



DRAKE
INTERNATIONAL

VII WORLD
VETERANS' GAMES
MELBOURNE
1987

COMPETITION - CLOSING REPORT

6 YVONNE AVE.
SOUTH CROYDON, 3136.
VICTORIA,
AUSTRALIA.

To All

My best wishes to each of you for the future, especially the Eugene Organisers, if you need any lackeys during the 'Games' just holler, there are quite a few of us ready to pitch in, selling programs, lapscoreing, etc. We remember the help you gave us.

The enclosed VII World Games Competition Report is being issued to a limited group.

Recipients will be :-

Graeme Salthouse - Chairman VII WVG
AAVA (1)
Members WAVA Committee (8)
WAVA Area Delegates (5)
Pete Mundle
Jaques Serruys
Bill Taylor
Tom Jordan & Barbara Kousky (1)
Jim Puckett

The value of this report is in the eye of the reader. It is up to you to pass on any information contained in this report to those in your area whom you feel may benefit from it.

I am enclosing a loose leaf copy of the wind gauge readings for you to pass on to any person in your area responsible for national records.

With Thanks

Ray Callaghan (31/12/88) (Happy New Year)
(dd/mm/yy) (Yanks Please Note)

Al.

*Words cannot express my
true appreciation*

Many Thanks

Ray.

VII WORLD VETERANS GAMES
COMPETITION - CLOSING REPORT

MAY - 1988

The VII World Games has been generally accepted as very successful. However, in any organisation, there will always be problems.

The purpose of this report is to highlight the aims and difficulties of the VII World Games, for the benefit of future organisers, and also to offer suggestions for the future.

THE OVERALL AIMS OF THE ORGANISERS WERE :

To organise a good standard Games that would be enjoyable for all competitors.

To ensure that there was no financial loss.

To ensure that the rules governing the competition did not interfere with the basic principle of allowing people to compete.

RESULT

With the exception of some deficiencies in the organisation, the aims were achieved.

THE FIRST REQUIREMENT

GAINING INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

To conduct a World Games, it is essential that knowledge of the problems involved is obtained by the Key Personnel. The best way of doing this is to attend similar meets and rely on the organisers to give you as much insight into the problems as possible.

It was entirely due to our Executive Directors' ability to organise and finance that gave me the opportunity to visit the IAAF, Rome, and Malmo.

Experience was gained as follows.

CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND - 1981

Attended the Games purely as an athlete, and the friendly efficient way in which they conducted the meet left a lasting impression, and became my benchmark for what I wished to achieve. The closing report from those Games was made available to me and was the most valued competition report I used. The New Zealand people followed up that report with letters of advice which were invaluable.

ROME, ITALY - 1985

Attended as a member of the 'Bid' group and to observe the conduct of a 'Games'. On arrival requested permission to observe behind the scenes. Request refused, but it was suggested I ask again later. Over the last couple of days was given the maximum cooperation. Noted a good recording system that fell down late in the Games due to a lack of results runners. Overall a very dedicated group of onfield officials who were restrained by language difficulties and a very inflexible and, to me, unacceptable set of competition rules and procedures. I considered the style of these Games to be too restrictive.

The refusal to allow me to observe the opening problems was a major drawback, as I considered that to be the most critical and revealing period.

MALMO, SWEDEN (EUROPEAN GAMES) 1986

This was essentially a marketing trip, with the added bonus of observing another major 'meet'.

The attitude at these 'Games' was very different to Rome, although I feel that they, and indeed organisers generally, use the booking-in rule to unnecessarily eliminate athletes.

Was given the maximum cooperation in observing behind the scenes, with the exception, again, of the first day difficulties. Cooperation was particularly good at the No.2 ground. The director at this ground enabled me to speak to some of the organisers, and the advice obtained here was invaluable.

The overall conduct of these 'Games' was excellent, the manual recording system outstanding.

At Malmo, discussions with several WAVA members helped to coordinate our joint aims with regard to the rules.

THE RULES

Rules are drawn up to protect the organisers from athletes who try to abuse the system, and to ensure fair play for the competitors. They should not be used in any other context.

Administrators should not use the rules against the athletes to cover their own shortcomings.

IAAF RULES

As I had firm ideas on the unsuitability of the strictest interpretations of some of these rules, I welcomed the chance to go to London and discuss with an IAAF representative my approach to these rules for Veteran Athletics. The general acceptance of my attitude enabled me to resist efforts by those who appeared to have no understanding of the need to adapt to the complexity of the organisation, and the needs, of veteran athletes.

The IAAF Rules are essential for the Olympic Games, and International open meets, but below that standard they must be open to adjustment, and indeed are.

