



Eastern Province Athletics

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Minutes of the Quadrennial General Meeting of Eastern Province Athletics held at 10h00 at the Westbourne Oval on Saturday 23 October 2021

1. Welcome

Mr Heynes, appointed interim administrator, introduced himself to the delegates present and introduced the ASA President, Mr James Moloi, who welcomed the clubs and the ASA staff members.

2. Attendance register and apologies

Attendance:

ASA: Mr James Moloi (ASA President), Ms N Gwadiso (ASA Board), Mr T Magogodela (Acting CEO), Ms D Jejane (ASA Administrator), Ms A Mofokeng (ASA Administration), Mr E Heynes (Administrator)

Associate Members: Mr J Jobo (USSA)

Committees: Ms E Hawkins (Technical Officials)

Clubs: Mr J Mandell (32GI), Mr M Wallis (Achilles), Ms H Newing & Ms J Forson (Aspen), Ms Anthea Fortuin (Atlantic Aces), Ms A Prideux (Bluewater Bay), Mr M Huppelschoten (Body Concept), Mr D Goliath (Cambdeboo AC), Ms D Darlow (Charlo AC), Mr S Roberts (Crusaders), Mr E Donley (Despatch AC), Mr E Whittal (Elite AC), Mr G Kariem (Gelvan AC), Ms J Kahn (Heat AC), Mr M Mbambani (Ikhamva AC), Ms L Crause (Infinity), Mr S Meyer (Jeffreys Bay AC), Ms M Robb (Kowie Striders), Mr A Coetzer (Madiba Bay Warriors), Ms S Pupa (Madibaz), Mr Z Lombard (Malabar AC), Ms M du Toit (Muirite Striders), Mr J van Eeden (Nedbank RC), Mr A Searle (NMBM AC), Ms V Ashley (Profiles AC), Mr E Gallant (Rhodes University), Mr R Barnard (Run 4 Christ AC), Mr J Appels (St Albans AC), Mr C Bruintjies (VWAC), Mr M Mqoqi (Vukani AC), Ms M Jenkerson (Walmer AC). Mr M Ndlumbini (Motherwell AC), Mr E van Wyk (X-Cel AC).

Other: Ms I van Eeden (Nedbank RC), Ms G Laycock (Nedbank RC), Mr S Thabethe (Sibaleka Nani AC), Mr D Zibi (Achilles), Mr N Grobler (Muirite Striders), Ms S Piron (Charlo AC), Mr M Draai (32GI), Mr S Stiglingh (Kowie Striders), Niel Loock (Nedbank), Attie Williams (Run 4 Christ AC).

Apologies: Mr Johan van Greunen (Masters), Mr Michael Dekker (SAPS), Mr Zolani Mqoqi (Vukani), Mr K Benade (PEAAC), Mr J Langley (Run 4 Christ AC), Somerset East AC

Absent without apology: ACT AC, Aventists AC, Albany Road Runners, Big House AC, Bo-Karoo AC, Coega AC, Cradock AC, Dept Public Works Ac, Graaff-Reinet RC, Hollywood Bets, Ingomso AC, Sandf EP AC, Spar AC, St Francis AC, Tinarha AC, Transnet Engineer, Transnet Port AC, Velo Vikings, Youth for Change.

3. Reading of the notice of the meeting

Mr Pienaar read the notice of the meeting. It was confirmed that all the delegates received the notice.

4. Presentation of credentials and establishment of a quorum

Mr Pienaar read out the names of the delegates as per the credentials submitted. Camdeboo AC and Walmer AC did not submit credentials on a club letterhead and was requested to complete the EPA Credential form. Mr Donley attended on behalf of Despatch AC. Mr Heynes requested that he sign the Credential form submitted by the club.

