving a full accounting of the Australian Teams Championships, as well as recommendations for future ATC's, was accepted and a motion to that effect was moved and accepted.

The report from the Manager Officials and Education (Stan Perkins) giving details of the grading of officials and exams, was accepted.

There was no development report, nor a Public Relations report, but the Manager for Public Relations (Derry Beavis) covered financial affairs, because no Manager for that portfolio had been found. This report was accepted.

The report from the Manager Technical and Equipment (John Lock) was discussed, with particular attention being given to the requirement to have ovals surveyed. The Department of Education was considered to be a problem, but John Lock suggested that the Department of Survey and Mapping may be able to assist.

The Coaching report was also accepted by motion.

Committee of Management Meeting dated 17th June 1981, where the Gil Wright resignation was accepted and Mullumbimby Little Athletics Centre was affiliated.

The Presidents report gives some insight of the amount of work that was being carried out by the President and others during those halcyon days.

[To give some insight of the work load of people at that time, I have listed below the schedule of the main people involved at that time.]

{Friday 22nd May, George and Stan Perkins attended the Redcliffe Centre monthly committee meeting

Saturday 23rd May, George chaired a sub-committee meeting with Derry Beavis, John Edwards and Dugald Henderson, on creating a paid position

Monday 25th May, a second meeting between George Harvey and John Edwards, to draw up such a proposal

Wednesday 27th May, George chaired a General Meeting of nearly 70 persons, which approved the appointment of full time positions and the re-arrangement of the Zone structure within the Association

Thursday 28th May, George attended a morning tea with radio station 4BH, to launch their "Community Club Awards" scheme

Saturday 30th May, Stan Perkins, Ann Saunders, Wilma Perkins, Andrea Harvey and George attended the Deception Bay Centre's first weekly competition meeting

Monday 1st June, George met again with Dugald Henderson, to further develop the paid positions details.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday 5th to 7th June, Bob Doocey, John Edwards, Stan Perkins and George Harvey travelled to Townsville, to attend the Pacific Festival Athletics Carnival. The purpose of that meeting was to discuss Little Athletics with many people interested within that area.

Monday 8th June George attended a meeting with the Goodna Little Athletics Centre, to discuss a new constitution for that Centre.

If that was not enough, George presented to that next meeting – the Annual General Meeting, the following papers:

- The monthly Presidents report
- The sub-committee report on paid positions
- Creation of sub committees for the various Association Managers
- Organisational structure of Little Athletics in Queensland, with reference to how Zones fit into that structure
- The Little Athletics Story
- Funding Zone Championships}

That meeting saw Trevor Hartwig appointed Manager Development, to work closely with the new Executive Officer and he would divest himself of the Centre position at Redcliffe.

- Stan Perkins was appointed Manager Officials and Education
- Stan Pearson was elected Manager Public Relations
- Wilma Perkins was elected Manager Championships and Special Events
- Robyn Tyson was re-appointed Secretary
- Andrea Harvey was appointed Assistant Secretary
- Dugald Henderson, George Harvey and Don Yourell were appointed to the Constitutional Sub-Committee
- Wilma Perkins was appointed Chair of the Championships and Special Events Sub-Committee
- Andrea Harvey was appointed Records Officer
- Each other Manager is to have a sub-committee and plans were put in place to have each of these positions filled.
- Decision was taken to advertise for the Executive Officer position.

A Special General Meeting was then held on 30.6.81 at Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education, to consider the Sub-Committee report on “Recommendations for Future Planning of Association Competitions”.

This meeting saw the following members of the Committee of Management in attendance:

President	George Harvey
Vice President	Don Yourell
Manager Development	Trevor Hartwig
Manager Officials	Stan Perkins
Manager Championships	Wilma Perkins
Manager Centre Liaison	Ann Saunders

Those apologies from the Board were:

Manager Coaching	Bob Doocey
Treasurer	Dugald Henderson

[These listings are shown, merely to show the number of positions that were then filled and operating. Fourteen Centres attended the meeting.]

The President advised that the previous meetings had accepted the principle of this paper, but that this meeting was to consider details.

The meeting passed a motion to accept the many principles of the paper and then proceeded to move and carry various motions, to cover the detail beyond those principles.

The meeting then considered the paper “The Organisational Structure of Little Athletics in Queensland”, with the President asking whether anyone wanted clarification of any aspect of that paper.

Derry Beavis asked for clarification of the Zone Management Committee and Stan Perkins (who had previously been in the N.S.W. Association) was asked to explain how the N.S.W. Association handled the matter. Stan clarified that the Zone meetings were organised and run by the Zone Co-Ordinator, who represents the requirements of the Association Committee of Management.

Discussion then centred on a Zone Committee of Management, as a power base between the Association and the Centres. The President explained that “in accordance with the Association constitution, Zone Management Committee’s consisted of a Chairman, a Secretary and two (2) delegates from each Centre within the Zone. They had no power to create portfolio positions duplicating the Board of Management of the Association and then have Centres dealing with the Association, through those positions and vice versa. He stated that direct contact between Centres and the Association, must be maintained.”

This prompted a motion to be moved, seconded and carried, that the Zone Management Committee do not form an interleaving structure between the Centre Management Committees and the Association’s Committee of Management.”

A heated discussion led to a decision to not formalise the future structure of the Zones and regions at that stage.

Ken Watson from Redcliffe Centre then raised the problem of his Zone not being able to run a Zone meeting at that time and a motion was put and carried, to leave the Zone structure as it then stood.

A further motion was moved and carried, to name the Zone Meetings as Zone Championships – a qualifying level from State meetings – to replace the inter Centre Games.

The President then raised the matter of Zone uniform standards, particularly for costs and medals etc. A motion was put and carried for that standardisation.

A further motion was then put and carried, to ensure that all Centres/Zones carry out Zone meetings as per the standard and that, if any Centre/Zone wished to depart from that standard, they had to apply to the Committee of Management for approval.

Mr D Fleming asked why there was a difference between the cost of membership between Country and Metropolitan registrations, to which the President stated that this would be looked at again, when the Country Centres received the same benefits as the Metropolitan Centres.

Zone competition entry fees were then discussed and the President stated that, all fees raised would be used only for the Zone competitions. A motion to set those fees, then was moved and carried.

A further motion was moved and carried, "that the Association pay all costs of staging Zone Championships, to the uniform standard"

Then a motion was moved and carried, to have "all surplus Zone moneys then be re-distributed to Centres within the Zone, in accordance with set guidelines"

Various other motions were then put and carried, in respect to housekeeping matters relating to the Zone Championships.

[The readers of this paper can no doubt see now, that the Association had indeed moved from a continual fight, from some Centre representatives, to one where the majority of Centres could see and work toward an Association that looked after all registered athletes, the parents of those athletes and the Association as a single State organisation, working for the good of the sport.]

Minutes of Committee of Management Meeting dated 15th July 1981 was attended by the Board and only two Zones.

- The President advised the meeting that he had received a verbal advice from Bob Doocey that he will be resigning as Manager Coaching due to pressure of work.
- Stan Pearson advised the meeting that the year book would be ready by the end of August, with 5000 copies produced.
- The President advised the meeting that the "Little Athletics Story" would be ready, with 500 copies, by the following week.
- Robyn Tyson resigned as Secretary of the Association.
- A discussion took place regarding the possibility of a quarterly magazine.
- Rod Griffin was appointed to the position of Manager Financial Affairs.

Then the Association held its **first Annual Conference on 20th July 1981** at Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education.

The President, George Harvey, outlined the various actions that the Committee of Management carried out, since the last Annual General Meeting and a long list of notices of motion were listed for consideration.

Nine members of the Committee of Management were present, as well as eight Centres only.

The President advised the meeting that there had been twenty (20) applications for the position of Executive Officer of the Association and four (4) of these were listed to be interviewed at a later time. No progress had been made in respect to accommodation for the Association – [still being housed at the Presidents house].

Various Managers' reports were presented to the meeting; but when it came to the report from the Coaching Manager, the point was made that this position had not been filled and nominations would be called for.

Derry Beavis from Mt Gravatt Centre, then raised the point that "this would mean another appointed position to a Committee, which was already top-heavy with appointments." He then continued, by saying that "he had advice from Mr Greg Adams, the President of the ALAU, that this was un-constitutional and that he would contact the ALAU in this regard."

[Interestingly, this method of filling vacancies that were not filled by nomination and election was precisely what the constitution did allow.]

The first three motions listed to be considered from Goodna Centre, all regarding competition at Association days, were withdrawn.

The next sixteen motions, put forward by the Constitutional Committee, concerning changes to the constitution, to meet decisions that had been taken to date, were deferred to a later meeting. This was because they had not been pre-submitted to Centres, in terms of the constitution.

A motion was passed, to empower the Committee of Management to employ full time or part time staff – a motion that was pre-circulated. Another motion was passed, to re-number various parts of the constitution, to enable the constitution to make sense.

A further motion was moved and carried, to allow spikes to be worn at various laned events at QE11 stadium for L.A.A.Q. events. A motion was also moved and carried, to restrict such wearing, to only after entering the track and to be removed, before leaving said track.

[The writer remembers this meeting to be a particularly ferocious meeting, with many Board of Management people being called vile names – the writer included.]

The **Committee of Management met on 19th August 1981** and considered the following:

- Change of name of Ferny Hills Little Athletics Centre, to Arana Little Athletics Centre.
- Resignation of John Lock.
- Resignation of Bob Doocey
- Mullumbimby Little Athletics Centre joined the Queensland Association, with the approval of the N.S.W. Association.

Motion approved for:

- On the command set, that a competitor may move one foot to take up the final position
- With long jump and triple jump, if a competitor takes off before the square, such a jump not be a foul and measurement be taken from edge of the square, furthest from the landing pit
- State Team Selectors, not be a parent of a child being considered for selection

- Selectors preferably be from the Committee of Management
- Coach of a child eligible for selection, not be a selector
- President, Vice President or Treasurer, not be a selector
- State Team Coach – Be accredited

Be actively involved in Little Athletics

Be nominated by a Centre

- Second coach be a selector
- Second coach accompany the team
- Second coach be appointed at a meeting following appointment of the State Team coach
- Executive Officer (Stan Perkins) was appointed
- A second position be established within the office, in a part time capacity and the selection committee to consist of the Executive Officer (Stan Perkins), The Vice President (Don Yourell) as chairman and The Treasurer (Dugald Henderson)
- It was reported that office space at QE11 was looking promising and that much work had been carried out by Managers at this time and a great deal of travel, particularly by the Executive Officer.
- Andrea Harvey was appointed to the second staff position and she commenced duties on 7th September 1981.
- Maryborough Centre was affiliated.
- North Rockhampton Centre was affiliated.
- Moura Little Athletics Centre was affiliated.
- Under 7's could compete at Zone Championships, but not Relay Day or State Individual Championships.

The **Committee of Management meeting dated 16th September 1981** was held at QE11 and was attended by all members of the board plus five Zones.

- The Treasurer warned that funds were extremely tight and Managers were asked to restrict expenditure.
- Discussion took place of the fees that Centres were charging for registrations and although a motion was moved to restrict that fee, the motion was lost.
- A paper was presented by Wilma Perkins on the rules and programmes for all Association competitions.
- A paper was presented on the duties and responsibilities of Zone Co-ordinators and all such persons at the meeting agreed to accept those duties.
- A new model Centre constitution and rules for Zone Management Committees was approved.
- Andrea Harvey was appointed to the full time paid position of Secretary/Secretarial Assistant and commenced on 7/09/81.
- Maryborough Little Athletics Centre was affiliated.

- North Rockhampton Little Athletics Centre was affiliated.
- Moura Little Athletics Centre was affiliated.