It is normal to indicate that an athletic competition is conducted according to the IAAF Rules, and to list various local rules that effectively amend the IAAF ones.

I believe WAVA should take the IAAF Rules, eliminate all those that can have no bearing on Veteran competition, and reword all those that create a difficulty for the older athlete.

Such rules could be called the WAVA/IAAF Rules and could then be amended by Veterans for Veterans.

The present method of trying to get the IAAF Rules themselves amended is time wasting for the IAAF and also too longwinded. It also tries to put too many variations into rules that are really for the elite athletic competition.

It would not surprise me at all if the IAAF found this to be a more acceptable method of rule setting for veterans.

I thank the WAVA committee for accepting our list of IAAF Rule variations. I believe that that decision was critical to the eventual enjoyment of the Meet. However, it should not rest on each organiser to develop this area.

W.A.V.A. RULES / GUIDELINES

Prior to accepting the responsibility of directing the competition, I checked the WAVA Competition Guidelines, and assessed some of them as being reactions to specific incidents, without sufficient regard to the many variables effected by them.

I could not run an effective competition bound by them.

I thank WAVA for their assurance that they were guidelines only, and that we would not be bound by them.

COMPETITION ADMINISTRATION RULES

These, of course, are the Rules required by the Organiser to ensure the implementation of their procedures.

The emphasis was always to only use a penalising rule as a last resort, and to always be prepared to be flexible. The rule that was most under scrutiny, and criticism from some areas, was the insistence that the BOOKING-IN RULE would not be used to stop people from competing, except in extreme circumstances.

Our approach to this rule was a complete success, and we have effectively proved our point, in the toughest possible circumstances.

Although a number of athletes failed to book-in in time, not one person was prevented from competing because of it.

The only variation I would suggest to the rule as we implemented it, would be to allow late arrivals for sprint events to only compete in 'Time Only' heats, as I found that it could be unfair to put fast, late, athletes into an already seeded heat. I feel that it is reasonable for the late arriver to have to run a 'Time' rather than gain advancement by coming first.

The administrative problems caused by allowing the late athletes to compete were very minor, and mainly related to a failure to advise the photo finish team when the 'Time Only' heats were inserted.

I believe that the manner of our implementation of this rule was a Key factor in achieving the relaxed attitude that was so well appreciated.

To prevent clashes of events, I allowed athletes to change divisions in field events. This was on an informal basis, and worked well. Flexibility, at the point of competition, worked well.

A few athletes requested permission to compete in slower divisions of the 5kms and 10kms. This was generally refused, although I made one exception in permitting the no.1 graded runner in the M55 10km to compete in the 3rd division, due to his travel arrangements being effected by the change of days of that event.

All top class competitors who had failed to give their correct standard, were permitted to compete in the no.1 division, on request.

A total of three athletes who did not compete in the no.1 division, of their event, gained medals. This includes the no.1 M55. The W40 runner could be excused as she had just competed in a 6 Day event, and would have expected to perform below standard. There was no excuse for the male steeplechaser who failed to request higher grading for this event

THE ORGANISERS

WAVA

For an outsider, it is not possible to assess the problems of conducting a committee on a world basis. They would obviously have difficulties. Not the least of which would be language and internal communication.

WAVA cannot control, nor should be held responsible, for the manner in which a World Games is conducted.

My assessment is, that WAVA should ensure that each Games organisers' are supplied with the maximum information from previous Games.

Ensure that the rules and guidelines are acceptable and workable.

Retain the authority to correct any serious competition technical faults. That authority can only be used by controlling the Jury.

THE AUSTRALIAN ORGANISATION

THE ORGANISING BODY

Authorised by the Australian Association of Veteran Athletic Clubs, this self-developing group had the prime responsibility to control the finances and appoint the Executive Director and the Competition Director.

They held a supervisory and supportive role, and ensured that the financial balance was maintained.

The Finance sub-committee (Treasurer, Asst.Treasurer, Secretary) controlled the Budget, and had the right to veto any spending action.

The need to have financial expertise on this committee was critical, as also was the need to have all members committed to the principle of 'the athlete comes first'. It was important to have a group who could work in reasonable harmony for three years.

We achieved that.

Eight of the 10 were accountants and/or business administrators.

Eight of the 10 were practising Veteran athletes.

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Had the complete responsibility to ensure the financial viability of the Games, and to cover the Promotion and the Government backing, so essential to the conduct of a Games.

Although this position was not created until some two years before the Games, this job actually took some FIVE YEARS of total commitment, and the conduct and success of the VII World Games was due essentially to this person.