It was explained that the credentials read out and confirmed were only for those clubs with voting rights, as determined at the AGM based on attendance at meetings the prior year. Mr Heynes clarified the issue of clubs in good standing and eligibility to vote at EPA meetings, as per the EPA Constitution. Mr Heynes stated that the new Board should have a look at the constitution and make amendments. All sporting codes should continuously make amendments. He stated that it is important that the athletics family of Eastern Province is one, and that assistance is given to those clubs that are not currently eligible. The communication via the whatsapp group should continue. Clubs only need to attend one meeting per year.

Mr Heynes confirmed that the voting strength has been established. He explained the procedure to be followed. A pack of ballot papers will be handed out to the eligible clubs. There are only 7 contestations. The rest of the portfolios only received one nomination, and are therefore automatically elected. Mr Heynes stated that he will be acting as the returning officer, in other words he will act to return the EPA Board in place. There will be two ASA scrutineers, namely Ms Jejane and Mr Magogodela, who will be responsible to count the votes. One position at a time will be voted for and counted. After each portfolio has been announced, the newly elected officials will be asked to take a seat at the table in the front.

He requested that the delegates complete one ballot at a time. An ASA staff member will collect the Ballot papers row by row.

He requested whether all the delegates are satisfied with the process and that it is clear to all.

He requested Ms Piet to hand out the Ballot papers to the eligible clubs.

Mr Marvin Draai requested clarity that Mr Magogodela and Ms Jejane would act as scrutineers, which Mr Heynes confirmed. He stated that as one of the nominees, he does not trust Mr Magogodela and requested whether a member of another club, who is not voting, can assist with the counting. Mr Heynes stated that allegations need to be substantiated before the time. Mr Heynes again clarified that once the votes are deposited into the box, the votes will be counted by three people individually. All three of them must reach the same number of votes. Therefore there can not be a mistake. Secondly, the ballot papers are all stamped by a Commissioner of Oaths, and are therefore the record of this election. The ballot papers are open for scrutiny by any member of EPA at any point in time. Mr Heynes assured that the process would be open, honest and fair.

Mr Mbambani stated that it is a norm that those that are nominated, can stand at the table and observe the counting, which was confirmed.

Mr Heynes confirmed that there are 33 eligible votes, 27 eligible voters are present. 18 votes are required for a quorum.

He further clarified spoiled papers, which means crossing the lines. Democratically each member has a choice not to vote and can spoil the ballot by crossing a line across it. A cross or a tick is acceptable, as long as it is clear.

Mr Mbambani stated that he is of the opinion that Mr Draai was offence by stating that he does not trust the ASA Delegate. Mr Heynes stated that although he acknowledge that it is not proper to make such allegations at this platform, he would not entertain further discussions in this regard.

Mr Heynes requested that delegates use their own pens. Pens were handed to delegates that did not have their own. Sanitizer was also available.

5. Election of office bearers

5.1 EPA President

Nominations were received for Mr Marvin Draai and Mr Sticks Stiglingh. At this point, Motherwell Athletics club arrived. Mr Heynes requested that the meeting allow Mr Ndlumbini to receive his ballot paper and vote, which was agreed. The voting strength therefore increased to 28.

Mr Thabethe at this point requested clarity on why the outgoing Board members do not have a vote. After a short discussion, Mr Heynes confirmed that the first session of the QGM was declared invalid by consensus by the ASA President and the elected Board. Therefore a new election had to be held. The entire process was explained to the EPA Members via email shortly after the Board was disbanded and upon the appointment of the Administrator via correspondence to all clubs. The new voting strength therefore had to be established at this meeting, to which nobody objected. Mr Thabethe thanked Mr Heynes for the clarity.

The scrutineers commenced with the counting. Mr Heynes stated that only the nominees for this position were welcome to observe the counting process.

The results were handed to the returning officer. Mr Heynes advised that he will not be announcing the number of votes, but he will only announce the elected delegate. He confirmed that all the documents of these elections will be available for scrutiny by any member of EPA.

The newly elected Chairperson is Mr Stiglingh.

Mr Heynes advised that Mr Draai has requested to be excused from the meeting in order to attend a radio interview.

