



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Irene Davey, QMA President

Our 2019/20 year started well with competition happening in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast. We were going along well with preparations for the AMA National Championships which were to be held in Brisbane in April. Members were looking forward to competing at these Championships, and at the QMA Championships scheduled for Townsville in June, and the World Championships in Toronto. Distance runners had started training for the Gold Coast Marathon and other big events on the winter calendar.

Then it was as if someone hit the 'Stop' button! From local competition to World Championships, across the country and across the world everything suddenly wasn't happening.

So in a way, there is not much for me to report on.

Governance and Finances

The Treasurer's report will show our finances are in a good position. We received a grant of \$20,000 from the Gambling Fund to assist with expenses incurred in running the National Championships. This does not have to be returned if we can show we have spent it for members benefit.

The Management Committee reviewed the Regional System and found it was not really working as originally intended. This has led to a review and re-write of the QMA Constitution to allow for a different future organisational structure.

The Management committee held its last two meeting on the ZOOM platform which proved very successful.

Competition

As I noted above, the competition year started well, until everything shut down due to the pandemic. As I write this, competition is starting up again in a limited way. QA announced Road Walk, 10,000m track and Cross Country Championships, and a Brisbane cross country series. Track and Field competitions will follow in mid September, so we should be able to start planning QMA competition around that time also.

Communication

QMA employed a Web Designer to create the new QMA website, necessary because the previous one was being shut down with the termination of the AA contract with the SportsTG provider. By now, it is due for a bit of a make-over and member feedback on what they would like to see is welcome.

The Facebook page continues to attract followers and generates quite a few queries about training, competition and membership.

An E-news newsletter has been sent to members roughly each month with latest news and information.

In Conclusion

This is definitely my last year as President. I will remain on the Management Committee for one more year, but hopefully by this time next year, there will be other members prepared to take on the responsibility of managing QMA.

I would like to thank all those who have been on the Management Team this year, and also the Nationals Organising Committee, and the Brisbane and Gold Coast Regional Committees for your time, work and dedication during a difficult year. I hope all the members who competed appreciate what you have achieved for them.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Lorraine Birtwell, Secretary

I have held the position of Secretary for the past 4 years and whilst I have very much enjoyed the role, I am looking forward to handing it over to a younger, enthusiastic member.

2019-20 initially was a very busy year as I took over the Secretarial duties for the Local Organising Committee Planning Committee for the AMA Nationals in Brisbane. This was a very rewarding experience but also disappointing when the Nationals were cancelled because of COVID-19.

As Secretary, organising committee meeting venues, preparing agenda and taking the minutes is core business. During 2019/20 the Committee met approximately every 6-8 weeks on 7 occasions on Saturday mornings at the SAF QMA Clubhouse, with the last two on ZOOM hosted by Brian Key. Andrew Ford from North Queensland commenced as North Queensland delegate when Yvonne Mullins was unavailable due to work commitments. Andrew joined us on the telephone.

Dealing with inward and outward correspondence largely via email is predominantly the responsibility of the Secretary. We have continued to maintain the QMA Post Office box at Sunnybank. Relevant information is expeditiously passed on to Committee Members, and E-News Coordinator and QMA Webmaster for circulation as required. As Secretary, the E-News was sent by post to those members without email addresses. This is a continuously decreasing group although the members in this group had difficulty with joining on-line with the new database.

QMA is a member of the Volunteering Queensland organisation. Advertising positions on their database for volunteers for the Nationals was carried out by the Secretary with limited response on this occasion but could provide a venue for recruiting volunteers for future Meets and State Championships.

The Committee has worked together as a very effective team. I wish to extend my thanks to Irene Davey, Stan Perkins and Lisa Chapman for their support and cooperation in the Executive team.

TREASURER'S REPORT (See separate documents) Lisa Chapman, Treasurer

BRISBANE REGIONAL REPORT

Rod Walke, Bne Treasurer & QMA Delegate

Numbers of competitors were generally down a bit on previous years. Saturdays remain relatively strong but numbers drop off when we are forced through date availability to schedule meets for Wednesday nights. In addition, this season was cut prematurely short in March due to the impact of Covid-19.

Despite the shortened season Brisbane Region ended the financial year with an operating surplus of over \$3,000.

Operationally, the Region was impacted with introduction of a new electronic starting system, a loss of experience in the critical Meet Manager system, and a reduced number of volunteers for meets. Meets suffered substantial disruption early in the season, but became smoother as the season progressed, and issues were progressively resolved.