It should be noted that, among the many sacrifices made in this area in implementing this responsibility, included giving up a good business, and mortgaging the family home, with her husbands support, to ensure the financial viability of the Games in the early period of organisation.

The holder of this position brought together the initial Bid group from which the Games organisation developed.

COMPETITION DIRECTOR

Ensured the procedures and personnel required to conduct the Games. This was a four year commitment, one year full time.

COMPETITION OFFICIALS

Approximately 200. Came mainly from the Victorian Officials Club, some from interstate, and some from overseas.

SUPPORT PERSONNEL

At least 800. Came mainly from the Victorian Veterans Athletic Club, and strongly supported by the Victorian Athletic Association and Clubs. Additional support was obtained from other sports clubs.

KEY COMPETITION PERSONNEL

All Key personnel were appointed by the Competition Director. Most because of personal knowledge of their ability, a few by recommendation.

THE AIMS

1. To appoint Veteran Athletes to all key organising positions, thus ensuring the whole feeling of the Games would be totally adapted to the consideration of the competitors.
2. To personally consult with each individual, to ensure that the proposed procedures and aims were compatible with the personal style and preferences of that person, and that each would be able to coordinate in harmony with the others.
3. To instill in all members the understanding that, no matter how hard any of us tried, we would all make errors. That the emphasis had to be, that when an error occurred, the reaction must be 'How can we correct it, or avoid a repetition? Rather than, 'Whose fault is it?'
4. If possible, gradually develop three or four small 'Area' committees under the most experienced or able people, in order to have an organisation not totally dependant on one person.

THE RESULT

The first three aims were achieved, and were a major factor in having the degree of harmony I was proud to be part of. The fourth was not, as those suited to the job simply could not afford the extra time and responsibility.

THE PROBLEMS

1. Most of the people selected for these positions had responsible careers, which limited the amount of time they could contribute.
2. All found that the responsibility and scope of their job greatly exceeded what they had initially imagined.
3. A number had skills which did not quite cover the natural scope of their allotted area. This required an extra cover in some areas.
4. A number were totally new to the responsibility given them, which involved a greater need to guide.
5. There was a constant need to assure people that those whose personal commitments restricted their ability to attend meetings, were still in control of their area. This also involved the necessity to ensure coordination between attendees and non-attendees.

6. The biggest problem of all was in trying to ensure that the Competition Director had personal backup. Although I had a number of very experienced people, in whom I had total confidence, none could allot the time needed to work sufficiently closely with me on the complex administrative details to the degree that would be required. 15 months before the Games, I acquired a suitable backup in this area, 6 months before the Games she was transferred out of the area. She was irreplaceable. The loss of this person was critical to the overload experienced during the early part of the Games.

CO-ORDINATING THE COMMITTEES

Coordination meetings generally were called every four months to bring together the organisers of each area, preferably, but not essentially, with a written report.

THE AIM

1. To allow for the proper coordination on all matters, and to allow the expression of any concerns.
2. To invite the volunteer organiser from each Veterans Venue in Victoria to act as information liasons between the organisers and the club athletes.

THE RESULT

Aims achieved.

RAISING THE VOLUNTEERS

THE AIMS

To have the 'Qualified Officials' Organiser develop a committee, to conduct the onfield requirements of the Games, with the principle members of the Victorian Athletics Officials Club, and then to advertise, Australia wide, for qualified officials. For all Key Personnel to gather as many of their own helpers as possible from within their own area.

To get the Support Organiser to canvas for helpers, and to develop a pool of volunteers to assist the various defined groups. To get as many of the Support personnel from within the Veteran movement as possible, to ensure that the Veteran attitude was dominant.

To get each of Victoria's eleven Veteran Athletic Venues to nominate an Organiser who would agree to ensure the manpower for their support areas, as they became defined.

THE RESULT

Although stretched to the limit, the help of more than 1,000 people was obtained, and with help from some of our visitors, we covered the manpower requirements of the Games. Shortage of some technical personnel was a problem.

I believe that if standards had been imposed on these Games, I would have lost at least 25% of volunteers, because they became involved through being able to enter, and so offered their services to help on their off days. We couldn't have done without them.

THE PROBLEMS

I was hamstrung throughout, firstly by the uncertainty of the No.2 track, and later by the failure to obtain a certified measurement of that track.

This caused me to hold back on final Structure and Manpower placement decisions till the last minute, and even then committing myself without being absolutely sure.

It was less than 3 weeks before the Games that I finally received that certification.

Due to the length of the program being dependant on the number of entries, it is not possible to plan on a specific timetable, therefore it is not possible to finalise the number of officials to be required.