The **Committee of Management meeting of 21st October 1981** was attended by 7 from the board and 5 Zones. This meeting considered:

- The resignation of Stan Perkins from Manager Public Relations, due to work commitments.
- The President proposed that the Board be split into 2 Sub Committees, one for Administration and the other for financial matters and meet once a month. This was carried.
- Cliff Darby was appointed Manager Coaching.
- Affiliation was approved for Bramble Bay Little Athletics Centre, Maroochy Little Athletics Centre, Centenary Little Athletics Centre and Bundamba had a name change to Ipswich Little Athletics Centre.

The **Board of Management meeting dated 18th November 1981** was chaired by the Vice President, as the President was absent due to work commitments.

Irma Grigor was appointed as registrar, to assist the Treasurer, as a sub-committee position.

General discussion took place on the possibility of amalgamating with the other two athletics bodies and a motion for this was not approved, with strong voices against the idea.

Discussion also covered a second coach for the State Team, with discussion on whether said coach would accompany the State team. A ballot was taken between Derry Beavis and Wilma Perkins, with Wilma being selected to take the position. No decision was taken at that time, as to whether such a person would accompany the State Team.

At the **General meeting on 25th November 1981**, which was attended by sixteen Centres, as well as:

George Harvey	President
Don Yourell	Vice President
Cliff Darby	Manager Coaching
Rod Griffin	Manager Financial Affairs
Trevor Hartwig	Manager Development
Wilma Perkins	Manager Championships
Stan Perkins	Executive Officer
Andrea Harvey	Minutes

The President tabled a letter from the ALAU President (Mr Greg Adams), which was read to the meeting and tabled for anyone wishing to read the letter. This stated clearly, that the appointees to the Committee of Management were not un-constitutional and that he, at no time, had given any ruling on the ruling, to any person from Queensland. This was in direct reply to the previous statement from Derry Beavis.

The Presidents report covered many items, including:

- The last four months have been a period of unprecedented change in the history of Little Athletics
 - Employment of our first fully paid officers – the Executive Officer and Secretary, as well as moving into our first office accommodation at QE11
 - First time we have moved from 20 to 34 Little Athletics Centres, with the Northern (Winter) Centres yet to register
 - Some concern over the quick growth, but that Centres should accept that that was what we set out to do, to enable the Association to meet the expenses that were budgeted.
 - Growth was in the new Centres, whereas the existing Centres had virtually nil growth, showing a lack of internal/Centre promotion. The Committee of Management has no intention to let the existing Centres to fall away.
 - The first Officials course has commenced for Centres in South East Queensland
 - The first half of the second annual coaching course is underway, conducted by the A.T.F.C.A., specifically for Little Athletics, with a master coaching plan being built now.
 - Two booklets have been compiled for Centres, one for Centres to learn how to conduct a Centre competition – the other on the technique for coaching in various events.
 - Other booklets are to be compiled shortly
 - Stan Perkins had to resign as Manager Public Relations, due to work commitments and John Lock resigned, to take up a position with Senior Athletics, where his children now compete
 - Cliff Darby from Ipswich Centre, has taken up the position as Manager Coaching and Irma Grigor, the position as Registrar – a Sub-Committee position.
- The following positions had also been appointed:

Selectors	Cliff Darby	Chairman
	Don Bloch	
	Ann Saunders	

Appeals Tribunal	George Harvey	Chairman
	Don Yourell	
	Dugald Henderson	
Team Manager	Graham Murray	
Team Manageress	Dawn Norton	
Coach	Don Bloch	
Assistant coach	Wilma Perkins	
Delegates to ALAU Conference	George Harvey	
	Stan Perkins	

- The Association now has 13 standing Sub- Committees, with wide ranging responsibilities and 30 vacancies for Centre/Zone representatives, which are considered desirable for the efficient running of the Association. We have consistently been unable to fill those positions. No wonder the Committee of Management has been unable to assist Metropolitan Centres, to the level they require. As a result, the Association has had to up-grade the effort of those that do contribute, so we have formed two additional Sub-Committees. One to oversight Technical and Education requirements and one, to oversee Administration and Development.
- Two matters had been decided by the Committee of Management, that would not normally be made by that body, or constitute a significant departure from established precedent and as such, require endorsement or otherwise from the Association.
- An Additional coach for the State team and procedures for State Team selection, as well as advice of same, to Centres”

The Treasurer tabled the duties of the Executive Officer, which were read to the meeting.

Reports were read from all Managers, as well as one from the Executive Officer and motions were carried for all those reports to be accepted.

Notices of Motion.

1. The Zone Championships be run by the Zone, with no cost back to the Association – This was lost
2. That the Association approach the ALAU, to have the long jump board reduced from one metre, to the same size as the Schools – This was lost, although comments were

expressed that we should convince the Schools to change to our system, or we could paint the smaller size, on the one metre board – This was carried

3. That the Conference be held over one full day, rather than one night - Carried
4. That the Conference be held, together with a social program – Carried
5. That from July 1982, the Conference be held over two days - Carried
6. That Centres apply to host conferences - Carried
7. That the host Centre be determined by ballot, at a General Meeting- Carried
8. That after the next Conference, the voting for a Conference to be conducted at the previous Conference – Carried
9. That preference be given to Centres outside the Metropolitan area – This motion lapsed, because of the lack of a seconder
10. That voting at Conferences be held to two delegates per Centre, plus the members of the Committee of Management – Carried
11. That all Association policies be determined at Annual Conference, or by postal ballot – Carried
12. That a postal ballot may only be conducted, if a meeting of the Association Committee of Management determines the matter under contention, should be determined prior to the next Annual Conference, **or**, if a General Meeting of the Association to determine the matter, should be put to the vote – Carried
13. That Notices of Motion can only be submitted by affiliated Centres, or the Association Committee of Management – Carried
14. That the Constitutional Review Committee be empowered to re-arrange the existing clauses and articles of the existing constitution, into a more logical sequence, with appropriate re-numbering and new headings, where necessary – Carried.

Two other notices of motion, requiring amendment to the constitution were deferred, to enable them to be submitted in terms of the constitution.

Four scrutineers were then appointed from four Zones, for the postal ballots and 60 metre hurdles, 400 metres and High Jump, were retained in Association competitions and 400 metre walk deleted from same.

[From the above, it can be clearly seen that the Association had made considerable advancement, to now being a well organised organisation, catering to the needs of the majority, with procedures in place for all matters to be considered in an appropriate time and place. It had come of age finally.]

The **Committee of Management meeting dated 16th December 1981** approved the affiliation of Caboolture District Little Athletics Centre and Craigslea Little Athletics Centre.

Gympie School was using Little Athletics tickets at school athletics meetings and they were informed that such was not applicable.

Derry Beavis had resigned as Zone Co-Ordinator of Metropolitan South.

Motions were accepted that the Team Managers and Team Coaches, at the Inter State Teams Championships, be responsible to the President.

The Manager Championships submitted a paper on Winter Centres and this was sent to the Winter Centres for comment.

The **Committee of Management dated 20th January 1982** was attended by the board and four Zones and covered the following:

- Clive Carroll was appointed Manager Officials
- Decision to develop the north of the State
- Decision taken on children for the State Teams Championships who were ill at the Zones
- South Burnett Little Athletics Centre was affiliated

The minutes of the **General Meeting dated 3rd February 1982** shows the meeting was attended by 15 Centres, with the Treasurer absent, but was a normal meeting, showing the Association working well, as organised.

The various Managers gave reports and the Manager Championships (Wilma Perkins) advised that, although parental support for the Under 11/12 Day was poor, many parents without children competing at the event, willingly assisted.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 17th February 1982** was attended by the Board members and three Zones and covered the following:

- Discussion on the procedure on the postal vote and that there was no doubt about the manner in which the Association had gone about that procedure
- Constitution has been re-arranged in a more logical order

The **Minutes of the Committee of Management dated 17th March 1982**, was chaired by the Vice President, with the President absent.

Derry Beavis, John McNee and Don Bloch had circulated letters to Centres directly, to complain about the manner in which the Committee of Management were managing the Association. This was considered to be a direct move by those persons, to gain control over the Association, by ousting the then duly elected Committee of Management.

When copy of those letters were brought to the attention of the Committee of Management (they were never discussed at a meeting, separately, nor copy provided officially for consideration), the Vice President decided to take the initiative and provide Centres with the official version. Many Centres were already aware from the minutes and from meetings that they had attended,

that the Association was being conducted within the wording and spirit of the constitution, but the following was sent to Centres by the Vice President on 16th March 1982:

“The Queensland Little Athletics Association has seen fit to place the Committee of Management in the position of developing/managing and organising the members of the Association and to provide better facilities for all its registered athletes. I believe that during the last two years, your Committee has brought this body ahead in great strides, by building many new Centres, which is more representative of the children of this State; increased the number of registered children, increased the amount of subsidies and better organised the flow of information, etc.

A great deal of this is attributable to our paid staff. However, we still, of course, have a long way to go and to achieve what we believe is required, we need the support of the Centres making up this Association.

Does anybody seriously doubt that we need to grow, to provide the benefits to as many children of this State as is possible? Such growth will generate more subsidies, which in turn will provide more benefits.

We have now a situation where a couple of individual parents have circulated most Centres with a view apparently, to deliberately split this Association.

These same individuals have, in the past two years that I have been Vice President, attempted to split this Association in similar ways.

Specifically, John McNee and Derry Beavis/ Mt Gravatt Centre, have both stated that the postal vote is un-constitutional and that the President is overruling the decisions of the General Meeting.

Clearly the Association has the right to change the decision it has itself previously taken. To think otherwise is unrealistic.

Clearly the Committee of Management has the right to call a postal vote when considered necessary.

Clearly the postal vote by all Centres, is representative of all Centres and therefore, constitutes a decision of the Association.

What can be clearer than that?

Certainly, the Committee of Management considered that all facts were not known at the time of the vote and that the presence of the Executive Officer at the conference was imperative to our Association; both to learn and to contribute, as is the case in all other States that have such a person.

Yes, we did make the mistake of assuming that the General Meeting would agree to the worth of having our paid Executive travel with our President, on such an important occasion.

Because the next General Meeting falls after the Conference, the only constitutionally correct procedure is for us to ask the Association to re-consider, was by postal vote. It was not a

deliberate attempt to subvert anything. To this end, we sought the negative argument from Centres before placing the matter to vote. Surely this is correct.

You will note that neither of the three persons proceeded to place their argument against, with the voting papers; but rather, resorted to place many incorrect statements before Centres directly, which tends only to divide our Association.

If we are to remain strong in growth, we must work together for the good of all – not to have more than one Committee or Association. The time to disagree, is at election time and I invite each of these people to stand, if they feel we are wrong and let the Centre officials support the people they think are right.

The previous decision has not been ignored.

The President and Committee is bound by decisions of the Association.

There is no violation of the constitution.

There is no attempt to quote sections of the constitution, out of context.

There is no attempt to change meanings of paragraphs.

Nor, as is stated by John McNee, will a vote in favour, allow the President, or anybody else, to change any decision of the Association.

I am personally incensed by the incorrect statements and innuendo contained in the letters, and see them as personal attacks on each and every member of the Committee of management, which I strongly believe have acted as is required by the constitution and the vast majority of Centres they represent.

For the good of Little Athletics.

Don Yourell”

Copy of the letters were sent to all Centres, for the good of those that had not received them and the above letter, was read to the meeting and asked to be part of the minutes.

Derry Beavis attended the meeting, although John McNee and Don Bloch neither attended, nor were apologies.

The postal votes referred to above, were decided at the **Committee of Management meeting dated 21st April 1982** and this meeting was attended by three Zones, including Derry Beavis representing Metropolitan South Zone.

Each of the three postal votes were carried, one to rescind the previous motion re attendees at conference, one to replace that decision, to allow the Executive Officer to be the second delegate at ALAU conferences and the last, that the number of officials attending State teams/Conference be restricted to five.