Adoption of the new electronic starting system was forced by the inability to purchase caps for the starting pistols, a phenomenon felt right across the country. Thankfully QMA was able to secure a grant from AMA for the purchase of the equipment, however the system did not work as expected for several weeks. The system had to have attention from the supplier multiple times before it was able to be utilised effectively for meets. Many thanks to Col Buyers for the great amount of effort put in to getting the system working.

Meet Manager operation is crucial to running smooth meets and the Region had lost some expertise in this area from previous seasons. As the new operators became familiar with the system the problems gradually dissipated, however lengthy delays in getting events started were experienced early in the season. Options for increasing the operator pool are being assessed.

Thanks need to be given to the group of regular helpers that keep the show going. In particular, Col Buyers, Marj Burley, Finn Connors, Hazel McDonnell, Hugh Coogan, Harry Giles, Stan Perkins, Linda Flynn and Tamara Paterson. Selena Finnamore who looked after the Sign-In area and Wilma Perkins and Irene Davey for programming and scheduling of venues.

GOLD COAST REGIONAL REPORT

Karen Lakin, GC Secretary

It has been an up and down season for us, the season got under way at Griffith track with good attendance.

The committee made an approach to Super Sports Centre to hold our Sunday Morning events there. Just after Xmas the region started the competition at the Sports Centre.

The centre allowed us to use the track and also the ice baths and pool were allowed to be used for the members for free after their event.

And come March Covid19 turned up which means we had to cancel all future events which also affected other events around Australia. It was sad to see Queensland lose the Australian Championships after a lot of work putting it all together.

During the season we lost 3 committee members and would like to wish them all the best in the future and thanks for your effort.

A big disappointment was the timing at each event but this coming season we are in a better position to provide top class timing as the Centre has built a new timing Box which will be ready for our first meeting on September 20th.

It was the first year for a while we never had a state championship given to us. The region will be applying for events this coming season and the complex has a great area for road and cross country events which will be on our program during the winter.

6 years ago we held a very successful state championship which was fully sponsored. On our agenda we will put together another proposal for the event.

Lastly the region will aim at increasing members and sponsorship and with us holding road runs next winter we will do this.

ANQ REGIONAL REPORT

Andrew Ford, ANQ Regional Delegate

Like all sport and recreational clubs, track and field clubs and associated activities came to a sudden standstill with COVID in late March 2020. The majority of clubs in the ANQ region had either only just begun club days or were in the process of registering athletes for the season ahead. Some clubs began planning and obtaining approvals once restricted activities were allowed to proceed. Sadly many clubs were not in a position to open at all, for varying reasons. As such nearly half of all clubs are not operating at all in 2020.

All carnivals, including the QMA Champs to be held in Townsville, scheduled from March to July were initially postponed and then cancelled. Only two carnivals are on offer, the Tablelands Pentathlon Day and the NQ Champs. The former has had a great response with early nominations numbering 100, including a throws pentathlon with a maximum of 22 throwers registered. The majority of these throwers are Masters who are coming from as far away as Gold Coast, Rockhampton and Proserpine. All masters in the region eagerly are awaiting the NQ Champs in Mackay over the long weekend in October, although there will be no throws pentathlon due to restrictions. We are very fortunate that this Championship can still run given the rapid changes in relaxations and approvals required.

A major change in registering masters in ANQ was put forward at the 2019 ANQ AGM and associated workshop. It was suggested that all masters in the ANQ region have to register with a club and be automatically then registered with QMA. This was approved with the beneficiaries being the clubs and QMA, with higher club membership and club day participation being the key factors for this decision. 2020 is clearly not the year to determine the success of this arrangement!

Much planning is already underway for the “Festival of Athletics” to be held over the traditional first weekend in June. Good numbers of masters attend this and was previously referred to as the “Student Games/All-Comers”. Although COVID will be with us it would be a fantastic achievement to run this successfully as planned.

