

SANTIAGO, 23 JANUARY 1998



FUNDADA EL  
15 DE DICIEMBRE DE 1979  
AFILIADA A LA  
WAVA  
ASOCIACION MUNDIAL  
DE ATLETAS VETERANOS

P.O. BOX 685  
Santiago- CHILE

F A X  
56-2-621-1417

MR.

AL SHEAHEN

VAN NUYS CA.

U.S.A F A X 1-818-981-1997

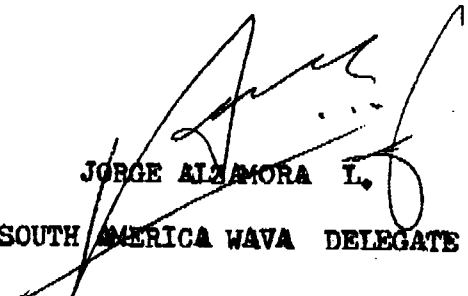
Dear friend, I have received your Treasurer report for 1996 and 1997.  
In the name of my Association and in my own, I want to give you my  
warmest congratulations for a well done job during so many years.

This last report is very complete and is very easy for us to find any  
kind of information we need.

Please tell the National Masters News that my FAX NUMBER is 56-2-621-1417,  
the number that appear in the Magazine, 56-2-696-5006 is obsolete.

Dear friend I hope to see you in Gateshead in 1999.

Receive my best regards.

  
JORGE ALZAMORA L.  
SOUTH AMERICA WAVA DELEGATE

## PAISES AFILIADOS:

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## CIRCULO ROSARINO DE ATLETAS VETERANOS

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Confederación Atletas Veteranos República Argentina

Rosario, December 03 de 1997.-

National Master News

Mr Al Sheahan

Van Nuys CA 91404

P.O.Box 2372.

Dear Sir

It is a pleasure to apply to you upon Wava, for the first time I experimented an international alternative, as the General Assembly that took place in Durban.

This was good to know the present authorities and also to exchange ideas with the delegates of countries, that will serve in the future.

It is my desire to continue in the diligence, to be able that Argentine will consolidate the great changes produced in my country and also in sports.

I also had the occasion to meet you personally and speak about veteran athletics and the needs that South America make a infrastructure, implements and in this way can do this activity in the actual conditions.

South America support your candidacy for president, we didn't make it and either the treasury with Mr Figueras and Mr Green, but we shall go on working, for in the future we can lograte it.

It has been a pleasure to speak with you and hoping to be in contact at the present time, that is why I offer you all that is relacionated, with my country and South America to think from now on in the next elections.- And -- every good wish for the coming year.-

your faithfully

Luis A. Gramaccioni

Díaz Velez 192

2000 - Rosario

República Argentina

T.E Private 0054-041-388062

T.E.Fax -01/07 pm hours Argent.0054-041-201313

**HANNES BOOYSEN**  
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# AFRICA VETERANS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Affiliated with: WORLD ASSOCIATION OF VETERAN ATHLETES

President  
HANNES BOOYSEN  
P.O. BOX 5180  
1403 DELMENVILLE RSA  
Tel. & Fax. (011)827-7590

Secretary General  
MONTY HACKER  
P.O. BOX. 2377  
HOUGHTON 2041  
Tel. (011)4833313  
Fax (011)4833392

1997 09 22

Dear Al,

I still feel bad about the Durban episode - in many respects.

First that you were defeated - and more so that you are not on the Council any more! However, the situation in respect of voting rights is unbalanced and not in the interest of the future of our sport. I hope that this aspect will be looked at, seriously. Secondly, the Games, seen in perspective, were not an advertisement for South Africa, albeit it meant so much for us to have had the honour of staging the first Games on SA - and on the Continent of Africa. However, I now believe that the Games ~~ran~~ ran into a financial deficit of ~~£4m~~ £4m and that the Durban Council refuses to make the shortfall good in any way. You will recall that ~~the~~ the Durban City Council let us down previously - that I, at that time negotiated with Johannesburg, got the green light and that Peccalli came around, ignored the green light of Johannesburg - and reopened the circus with the Naidu of Durban. Please, do not write about the present situation - I have merely conveyed the news to you and to point out the course of events brought about by our friend Peccalli. The position could have been totally different - also if our National Governing body, the A.S.A. did not elect to get rid of Hannes Booysen as a member of the organising Committee. In fact, this is the pto.

only part the ASA has played in the total spectrum of organising the Games - Not even one of the hierarchy of the ASA did attend the Games, or even contributed to the organising of the Games. Yet the ASA rules Supreme, prescribe what veterans should do wait for money to come their way but make no contribution to the development of the sport of veteran athletics.