There were a number of cases where an expected single shift became a double, and some doubles became triple shifts.

The Key Personnel all required the final timetable to organise their helpers. For some people the exact starting time was critical to whether they could be available or not.

The Lap Score Supervisor had decided to take the chance and issued a schedule to his helpers before the final figures. He had to completely reorganise after receiving the official timetable. He had great difficulty in getting sufficient personnel for the early morning start with such a short notice. This put a great strain on him at a most critical period.

Volunteers were asked to nominate, but could not be given specifics until the final program was drawn up, two months prior to the Games.

This led some to fear that they were not needed.

The need to confirm acceptance was not clearly understood by some organisers, so there was a degree of confusion in this area.

No matter how many volunteers were available, if I didn't have enough Key personnel to control them, they were of no value. The length of the program was going to put enormous strains on all Key people. They would need good backups. Because of this I cancelled some optional extras, such as electronic field display-board operators, and just organised the absolute basic groups required.

As we go further into the electronic age, there comes a greater need for people with trained skills. We were very short of such people, and the last few months spent training people for data input, photo finish, and also windgauge operators. We were unable to fully cover the last area.

SETTING THE CLOSING DATE

There are a number of factors associated with the increasing size of the World Games, that indicate the need to give serious consideration to setting the closing date at four months prior to the competition.

After entries close, it takes some two to three weeks to finalise the processing of them. A further two weeks to finalise the timetable.

Probably the printing requirements are the most critical, with the quantity, size and quality of the Program Book making this the single most time consuming item. From the time I completed the timetable, it took just on two months to produce the full quota of books. One week before the Games in fact. far too close for comfort. Improvements to the pagesetting procedure were made for the results book, but did not seem to greatly effect the speed of production by the printer. No doubt partly due to my being unable to guarantee delivery date, therefore effecting their work flow.

The competition numbers also took almost that length of time to finalise, the fact that the major sponsorship was not finalised until very late meant that I could not have a basic set prepared early, and just top up when I had the final figures.

There were several other printed items that required finalised figures to have done, such as certificates, a postout to Australians, warning of the program variations caused by the 10km overflow, as many of them would aim at just coming for their event.

The Competitors Handbook which can only be completed after the program has been finalised and all options decided. These could not all be handled by one printer, and no guarantee to meet a date could be given very far in advance.

I consider that the difficulties associated with obtaining and finalising the personnel requirements of an expanded program also warrant serious consideration for an earlier closing date.

SETTING AN ENTRY LIMIT

I believe that consideration must be given to limiting the entry into the Games.

I do not believe the imposing of standards is a suitable or accurate way to do it.

There are several critical factors.

1. Availability of convenient competition areas.
2. Capacity to obtain and organise sufficient personnel.
3. The pressure on the personnel due to increasingly long hours.
4. Increasing size and cost of publications.
5. Overall increased cost per competitor due to the above.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That 2 standard tracks be set as the maximum requirement, with an additional field area. This should be within the range of most major cities, and would avoid some impossible travel situations for the competitors, and programming requirements and costs for the organisers.

2. That a figure of between 4,000 and 5,000 entrants be allowed to enter the track and field section of the Games, (I favour 4,500 T&F entries which would allow the organisers to overrun if they felt it warranted.) on a first come first served basis. With the following proviso. That a maximum be set for foreign entries, of say 3,000, and a minimum of say 1,500 home athletes. this would allow the organisers some flexibility in adjusting to extra large or extra small foreign entries.

This would also create pressure on the athletes, and National Bodies, to enter early, which would be the biggest possible bonus that I could think of for the organisers.

Entries for Road Walks, Cross Country, and Marathon could be limited or not according to the wishes of the Organisers.

This would enable the Organisers to plan from the start, on a definite maximum of personnel required to conduct the Games. Another major bonus.

I would like to believe that this will always be a mainly voluntarily run organisation, by limiting the size, we would make it possible.

Competitors registered with Veteran Athletic Organisations should get first preference.

This could possibly, eventually, negate the need I see at the moment, to have an earlier closing date.

3. That the size of the Program Book must be contained.

The Program Book is the most important, pre-Games publication. The bigger it gets, the longer it will take to prepare. As I stated earlier, we had only one week to spare when we got ours finished. That was too close.

Its size has got beyond the stapling stage. It requires glueing, and possibly binding. This all takes a lot longer. It is also a great deal more expensive. If Eugene get the 6,000, then the Results Book will move in postage weight to the next level, increasing postage costs considerably. Envelopes, for example, need to be a lot stronger, therefore more expensive, to hold this publication. Reducing the print size further is not an option.