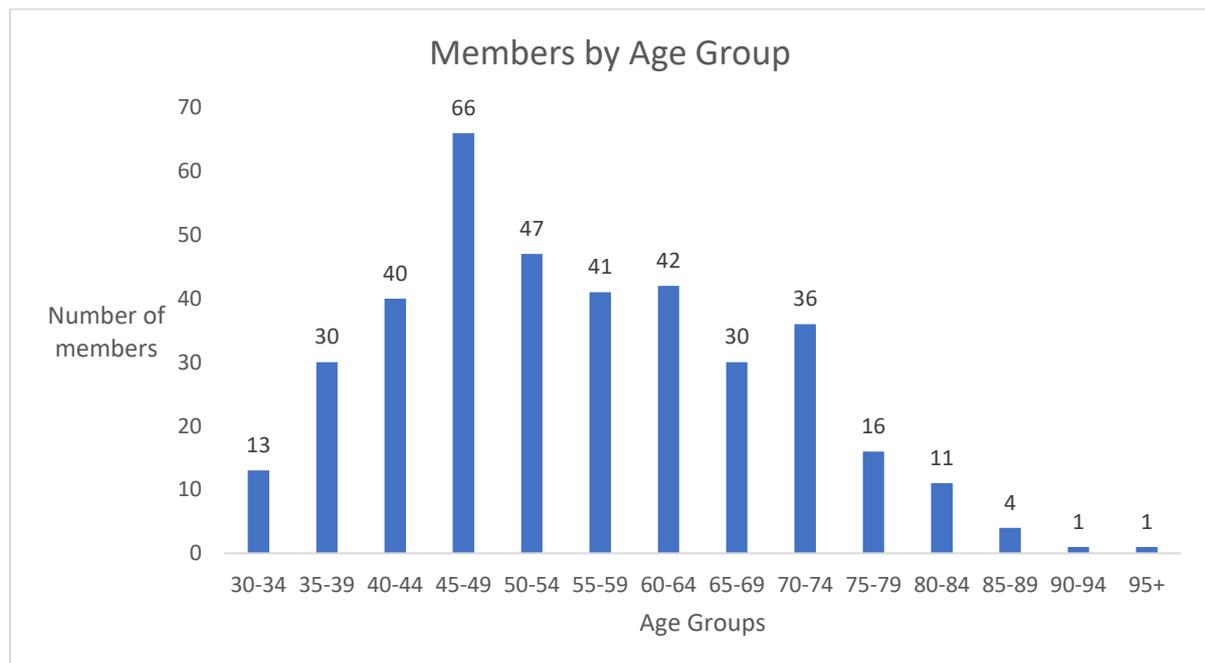
With absolutely no carnivals there are no performances to mention of note. The postponement of Oceania Masters from Norfolk Island has been a huge disappointment with many ANQ masters planned to attend, especially after the momentum of Mackay. That’s about it.....Throw far,

REGISTRAR’S REPORT

David Brain

Tired of seeing the President’s pleas for a volunteer registrar go unanswered, I decided to put my hand up for the job *subject to better offers coming in*. Fortunately, it really isn’t a difficult or time-consuming task, and I thank Irene Davey and Don Quinn for their help and guidance in getting me up to speed. The main difficulty was maintaining 2 databases at the same time – the ‘old’ Access database and the ‘new’ RevSport database. My thanks to outgoing Registrar, Rob Lasker for the handover notes that were provided, and for keeping the database in great order.

We registered 481 members in total, one of the highest in recent years, due to a rush of registrations in the leadup to the National championships which were due to be held in Brisbane. This total includes 100 from North Queensland, 249 from the Brisbane Region, 66 from the Gold Coast Region, and the remainder from the rest of the State. More males (319) were registered than females (162) – roughly a 70/30 percentage split. The graph below shows our distribution of members by age group, with the mean age of all members being 56 years. (data for southern Queensland members)



It is obvious from this graph that there is a spike in membership around the 40/45 years age group, which probably indicates a natural progression from finishing all-age athletics and entering into Masters competition, or coincides with a mid-life return to the sport after years off as a junior athlete. We seem to have solid retention of members up until the 70s age groups, but as this is my first year in the role, I have no historical records to compare to, so this season may be anomaly. I would welcome any input from more experienced members with regard to how this season's numbers compare to past seasons. It is my opinion that such input should be used to shape promotion of the sport, so that numbers can increase, or at least, remain steady. I am also more than happy to hand over the role to another member who has a desire to take it on. I entered the role with the mindset of *keeping the seat warm*, so please contact the President or Secretary if you'd like to take the role up for 2020/21. I trust everyone is keeping as fit and well as can be expected at this time.

STATISTICIAN'S REPORT

Heather Doherty, QMA Statistician

Our 2019/2020 Season was caught short with the advent of the Virus, and we finished the Track & Field Season in April. Very disappointing was the cancelling of the Australian Championships to be held in Brisbane, as it will be many years before we can hold them here again and many of our competitors have missed out on being able to compete in a National Championships Event.

Also it has led to not being able to run the Winter Season with the out of stadia events, such as Road Runs including half and Marathon, Road Walks and Cross Country Events etc. North Queensland also missed out on hosting our Queensland Championships. We will hope that there may be a few winter events before the new Season starts in October. Although with the news about the Virus, it might be a while before we can conduct any out of Stadia and/or Track & Field Meets for a while.