Alas, this appears to be the situation in the rest of Africa. The national governing bodies have no interest in veterans but are "governing" by virtue of the status assigned to them as affiliates of the IAAF.

I still think that WAVA could have been better off without the IAAF if the leadership were there to manage the sport as a business - the qualities you possess and to which you have subscribed in your presentation at the General Assembly in Durban.

Well, my friend, perhaps I have said too much -

I sincerely hope that you will persist - that we can still depend on your contributions. And looking forward to seeing you again.

Sincere regards  
James

Fax: 21-244359  
Phone: 21-244200

10 Bennington Road  
Tamboers Kloof  
Cape Town 8001, South Africa  
30 August 1997

Dear Al,

The World Championships that took place in Durban during July were quite an embarrassment, frustration and disappointment to myself as I have been to a number of other W.C. and knew what to expect. The T&F section is very complicated with all the age groups, M&W and so many events and the dozens and dozens of heats or prelims as they are called in America and it was here that numerous problems arose.

However the road walks, cross country and marathon were generally very successful events and athletes who only took part in these events did not have too many complaints.

A few of the more blatant short-comings were the following; 1) the declaration/registration area was too confined and disorganised 2) in the beginning many track events were delayed for hours due to *computer problems* - this resulted in athletes warming up and then cooling down long before they were due to compete, and then trying to warm up again, probably inadequately and possibly becoming demotivated 3) at one field event no apparatus was available and had to be borrowed from an athlete; then the tape measure was a short one instead of a long one; the circles were also the wrong size and had to be changed 4) some of the officials were not aware of the correct rules for certain events 5) the information booklets for athletes were only in English but it had been agreed that they would also be produced in German, Spanish and French 6) many results of events did not appear on the noticeboards 7) athletes had to wait incredibly long to obtain their own copies of the results - the room was too small and there were too few helpers 8) the medal presentation area was changed a few times and finally landed up behind an ugly security fence, etc, etc!!!!

I don't like complaining and certainly appreciate the work done by many helpful and friendly volunteers and officials BUT something was wrong with the planning and the implementation.

There were also many internal problems with the SA entries. I went up to Durban a week early to help to rectify them and was only partially successful. I also became an "information guide" to all and sundry. I was able to help a number of Germans because of some knowledge of the lingo.

The fact that there were a few muggings in the city and in the hotels did not help to improve matters either! A few plus points - the weather was lovely 90% of the time, most of the buses were very good and plentiful, most of the equipment was v. good.

Personally I did quite well - came 4th in the HJ in 1.54 ( a SA record and my best height since 1993 ), 5th in the 300mH in 50,46 - hesitated badly before the last hurdle, could have been 3rd or 4th and was 8th in the 2000m steeplechase. Also ran in the SA M60 4x100m relay team; we had a weakish team and came 6th.

Marie is well and still moaning about my involvement in SA & WP Vet Athletics. The granddaughters are 5 & 7 and very cute but difficult at times. That's all f'now!

I hope you received my previous letter and the photographs (± 20) that I sent directly to Eugene. Hope you are O.K.  
Kind regards. *Leo*

R.R.#4  
Campbellford  
Ontario K0L 1L4

March 3rd, 1997

Hi, Rex!

It's a long time since we've been in touch. How are you? Vigorous, I trust, and Joan too.

I ain't so vigorous just now, having twisted a knee, trying to set a x-c ski trail under difficult conditions. May not be able to run in Durban, but I'll be there regardless. Had a good rowing season last year, though, getting back onto my favourite water in the U.K. and doing some clandestine time trials in a borrowed scull. Huge fun! I should maybe have stuck with it and not tried to switch into athletics.

Jo and I are in the throes of planning a new house in our bit of wilderness up in Parry Sound (the above address is our pied a terre in another part of the province, having moved out of Toronto). If we pull it off, we'll be able to provide you with a real country retreat - and I've plans to use your owl as a security device for when we're away travelling.

Reason for writing, apart from finding out how you are, is to review the changing scene and share our current thinking with you.

**WAVA President.** We'll be voting for Al, though I think Torsten will do a reasonable job if he gets in, provided he doesn't go heavy-handed on us. Not being one of those who conceals, I've told Al and written to Torsten. After all, Al has been with it from the beginning, has done a super job, and is well known to all. The European vote may carry the day, but we'll see.