Of the postal votes, the voting indicated clear support for the action taken by the Committee of Management. The great majority of new Centres that did not vote, considered that they did not have sufficient knowledge of the matter at hand, to exercise a vote. Only two Centres abstained, on the grounds that the postal vote was unconstitutional.

Furthermore, Kenmore Centre wrote a letter to the Association, which was read to the meeting, as follows;

“This Centre would like to record their wholehearted agreement with the "Report by Vice President" dated 16.3.82, in the minutes of Committee of Management held on 17th March 1982. The present Committee of Management of the Queensland Association have been extremely hard working and helpful and have done a great deal for Little Athletics in this State. As the Vice President said in his report, a couple of parents are attempting to deliberately split the Association. This Centre completely supports the efforts and decisions of the President, and offers congratulations on a job well done.” This was signed by the Centre Manager, Mr P Sercombe.

This meeting also discussed a report from the President, on the result of the ALAU conference and in particular, the result of the motions where the result was as the Queensland Association voted.

The minutes of the **General Meeting dated 3rd February 1982** shows the meeting was attended by 15 Centres, with the Treasurer absent, but was a normal meeting, showing the Association working well, as organised.

The various Managers gave reports and the Manager Championships (Wilma Perkins) advised that, although parental support for the Under 11/12 Day was poor, many parents without children competing at the event, willingly assisted.

The **Annual General Meeting dated 5th May 1982** was attended 10 Centres, as well as the following:

President	George Harvey
Vice President	Don Yourell
Treasurer	Dugald Henderson
Centre Liaison	Ann Saunders
Manager Championships	Wilma Perkins
Manager Coaching	Cliff Darby
Manager Development	Trevor Hartwig
Manager Officials	Clive Carroll

Manager Financial Affairs Rod Griffin

The correspondence included a letter to Derry Beavis (copy to K Anderson) from the Trustees of the Association, requesting release of the ownership of the Association name. The President explained to the meeting that “if the Association is to become incorporated, we must have free access or ownership of the name Little Athletics.

For some three years, the name Little Athletics has been owned by two persons from the Mt Gravatt Centre – Mr Derry Beavis and Mr K Anderson. They had registered the title in their own names in 1979, after the Y.M.C.A. (who previously controlled Little Athletics in Queensland) released the name for the Association.

Mr Beavis had been the Association’s Administration Officer (Secretary) at the time the name was relinquished and for some six months afterwards and was obviously aware that the then Executive of Little Athletics (himself, Mr Peter Lonsdale [President], and Mr Gill Wright [Treasurer]) had not followed registration of the name .

Early in 1979, Mr Beavis registered the title himself. This fact was only discovered by the current administration this year and after a refusal by Mr Beavis, to sign the name over to the Association. This letter – signed by the Association’s Trustees – had been sent, formerly requesting that he and Mr Anderson release the name to them, by April 30th. This had not happened.” [Neither Mr Beavis, nor Mr Anderson was in attendance at that meeting].

The letter was read to the meeting and the matter thrown over for discussion. The Executive Officer indicated that he had been informed that Mr Beavis would discuss the matter personally with the President, but not with anyone else.

The meeting was asked whether it wished the President to meet Mr Beavis under those circumstances and as a result, the President was instructed **not** to do so. He was instead to seek advice from the Commissioner for Corporate affairs.

The various Manager’s lengthy and detailed reports were submitted and accepted, with the Manager Development, stating that the Association was receiving great help from the National Fitness Council in the country areas.

The President’s report was read to the meeting as follows:

“The 1981/82 season has been probably the most important in the history of Little Athletics, since it started in 1973. Certainly, there have been other seasons noteworthy for landmark decisions, or events, such as 1978/79 when we separated from the Y.M.C.A. and became an entity in our own right, with a re-structured Management Committee; or 1980/81, when we successfully staged the Interstate Teams Championships. But for the number of initiatives taken and the far reaching consequences they will have, 1981/82 stands clearly on its own.

The most significant step taken, was to employ full time staff, to administer the Association’s affairs. The decision taken was a bold one and was based on the assumption that, if we worked

hard enough – principally in development – we could generate enough revenue to be self-financing. Thus, after convincing ourselves that the goals were attainable, we went ahead and employed a Secretary and an Executive Officer – both full time – in August 1981. At the same time, the decision was made to establish a permanent Association office, rather than to work from various individual's homes. Hence, office space in Brisbane's QE11 Sports Centre – the athletics centre for this year's - Commonwealth Games – was rented; a move incidentally followed shortly thereafter by the men's and women's senior Associations.

As the success of our initiatives depended largely on development, this was the first area to be emphasised. A target of 6500 registrations was set as the figure needed – provided the other incomes and expenditures remained as per budget – to generate the required income.

It looks at this stage, as though we will not reach our target, although currently only a handful (117) of 1981/82 Winter Season (North and Central Queensland) registrations have been received and our paid up figure at 30th April, was 4853.

With development work still continuing in the North, it is expected a total of 6000 will be reached, bringing the income from registrations to approximately \$22,500 before the next season commences, as against the budget amount of \$25,000; a creditable performance, even though it was short of target.

Whilst talking numbers, it is convenient to reflect on those registration statistics. The figure of \$6000, is a "financial year" figure and involves a degree of double counting, because of the late development work done in the country last year. The estimate of "actual" numbers for the 1981/82 season (October 1981 to October 1982) is 5500, which compares with an "actual" figure for 1980/81 of 3885. This represents a growth rate in excess of 40%, which is by far the highest of all the States and was in excess, of the National growth rate of 7%.

Even more spectacular, has been the growth in the number of Centres and the spread in the area of the State, which they cover. From 20 Centres last season, we have expanded to 36 currently, with 5 more country Centres either forming, or expected to form, in the near future.

Returning to financial considerations, in most other areas, our performance in comparison with the budget, was satisfactory. The principle deficiencies being in fund raising (\$4500) and sale of promotional material, (\$2000). But these were all offset, by a surplus on recovery of equipment costs (\$1600) and a massive increase in sponsorships.

The value to the State Association of sponsorships negotiated by the State body, was \$17000, compared to the budget of \$8000. A full breakup of all sponsorships – totalling \$22800 - appears in the Treasurers report. This greater amount of sponsorship is, I am sure, an offshoot of the increased numbers and the presence of paid staff, resulting in better "saleability" of Little Athletics, plus the availability of an Executive Officer, with more time to devote to the "selling".

Another initiative taken this past season, was the formal definition of two competition periods in the State, with Centres from Rockhampton north (i.e., in the tropical climatic zone – Rockhampton being on the tropic of Capricorn) running in winter: nominally from April to September. Considerable development effort is being expended to develop this area, to the stage where it can have its own viable Inter-Centre, Zone and "Country" competitions. In fact, a

Central Queensland Zone Championships was scheduled for last October, but was abandoned because of wet weather.

As well as introducing these concepts to the northern areas, the Summer Season Centres this year went through their first ever formal Zone Championships, which because of the increased registrations, became a necessary prelude to our State Championships and served in effect, as heats and quarter/semi-finals for the major event. Five such championships were held.

With the introduction of the Zone Championships, of course came other things, such as the formalising of Zone Committees, the introduction of Zone Co-Ordinator positions and also a need for far more officials, to conduct the various Zone Championships. To cover this need, and similarly the needs of the new Centres, the Officials' Courses and grading exams introduced last season, to cover our needs for the Interstate Teams Championships, were continued and extended to the near city "country" areas.

Another significant management initiative has been the introduction of an Annual Conference, with the inaugural one to be held in July 1982 – hosted incidentally by the Redcliffe Centre – the first Centre ever established in Queensland. This conference will finally put major policy making decisions onto an annual basis, instead of the quarterly basis, prior to that. This move should greatly increase organisational stability.

Another major breakthrough was achieved last month, when the L.A.A.Q. received advice that the State Government had approved our submission for financial support of our administration. We thus are eligible for a 50/50 subsidy on the costs of maintaining our permanent staff – up to a maximum subsidy of \$10000 per annum. The subsidy is paid quarterly and we will receive our first cheque for \$2500 On June 8th.

The State Government at this stage has stopped short of granting us full recognition as a State body of sport, even though the subsidy we have been granted, normally only applies to such bodies. In this respect, we still exist to a degree, in the shadow of the Senior Athletics Associations, who are accorded that role within the State.

Before concluding, I would like to thank officially, firstly those members of the Committee of Management who are retiring from office at this meeting: Dugald Henderson – whose business commitments have unfortunately forced him to decline to re-nominate after two years as Treasurer, and Rod Griffin, who is retiring after serving the best part of one year as the Manager Financial Affairs: and secondly, all other members of the Committee of Management, plus the Executive Officer and the Secretary, for the efforts they have displayed and the help they have given towards the running of this Association.

Overall, the past year has been very satisfying, despite some of the worst political in-fighting the Association has encountered to date, most of which was generated, either directly or indirectly, as a result of the enormous changes that have taken place. We line up for the new year in a sound position, both financially and otherwise, despite the dire consequences predicted by some, who opposed the bold expansion programme undertaken this year and/or those who have an innate fear of any form of deficit financing. Hopefully the un-healthy in-fighting will die out

when the people finally realise the changes have been to the benefit of Little Athletics as a whole, and we will then be able to go about our business in the atmosphere of reasonable calm.”

The President introduced a Mr Peter Little (barrister and lecturer in law at the Q.I.T), who had been invited along to address the meeting on Incorporation. Mr Little advised the meeting, that the Associations incorporation Act (yet to be proclaimed) provides an alternative to incorporation as a company and does not involve heavy costs or onerous provisions of the Companies Act. The principle advantages that it gives are:

- It makes the Association, as such, a legal entity and thus able to own property and enter into contracts
- It limits the personal liability of individuals within the Association; principally the Committee members, who currently can be held liable to the extent of their personal finances, in the case of an action against the Association.

For an Association to incorporate, it must pass a special resolution to incorporate, at a Special Meeting. Notice of the motion must be given and the majority in favour must be 75%.

The Association’s constitution must also conform to the basic requirements of a model constitution, considered by the Government, to cover the essential constitutional aspects of Associations.

Incorporation of a body like Little Athletics, can be via incorporation of the main Association, as an “umbrella” organisation covering the Centres, or by incorporation of the branches (Centres), as well as the main body.

After general discussion, the President sought an indication from the meeting, as to the course of action to be undertaken.

The required motion was moved and carried, unanimously. Progress was to be reported at the next meeting and the President thanked Mr Little for attending.

The election of officers was then held, with unanimous support for the following positions that were elected:

Vice President	Don Yourell
Treasurer	Ken Watson
Manager Technical & Equipment	Ed Laycock
Manager Development	Trevor Hartwig
Manager Officials & Education	Clive Carroll
Manager Financial Affairs	Phil Williams
Manager Coaching	Cliff Darby

Manager Championships

Wilma Perkins

The President then advised that it was a requirement of the constitution, that the Association appoint an auditor and a motion was moved and carried, to appoint Dugald Henderson as honorary auditor.

[Interestingly, with the election of Ken Watson as the Treasurer, thus began a strong partnership with the President and Vice President, which would go on to form a very strong three member Executive, with the three meeting regularly and for many years, to formulate procedures and to forge a strong friendship from that.]

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 19th May 1982** was attended by the Board and two Zones and covered the following:

- Change of venue for Inter State Teams Championships from in Sydney, to Canberra.
- Advice sent to Runaway Bay Little Athletics Centre, advising that the request for a Government subsidy should come from the Centre – not from the Sports Club
- Budgets per Manager were considered prior to the Annual Conference
- Many motions from the Constitution sub-committee were considered for conference

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 16th June 1982** considered an Administration Manual. The President was asked to set rules for the up-coming conference, along the rules of the N.S.W. conference.

A decision was taken to open the position of selector of the State team for the Inter State Teams Championships and the Board decided to reject spikes for Under 10's as well as extending the Little Athletics age group.

