

WMA HISTORY

The History of Masters/Veteran Athletics (abbreviated)

Founding fathers of the masters movement:

Earliest veteran competitors were mainly road-runners.

IGAL (Interessen-Gemeinschaft Alterer Langstreckenläufer = Partnership of Older Long Distance Runners) formed in 1968. First Marathon CHs in Holland.

NZL had early runners movements, and the interests were imported to the USA, leading after 1965 to the formation of the USA Masters Track and Field Team (San Diego Attorney David Pain). International Veteran Track and Field meets followed.

I. World CHs Stadia, Toronto, CAN, Aug. 11-16-1975

LOC Canadian Masters (Don Farquharson)

1,427 Competitors 32 countries represented

Meeting formed WAVA (World Association of Veteran Athletes) Steering Committee: Jack Fitzgerald, Chair (GBR), Don Farquharson,

Sec'y and Treas. (CAN), members: David Pain (USA), Wal Sheppard (AUS), Maeve Kyle (NIR), Jacques Serruys (BEL), Robert Fine (USA), Ian Hume (CAN), Konrad Hernelind (SWE).

11. World CHs Stadia, Gothenburg, SWE, Aug. 8-13,1977

LOC Roland Jerneryd site: Slottskogsvallen Stadium

2,670 competitors 45 Countries represented

Aug. 9, 1977 WAVA officially founded; first Executive elected:

Don Farquharson, Pres. (CAN), Jacques Serruys, VP (BEL), Roland Jerneryd, Sec'y (SWE), Harm Hendricks, Treas. (NED), Hazel Rider, Worn. Rep. (GBR). Contin.Rep's: Asia-Hideo Okada (JAP), Europe-Cesare Beccalli (ITA), Oceania Wal Sheppard (AUS), No.Am.-Robert Fine (USA), So.Am.-Jose Tejeiro Santos (VEN), Africa-Danie Burger (RSA). Constitution was approved.

Bid award to West Germany for 3rd CHs, 7/1979.

III. World CHs Stadia, Hanover, GER, July 27-Aug.2, 1979

LOC DL V, K. Wilhelm Köster site: Lower Saxony Stadium

3,126 competitors 42 countries represented

Council re-elected, with the addition of Hans Axmann (GER) as co-opted officer f. track&field, while Jacques Serruys was assigned off-track events. New Worn. Rep. became Jean O'Neill (AUS).

IGAL (Pres.Arthur Lambert) organised Road Racing CHs. **Bid award** f. IV. CHs to NZL by a small margin over AUS. First time any income for WAVA: competitors' levy.

IV. World CHs Stadia, Christchurch, NZL, Jan. 7-14, 1981

LOC John Macdonald

2,400 competitors 44 countries represented

Council re-elected, with Hans Axmann becoming VP-T&F, Jacques Serruys VPRoad Racing, Roland Jerneryd was elected Exec.vp, Owen Flaherty, Sec'y (Scotland).

New Continental Rep's: So.Am.-Hermann Figueroa(CHI), Oceania-Clem Green(NZL) **Bid award** f. V. CHs went surprisingly to San Juan PUR over Greece.

V. World CHs Stadia, San Juan, PUR ,Sept 23-30, 1983

LOC

1,935 competitors 47 Countries represented

Council re-elected, changes: Alastair Lynn, Treas. (CAN), Bridget Cushen, Wom.Rep., Roland Jerneryd was elected Honorary VP for Life, Wal Sheppard (AUS) became ExecVP.

New Continental Rep: Asia-Milkha Singh (IND), replacing Hideo Okada (had died) CHs had organisational problems in the beginning; problems also included the admission of RSA athletes. High temp's and humidity caused problems.

In 1983, IAAF formed a Veteran Wing and requested WAVA to continue CHs under IAAF's guidance. Gen'l Assembly voted continued discussions (Chair-Hans Skaset)

Bid award for VI. CHs went to Italy.

VI. World CHs Stadia, Rome, ITA, June 22-30, 1985

LOC Cesare Beccalli site: 1960 Olympic Stadium + 3 others

4,330 competitors 48 Countries represented

Special events: Or. Primo Nebiolo, Pres. Of IAAF + FIDAL (ITA) was present at the opening ceremony. 4,000 competitors and their families met Pope Paolo Giovanni 11 in St. Peter Square.

Council completely re-elected, but soon thereafter, ExecVP Wal Sheppard died, this position was filled by Robert Fine (USA).

New Continental Rep (in replacement of Robert Fine): David Pain (USA).

Bid award for VII. CHs to Melbourne, AUS.