**Constitution.** Owen Flaherty, who won't be running again, has been trying to suggest ways of weakening the European stranglehold, but I can't see any practical way of achieving it along the lines he's suggesting. One country, one vote (which is the IAAF way) might do it, but I would still like to see non-participating countries excluded. There ought to be some kind of criterion for becoming a full, voting member of the WAVA General Assembly. Any ideas?

Bob Fine, a year ago, was muttering about changing the ground rules for impeachment. I was going to have a go at that myself, but let's see if anything comes up and I'll deal with it from the floor.

On our own, North American constitution - - we've passed a change to our own which now stipulates that a person cannot represent Canada on an international committee unless they've been a member of CMAA in good standing for two years. Please give some



# NATIONAL MASTERS NEWS



The official world and U.S. publication for Masters track & field, long distance running and race walking.

March 11, 1997

To: Marina Hocrnecke-Gil      Fax: 011-34-72-365-457  
From: Al Sheahen

Dear Marina:

1. Hope we've straightened out your subscription, and are sending it to the right address.
2. Bev LaVeck is in the midst of compiling new records for our May issue, but her list last year showed the W55 records were:  
  
30K RW -- None listed  
50K RW -- 6:50:15 by E Petterson (USA) on 5 Mar 1989
3. Glad the European meet went well. I'm looking forward to seeing the results.

Best regards,





Fax 001-818-981-1997

from MARINA  
HOERNECKE - GIL  
fax 0034-42-365457  
SPAIN

till 12th inst.  
fax 0034-8851-6903

Dear Al:

sorry for the troubles as to address,  
but OBLANDES 3 has P.O. Box 124, that  
was the only mystery.

Actually I'm training to do a good  
performance in European Road  
Championship and Durban. As  
well I will try to do a longer distance.  
What about best performance as  
to Las Vegas concerning 30km and 50km?  
I contacted Bev, but she is probably  
very busy to inform me. When I  
return to Spain I send you some  
money as to 2 booklets I wish.  
Our indoor at B'ham were a great  
success. Thanks in advance, Marina

POST-IT FAX NOTE

10/1

MAR 97

pages 2

To	AL SHEAHEN	From	RJA
Co./Dept.	FYI	Co.	
Phone #		Phone #	

Brian & Jo.

Good to hear from you. Yes, I can bring you up to date. Yes, I'm healthy, but with a chronic bad foot that is getting worse quickly these days. I injured the top of my left arch on a trampoline about 35 years ago and it is getting so bad these days that I limp on it all the time now. It keeps me from running, so I need to get more creative about working out. I have been able to fake it to a certain extent with the events that I do, but doing no workouts is catching up with me. However, I would like to do well in the Durban decathlon. I would have a good chance if I concentrated my efforts and had some good luck between now and then. I'm low in my age group having just turned 50 last summer.

A real key may be that my wife, Joni, is just finishing Massage Therapy School. She has started to work on my foot some and she seems to have arrested the degradation already and has high hopes of actually improving it. She loves the massage work as much as she hated the surgical Nurse work. Actually, she didn't hate the work, only the obnoxious, egotistical, surgeons who treated the nurses like dirt. She will be finishing a one year concentrated course within two weeks and then will take all the qualifying tests. She has lost her Emergency Room job recently, which is good because it was taking her two days just to get up enough energy to go in to her two 12 hour work days. I feel that life is too short to spend it doing something that you don't like so it's very good that she, consciously, or unconsciously lost this job.

Our son is 22 and in college at GMI (the old General Motors Institute which is now private) in Flint, Michigan. It is a coop engineering school where all the students work half the time at private industries and go to school the other half of the time. Keele is 17 now and very restless to be out of high school, but she has another year after this one. She would like to go to college in Arizona and will be visiting schools there at the end of the month. It's not a new place to her as she has spent a few extended periods there with her Aunt and Grandmother already.

We're certainly are glad to have you in athletics although rowing seems a very worthy sport also. My college coach always told me that I should have been a singles scull sprinter with my upper body strength and competitive spirit.

Taking about Owls, I have gathered a few more, although much smaller, for Jo's collection. Will give them to you the first chance I get. I have been dreaming about a Toronto Phantom trip with you two for years now. Joni finally gave up on us finding a time to go and bought tickets to a Cleveland Phantom production for my Christmas present (sometime in April).