The **First Annual Conference of the Little Athletics Association was held on Saturday 10th July 1982** at the Redcliffe Hotel and was opened by the then Queensland Minister for Welfare Services, who was also a Patron of the Redcliffe Little Athletics Centre.

The conference was also unique, in that it considered and passed judgment on many motions to amend the constitution. The President informed the meeting that the Association was now in the position to incorporate under the name of "Little Athletics", with a Ministerial decision if necessary, that prior notice had been sent to enable that action to take place at the next General Meeting of the Association. A motion was moved by Alison Quirk and seconded by Rod Griffin, to formalise that matter at the next A.G.M.

The meeting carried a motion to accept the re-organised and re-numbered constitution, as pre-circulated and all of the motions put by the Committee of Management, for changes to procedure and to amend the constitution, were submitted. [The carriage of so many motions, showed that the Association had passed another milestone in its maturity.]

The conference was regarded by all as an unqualified success and set the future course of the Association, on a steady and growth course.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 21st July 1982** covered the pending sponsorship from Q.U.F. and S.P.C., as well as a submission made to Simons Carpets. The Gladstone branch of Simons Carpets and Speed-Gas have agreed to sponsor the Central Queensland and North Queensland Zone Championships respectively.

Upper Ross Little Athletics Centre was affiliated and the decision was taken that Centres should try to have A.G.M.'s before conference each year, so that the Centre in-coming Executives would be able to attend conferences.

At the **Committee of Management Meeting 18 August 1982**, the Committee discussed the Mt Gravatt situation, regarding that Centre having applied to the Department of Justice, for incorporation of an organisation named "Little Athletics Association of Queensland". The Department had contacted our Association, to ascertain why this had taken place.

A motion was moved and carried as follows:

"That D Beavis and all signatories to their application for incorporation as the Little Athletics Association of Queensland, be expelled from the Association, in terms of Article 4.2 of the constitution. A letter be sent to the Minister for Justice; the Minister for Sport, Mr Terry White, Minister for Welfare Services; as well as The Governor and the three Trustees of the Association, asking for their assistance on our behalf. All Centres to be advised of this action."

A further motion was moved and carried "That this Association take immediate steps to form a new Management Committee for the Mt Gravatt Centre."

Then a motion was carried "that a Special General Meeting be called, for the purpose of considering a special Resolution covering Incorporation of this Association."

Needless to say, that this meeting concluded at 12.50 pm.

The next **Committee of Management Meeting was held 21st September 1982** with no Zones in attendance. It commenced with the resignation of Clive Carroll as Manager Officials and resulted in a lengthy discussion on the future structure of the Committee of Management, with Managers and Assistant Managers to support them. The decision was taken to ask Laurie Baartz to take on the role of Manager Coaching, Cliff Darby to take on Manager Public Relations, Wilma Perkins to take on Manager Officials and Trevor Hartwig to take on Manager Championships.

The President advised the meeting of the current position regarding incorporation and the Central Queensland Zone structure was discussed.

Discussion took place on the following:

- Mullumbimby Little Athletics Centre (N.S.W.) being accepted for our insurance policy
- Deception Bay Little Athletics Centre with change of uniform
- Goodna Little Athletics Centre being advised that under age children are not covered by the insurance policy
- Change to Zones for Maryborough and Maroochy Little Athletics Centres
- Minutes to be requested from all Centres
- A Committee of Management person cannot be a Zone Co-Ordinator
- Centre affiliation fee be increased, to account for increased costs associated with postage and freight

A Special General Meeting of the Association was held on 1st October 1982, with 17 Centres in attendance. The meeting was called as a result of a motion at Conference:

- To consider incorporation of the Association,
- Appoint a person to prepare the application for Incorporation, to consider changes to the constitution to meet the requirements of the Justice Department,
- To pass a special resolution, to meet that end.

All motions were carried.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 19th October 1982** accepted the resignation of Clive Carroll as Manager of Coaching and he was replaced by Laurie Baartz.

It covered:

- Changes to Zone Co-Ordinators,
- The need for Little Athletes to be attending school (as per the constitution),
- The Yearbook,
- Centres waiving fees for children as long as they pay the Association fee, as well as
- Procedures for starting new Centres.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 16th November 1982** covered the resignation of Trevor Hartwig as Manager Development, the completion of the officials exam papers, the paper on starting of new Centres, setting of key officials for the season, affiliation of Tully Little Athletics Centre, affiliation of Toowong Little Athletics Centre, affiliation of Carindale Little Athletics Centre and affiliation of Warwick Little Athletics Centre.

It covered late payment of hurdles from one Centre, appointment of a Zone Co-Ordinator and that no alcohol be supplied free of charge, or subsidised, at Association events, including Zone Championships. Also official T Shirts, a sponsor function and the need for the N.S.W. Centres to wear Twisties numbers at Association events.

A **Quarterly General Meeting was held on 30th November 1982** (the first since the re-formation following the conference and Special meeting) and was not attended by a quorum [probably due to the enormous number and content of the meetings held over the last few months], although those present were able to have a good discussion on events, as well as various Manager's reports.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 7th December 1982** covered lengthy discussion on the paper titled "Financing and Sponsorship of Zone Championships", the model Centre Constitution, sponsorships, decided to waive the appeals tribunal for State Team selection, that team coaches be responsible to Team Managers and the appointment of team selectors and managers.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 18th January 1983** covered:

- The revised policy on Zone funding.
- Discussion on people nominated as ALAU President and Secretary/Treasurer.
- Affiliation of Centenary Heights Little Athletics Centre.
- Affiliation of Harristown Little Athletics Centre.
- Affiliation of Wilsonton Little Athletics Centre.
- Under age children competing at Centres.
- Formation of a social sub-committee for the Manager Centre Liaison.
- Children running out of uniform.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 15th February 1983** covered:

- The appointment of Greg Shaw as Manager Championships,
- Discussion on affiliation of Tablelands Little Athletics Centre subject to decision on uniform colours,
- Accommodation of people at QE11 for events,
- Discussion on the proposed Victorian motion to change voting at ALAU meetings,
- The paper to amend concept of Interstate Teams Championships,
- A dinner dance to be held at the 10th year celebrations,
- Competition of unregistered children at a Centre,
- Discussion regarding the Mathers Fun Run proposal,
- A family coaching camp,

- Winter Centre development,
- Draft of the duties of coaches,
- Championship handbook.

The **Quarterly General Meeting dated 22nd February 1983** again lacked the correct number of Metropolitan Centres (ten in attendance), nor the correct number of people eligible to vote. However the meeting was able to carry out a proper meeting and the correspondence included a letter from the Justice Department, advising of the incorporation of the Association.

The President told the meeting that, although the last few months had seemed quiet, the Association events have been very active and particularly singled out Wilma Perkins for her enormous contribution as acting Manager for Championships, as well as her usual role of Manager Officials, during the Association competition days.

Thankfully Greg Shaw had been appointed Manager Championships, which should assist her in future.

The President also advised the meeting of the problems with sponsors changing and lauded the existence of having paid staff, who were able to fly to Melbourne to meet and arrange the Milo and S.P.C. sponsorships. The President explained that, because the Executive Officer was being used successfully in that role, the Executive would consider whether continuation of the role of Manager Financial Affairs was necessary.

The Treasurer presented papers on the Government Sporting Assistance Scheme and one on Claims for Subsidy.

The Executive Officer presented a voluminous report covering the year book, stationery, Conference, motions to conference, next Conference, Centre Minutes, communication, publicity, Family Coaching Camp, State Championships, Development, registrations, canteen, Mathers and Country visitors. These matters showed just how effective the Executive Officer had become to the running of the Association.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 15th March 1983** covered:

- The affiliation of Tablelands Little Athletics Centre.
- Discussion on Centres numbers.
- Decision to accept Pentathlon motion from South Australia.
- Decision to arrange similar competition for Queensland next year.
- A decision was taken on the duties for State Team coaches.
- Affiliation of North Toowoomba Little Athletics Centre was approved.
- Change of name from Individual Championships to State Championships.
- Another to form a sponsorships sub-committee.
- A huge number of notices of motion on the constitution were discussed and formalised.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 19th April 1983** covered:

- Lack of a meeting with the Education Department.
- Meeting with the Justice Department.
- Decision to join the State Directors of Coaching Committee.
- Affiliation of Helidon and Districts Little Athletics Centre.
- Affiliation of Wulguru Little Athletics Centre.
- Decision on Centre Constitution.
- Decision on Centres not to be allowed to have advertising on an official competition shirt.
- A lengthy discussion on the Championships Handbook, including the section headed "disqualification by a referee".

The President presented a report on the ALAU meeting, in particular, the Union President's wish to increase the age limit of Little Athletes, whereas the Senior Athletics body was very critical of our movement. Where we have a high level of competition of Under 12's (Australia would win such a competition worldwide), but we do not rate with older age groups.

The Queensland registrations show an increase of 32.16%, whereas the nearest number was NSW with only 1.97% increase.

The **Annual Meeting dated 3rd May 1983** saw the presentation of all annual reports from Managers and the Executive Officer and the Presidents report included thanks to Cliff Darby (Manager Public Relations) for his flexibility and Don Yourell (Vice President) for his personal assistance.

The Vice President took the chair for the elections where there was only one nomination for each position and therefore the nominees listed below were automatically elected.

President	George Harvey
Public Relations	Beverly Miller
Coaching	Laurie Baartz
Championships	Greg Shaw
Centre Liaison	Ann Saunders

All of the above were for a two year term, whereas the following were for a one year term, to meet the constitution.

Development	Cliff Darby
Officials	Alan Clissold

The **Committee of Management Meeting date 17th May 1983** covered the fact that paper registration numbers were only suitable for a one off use and the acceptance of Mudgeeraba Little athletics as a club of Gold Coast Little Athletics Centre.

The President stated that this was the first time that the Association had a full complement of Managers and they were informed as to which has sub-committees.

The guidelines for salaried staff was circulated, with more work to be completed.

Discussion took place on age groupings by Country Centres, achievement award systems and many other miscellaneous matters, culminating in a very late meet ending.

An **Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Committee of Management was held on 7th June 1983** to consider the proposals from Manager's for the 1983/84 season, as well as the motions from Centres and it was agreed that the Association Executive issue comments on those motions to the Centres. This meeting was also a late finish.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 21st June 1983** decided to:

- Accept the paper on salaried staff as presented.
- Advise Centres that they were unable to change uniforms, without consultation with the Association and that that would be written into the Centre Constitution.
- A Zone Co-Ordinator was advised of the need to ensure that Centres remain in contact with the Association, rather than through him.
- Registration dates could not be changed as per the ALAU constitution.
- Affiliation for Central Townsville Little Athletics Centre was approved subject to change of colours of uniform.
- Planning for a coaching camp at Yeppoon was well advanced.
- An art union was approved.

The second **Annual Conference of the Association was held in Rockhampton on 16th – 17th July 1983**, which was the first meeting of the Association outside the Brisbane metropolitan area was also a great success. The first motion carried was for the addition of Registrar to the Committee of Management, as a one year appointment for the first year.

This meeting:

- Formalised the Executive of the Association, consisting of the President, Vice President and Treasurer.
- A move to change the name of the Committee of Management, to the Board of Management was lost.

- The title Executive Officer was changed to Administration Officer and
- The quorum was reduced from 30 to 25.
- There were a large number of competition motions, which caused good discussion and decisions.
- The affiliation fee was raised from \$2.50 to \$20.
- The various Manager's budgets were amended, to take account of the motions presented and carried at Conference.
- The name of the Zone Championships was changed to Zone Inter-Centre Games.
- A motion was carried to try to have the School long jump "take off" to be changed to a metre square.
- Maroochy Little Athletics Centre was accepted as the convenor for the next Conference.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 19th July 1983** decided to vote against the introduction of the javelin at the ALAU conference and finalised many matters that were raised at conference. The basic officials and coaching manuals were ready for printing and Mt Tarampa Little Athletics Centre was to be re-started.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 16th August 1983** accepted the resignation of Ann Saunders as Manager Centre Liaison due to family commitments and Irma Grigor was appointed to head the 10th anniversary dinner. A change of name for 2 Zones in the north was approved and a decision on the meaning of "school age children" for registrations was decided.