QMA Brisbane conducted many Track & Field Meets successfully through the Season with Wilma Perkins and Marge Allison setting many records as they entered into new Age Groups. The men also showed up well with Gary Parkinson, Lajos Joni and Don Quinn showing up in the Record Lists.

QMA Gold Coast ran some successful competitions and also, North Queensland had good Meets with some of our local members going up to compete. Members also competed well in Queensland Athletics Open Meets with Julie Brims setting new records.

The new Competition including the Super Weights commenced through the Season in QMA events and there are now many Queensland Records. These events are now recognised as Australian Events and Australian Records are listed.

We will now hope for some better news, so as to be able to have some competition starting up later. The State of Queensland is in a fairly good position with some sports being conducted and we will hope that our Athletics will also be able to open up.

**REPORT ON PLANNING FOR THE AMA TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS
2020.** *Stan Perkins, QMA Vice President and Co-Convenor*

Queensland Masters Athletics was scheduled to take its turn in the rotation between States and Territories to host the major AMA Track and Field Championships in 2020 with the event scheduled for 10-13 April. Planning for this competition was commenced by QMA in 2018 with an initial low key promotion at the AMA Championships held in Perth and was scaled up continuously throughout 2019. Toni-Lee Ferguson was appointed as the convenor and the LOC (Local Organising Committee) was established from volunteers who were either QMA members or close supporters.

The major marketing promotion was undertaken during the AMA Championships held in Melbourne in 2019, a championship that attracted the largest ever athlete entry for this competition in AMA's history. Promotional shirts were worn by QMA athletes and championship LOC members and it was obvious that there was a very keen interest from southern States in particular to travel to Brisbane in 2020. Toni-Lee Ferguson was most encouraged by the feed back she received and initiated an escalation in planning activity from that point forward.

QMA Secretary Lorraine Birtwell conducted a strong sponsorship drive and whilst some success was achieved it was her efforts with seeking grants from various government and other funding groups that eventually attracted major financial support from the Gambling Fund grant. This amount of \$20,000, whilst being awarded very late in the planning for the championships, ensured the championship would not create a major financial loss for QMA.

The competition committee of the LOC were marvellous in their scheduling and some new initiatives had been included that would have proven very successful for the athletes. In addition the format for the AMA Awards function had been changed totally to ensure that everyone attending had a greater opportunity for mingling with the other athletes and their friends. Both the LOC and AMA were keenly awaiting the reaction to the different format compared to previous years.

Along the planning pathway there were some personnel changes that occurred but all involved with the project made valuable contributions ensuring that the planning stayed on schedule and was kept focussed on meeting the established timelines in the countdown to April. One of the features of the planning was the need for continual strict management of the championship budget and Coral Walsh did an exceptional job in this area. When major financial outgoings were under consideration, the need to stay within the confines of the budget were most important and with concerns that income targets were possibly not going to be met appropriate adjustments were made.

When 2020 arrived so did the Covid19 Pandemic shortly thereafter. This proved to be a very stressful period. Planning had progressed well and the LOC were confident of presenting a top quality championship for the athletes and the supporting activities such as the AMA Awards function and major Forum meetings. Whilst uncertainly was growing every day as to whether the event would proceed, entries flowed and we had reached the stage where the budget target was exceeded and the LOC were confident of hosting the biggest ever Queensland hosting of this event. Then the virus began to spread and governments were looking at containment actions and eventually the LOC was forced to cancel the Championships.

It was a very sad day when that decision was taken to cancel the Championship, and its impact upon the LOC members and indeed Masters athletes from all over Australia and several overseas countries was immediate and a crushing way to end so many months of effort and commitment. Many options had been considered by the LOC, including deferment of the championships and AMA, with the agreement of ACT Masters Athletics the hosts for 2021, even agreeing to re-scheduling the competition to 2021 - effectively putting all future hosting arrangements back one year. Unfortunately, the LOC members were unable to gather the energy or commitment to continue for another period of time with potentially continued impacts from the Corona Virus possible.

Then the finalisation of all of the planning was necessary, with urgent efforts made to cancel some orders where work had not commenced, cancel bookings for venues etcetera, the return of entry fees to the athletes and refund of sponsorship monies where requested. Reluctantly the decision was taken to retain a small amount of each entry to cover part of the monies that had been expended in the planning. This decision was accepted graciously by the athletes with few complaints. This process is still ongoing as negotiations continue in some areas.

QMA has every right to be proud of the efforts of its team that worked so hard to do QMA and Queensland proud with the organisation and conduct of the 2020 Nationals. They were a great team.

It was a job well done by Toni-Lee and all LOC members - my personal thanks to each of them.