The WAVA-IAAF Veteran Committee was disbanded over disagreement of admission of South African Masters Athletic Association as affiliate. IAAF formed their own Veteran Committee (4 WAVA council members + one of US Masters became members).

VII. World CHs Stadia, Melbourne, AUS, Nov. 29 - Dec. 6, 1987

LOC Peg Smith, Ray Callaghan

4,817 competitors 52 Countries represented

New Council: Cesare Beccalli, Pres. (ITA), Peg Smith, ExecVP (AUS), Robert Fine, VP-T&F (USA), Clem Green, VP Rd & Country (NZL), Alistair Lynn, Sec'y (CAN), AI Sheahan, Treasurer (USA), Bridget Cushen, (GBR) continued as Wom.Rep., Don Farquharson (CAN) became the first Past President (held this office until 1993.) Continental Rep's: Asia-Hariomataram, Africa- none, Europe-Hans Axmann GER, NO.Ameria-David Pain (USA), So.America-Juan Kulzer, Oceania-Jim Blair NZL. IGAL announced to join WAVA in Seoul, KOR, Oct. 1988.

Bid award for VIII. CHs to Eugene, Oregon, USA.

VIII. World CHs Stadia, Eugene, Oregon, USA, July 27 - Aug. 6, 1989

LOC Tom Jordan, Barbara Kousky site: Hayward Field

4,754 competitors 57 countries represented

Some new council members: Robert Fine (USA) ExecVP, Jacques Serruys (BEL) VP-NonStadia, Bill Taylor (GBR) VP-Stadia, all others re-elected.

Continental Rep's: Asia-Hari Chandra (SIN), Europe-Hans Axmann (GER), No. & Central America-David Pain (USA), SO.America-Jose Figueras (URU), Oceania - Jim Blair (NZL).

Special mention: IAAF Veteran Committee chair Hans Skaset applauded the meet. 1st Russian athletes to compete. More spectators than in the past.

Council disagreement over IAAF's future role: WAVA co-operation or autonomy.

Decision: Non-Stadia events bi-annually in even-numbered years, starting 1992.

Bid award for IX. CHs to Turku, FIN over Mulhouse, FRA.

IX. World CHs Stadia, Turku, FIN, July 18-28,1991

LOC Sten-Olof Hansen

4,802 competitors 56 Countries represented

New council members: Torsten Carlius (SWE) Sec'y. Most other positions were contested (some closely), incumbants won.

Continental Rep's.: new addition: Africa, Pascal Mouassissopo Mackonguy (CON), No.&Centr.America-Rex Harvey (USA).

Special mention: IAAF concerned over WAVA council discord on IAAF future involvement. Important Gen.Ass'y decisions: IAAF Rep on WAVA council; limit Past President's tenure to one two-yr term; drug-testing in future CHs.

Clem Green and Alastair Lynn elected Honorary Life VP's.

Bid award for X. CHs to Miyazaki, JPN. Plans for award of XI. CHs in Singapore were withdrawn.

Non-Stadia CHs, Birmingham, GBR, Aug. 29-30, 1992

2,483 athletes (mostly GBR), 22 countries. Event was financial loss (no sponsors)

X. World CHs Stadia, Miyazaki, JPN, Oct. 7-17, 1993

LOC Mikio Oda site: 3 tracks, close to Ocean

approx. 11,475 competitors 71 Countries represented

Council members: all re-elected. New Wom. Rep: Hannelore Guschmann (BEL) Continental Rep's: one change: So.America-Jorge Alzamora.

Important Assembly decisions: Standing Committees formed for: Organising, Advisory, Law & Legislation, Doping Control. Proposal to determine age groups by year of birth rather than birthdate was soundly defeated.

Bid awards hotly contested: for XI. CHs. Buffalo (USA) won over Malmo (SWE) and Durban (RSA). The bid award for the XII. Chs, 1997, was won by Durban (RSA) over Malmo (SWE), Kuala Lumpur (MAL) and Concepcion (CHI).

Bid awards for Non-Stadia: unopposed for 1994 Scarborough (CAN), and 1996 for Brugges (BEL).

Non-Stadia CHs, Scarborough, CAN, July 30-31,1994

515 competitors, 27 countries represented

XI. World CHs Stadia, Buffalo, USA, July 13-23,1995

LOC Vito J. Borrello, Neal Fatin, Robert Greene site: 2 stadiums at U.of Buffalo

5,335 competitors 81 Countries represented

New council members elected: Tom Jordan, ExecVP (USA), Jim Blair, VP-Stadia (NZL), others were re-elected.