5.2 EPA Vice President

Nominations were received for Mr Sticks Stighlingh and Mr Jonathan Mandell. As Mr Stighlingh was voted in as President, there is no contestation for the position.

Therefore, Mr Mandell is automatically elected as Vice President.

5.3 EPA Finance Officer

Ms I van Eeden was elected as Finance Officer unopposed. Ms Heynes complimented Ms van Eeden on the support and guidance given to the office.

5.4 EPA Track & Field Chairperson

Mr Riaan Barnard was elected as Track & Field Chairperson unopposed.

5.5 EPA Track & Field Vice-Chairperson

Mr Gilroy Domingo was elected as Track & Field Vice Chairperson unopposed.

5.6 EPA Cross Country Chairperson

Nominations were received for Mr Attie Williams and Mr Jeuques Langley. Mr Heynes confirmed that he has received written confirmation from Mr Langley, withdrawing his nomination. Mr Attie Williams is therefore automatically elected as Cross Country Chairperson.

5.7 EPA Cross Country Vice-Chairperson

Mr Jeuques Langley was elected as Cross Country Vice-Chairperson unopposed.

5.8 EPA Road Running Chairperson

Nominations were received for Ms Genevieve Laycock and Mr Niel Grobler. Mr Grobler withdrew his nomination. Ms Laycock is therefore automatically elected as Road Running Chairperson

5.9 EPA Road Running Vice Chairperson

Nominations were received for Mr Niel Grobler and Mr Zolani Mqoqi. Ballot papers were submitted and counted. Mr Heynes confirmed a tie and explained that according to the constitution, the President has the casting vote. Ballot papers will be reissued and should there be another deadlock, then the President will have the casting vote. Ballot papers were re-issued, collected and counted. Mr Heynes confirmed that the second ballot was also a tie. It was unanimously agreed that the newly elected President, Mr Stiglingh, cast the deciding vote. He also added that the Board has the right to co-opt people onto the Board as they deem fit. They are able to exercise this right post the elections. Mr Heynes stated that it seemed there are two candidates of equal quality standing for this position, and Mr Heynes requested that the Board consider utilizing the services of Mr Grobler and co-opt him in another position on the Board.

Mr Zolani Mqoqi was elected as the Road running Vice Chairperson.

5.10 EPA Committee Board representative

Mr Heynes confirmed that Ms Esteleen Hawkins is the Board representative for the Technical Officials. Mr Heynes thanked Ms Hawkins for the assistance given to the Disabled athletics at the event the the previous weekend.

5.11 EPA Associate member representative

Mr Heynes confirmed that Mr James Jobo is the Board representative for USSA.

5.12 EPA Track & Field Commission Additional members

The four candidates nominated are elected unopposed. They are Ms Marinda Cronje, Ms Siphokazi Nojoko, Ms Jessi Khan, Mr Siviwe Pupa.

5.13 EPA Cross Country Additional members

Mr Neil Loock, Mr Leonardo de Villiers, Mr Charlie Barman, Mr Mpumelelo Ndlumbini, Mr Cyril Plaatjies and Ms Petro Kriedeman were nominated. Four delegates are required from the six nominations. After voting for the delegates, the newly elected Cross Country additional members are Mr Neil Loock, Mr Leonardo de Villiers, Ms Petro Kriedeman and Mr Charlie Barman.

5.14 EPA Road Running Commission Additional members

Mr Godfrey Jacobs, Mr Mbulelo Kitas, Mr Desmond Zibi, Ms Susan Piron, Mr Themba Gxabeka and Ms Jo-Ann Forson was nominated. Mr Zolani Mqoqi was elected as Vice Chairperson and is therefore removed as a nominee.