The President's reported on the meeting with Queensland Amateur Athletics, to further co-operation and the Association decided to proceed with the lease of a vehicle.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 20th September 1983** discussed the resignation of Stan Perkins as Administrative Officer and the decision was taken to appoint a field officer and an Assistant Secretary.

- Affiliation of Kedron Little Athletics Centre was approved.
- Ross River Little Athletics Centre were requested to cease using the Ross River Amateur letterhead.
- Concern was expressed on the progress of the Silver Circle fund raising and the Association decided to look at appointing a professional fund raiser.
- A suggestion was to be put to Centres, to look at forming clubs for over Under 13 age groups.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 18th October 1983** advised members that Dr Bruce McPhee has agreed to be a representative of the Association on the Sports Medicine Sub-Committee of the Union.

- Insurance matters were still being pursued.
- Zone Co-Ordinators appointed.
- Affiliation of Algester Little Athletics Centre was approved.
- Affiliation of South Junior Rugby Union Centre was approved.
- Affiliation of Twin Towns Little Athletics Centre was approved.

At the **Quarterly General Meeting dated 8th November 1983**, the President advised the meeting that the Executive Officer, Stan Perkins, had resigned and as a result, the decision had been taken to change the title to Field Officer and that that had been advertised, as well as for a position of casual office Assistant. The latter position had been filled by Pam Yourell (only applicant) and Ray Schoenauer had been appointed to the position of Field Officer (to work mainly within the field – Centre support).

For the State team, last year's Junior Manager (Ken Watson) had been elevated to Senior Manager, Beverly Miller had been appointed as Junior Manager and last year's Junior Coach, had been elevated to Senior Coach, with Elaine Elliott appointed Junior Coach. Bob Elliott was appointed to the selection committee.

The President also advised the meeting on the decision on the postal vote for the ALAU mid-year conference motion to accept the lowest age recognised to be Under 5.

Mullumbimby Little Athletics Centre had decided to move back to the N.S.W. Association and the Registrar advised that the final numbers for the 1982/83 year was 6085.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 15th November 1983** gave lengthy discussion to the A.L.A.U paper on funding, covered many miscellaneous items, including advice to be given to selectors, that they are not to carry on lengthy discussion with parents of prospective team members. Nor were they to be seen to be giving advice to children. The Centre Constitution was approved, along with changes suggested by the Department of Justice.

The **Committee of Management dated 20th December 1983** covered the affiliation of Dalby and District Little Athletics Centre, as well as the affiliation of Nambour Little Athletics Centre.

It also considered Laurie Baartz's request to stand down as selector, because of the time constraints and his wish to devote more time to coaching. Irma Grigor was appointed selector, although Laurie would remain as chief selector, with no voting rights, because of the legal angle.

Centre and Club constitutions were discussed.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 17th January 1984** saw a motion passed to vote against the postal vote from the ALAU for acceptance of the javelin. A motion was passed to take the Art Union permit away from Centres, due to the lack of interest (four Centres only participated), with an extension from the Justice Department sought.

Registrations stood at 4785 – a reduction on last year, with existing Centres experiencing a slowdown.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 21st February 1984** decided to vote in favour of the affiliation of the A.C.T. Little Athletics Association, as a member of the ALAU. Centres were advised that inter State transfers must be considered as new memberships.

The decision was taken to recommend to conference, that the positions of Manager Centre Liaison and Financial Affairs be deleted, as positions on the Committee of Management.

The **Quarterly General Meeting of the Association dated 28th February 1984** saw the President advise the meeting that the changes to the constitution approved at the Conference, had not yet been ratified by the Justice Department, whereas the Centre Constitution had been accepted by them, with some changes.

This meeting saw our Association becoming more involved in ALAU matters, with a change in the President and Secretary/Treasurer of that organisation. The A.C.T. Little Athletics Association being considered, the Tasmanian Association wanting again for the javelin to be introduced (postal vote) and the Queensland Association motion to change the season, to assist our Northern Centres.

Nominations for half the Committee of Management positions had been advertised and all Managers submitted comprehensive reports.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 20th March 1984** covered the acceptance by the A.L.A.U. of the Javelin (although the negative to be pursued by our Association at the next meeting of the ALAU), the Sub Committee situation was changed to the need to meet only as required, whereas the Committee of Management meetings would be doubled, to twice monthly.

The President was elected to attend a meeting of the senior athletics body in Melbourne, with other Association Presidents, showing the closer association of the two bodies.

A **Special Meeting of the Association was held on 26th March 1984**, chaired by the Vice President (Don Yourell), to form a committee to discuss the management of future training camps, with a view to preventing problems as had been experienced. The Treasurer (Ken Watson) was to prepare financial guidelines and the attendees also included Ray Schoenauer, Frank Knight,

Laurie Baartz, Basil Callick, Alison Quirke, Cliff Darby and Dawn Norton. This meeting decided a large number of matters, to form the guidelines.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 3rd April 1984** covered the approval of the affiliation of Boyne/Tannum Little Athletics Centre, as well as the affiliation of Proserpine and District Little Athletics Centre.

The President reported that the meeting with the senior athletics body was very successful and agreed to work together on development, competition, education, coaching and recruitment and would explore an umbrella body for both organisations. The President of the Queensland Amateur Athletics Association was to be invited to attend our Annual Conference.

The notices of Motion for conference took a great deal of time and the decision was taken to recommend to conference, that George Harvey be appointed the first Life Member of the Queensland Little Athletics Association.

A further **Sub-Committee Meeting was held on 9th April 1984** with the Vice President in the chair. This discussed the need for up to 10 coaches required for the forthcoming coaching camp at Yeppoon and the mechanics, program, need for long jump facility and how that might be obtainable, if we involve the National Fitness Council, first aid and the myriad of the matters that needed to be discussed.

A **Committee of Management Meeting of the Association dated 13th April 1984** covered the finalisation of the Administration Manual, the ratification of the Centre Constitution, a re-structure of the Committee of Management to be placed before conference, with Assistant Managers being part of the structure, but without the need for them to form part of a quorum at meetings.

It also covered the need for a three year plan from each Manager for conference and the possibility for the production of an official newspaper to be produced.

The **Annual Meeting of the Association was held on 1st May 1984** was opened by the President, who handed the chair to the Vice President. After the formalities, the President presented his report as follows:

“This past year has again been an eventful one for Little Athletics in Queensland, with State wide development continuing at a rapid pace, changes being made to our administrative structure, the introduction of new events in our championship calendar, the conduct of a major Fun Run, major coaching initiatives and extensive discussions being held with the Queensland Athletics

Association. In addition, we are now in the process of drafting changes to our management structure, to cope with the ever increasing workload demands”

He said that the administrative staff had changed from a high level Administrative Officer and lower level secretarial staff, to a more even mix of the two, as well as appointment of another office person, to handle the increasing work load.

He referred to the extremely high level of coaching being provided, the arrangements being furthered with Q.A.A. and the proposed re-arrangement of the Management Committee - full details to follow for voting.

He mentioned that the addition of the Javelin to the Australian competition, requires the Association to consider fully the implications of that, as well as advising that Eddy Laycock was retiring this election, after 14 years involvement.

The Vice President advised the meeting that the awarding of Life Membership to George Harvey was the first and that no one person had done more for this Association. A huge round of applause followed.

The Manager Coaching advised that the coaching manual was being up-dated and would be in book form and that a warm up video was being prepared for Centre use.

The President took the chair for election of officers and as there was only one nomination for each position, the following were elected:

Vice President	Don Yourell
Treasurer	Ken Watson
Manager Development	Cliff Darby
Registrar	Irma Grigor
Manager Technical Requirements	Alan Clissold
Manager Officials	John McDougall
Manager Centre Liaison	Elaine Elliott

The next meeting minutes on file are for the **Meeting dated 15th May 1984 of the Committee of Management** which decided in principle, to appoint two Assistant Managers for Coaching and one each for Treasurer, Officials, Championships and Public Relations.

Cliff Darby and Ray Schoenauer were appointed to attend an A.A.U. seminar on development and medical, and many other coaching camps in the Central Queensland area were deemed desirable. The decision was taken for the basic coaching manual to be based on play training and 6 names were to be considered at the following meeting as Assistant Managers for that portfolio.

Mackay North Little Athletics Centre affiliation was approved and the decision was taken that members of the Committee of Management only comment on Centre motions, where it was deemed necessary.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 29th May 1984** approved the affiliation of Mackay City Centre Little Athletics Centre and Cairns Little Athletics Centre affiliation was approved, on condition they amend the list of committee members to be constitutional.

The President reported that the Mather's 8,000,000 Millimetre fun run was a tremendous success and wanted to thank Greg Shaw, Beverly Miller, Paul O'Brien and Ed Laycock for the huge effort they put in to achieve that result.

The recommendation to conference on the javelin was discussed at length.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 12th June 1984** approved the affiliation of Ashmore Little Athletics Centre and considerable discussion took place on Managers budgets and notices of motion for conference.

The next meeting on file for the **Committee of Management Meeting is dated 3rd July 1984**, which discussed the upcoming meeting with the Q.A.A. President and Chairman. It also covered the resignation of Elaine Elliott which was accepted, affiliation of Caloundra Little Athletics Centre which was approved, as was the affiliation of Springsure Little Athletics Centre.

An un-constitutional and un-acceptable situation with South's J.R.U. was discussed and an approach recommended, as well as the budget which was discussed in detail.

At the **Committee of Management Meeting dated 17th July 1984**, the President reported that the meeting with Q.A.A. was held and "in principle" decisions taken, to dual register Under 13 age children and an umbrella body be formed, with individual control remaining with each body.

Discussion on the final form of the Committee of Management motions to conference were covered in full and a decision was taken to vote as a block, on all Committee of Management motions. On the over age motions from the Committee of Management, the Committee decided to split the vote of each Committee member, so that the Committee vote was neutralised and Centres could decide the fate. The vote on the Javelin would be a conscience vote for each Committee of Management member.

The completed Administration Manual was tabled.

The **Annual Conference dated 22nd July 1984** was held at Alexandra Headland, where Alison Quirke hosted the event on behalf of Maroochy Little Athletics Centre. Invited guests were Mr C Stubbings and E Bartholomeusz, President and Chairman respectively of Q.A.A.

The meeting was advised that the registrations were up 2% on the previous year, with the Winter Season Centres yet to be finalised, with a figure of 8000 expected.

The Vice President presented the President with his Life Membership badge.

Some ill feeling was offered from Centres, that the Board of Management should not have circulated comments with the Centre motions. However, the President advised that that was necessary, so that the Centres could have the benefit of both sides of any story (be fully informed) before they considered the motions.

The motions carried included:

- A motion to ensure that athletes being considered for State Team selection should have attended 60% of Centre competition, unless a medical certificate could be presented to justify a lesser attendance.
- To replace certificates with ribbons.
- The addition of Javelin for some age groups.
- The powers of the Zone Co-Ordinators be set by the Board of Management.
- That birth certificates or similar be presented to Centres during registration.
- The Gold Coast Centre was elected to conduct the next Conference.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 7th August 1984** decided to appoint a qualified accountant to keep the books of the Association and a paper on coaching camps was accepted as Association policy.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 21st August 1984** covered the decisions of the ALAU Conference, including the decision that Centres may affiliate with only one State Little Athletics Association.