I just spent several hours over the weekend in unofficial meetings with Cesare, Torsten, Jacques, and Hannelore at the European Indoor Championships in Birmingham. It was only my second visit to England, and I enjoyed it very much. We have good multi-event friends there that we have gotten very close to over the years.

Let me be perfectly frank with you as that is my way also.

President: I have told Al that I think that he doesn't stand a chance against the European block. Although some may break from the block. At least some Germans said that they were not for Torsten. Torsten has the burden of being the European President and if he retires to take the WAVA Presidency, then Jacques would move up from his European Vice President's position. And no one is happy with Jacques' performance right now. He is getting older and even Hannelore, a very dutiful wife, is candid about his current abilities. Torsten stated that "he cannot run all of non-stadia from his kitchen table". Torsten may be forced to remain as European president even if he is elected president.

After remaining neutral for a long time, Cesare is now actively speaking negatively about Al. He listed five reasons why he shouldn't be elected president. One of them was he doesn't appear very presidential. But Torsten can be a gufus at times and not very presidential either. I think Al's main problem is that he is American.

Executive Vice President: No one running against Tom at this time with nomination time running out. Cesare's honest opinion is that he has performed satisfactorily, not good, not bad, just so-so. I think he has been a little short on work and has not handled his potential conflict of interest very well. Recently he asked Cesare for WAVA to send him to Durban to check out the Housing arrangements. While they certainly do need checking (its been Durban's biggest problem), it's very difficult for people to not think that he may be thinking more of making his own tour group arrangements than looking out for the program. I assume that Cesare has been doing the same thing for years, but he must do it more descretly as I have never heard anyone directly complain of it. I've always thought a lot of Tom and hope that I continue to do so. Barbara, as you know, had an Oregon, and Eugene fixation. If it wasn't her Eugene way, then it was no good at all. She had gotten to exercising power just for power's sake, not for any good reason and not compromising even if it made no difference. I think she thinks that I am the source of her defeat, while, in reality, she was the source of her defeat, just like it was Bob Fine who defeated Bob Fine by grabbing more and more responsibility and performing on nothing. He still doesn't understand and I doubt if Barbara does either. She was skirting big trouble anyway. Buffalo nearly started civil legal action against her for her misleading, or at least, inadequate consultation work with the Buffalo championships for which they (Tom and Barbara) were paid a lot of money. Bob Fine has said it was \$20,000. She would say that Tom was hired, not her, but realities are realities. Buffalo felt that it was done consciously or unconsciously to make sure that no place looked as good as Eugene. She was Olan Cassell's right hand gal and got the good assignments. She was in charge of the selection of the US site for the World Championship bid. But that didn't go well either as an investigation was undertaken and criminal law charges were considered against her and her committee over some alleged bribes made to or from some bidders, I don't know the details. Maybe this

business is too big for me to understand, but I still approach it with the goal of providing fair and honorable competition for athletes. Many of us need that, no matter how bad our performances get as we age. It seems so simple to me.

All of us in Birmingham, worried about having too many from Europe and/or the US on the Council. I feel, and I stated so, that 2 high level, or 3 from either should probably be the maximum (not counting the regional people, of course, because they are equally from all over). Cesare and Torsten are particularly worried that too many Americans may be elected. AI for President, Tom as Vice. Norman Green as Treasurer. That is almost unacceptable whether or not they are the best candidates for the jobs.

Kioke (spelling), the president of the Japanese Veterans, is very interested in a position, but all felt that his complete lack of English would keep him from being elected.

Secretary: I, and most, feel that Monty Hacker would be ideal, but his latest word is that he may not get retired as quickly as he thought. Hannelore, would run for Sec. if he does not. She would also keep the Women's Rep. job which she would give up if elected Secretary. She will be sure to have a second elected in case that happens.

Jacques has now pushed through the inclusion of Non-Stadia count into the voting delegate calculation. The max was not changed, so the result is that Europe picks up more votes than ever. I am very disappointed in AI that he did not fight harder on that one. I thought that he had a chance to change that very early on in Buffalo as he was on the sub-committee, but he did not.

Treasurer: The candidates will be Figeras from Uruguay, the European Treas. from Swiss., and Norman Green from US. Personally, Norman Green would do the best job, but he has the problem of being American and we have no elected official from South America. The Swiss I understand is just a banker who would keep the numbers, but probably would not monitor the expenditures which I feel is the main Treasurer's job.

Stadia VP: Jim Blair has indicated that he would run and the feeling was that he would be elected as he he technically competent and well liked as well as being from Oceania.