4. That the costs of the Games be contained.

As well as the above increased costs, there is also the greater need to get an increasing number of professionals in to cover the administration of the Games, the bigger it gets. That will really blow out the costs, far in excess of any increased entries.

THE VENUES

After observing the Rome Games, and realising that the wide distribution of events had led to the loss of atmosphere, and companionship, the bringing together of all the track and field events into the one complex became a priority. Tightening the timetable was a key factor in this.

NO. 1 GROUND

This was an established venue with some major problems that were never fully resolved.

1) The public address system was not completely satisfactory at the best of times, and could be useless during the change to nightlights and with rain.

2) The installed onground communications were restrictive and not reliable in the wet.

3) The Electronic scoreboard, despite its size, had only three operating display lines. This meant that we couldn't even display the medal winners of an event with the event description. After failing to get a government rethink on this matter, I rejected it as a results display.

NO. 2 GROUND

We were very lucky to aim for the Games at the same time as the move for a warm-up track was made. Our obtaining the Games was the final trigger that ensured that this track would be built. The fact that government budget problems reduced the recommended track to the undersized one we eventually got, caused considerable concern. The greatest difficulty was that the official track measurement was not confirmed until 2/3 weeks before the Games. The measurement was critical, as a variance of 1 metre could have caused the transfer of most 10kms, and possibly 5kms to the University. It was essential that the start and finish were in the six lane straight.

WAVA expressed concern at our use of this ground, but acknowledged our right to make the decision.

It was accepted during and after the Games that our decision on this was critical to the success of the Games.

GOSCH'S PADDOCK

The events that are most difficult to accommodate are the throwing events. This is because a lot of grounds only allow for the conduct of one of either javelin, discus, or hammer. While other field events can all be conducted on most grounds, these cannot. This results in the throwers usually being sent to isolated areas to conduct their events. The Technical Director convinced us of the need to conduct field events in divisions, and also to the need to give the throwers a feeling of participation. This led to the Gosch's Paddock Complex. This was an expensive item, and it was some considerable time before we could obtain confirmation that we could afford it. The initial Entry Book Program had to be drawn up in such a way so that we could keep to it whether we had a single event ring or a three ring complex. The three ring option almost triples the amount of the very expensive throwing equipment.

CROSS COUNTRY - ROYAL PARK

The decision of the Outside Events group to use this venue was another success, as it gave a central ground that catered for both the elite, and younger athlete, and the older competitor.

City council changes to the park layout caused a fair bit of concern and realigning of the course.

ROAD WALKS - CITY GARDENS

Getting final OKs on road closures was the greatest concern for this event. The final decision to start the event from Olympic Park was made two months before the Games, as we had possible sponsorship offers if we used the course starting from the city centre.

MARATHON - OLYMPIC PARK TO ELWOOD AND RETURN

This was an established course that was remeasured to fit in with our start and finish requirements.

At a later stage it was found that the turn area had been turned into a car park and blocked with concrete slabs. After some negotiation with the relevant council, an opening was agreed to that required a remeasure.

The course had to be constantly checked for road repairs and upgradings that could effect the measurement.

Shortly before the Games the final measurement was made, and with the large entry, we set the finish line back thirty metres to allow for track clearance. Start line and all other markers were adjusted.

GAMES PREPARATION

FINANCE

The key requirement to conduct a Games without a financial loss meant that in all areas we had to constantly plan on possible lack of funds to cover various aims. As our financial status was not established until just prior to the Games, the resulting uncertainty caused an unexpected amount of stress for several organisers.

THE PRELIMINARY PROGRAM TIMETABLE

THE AIM - To draw up a preliminary Timetable of Events that would stand up to a reasonable variation in the entries into the events.

THE RESULT - With the exception of the 10kms this was achieved. Because of the very large 10km entry, it was necessary to move the M55 10km run from Day 1 to Day 2. The option of holding to the prelim timetable would have required 4 tracks and an additional 150+ personnel, as well as breaking with our first priority, a Together Games.

COMMENTS - My assessment of previous Games was that we could expect some 3/3,500 competitors, the high promotion factor was unassessable.

With a promotion projection of 5,000 it was important to plan on that possibility. I made a fair allowance for a possible over-run on distance events, but the actual figures completely beat me.

I drew up the original program on the basis that we had two 400M tracks side by side. One eight lane, and one six lane, plus the Gosch's Paddock complex. I considered that we could conduct any figure below 5,000 on those facilities.