A decision was also taken to have a major sponsors' luncheon, rather than specific luncheons on the days of competition.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 18th September 1984** covered minutes of a meeting dated 4th September (not on file) and the President explained to new Board Managers and Assistant Board Managers, the relationship of Managers to others and that small comments can and do, get taken out of context.

The meeting considered the operational procedures for Q.A.A. athletes competing with Little A's and Little A's athletes competing at Q.A.A. competitions. The meeting was advised of the

successful meeting with Centre Managers and Centre Secretaries and another one was requested, with the Managers of Officials and Coaching.

The President stood down as the representative for A.T.F.C.A. meetings and was replaced by Laurie Baartz.

The decision was taken to allow Managers and staff, to work on the field on Association days.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 2nd October 1984** received papers on the duties of State Team Managers, Coaches and Selectors and the first Association newspaper was expected to be produced in 6000 copies.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 30th October 1984** covered the acceptance of the papers on duties of State Team personnel, with a slight adjustment to the name of the Coaches to be Co-Ordinators. Some adjustment was considered necessary to the wording of the Selectors paper.

- Alan Clissold resigned as Manager Technical.
- Affiliation of Wynnum Little Athletics Centre was approved.
- A report was presented of the Officials/Coaching night and a request was received from Centres to hold a new one.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 20th November 1984** saw the:

- Approval for affiliation of Granite Belt Little Athletics Centre.
- Runaway Bay Little Athletics Centre incorporation was rejected with a problem of the Centre/Sports Club relationship.
- Riverview Little Athletics Centre closure due to lack of parental support, was covered.

The **Quarterly General Meeting dated 27th November 1984** was chaired by the Vice President, in the President's absence

The President's report advised that the registrations had been dramatic (reached 7203), with existing Centres having worked hard to increase what were falling numbers. The dual registrations of the older ages with Q.A.A. has worked well, coaching has been very full, with almost weekly courses arranged. Stan Jordan had been appointed Manager Centre Liaison, although Alan Clissold had resigned as Manager Technical Requirements.

The Treasurer commended the support given by Sally Cule as his Assistant Manager and the Manager Coaching advised that the course in Mackay/Proserpine had 160 children and 90 parents attend.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 4th December 1984** saw:

- The appointment of Mike Crowhurst as Manager Technical.
- Marburg Little Athletics Centre was affiliated.
- The Committee members decided to revert to once per month meetings from then.
- The casual uniform for Managers was decided.
- All coaches were appointed.
- Runaway Bay re-submission to change their constitution was again rejected.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 22nd January 1985**:

Approved the re-affiliation of Macquarie Shores Little Athletics Centre,

Beverly Miller advised the meeting that she would not be seeking re-election in May and the meeting had an up-date of the position with Q.A.A.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 5th March 1985** saw:

The affiliation of Hervey Bay Little Athletics Centre,

The Field Officer (Ray Schoenauer) reported on the successful field trip to Townsville and complained about the misreporting of the trip and,

A budget was approved for a questionnaire, on why people were leaving the Townsville Little Athletics Centre.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 19th March 1985** decided that the Board of Management would not have any objection to Sports Club involvement by Runaway Bay Little Athletics Centre, but that we would not agree that children needed to join the Sports Club, to be able to join the Little Athletics Centre.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 16th April 1985** was advised of the death of Laurie Baartz whilst Manager Coaching.

The **Annual Meeting dated 7th May 1985** included the President's report, reporting on the death of Laurie Baartz, who raised the coaching level of Little Athletes from a very small beginning, to a very rich then present, coaching calendar.

The President advised the meeting of the very large amount of work that had been put into the Association by the Board members and of the standing down of the Registrar, Irma Grigor, as

well as The Manager for Public Relations, Beverly Miller. Both have contributed greatly to the Association over the years.

The President advised that the Board now meets quarterly and the full Committee of Management, including Assistant Managers, meets monthly. He perceived that the Association had outgrown the petty problems of earlier years and that with the growth that has been achieved, a need for a further office staff member was necessary, to allow the present staff to cope. He said he has never been more pleased with the Association overall.

The President advised the meeting that, as a result of the motion passed at the last Conference, that with only one nomination, it would not be an automatic election of members and the Vice President conducted the meeting to elect the following:

President	George Harvey
Registrar	Carolyn Lawson
Centre Liaison	Stan Jordan
Championships	Greg Shaw
Technical Requirements	Mike Crowhurst
Financial Affairs	Paul O'Brien

Frank Knight would be an appointment to the position of Manager Coaching by the Board and the meeting was advised that the Centre Constitution, although approved by the Justice Department, would need to be amended.

The Board of Management Meeting dated 21st May 1985:

- Welcomed Carolyn Lawson as Registrar and Paul O'Brien as Manager Financial Affairs.
- Frank Knight was appointed Manager Coaching.
- Runaway Bay Little Athletics Centre was advised that a 50 cent Sports Club levy on Little Athletics Children was un-acceptable and that the Centre was asked to negotiate with the Sports Club for a ground rental.
- The President proposed a new structure for the Board, with a later discussion planned:
- A discussion was undertaken on the need for another full time staff member.
- A decision was taken to drop the position of Manager Financial Affairs.
- Paul O'Brien was moved to Manager Officials.
- John McDougal was moved to the position of Manager Public Relations.
- Mike Crowhurst was asked to investigate the purchase of a computer.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 11th June 1985** was advised that John McDougal had missed three meetings of the Association and he was to be advised that, if he did not appear this meeting, that he would automatically cease to be a Manager, as per the Constitution. He did not attend and was no longer Manager.

- Beverly Miller was appointed Office Assistant.

Cliff Darby resigned as Manager Development at the **Board of Management Meeting dated 16th July 1985**.

The **Annual Conference held 20th July 1985** was held at Cedar Lake, on the Gold Coast and the Centre Manager, Mr Geoff Batten, introduced Mr Brian Czulowski to the meeting. He of course was the Gold Coast founding Centre Manager and former Trustee of the Association and Geoff proceeded to accord him Life Membership of that Centre.

Various motions were carried, including the motion that any outgoing President be an ex-officio member of the Board of Management for a period of one year and the quorum for Board meeting be reduced to 5.

The **Special Board of Management Meeting dated 30th July 1985** saw:

- The Manager Officials (Paul O'Brien) move from Manager Officials to Manager Education.
- Greg Shaw moved from Manager Championships to Manager Competition.
- Carolyn Lawson moved to Manager Public Relations, whilst still retaining the position of Registrar, as per the re-structure.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 20th August 1985** saw Dennis Miller appointed Manager Development.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 15th October 1985** saw:

- Geoff Batten, Stan Pearson and Alan Clissold appointed Assistant Managers.
- The approval for the creation of Merit Award.,
- Lease of a computer for the Association office.
- Elaine Taurima appointed Records Officer.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 5th November 1985** saw the resignation of Stan Jordan.

The **Quarterly General Meeting of the Association was held on 19th November 1985** and saw the President advise the meeting that the Board of Management have introduced two new awards – the Merit Award and the Distinguished Merit Award. The latter to be limited to one per year, with two being possible on the first occasion, with the former to ten per year. This will allow the Life Membership to be awarded only to those who have given exceptional effort at the Association level. It was expected that the Life Membership should be very few in number, whereas the Distinguished Merit Award should be for those who have given extensive effort to the Association.

He also advised the meeting, that the ALAU has become an affiliated member of the Australian Athletics Union and whereas our Association had barred athletes from the Q.A.A. from competing at our meetings, the Q.A.A. still allows our athletes to compete at there's and they recognise our records.

The change of name from Marwood Little Athletics Centre to Rosewood Little Athletics Centre was approved.

The **Board of Management dated 17th December 1985** saw the amount of correspondence climb to 8 pages [showing the growth of the Association] and saw the appointment of Alison Quirke as Assistant Manager Coaching – [later to become Association President].

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 18th February 1985** saw:

Judy Batten and James Toussis, appointed Assistant Managers Competition

Centres accepted as branches of the Association, for the purposes of Incorporation

Aspley Little Athletics Centre threatened legal action if they did not receive funds for Zone Games within 7 days (such payments were outside the approved hand book guidelines)

the decision was taken to write to the relevant Zone Co-Ordinator requesting full details of funds received for the event, whereabouts of such funds, how spent (supported by invoices) and what arrangements were made outside the instructions in the handbook and why. Aspley centre was advised accordingly.

The **Quarterly General Meeting dated 24th February 1986** saw the President explain the legal action threat by Aspley Centre, resulted in the Zone Inter-Centre games re-imburement and that the letter sent by the Association to the Zone Co-ordinator, was a decision of the full Committee of Management (Board and Assistant Managers). The hand book clearly set out the rules, the decision of which was from all Centres and had been in place for three years.

A **Special Board of Management Meeting was held on 25th February 1986** for Dr. Bruce McPhee to address the meeting, to give medical advice on children attending Cross Country.

At the **Board of Management Meeting dated 18th March 1986**, the Field Officer advised the meeting of his attendance at 26 schools, where he addressed 6600 Primary School children on Little Athletics within this State, emphasising exercise and fitness.

Metro North were paid the fees demanded, although no reply had been received from the Zone Co-Ordinator and Claremont Little Athletics Centre was affiliated.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 15th April 1986** saw:

- The resignation of Judy Batten as Assistant Manager.
- Blackwater Little Athletics Centre affiliation was approved.
- This was the last meeting for Don Yourell as Vice President, after many years in the role.
- The definition of the scissors High Jump was approved.
- The age group for Little Athletes was raised to Under 14, as from 1987.

Don explained that he was resigning because he believed in making room for new persons to become involved at the highest level of Little Athletics within this State.

The **Annual Meeting dated 6th May 1986** saw the Presidents report advising that this was the first year that we have seen a reduction in registrations and the loss of some big sponsorships, whereas the competition year had been a great success. The management and staff had been extremely competent.

He advised the meeting that Don Yourell will not be standing again as Vice President – a position he has held for many years and he has given the President enormous support over that period. Without his assistance, George Harvey would not have been able to continue as President.

Ken Watson was standing as Vice President and vacating the Treasurers role as a result. George expressed the view that if Ken was not successful in that position, then he shudders to think of such a result.

He also spoke about a Board Member expressing an opinion outside a meeting, contrary to the decision taken by the Board – subsequently ratified by the Association - and this was questioned at the meeting

On this occasion the Vice President gave a report as follows:

"I have been privileged to have been your Vice President for the last six years and although my position does not call for reports to General Meetings, I could not allow my retirement, after so many years' service, to pass without giving a report.

My arrival into this position was at a time when your Association was in considerable turmoil, with in-fighting at a high level and organisation/administration at a fairly low level. Those early years showed me and many others, that a cohesive Board of Management is paramount to a progressive and growing organisation. I would hope that all Centres cast their vote toward people who are able to work together and in the same general direction. Particularly at the highest levels.

Nine years ago, I registered my eldest son to the Gold Coast Little Athletics Centre and very shortly thereafter, found myself Assistant Centre Manager. Soon thereafter, I began attending the Monthly Meetings of the Association as a Centre delegate, then as a Zone delegate and then was nominated as Vice President.

Firstly, I considered that others would be better suited to the role and I rejected the call, only to be again asked by another, at which time I agreed to be nominated. During the election, I found that my opponent withdrew from the contest and left me un-opposed. I had the feeling that I was set up as a neutral of two factions.

Regardless of the reasons for my election, I quickly found that I was to be verbally abused by members for taking a rational, if strong stand. I relate this as an indication of what was then an Association in some turmoil, to be compared against our present Association.

I am very proud to have been part of our growth in numbers and organisation and I suppose that it could be said that I had no small voice in its direction.

At this stage, I would like to raise the question of the role of Vice President. Indeed, I have raised this question at the Board and Executive level, before.