NewContinental Rep's: Africa-Hannes Booyesen (RSA), Europe-WilhelmKoster,GER Oceania- TBD (Stan Perkins was later appointed)

Special mention: Difficult temp. Conditions (hot).

Bid awards for 1999 Stadia CHs to Gateshead, GBR over Kuala Lumpur, MAS and Victoria, CAN. Non-Stadia CHs 1998 awarded to Japan.

Non-Stadia CHs, Brugge BEL, 1996

3,321 competitors 42 countries represented

XII. World CHs Stadia, Durban, RSA, July 17-27, 1997

LOC site: 2 stadiums

5,735 competitors 69 countries represented

Special mention: Early problems regarding officiating were overcome.

New council members: Torsten Carlius, Pres. (SWE), Ron Bell, VP-Non-Stadia (GBR), Guiseppa Galfetti, Treasurer (SUI), Monty Hacker, Sec'y (RSA), and Wom. Rep. Bridget Cushen (GBR), others were re-elected. Cesare Beccalli became Past President (one two year term).

Assembly decisions: change council members term in office from two to four years, limited to two consecutive terms.

Bid award for Stadia CHs 2001: Brisbane, AUS.

Non-Stadia CHs, Kobe JPN, 1998

16,993 competitors 16 countries represented (2 % foreign entries)

XIII. World CHs Stadia, Gateshead, GBR, July 29 - August 8, 1999

LOC Mike Newton site: Gateshead International Stadium

5,843 competitors 74 Countries represented

No change in council members (not an election year).

Assembly decisions: Honorary memberships and awards newly defined and new awards were bestowed. Extension of Non-Stadia program (XC, Road Relays). Relations with IMA reviewed; recommended: proceed with caution.

Gen.Ass'y conducted with simultaneous translation: English, Spanish, French, German, Italian.

Bid awards for 2003 CHs: Kuala Lumpur, MAL (4th time bidder) won over Cesenatico, ITA and Caguas, PUR.

Non-Stadia CHs, Valladolid, ESP, 2000

Non-Stadia CHs 2002: award to San Isidoro, ARG over Upipe, CZE.

XIV. World CHs Stadia, Brisbane, AUS, July 1-14, 2001

LOC David Lloyd, Kerry Watson, Jacey Octigan, Allan Bell

4,903 competitors 80 countries represented site: ANZ-Stadium

Council changes: VP-Stadia-RexHarvey (USA) won over incumbent JimBlair (NZL), Wom. Rep. was contested and won by Marina Hoernecke-Gil, ESP, over 3 others. 2003 award to Kuala Lumpur, MAL, had to be rescinded because of the LOC's incapability to carry out its duties. Re-awarded to runner-up Puerto Rico.

Assembly: numerous honorary pins were awarded to former office holders. Name change from WAVA to WMA (World Masters Athletics) approved. Changes to Committees (Stadia, Non-Stadia, Medical & Doping, Women's. Acceptance of IAAF anti-doping procedures and discussions with WADA (World Anti Doping Agency). Agreement to sanction 100K Ultra-Running events, odd-numbered years. Wearing of nationally approved singlets/vests approved.

Bid awards: Stadia 2005 to San Sebastian, ESP, over Helsinki, FIN, and Sacramento, Calif., USA. Non-Stadia 2004 for Auckland NZL was confirmed.

Non-Stadia CHs, Riccione ITA, May 24-26, 2002

2,230 competitors

XV. World CHs Stadia, Carolina, PUR, July 1 -13, 2003

LOC William Aleman site: 3 stadiums (R.Clemente, SixtoEscobar, Uni)

2,700 competitors 79 Countries represented

Assembly decisions: Motion defeated to have council decide CHs sites. Also defeated to drop term limits for officers. Discipline and Law+Legislation C'tees were joined. Posting of condensed council meeting minutes and quarterly financial statements on the website were approved. Assembly defeated a motion to have General Assembly set sanction fees. Reduction of starting age for Men at 35 was approved. Council was urged to address IMGGA issue with urgency.

Approved inaugural 2004 Indoor CHs in Sindelfingen, GER, and authorized award of 2006 Indoor CHs at a Special Assembly at Sindelfingen in 2004. During 2002, IMGGA elected to change their games date to 2005, clashing with WMA CHs years. This was considered unacceptable and withholding of sanction of their event was debated. Special mention: low number of participants due to political uncertainties (post 9/11 fears) and climate. Well organised CHs; special mention of medical team (Dr. Dwight Santiago). Bus convoys by motor-cycle police. V VP-Stadia (RexHarvey) recommendations for adoption of computer program were followed.