I produced three sample timetables for comment. Each was based on the same event order for all agegroups. I was asked to consider the variation of event order to allow for a more varied daily program for spectator and possible T.V. coverage. This I did at a cost of some event options for the younger womens groups. The importance of live T.V. coverage was believed to be critical in ensuring maximum sponsorship, and therefore the financial viability of the Games. In hindsight, I would suggest that the variation was of no commercial value, and that it is highly unlikely to be of any value for future organisers.

It is really a matter of opinion as to whether the events should be varied or not. I would prefer not to, from the angle of giving all the athletes equal options.

It is certainly easier for the programmer to conduct all agegroups of a track event in the same time slot. The programmer must always be prepared to alter the agegroup order to avoid a clash of events, and must pay special attention to spreading natural doubles through the program.

The resultant program was issued worldwide for comment, and was well received. Consideration was given to all opinions and some adjustments made. I accepted the view that the 3/400m hurdlers should not be given two rounds on the one day. I now include 800m and 1500m in that view, but emphasise that it is not easy to make such allowances without decreasing event options.

Major change to previous programs was the moving of the Road Walks to early in the program, and the Track Walks late. One or two minor concerns were expressed in the early stages. It appears to have been a successful change. This change allowed for a very balanced program, as it took the multi lap Track Walks from the early part of the program, and also gave the Distance Walkers the opportunity to take part in the marathon for the first time. Quite a number took this option.

Also noted in the report was that we would be placing large agegroups in divisions in the field events, and that we would be having fields of upto 45 in the 5km and 10km track events.

Most expressed the view that we wouldn't be able to properly lapscore divisions of 45.

Lapscoring was a major success of the Games.

At this time it was suggested that we should follow the constitutional requirements, and allow for the participation of women in all events. After some discussion with WAVA it was agreed to officially add the hammer and triple jump for women. Both attracted good entries. I later received a request to give women the opportunity to compete in the steeple, which I agreed to, as an invitation event, as I had room in the older mens' 2km steeple. Those who entered proved very capable. I am pleased to see that there are no longer any such event restrictions for Eugene.

COMPUTERISATION

Without a doubt, the single, most important and labour intensive, project for these Games.

The system was not fully developed, due to lack of time, but what we had was a unique and very flexible system.

The principle aim was to develop it in such a way as to prevent, as much as possible, anyone saying, "We can't do that, the computer won't let us." I cannot speak too highly of the efforts of the programmer in meeting all my requirements.

It is intended to continue the development for future Games, if it is used, as well as adapting it for much smaller meets.

The Problems

Time, was always going to be the major problem. The initial system had to be prepared with the Promo Meet in mind. Some of the options had to be adjusted for the special circumstances involved in that meet.

The Promo Meet established the value of the software, and highlighted a number of problems, and the software was rewritten.

The initial priority was for the competition software to be prepared, now the emphasis had to be on the administration to cover the entries and confirmation letters. Consideration of accomodation software was dropped as not enough information on the variables was available early enough.

The supply of computers became a critical problem, as various sponsors promised and then dropped out. Entries were coming in, and we had no equipment for me to test and have the software amended.

My intention had been to use the early entries for personnel training as there would be no pressure on them. Unfortunately, with the late provision of computers, I had to do all those entries personally, so that the software could be refined. I could not afford to have untrained people on such critical detail, with the bugs still to be ironed out.

THE ENTRY BOOK

An excellently presented booklet, but had a number of errors that created problems. This booklet acts as a promotional item as well as providing the competition information and entry form.

Promotional requirements led to acceptance of an Entry Form that was less than ideal from a competitors or data entry viewpoint. Although I accepted the problems associated with this, I strongly advise future organisers not to.

As I controlled the data entry myself, I was prepared and able to cope with the problems.

A major failing was the issuing of a separate Entry Form with no request for birth confirmation. This caused a lot of extra work, and unnecessary concerns for a lot of people.

A failing of the booklet was errors in typesetting that were not picked up. The print errors involved, led me to insist on all further competition material being copied rather than typeset. I would strongly recommend this to future organisers, as I believe that, even with proof reading, there is too much vital detail that can be missed.

THE ENTRIES

Entries flowed in, in the pattern predicted. The earliest arrived some four months before closing date. The flow was as follows :

April to June 11th -	139	total	139
Week ending 18th -	47		186
25th -	28		214
July 2nd -	66		280
9th -	42		322
16th -	60		382
23rd -	94		476
30th -	91		567
Aug 6th -	208		775
13th -	468		1243
20th -	763		1976

At this stage it was obvious that we had either an unusual early entry pattern, or, we were looking at a figure in excess of 4,500.

Aug 27th -	1264	3240
Closing date " 31st -	300 app.	3540 approx.