The constitution is not specific in the duties of the position and nationally, the role is unique. The holder of the position may do as much, or as little, as he or she perceives is necessary, or as time allows. I strongly believe that the position of Vice President should support the President in the administration in all aspects of our Association, from national to Centre level. That is not to say, that they must agree on every small matter, but any disagreements should be covered fully in private discussions, or Executive Meetings and a compromise reached and a united viewpoint expressed at meetings. George Harvey and I have had some small disagreements and I dare to say, that I have swayed his views on a few occasions. But I dare anyone to say that I have not been very supportive of him, as President.

Whilst I am on the subject, I would like to advise many of you, that the President's role is extremely demanding and over our many years together, I am aware of the extremely large number of hours George (and Andrea) have put into your Association. For a long time, their lounge room was the Association office and they literally lived Little A's.

I consider our Association is extremely fortunate to have George as our President. The singular honour of Life Membership to George is extremely applicable.

May I now turn to our Board of Management.

I can say with authority, that your present Board is the best we have had. With people like Ken Watson (with whom I have had weekly face to face contact as a member of the Executive for many years). Greg Shaw in Competition and our efficient newer faces, such as Frank Knight and others, as well as our strong band of Assistant Managers, you are in good hands.

Whilst I am giving praise, our staff, headed by Andrea Harvey, have done a magnificent job, as anyone who has visited, or contacted the office, will testify. I have the highest regard for them.

To many of us, Little Athletics is more than a sport for children, of which we as parents try to assist, IT IS A WAY OF LIFE.

I have met many lovely people during my time in the movement and I would sincerely hope that those friendships will remain for a very long time.

May we meet again over the years to follow and may our Association continue to grow and prosper over those years.

I feel privileged to have served you all."

The President presented Merit Awards to Wendy Bell, Greg Bell, Anne Symonds, Margaret Schoenfisch and Joe Atu. Distinguished Merit Awards were presented to Gil Wright, Bob Wilson, Eddy Laycock, Cliff Darby and Alison Quirke. These were the first presentations of these type of awards.

The elections saw the following elected:

Vice President	Ken Watson – first of two nominees
Treasurer	Mike Crowhurst – only nominee
Development	Dennis Miller – only nominee
Education	Paul O'Brien – only nominee
Coaching	Frank Knight – only nominee
Public Relations	Carolyn Lawson – only nominee

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 20th May 1986** approved affiliation of Burdekin Little Athletics Centre and a letter had been sent to Mt Gravatt offering to allow them to re-affiliate.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 19th August 1986** approved affiliation of Maleny Little Athletics Centre.

The **Annual Conference was held in Gladstone on 9th August 1986** with many motions put by the Board and the Centres which attracted mixed results. However, this clearly shows that the conference is the place where all parties can advance motions and only those that are considered for the betterment of the Association, will get up.

Kooralbyn was selected as the venue for the next conference.

At the **Board of Management Meeting dated 16th September 1986** saw the resignation of Paul O'Brien as Manager Education.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 21st October 1986** saw the affiliation of

- Woodridge/Kingston Little Athletics Centre.
- Browns Plains Little Athletics Centre.
- Ropehill Little Athletics Centre.

The **Board of Management meeting dated 11th November 1986** saw the dis-continuation of the newspaper

The **Quarterly General Meeting dated 18th November 1986** confirmed the Justice Department opinion that Centres were indeed a branch of the Association, contrary to the view of Paul O'Brien – so the matter of Centre Constitutions was finally resolved.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 15th December 1986** saw Alison Quirke resign as Assistant Manager Coaching and completion of the Education video for basic instruction.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 17th December 1986** saw the resignation of Beverly Miller from the office and Lynnese Page appointed to that position. Bob Tate was appointed as Assistant Manager Competition (Cross Country).

The **Quarterly General Meeting Dated 24th February 1987** saw the President advise the meeting that Alison Quirke had resigned as Assistant Manager Coaching, Beverly Miller as Office Assistant, the appointment of Rob Tate as Assistant Manager Competition and Lynnese Page as the new Office Assistant (an ex Little Athlete).

Registrations had reached 5996.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 7th April 1987** saw Carolyn Lawson deciding to not re-contest the next election.

The **Annual Meeting of the Association dated 5th May 1987** saw the Board members, all the staff (4) and 20 Centres, with Don Yourell as an invited guest.

The President addressed the meeting thus – “The Annual Meeting each year serves two main purposes. Firstly, it is the meeting at which we review the happenings of the past year and secondly, of course it sees the election of office bearers for the forthcoming year. ‘

He touched on the development highlights of the last year, where the decision was to consolidate the existing Centres, rather than create more new Centres. The competition program saw the introduction of the Australia Day Pentathlon, the commencement of the cross Country Season and the introduction of the Under 15’s age group.

Merit awards and Distinguished Merit Awards were presented (the latter to Janelle Cross and Don Yourell) and the elections saw the following persons elected with only one nomination each:

President	George Harvey
Manager Coaching	Frank knight
Manager Competition	Greg Shaw
Manager Education	Geoff Batten

The President mentioned the Gold Coast Centre for their 10th anniversary celebrations and Ipswich had struck a souvenir medallion. The following Centres would also reach their 10th year anniversary:

Ross River	Capricorn Coast	Strathpine	The Gap
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The President also advised the meeting that the Justice Department had approved the Constitution, with all amendments as passed at the last three conferences, save for the motion for the immediate past President being a voting member of the Board.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 25th May 1987** approved the affiliation of Magnetic Island Little Athletics Centre

The **Annual General Meeting and Conference dated 1st and 2nd August 1987** carried many competition motions.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 1st September 1987** saw the resignation of Mike Crowhurst as Treasurer.

The **Quarterly General Meeting dated 17th November 1987** saw:

- A printed booklet pre-circulated to Centres.
- Reports from each manager.
- The President advised that the year appeared to be the greatest year ever.
- The resignation of Mike Crowhurst as Treasurer.
- Greg Shaw being appointed to the position of Treasurer.
- Ken Watson had taken over as Convenor of the ITC.
- James Toussis appointed to the Manager Competitions, from the acting position.
- Frank Atkin appointed Manager Public Relations.
- Neal Ashkanasy appointed to Cross Country.
- Arthur Rowe appointed to Assistant Manager Competition.
- Sandra Padgett had accepted the role of Assistant Manager Education.
- Ray Schoenauer has resigned as Field Officer, after 4 years in the role.

The **Quarterly General Meeting dated 23rd February 1988** saw discussion on what to do regarding whether to continue with the Field Officer position, as a result of the President advising details of the costs associated with the position, with zero growth of registrations.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 24th April 1988** was advised that the Justice Department advised Mt Gravatt that they could not use the words “Little Athletics” in their name, although re-affiliation was being discussed. Also the decision was taken that the Association would not appoint a Field officer.

The **Mt Gravatt minutes dated 2nd May 1988** records that Centre reporting on a meeting with George Harvey (President Little Athletics Association Queensland), Don Yourell and Ken Watson on one side, with Barry Flowers as Centre Manager and Rob Smith of Mt Gravatt. When Mt Gravatt expressed concern that they did not want “big brother” looking over their shoulder, George is reported as saying that the Centres run the Association, not the other way around. The Association assists the Centres.

Latter Mt Gravatt minutes show a letter was sent to the Little Athletics Association of Queensland, accepting re-affiliation as a trial run and maybe a more permanent situation in the next season. This was accepted by the Association.

The **Annual Meeting of the Association dated 3rd May 1988** saw the President give his report covering the 15th year of the Association and Greg Shaw and Dennis Miller had decided not to re-stand for election.

This year saw registrations slide from over 9000 in 1984 (Olympic year) to 6500 this year, with 65 Centres and as a result, the Board will be presenting a development proposal to stem the tide. The Board has decided to not re-appoint a Field Officer, but to throw the responsibility back to Centres and to give Centres more support and much clearer guidelines.

The President advised the meeting that the Distinguished Merit Award was presented to only one person each year (the first time two were presented) and Dugald Henderson was presented with his early, due to his move to Fiji for work.

No application was received for the position of Treasurer, whereas Ken Watson was elected as Vice President, James Toussis as Manager Competition, Geoff Batten as Manager Education and Frank Aitkin as Manager Public Relations.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 17th May 1988** saw “city” dropped from the name of Mackay Little Athletics Centre and the President reported on a further meeting with Mt Gravatt, for re-affiliation.

The **Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Association dated 7th August 1988** held at Surfers Paradise, carried an extraordinary number of motions on competition and many were carried, lost and withdrawn.

The President advised that the position of Treasurer was vacant, because of the resignation of Mike Crowhurst and that persons wishing to consider applying, should be aware that the position does not require the keeping of books, but that the position is part of the Executive and as such, persons considering nominating, would need to be very experienced in Little Athletics in general.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 1st November 1988** saw the resignation of Judy Batten as Assistant Manager and the appointment of Don Yourell as Treasurer.

Don agreed to be appointed after being asked by George Harvey, to assist the Association, as they had been unable to replace Mike Crowhurst as Treasurer.

This appointment was confirmed by a motion at the **Board of Management Meeting dated 15th November 1988**.

At the **Quarterly General Meeting dated 15th November 1988**, the President advised that the year without a Field Officer seems not to have effected to running of the Association with the

appointment of Adrian Klupfel as Manager Winter Centres. He said that, he was unwilling to accept criticism from Centres, when Centres have been unable to provide a Treasurer to the Executive. However he introduced Don to the meeting, after a 2 year sabbatical, having been Vice President for many years.

He advised the meeting of the Union decision to reject the Queensland Conference inspired motion, to change the name of the Association from “Little Athletics” to “Junior Athletics” and to raise the age of the ATC (Australian Teams Championships), from Under 12 to Under 14. The latter was sent to a Committee to discuss the merits. This committee was also to consider event standards, as well as a permanent location for the ATC.

He also advised the meeting of the on-going conflict with Mt Gravatt and the on-going effort to have them come back into the Association. The Justice Department decision to stop that body from using the name “Little Athletics” appears to have had the result resolving that matter and they have agreed to return the name to our Association. They recently narrowly voted against “returning to the fold”. They go under the name “Junior Athletics” and interestingly, if the recent Union decision had not been against the Queensland motion to change to that name, then that would have stopped this Association using the name, which is registered to Mt Gravatt – the ultimate irony.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 7th February 1989** reported on the result of a meeting held between Doug Cave from Q.A.A., George Harvey and Don Yourell from our Association, to discuss the possibility of an umbrella body being formed to cement the relationship of the two organisations. This was left “in the air” as the senior body would need to leave the decision to their members.

The **Quarterly General Meeting dated 21st February 1989** was advised that the Justice Department had approved the addition of Manager Winter Centres to our Constitution and the President reported that the Warwick coaching camp was a great success. He welcomed Don Yourell back to the Board.

The **Annual Meeting of the Association dated 2nd May 1989** saw the President present a very long report covering:

- 1) the decision to up-grade the achievement awards to allow all children to strive for personal achievement
- 2) the decision to create a new Board position of Manager Winter Centres
- 3) the decision to try to purchase our own office

He referred to the decision to introduce an Under 7/8's day, as a result of having to delete the Under 8's from the State Championships, which will result in reducing the stress level for athletes. He also welcomed the decision of Mt Gravatt to re-affiliate with the Association, the

decision of the ALAU to standardise events, the rejection finally by the ALAU to reject the same location of the A.T.C. and the fact that the hosting of the A.T.C. was an unqualified success.

He thanked Frank Aitkin who will not be re-standing at the next election.

The meeting saw 10 persons presented with Merit Awards and Alan Symons was presented with the Distinguished Merit Award.