Next CHs: Stadia 2007 in Riccione, ITA.

1st Indoor World CHs, Sindelfingen, GER, March 10-14, 2004

2,638 competitors 58 countries represented

Site: Glass-Palace, Sindelfingen

LOC German Regional Federation a.o.

Non-Stadia CHs, Manukau/Auckland/Rotorua, NZL, 2004

April 18-24

Manukau/Auckland

May 1

Rotorua (Marathon)

735 competitors 22 countries (medals awarded)

The event was well organized, but suffered a substantial financial loss due to low attendance.

XVI. World CHs Stadia, San Sebastian, ESP, Aug. 22 - Sep 3, 2005

LOC site: Main Stadium and adjacent track

6,030 competitors 91 countries represented

Assembly decisions: Elections: President Cesare Beccalli ITA won over Stan Perkins AUS. Exec.vP-Monty Hacker RSA won over Ron Bell GB, Vadirn Marshev RUS, and WinstonThornas GB. VP-S - Rex Harvey USA re-elected over Jean-Pierre Clarnaran Danzelle FRA; VP N-Stadia: Brian Keaveney CAN unopposed; Secretary: Torsten Carlus SWE over Brian Oxley CAN; Treas.:

Friedel Schunk GER unopposed; Wom.Rep.: Marina Hoernecke-Gil unopposed.

Bid award: Stadia 2009 to Lahti FIN over Aarhus DEN.

2nd Indoor World CHs, Linz, AUT, March 15-20, 2006

3,229 competitors 62 countries represented

Site: Indoor Arena, Linz

LOC Percy Hirsch, for WMA: Wilhelm Koester, Brian Keaveney

XVII. World CHs Stadia, Riccione ITA, Sep. 4-15, 2007

LOC Lamberto Vacchi, Luca Verrascina

3 sites: Riccione, Misano Adriatico, San Giovanni in Marignano

8,946 competitors 97 countries represented

Assembly decisions: Secretary Winston Thomas confirmed, who had replaced Torsten Carlus, who had died 11-2005. GA. ended prematurely with some business left unfinished.

Bid award: Stadia 2011 to Sacramento CA, USA over Porto Alegre BRA.

3rd Indoor World CHs, Clermont-Ferrand, FRA, March 17-22, 2008

3,670 competitors 65 countries represented

Site: Indoor Hall at Stadium Jean-Pellez, Aubiere, Clermont-Ferrand

LOC Annie Laurent, Jean Gracia

XVIII. World CHs Stadia, Lahti FIN, July 28 – Aug. 8, 2009

LOC General Secretary, Virpi Hurri.

Competition Hannu Nurminen, Pekka Mäki-Reinikka.

Site: Lahti Sport Centre. Radiomäki Stadium

4948 competitors 96 countries represented

Assembly decisions: Elections: president Stanley Perkins, AUS won over Rex Harvey, USA. Exec VP, Vesa Lappalainen, FIN won over Friedel Schunl, GER. VP Stadia. Serge Beckers, BEL won over Sandy Pashkin, USA. VP Non Stadia Brian Keaveney, CAN, Secretary Winston Thomas, GBR elected unopposed. Treasurer. Francesco de Feo ITA elected following the withdrawal of other candidate. Womens Representative, Selme Turkkal, TUR won over Marilyn Mitchell USA, and Lynne Schickert AUS. **Bid Awards:** WMA 2012 Indoor Championship awarded to Jyväskylä, FIN. WMA 2013 Stadia Championships awarded to Porto Alegre, BRA

4th Indoor World CHs, Kamloops (CAN), March 2-7, 2010

1,384 competitors 62 countries represented

Site: Tournament Capitol Centre, Thompson River University.

LOC Judy Armstrong. Bob Cowan

XIX. World CHs Stadia, Sacramento, CA (USA), July 06 – July 17, 2011

LOC John McCasey

Sites: Sacramento State University, AG Spanos Sports Complex . American River College Beaver Stadium and Non-Stadia. American River Parkway, Granite Regional Park, William Land Park

4761 Competitors from 93 Countries

Assembly decisions: motion to accept IAAF Members in Countries without a Masters movements as affiliated to WMA is passed. Motion to change the Stadia championships to even years and the Indoors to odd years is passed starting 2016.

Bid Awards: 2014 Indoor Championships awarded to Budapest, Hungary. 2015 Stadia championships awarded to Lyon, France, and 2016 Stadia championships awarded to Perth, Australia.