During the first week of September, after the closing date, about 1000 entries were received, mostly from national bodies, which was a disappointment, but was expected.

I estimated that it took approximately 10 minutes to completely process each single entry, with the various checks that had to be made.

That makes 48,000 minutes, or 800 hours of fairly exacting work. Most of this was in a three week period from August 24th to about September 15th. There were other important matters requiring attention, at this time, particularly for the Executive Director in the sponsorship and promotion area. During this period a 20 hour day was fairly normal for both of us, as well as having quite a few helpers in during normal day time.

The paper work pressure and the need to work long hours did not really let up until after the Games.

A large slice of processing time was in computer input and printout. As initially we only had the one computer, it was necessary to have that machine working, at times, 24 hours a day, sleep was obtained by scheduling long printouts or large data statistical programs for the haunting hours.

To make this a more acceptable work load a minimum of 3 computers is required, and the system adjusted to this. One computer should be used for data output and corrections to returned confirmation letters only, and should be the 'Master'. The two other computers should be used by keyboard operators. The organiser could then concentrate on just ensuring the flow of work between computers, checkers, and outflow. 5,000 confirmation letters adds up to a lot of printing, folding, inserting, labeling, sorting, and posting. A large working and stacking area is required as well.

A similar work area is required for the Results Book. To have these collected by the postal authorities it required 5 small van loads. Good packing boxes needed for these.

COMPETITORS ENVELOPES

With the constant failure of printers, and others to meet deadlines, the teams of workers lined up to pack the athletes kits were often left with nothing to do, and more work fell on the fewer people who had to work excessively long hours to ensure the work was done.

The Organiser in this area scheduled a week for this job, which was adequate, if you have enough space and helpers.

It is a large volume job. A tonne or more of materials is involved. That is a lot of paper. A large number of standard size, solid, boxes are required to hold the Envelopes in the small quantities necessary for easy handling. It is not possible to stack, so plenty of floor space is needed for storage. This also applies, of course, to the athletes 'Envelope Collection' point.

The use of oversize plastic hold-all bags is not recommended for holding items that will belong to an individual athlete. (Competition numbers, etc.) If such bags were close to envelope size it would probably be o.k. However, a sealable envelope is required for each athlete as various saleable items are placed in them. Such as, Dinner Tickets, Transport Cards, etc.

A decision, by the Finance group, to pull out all the envelopes of those who had financial settlements to make, caused a considerable problem on the opening day and the two days prior.

The aim was to ensure that the athletes would pay or collect any overdue monies, by having to collect their bag from the Finance Counter.

The problem was that a number of those Envelopes were misplaced, Finance advising us that they did not have them, resulting in us believing that they had either been lost or issued to the wrong person. It was necessary to have several competition numbers urgently reprinted overnight.

After the Games all missing envelopes turned up in the finance area.

To avoid similar problems, I would suggest that if the need to withdraw envelopes is envisaged, then ensure that an empty replacement envelope is left with a note indicating what is required of the competitor to obtain theirs.

Such a procedure would have saved a lot of problems.

