

President Report to July 26, 2016 Board Meeting of Athletics Manitoba

Since our May Board meeting and June AGM, I have attended various Branch and AGM meetings in Edmonton, held during the Canadian junior and senior championships and Rio trials. The meetings were well-attended (every province but Newfoundland) and supported by the AC board. Many interesting issues were addressed, including:

1. membership principles and structures, with BC showing the rest of us how they manage memberships with young members and with road runners;
2. selection issues for national teams (obviously a timely topic in early July on the eve of the announcement of the national team) and in particular, the accountability of the national coach for selection decisions, the role of the commissioner (who was in attendance at the selection deliberations) and recourse when different preparedness standards are applied to different athletes in the same event;
3. timing of Branch meetings;
4. selection of sites for national championships and whether junior and senior championships should be held together and how we provide opportunities for smaller venues to host national events;
5. whether hosting criteria are requirements or aspirational;
6. the deficit in the AC financial report; and
7. various other topics.

The championships were presented in a very professional format, and should inspire us to have a similar quality when hosting Canada Summer Games and similar events. Manitoba athletes excelled, with at least 4 gold medals and many silver medals. Complete details are on the AM website, but I believe that Luxon Glor's gold medal in the junior men's triple jump may have been overlooked. Canada has a strong team going both to Rio and to Poland, and Manitoba is making a solid contribution to both. Erin Teschuk's win in the steeplechase was particularly dramatic and exciting. Victoria Tachinski and Emma Kusch Dahle both won convincingly in their events (800m and 5000m junior, respectively).

Manitoba also had 50 athletes and many coaches and supporters in attendance, exceeding past championships by a wide margin. This is our golden age of track. There is real excitement for upcoming world championships. I also heard Jane Edstrom interviewed on CBC radio on July 18 and she seemed very excited to be one of the officials to serve in the track events at the Rio Olympics. Way to go, Jane!!

I have very much enjoyed serving as your branch president and as chair of the nominating and governance committee of Athletics Canada. If our executive elections

at the upcoming board meeting yield a new president, I thank you now for the (unexpected) opportunity to serve in this role, and thank my executive team and Donna for their terrific support in making my job much easier.

See you on the 26th.

Grant