Mr Heynes advised that there is a tie in the votes. He advised that there will not be a revote, but that after consulting with the President, the tied positions for fourth and fifth will be co-opted onto the Committee. Ms Forson queried whether Mr Grobler who previously tied for Vice Chairperson, would not automatically form the 4th member. Mr Heynes advised that that is a different matter. The additional members for Road Running would be five members. The newly elected Road running Commission Additional members are Mr Desmond Zibi, , Ms Susan Piron, Ms Jo-Ann Forson, Mr Themba Gxabeka and Mr Godfrey Jacobs.

6. Closure

Mr Heynes informed the delegates that the second part of the meeting was for special awards. The constitution has a section about service awards etc. These are separate special awards. Mr James Moloi and the new EPA President will hand over the awards.

Mr Heynes read the CV for Ms Irene van Eeden, followed by the presentation of an Award for Service.

Mr Heynes read the CV for Mr Selby Thabethe, who served EP Athletics as President for the past seven years, followed by the presentation of the award.

The final award was presented posthumously for the lifelong service to the late Mr Godfrey Goliath. Mr Heynes read his CV. His wife Lucelle received the award on behalf of the family, and received a standing ovation from the delegates at the meeting.

Mr Heynes informed the meeting that there are refreshments for the delegates to collect on their way out.

He requested the newly elected President, Mr Stighling to say a few words.

Mr Stighling thanked all the delegates for being prepared to be present at the meeting and to cast votes as part of Democracy. He thanked everyone that have put their names forward to serve on either the Commission or Board. At the end of the day, if we do not have people that put up their hands, there wont be Commissions or Boards. He thanked Mr Draai and the clubs that supported him and stated that we are one, and we are here for the sport. Going forward, the Board will move forward as a team.

Mr Stighling thanked the ASA President and the staff for their attendance and support to EPA in this process, and pledged EPA support of ASA going forward. He stated that it is important to ensure that all processes are fair, and that once people are elected, the support of the clubs and ASA is crucial.

Mr Stighling requested the members to consider the following questions and submit answers to EPA within the next 14 days to assist the EPA Board with planning to ensure that everyone strives towards the same objectives. The questions are:

- a) What did we do wrong as EPA in the past
- b) What did we do correctly as EPA in the past
- c) What can we do to improve in the future
- d) What can you as individual or club do to Develop the sport further.

He requested that the delegates consider the last question seriously and clarified that Development has many aspects and is not only about athletes in rural areas, but also club structures and how clubs function and whether each club has officials, referees, route mearurers etc. Do you have people in your club that can take over from the Chairperson? What can be done to improve your area and environment.

He thanked everyone for the support and advised that the clubs and athletes are welcome to communicate with the Board members at events.

Mr Heynes thanked Mr Stighlingh for his report and requested that the office submit the questions to the clubs for their response within the time frame given.

He called on Mr Moloi, ASA President to say a few words.

Mr Moloi thanked EPA for following the process and for finalizing the Elections freely and fairly. He stated that suspending the Province for not being open to follow the process would have been detrimental to the sport. He advised that ASA is satisfied with the results and process followed and recognizes the new EPA Board and pledge their support to EPA.

He advised that there will be six world championships in 2022 and hoped to have more EPA athletes selected to represent ASA. He congratulated Melikhaya Frans for qualifying for the 2022 World championships and Commonwealth Games. He also congratulated Mr Mbambani as Coach for the performance. The World u/20 Junior Championships will be in Columbia next year, Senior Championships in America. Mr Moloi further advised that negotiations are under way for EPA to host the World 50km Championships in May 2023 and look forward to working with the new Board. This is a big opportunity for the City and will boost tourism.

He thanked the staff members, as well as Ms Ntatu Gwadiso (Board Member) for their presence and support.

He thanked Mr Heynes for his leadership during this process and looked forward to receiving his report. He requested the EPA President to attend the ASA Council meeting.

He thanked EPA for their positive attitude and requested that if any problems are encountered, delegates should talk to each other to resolve matters, work together and build the Province to be one of the strongest Province in SA.

Mr Heynes closed the meeting and reminded to Board members to meet in the Boardroom for photos.

The meeting closed at 11h55.