Non-Stadia VP: There is a lot more uncertainty here as Jacques' performance has had some flaws recently. However, he certainly will run for his last term and probably will be elected with no questions.

It is almost assumed that committee members be a member in good standing of their affiliate organization. However, it is probably a good idea to codify that as a by-law for NCCWAVA.

Barbara had begun to treat her job as a convenience to other ends and had begun to feel that it was a job for life. That does not work, as she, and many others have found out. She spent a lot of time bemoaning the loss of Olan Cassell and how "unfair" it was and generally lost a few crucial votes with her blind support of a sunk ship.

I have not considered NCCWAVA succession, but this is my last term as president. I need to talk to you and many others about what would be best. I don't especially like my local performance in the position but, all in all, I've done neutral or positive things for the program. My actions and effectiveness on the WAVA Council have been my biggest contributions and I think that I have done NCCWAVA and the entire program a lot of good there. I'm not perceived as a big bad American there, but rather a working member of the team with the entire program's interests at heart.

Definitely, Don as the Founding President, with life membership would be very appropriate. But I think we had better wait until Cesare is gone as he is very vindictive and still upset from Buffalo although the subject did not come up in England. We've waited 10 years for this so a little more wait shouldn't be too difficult.

Very good to hear from you. I will copy Al Sheehen with this to bring him up to date and to save some time.  
Regards, Rex

# **The Robinson-Humphrey Company, Inc.**

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**Edwin Moses**  
Financial Consultant

3333 Peachtree Road NE  
8th Floor  
Atlanta, GA 30326

(404) 266-6555  
(800) 688-6002  
FAX (404) 262-9142



# NATIONAL MASTERS NEWS



The official world and U.S. publication for Masters track & field, long distance running and race walking.

February 8, 1997

Edwin Moses  
The Robinson-Humphrey Co.  
3333 Peachtree Road NE  
8th Floor  
Atlanta GA 30326

Dear Edwin:

First, let me apologize for not being in touch with you sooner. I thought our circulation house was sending you monthly copies of our publication, but I just learned it has not been done.

Also, as we discussed in Atlanta last year at the Trials, and in my subsequent letter to you, I indicated the organizers of the 12th World Veterans Track & Field Championships this year in Durban, South Africa, would be most anxious to have you attend. You indicated an interest, which I hope still exists.

I just recently confirmed that the organizers of the event in Durban, South Africa, July 17-27, 1997, indeed would like you to attend. They are offering a week's all-expenses-paid trip to and holiday in South Africa. Knowing the South Africans, they would roll out the red carpet for you and treat you like royalty.

You indicated an interest in going after the world masters (age 40+) record of 52.76 in the 400 hurdles (and perhaps the world 400 mark of 48.10).

I'm also enclosing some back issues of the National Masters News. Each month, we feature a "Countdown to Durban" column which will give you an idea of what will be going on.

Again, I apologize for the delay. I hope your schedule in July is still open and that you'll be able to make the trip. By the way, the 1st round of the 400H is scheduled for Fri. evening, July 18. The semis are July 19; the finals are Sun. July 20. The 400s will be run on Thu. July 24, Fri. July 25 and Sat. July 26. A copy of the schedule is in the January issue.

Please call, write or fax me and I'll set things up with the people in Durban.

Regards,

Al Sheahen  
Publisher and Editor



To: WAVA; fax 00 18 18 90 11 99 7

From: Anton Smeets, the Netherlands; fax +31 495 496 796

Budel Dorplein, February 20th 1997

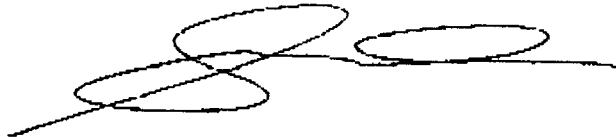
Dear ms, mr,

I want to order the most recent WAVA year handbook. Can you send me information how to order? My fax-number is +31 / 495 / 496 796 and my address:

Anton H.M. Smeets  
Peeldijk 11  
NL - 6024 BX Budel Dorplein  
The Netherlands

I assume that further information of other WAVA publications is available in the WAVA year handbook.

Yours,



Anton Smeets

21 Feb 1997

Dear Mr. Smeets:

The 1996-97 WAVA Handbook may be available from the WAVA Secretary, Torsten Carlius. Fax: 46-42-128-956. Please contact him.

Sincerely,



Al Sheahen, WAVA Treasurer