The following were elected to office:

George Harvey	President
Don Yourell	Treasurer
James Toussis	Manager Competitions
Frank Knight	Manager Coaching
Adrian Klupfel	Manager Winter Centres

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 2nd June 1989** approved the re-affiliation of Mt Gravatt Little Athletics Centre and saw the resignation of Geoff Batten as Manager Education.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 4th July 1989** recorded the resignation of Lynnese Reynolds (nee Page) from the office staff and the appointment of Mike McNair as Assistant Manager Treasury.

The **Annual General Meeting and Conference dated 5th August 1989** was opened by Glen Buchanan (Olympic Swimmer), was chaired by Ken Watson (Vice President) in the absence of the President and the Presidents report was presented, asking Centres to give serious thought to the creation of a position of Manager Darling Downs.

The President also advised that this will be his last year as President, where he has sat for 10 years (14 years with Little Athletics) which he has thoroughly enjoyed.

The conference voted for the motion, with amendments, to create the position of Manager South West Queensland and all relevant motions were altered and approved to allow for that position.

One motion carried, was for the Conference to be held in Winter Season Centre area every fourth year and the next Conference to be held at Greenmount Resort.

Neil Ashkanasy thanked the Board and the President in particular, for the way they have managed the affairs of the Association over the years.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 5th September 1989** saw:

- The resignation of Pam Yourell from the office staff.
- Rod Hacker and Arthur Rowe appointed Assistant Managers Competition.
- Sandra Padgett moved from Manager Public Relations to Manager Education.
- Alison Quirke appointed Assistant Manager Education.
- The tabling of the Officials Manual.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 6th October 1989** saw:

- Pam Yourell appointed Records Officer.
- Adrian Klupfel appointed Manager inter Centres.
- The President advised the meeting that Q.A.A. had rejected the idea of an umbrella body.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 7th November 1989** saw:

- The closure of Coorparoo Little Athletics Centre without advice.
- Bribie Island using the Little Athletics name without permission.
- The Justice Department being advised accordingly.
- A complaint that athletes are competing in younger age groups, than what is allowed.

The **Quarterly General Meeting dated 21st November 1989** was chaired by the Vice President (Ken Watson) in the absence of the President who was away on business, although the Presidents report was in writing and stated that Pam Yourell had resigned from the office, although had taken up the position of Records Officer.

A **Special Board of Management Meeting dated 28th November 1989** saw:

- The appointment of Roy Waltisbuhl as Manager South West Queensland.
- A motion carried to allow Under 15's in the 4 x 100m and 4 x 400m to wear spikes.
- The disqualification of teams competing outside the accepted age groups.
- Five Sunnybank teams were refused permission to compete at State, although the Sunnybank Little Athletics Centre had acted in good faith, on the advice of the Zone Co-Ordinator.

Further, it was decided that that Centre did not have to supply names of children for the Zone Relays, as that would be impossible to supervise at State. It is the intention of the Board of Management to have as many as possible competitors compete at State and that would be seriously hampered, if that were to occur.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 8th December 1989** approved the appointment of Kevin Lacey as Manager Development.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 19th December 1989** was chaired by the Treasurer, to handle a motion to nominate George Harvey as President of the ALAU as well as Ken Watson to nominate as Secretary/Treasurer of the ALAU

The Treasurer (Don Yourell) had been asked to stand as President and he addressed the meeting as follows:

“Some years ago I retired as Vice President, principally because I am a firm believer in the principal of people not staying in a position too long. Fresh ideas and new faces are very important in my mind, to the continued growth of any organisation.

I was approached by a few board members to re-stand for my present position and did so, partly because I enjoyed the Executive role, a lot because George Harvey asked me to and mostly, because the Treasury role had been vacant, in my opinion, for far too long.

Another of my firm held views, is that each Board position is very important and each should be filled at every election. I shall not be satisfied until this happens all the time and many are contested by more than one person; for this will signal to me, that the Board has the support of the many.

This view is more important, when viewed against an Executive position. The Executive role was introduced principally, to share the responsibility of the President, as a consultative group and to ensure the future direction of the Association. That is not to take anything away from the Board, but it has been past practice, that Board personnel concentrate heavily on the portfolio that they administer, whereas the Executive are able more easily, to view the movement in total. The Executive also administer the office, through the Secretary.

The third view that I hold firmly, is that the Executive must have continuity. Unless I remain for a time, that continuity would cease totally, with George and Ken removed from the local scene. I believe that that would be disastrous for the organisation, regardless of who may fill the positions. May I assure you that those two people being taken from this body, will be a very large loss. I respect both men greatly, both as people and in the roles that they have performed for this organisation over the years.

I will accept the role of President on condition:

- a) the present Board are totally and without reservation behind me
- b) the present Board do all they are able, to fill all Board positions at the next election
- c) I am able to have the support of a good and strong Executive
- d) You all accept that my way of carrying out the role, will be different to my predecessor
- e) You accept my commitment only for the one year term that the constitution seeks – whether I re-stand after that time, will depend on whether you as a Board wish me to do so, but with a clear understanding that my longer term aim, would be to replace myself in the role and again retire.

f) Lastly, that our current Secretary remain firmly in that role

The present Executive reached agreement recently with Andrea for a long term commitment and package and I would like each of you to understand my feeling, that this lady does a superb job and could not be replaced easily – I could not see myself, or any future President, operating effectively without Andrea Harvey or someone trained to replace her, at a later date.

Don Yourell”

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 9th January 1990** saw the Vice President advise the meeting, that George Harvey will be the recipient of the Brisbane City Council Australia Day Sports Medallion Administration Award.

The **Committee of Management Meeting dated 9th February 1990** saw

Bribie Island athletics being advised to affiliate, or cease using the “Little Athletics” name. The decision was taken for the delegates to the Union Conference, to vote for George Harvey and Ken Watson as Union President and Union Secretary/Treasurer respectfully.

Children’s registrations had reached 6007 and Blue Water Little Athletics Centre was affiliated.

The **Quarterly General Meeting dated 20th February 1990** was chaired by the Vice President who welcomed Roy Waltisbuhl and Kevin Lacey to the first Board Meeting.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 6th April 1990** was advised the Bribie Island were now calling themselves “Junior Athletes” and that no further action was required on that matter. George and Ken had been elected to the national positions and Don Yourell was then appointed as President of the Association.

The **Annual Meeting of the Association dated 1st May 1990** was opened by the new President (Don Yourell) and he advised that George Harvey and Ken Watson were not sitting at the head table, because they had been elected to the National positions. They were observers.

Don read the President’s report, which was written by George Harvey who had been President for the most part of the year to which it referred. He advised that, when he (George) had told a previous meeting that he would not continue in the role of President, he intended to retire. But that he had then been asked to stand for the position of President of the Union and had accepted and then been so elected and under the constitution. As a result, he was required to immediately resign as President of the Association.

The registrations had increased to 7502, against the National trend, participation at Association events remains very high, the Under 7 and 8 day was particularly well represented. N.S.W. Little

Athletics Association were so impressed with the day, that they have also introduced the event in their State and this has proven very successful.

George referred to growth problems, Centres versus Clubs and the need to cease being too strict with regulations. He left the meeting with copy of a paper on Little Athletics, written by Trevor Billingham, who commenced Little Athletics in Australia, so that the members could be aware of the purpose of the creation. This covered the need to provide for the ordinary athlete, with a games based competition, rather than merely cater for the better athletes.

At the **Board of Management Meeting dated 11th May 1990**, Don Yourell chaired the meeting as President for the first time, Sandra Padgett was Vice President and Mike McNair was Treasurer.

This meeting considered the creation of an honour board and Bli Bli Little Athletics Centre was affiliated.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 1st June 1990** saw the Vice President present a report on the first meeting of the ALAU, with George Harvey as President and Ken Watson as Secretary/Treasurer and the innovations that they had introduced.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 29th June 1990** considered a discussion paper from Athletics Australia titled "Change or Die" and another to change the selection procedures for Under 12's for National Championships.

The **Annual General Meeting dated 4th and 5th August 1990** was held at Greenmount Resort and was opened by Mr Angus Innes (Patron of Centenary Little Athletics Centre) and was introduced by Rod Hacker (Centre Manager Centenary).

Paul O'Brien, the newly elected President of the Queensland Athletics Association, was introduced to the meeting in that role [he was well known to Association members] and was asked to comment.

This meeting considered and decided on:

- A new affiliation and membership fee.
- A change of the conference timing was rejected.
- Approval to investigate the feasibility of a new office.
- Introduction of an Under 6 age group was lost.
- A barnstorming session was conducted and was generally considered beneficial.
- Maroochy was selected as the next conference venue.
- Neal Ashkanasy thanked all for what has been the largest conference ever.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 13th October 1990** saw the resignation of the President read to the meeting, due to his having been let go from his work and the subsequent purchase by him and his wife Pam, of a Newsagency in Kingscliff, which resulted in his work day commencing 3.00 am each day.

- Mike McNair was appointed President of the Association.

The **Quarterly General Meeting dated 20th November 1990** records Mike McNair as President, Sandra Padgett as Vice President, Alison Quirke as Manager Education, Brian Johnston as Manager Competition, Roy Waltisbuhl as Manager South East Queensland, Tony Libke as Manager Public relations and Kevin Lacey as Manager Development.

The President welcomed Wamuran Little Athletics Centre as the newest Centre and explained the reason for his appointment to President, which was not expected and he hopes he can fill the role accordingly.

The Treasurers position is thus empty and he reserved the right to move back to that position, if he cannot handle the Presidency.

Registrations are up to 9550 due to the television advertisement.

The **Board of Management dated 11th December 1990** saw registrations top 9604.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 7th January 1991** records a letter sent to Gatton Little Athletics Centre, advising them that the Board was not in agreement with them changing seasons.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 4th February 1991** rejected the use of spikes in un-laned events or for Under 10 competitors.

A **Special Board of Management Meeting was held on 19th February 1991**, prior to the Quarterly General Meeting and:

- Discussed purchase of a building to house the Association.
- A decision to cancel the Fun Run due to a lack of sponsor.
- To advise that Ken Watson had resigned as Union Secretary/Treasurer and the need for the Association to find a replacement for him, as he was recommended by the Association.
- The Board was to meet the Union President (George Harvey) the following evening, to discuss this matter.

The **Quarterly General Meeting dated 19th February 1991** welcomed Caboolture Little Athletics Centre delegates since reforming.

The Presidents report stated that the Board was once again at full strength with the appointment of Shirley Palmer as Treasurer in December last. Registrations had reached 9847.

The **Board of Management Meeting dated 8th March 1991** advised of the meeting with the ALAU President, when he advised the meeting that he had had a meeting with Don Yourell, to again become involved in Little Athletics, by becoming Secretary/Treasurer of the ALAU. Don says that he can manage that position, because it only involves a few meeting per year. Accordingly he was appointed to that position by the Board.

[George and Don went on to complete the 2 term appointment to the ALAU and had many and beneficial discussion with Athletics Australia, to form a firm working arrangement.]

[The writer has to make the point that, the enormous effort put into this Association by many very good people, who have been involved at State level for many years, has led to a strong organisation, with enormous potential.

Many names have been listed in this paper and those that have worked hard at achieving the end result, should be congratulated, but none more so than the long term President, Mr George Harvey, who was ably assisted by many others, but none more so than his wife, Andrea Harvey.

The writer can attest to the enormous effort that those two persons contributed, far and beyond the realms of reason. To have had their home used as an office for many years and their home life disrupted, so that they could give the inordinate amount of time that was required, was truly astonishing.

The paper covers many good things that occurred, but also some very concerning matters that also occurred. All of the “not so good” matters are taken directly from the minutes and although the writer is well aware of many side events that took place, this attempt at recording the history is fully documented.

I hope that the readers are able to gleam from this paper, some clearer understanding of the earlier years, how the Association is now placed very well as a direct result of an enormous effort by many, and that they are to take away with them, the essence of why the Association was created.

Let all of us continue the good work an effort produced by many, for the good of many.]

Don Yourell

Life Member now

(and proud of it)