MUCH MORE SUITABLE FOR RECORD CHECKERS

VII WORLD VETERANS GAMES 1987

WIND READINGS

ST OFF

DAY EVENT AGE GROUP TYPE TYPE_NO ASSIST OPPOSE CLASS

DAY	EVENT	AGE GROUP	TYPE	TYPE_NO	ASSIST	OPPOSE	CLASS					
1	1	M70	H	1				5		0.00	OK	
1	1	M70	S	1				1	0.80		A	
1	1	M70	S	2				2		0.60	O	
2	1	M70	F	1				1	2.40		WA	
1	1	M75	H	1				1		4.20	O	
1	1	M75	H	2				2		2.70	O	
1	1	M75	H	3				3		4.10	O	
5	1	M80	H	1				1	5.30		WA	
5	1	M80	H	2				2			=	
6	1	M80	F	1				1		0.60	O	
6	1	M85	F	1				1		1.30	O	
6	1	M90	F	1		2.20	O	1		1.60		A
6	1	M95	F	1				1		1.60		A
2	1	W35	H	2		2.30	O	2		0.30		A
2	1	W35	H	2		1.25	O	2		1.10		A
2	1	W35	H	3				3		0.80		A
2	1	W35	H	4				4		0.00	0.60	O
3	1	W35	F	1				1		1.50	O	
2	1	W40	H	2				2		0.40		A
2	1	W40	H	2				2		0.30		A
2	1	W40	H	3		1.80	A	3		2.40		WA
2	1	W40	H	4		1.20	A	4		0.00	1.70	O
2	1	W40	H	5				5		1.20		A
3	1	W40	S	1		3.75	WA	3		2.10		WA
3	1	W40	S	2				2		0.40		A
3	1	W40	F	1				1	3.40		WA	
2	1	W45	H	1		2.60	O	2				
2	1	W45	H	2		2.10	O	3				
2	1	W45	H	3		4.20	O	2				
2	1	W45	H	4		2.15	O	2			0.50	O
2	1	W45	H	5		3.05	O	2			1.00	O
2	1	W45	H	6		4.00	O	2			1.10	O
2	1	W45	H	7		1.80	O	2				
2	1	W45	H	8		1.20	O	2			2.80	O
3	1	W45	S	1				1		0.80	O	
3	1	W45	S	2				2		1.10		A
3	1	W45	F	1		0.70	A	3		1.70		A
3	1	W50	H	1				1		0.20		A
3	1	W50	H	2		1.55	A	2		2.10		WA
3	1	W50	H	3		4.20	WA	3			0.60	O
3	1	W50	H	4				4				
3	1	W50	H	5		1.75	O	3				
3	1	W50	H	6		3.90	O	3				
3	1	W50	H	7		1.10	O	3			0.40	O
3	1	W55	H	1		1.70	O	3			3.60	O
3	1	W55	H	2		3.50	O	3			1.40	O
3	1	W55	H	3		4.60	O	3			0.90	O
3	1	W55	F	1		2.70	O	3			0.20	O
5	1	W60	H	1		1.50	O	5			1.20	O
6	1	W60	F	1				1			1.35	O
5	1	W65	H	1		3.10	WA	5			2.90	O
5	1	W65	H	2		2.70	WA	5			0.90	O
5	1	W65	H	3		0.90	A	5				
6	1	W65	F	1		6.00	WA	6				
5	1	W70	H	1				1		1.50	O	
5	1	W70	H	2		3.20	O	5				
5	1	W70	H	3		1.55	O	5				
6	1	W70	F	1		1.25	O	6			1.30	O
6	1	W75	F	1		3.70	O	6			1.70	O
6	1	W80	F	1		3.70	O	6			1.85	O
5	1H	M40	H	1		5.50	O	5				
5	1H	M40	H	2		3.70	O	5			0.90	O
5	1H	M40	H	3		2.05	O	5				
6	1H	M40	F	1				6			1.45	O
5	1H	M45	H	1				5				
5	1H	M45	H	2				5				
6	1H	M45	F	1		2.55	WA	6			1.50	O
5	1H	M45	H	3		0.90	A	5			1.60	O
5	1H	M50	H	1		4.10	WA	5				
5	1H	M50	H	2				5		1.50		A
5	1H	M50	H	3		2.50	O	5		0.80		A
6	1H	M50	F	1		0.80	O	6				
5	1H	M55	H	1		2.20	O	5			1.25	O
5	1H	M55	H	2		3.25	O	5		1.15		A
6	1H	M55	F	1				6			1.40	O
2	2	M40	H	1		1.85	O	2			0.90	O
2	2	M40	H	2		3.60	WA	2				
2	2	M40	H	3		3.35	WA	2				
2	2	M40	H	4		3.70	WA	2				
2	2	M40	H	5				2		2.20	O	
2	2	M40	H	6				2				
2	2	M40	H	7		3.10	O	2				
2	2	M40	H	8		3.70	O	2			2.30	O
2	2	M40	H	9		3.50	O	2			1.25	O
2	2	M40	H	10				2				
2	2	M40	H	11				2				
2	2	M40	H	12		5.00	WA	2				
2	2	M40	H	13				2				
2	2	M40	H	14		4.20	O	2			2.00	O
3	2	M40	S	1		4.80	O	3		1.80	0.00	A
3	2	M40	S	2		3.95	O	3			0.80	O
3	2	M40	S	3				3			0.00	=
3	2	M40	S	4		0.00	OK	3			4.00	O

2 2	M45	H	1		WA	1 2	W60	H	1		=	
2 2	M45	H	2		WA	1 2	W60	H	2		=	
2 2	M45	H	3		WA	2 2	W60	F	1	4.70	WA	
2 2	M45	H	4		WA	1 2	W65	H	1	1.90	A	
2 2	M45	H	5		WA	1 2	W65	H	2	1.60	A	
2 2	M45	H	6		WA	1 2	W65	H	3	2.15	WA	
2 2	M46	H	7		WA	2 2	W65	F	1	3.10	WA	
2 2	M45	H	8		WA	1 2	W70	H	1	3.10	WA	
3 2	M45	S	1	1.30	O	1 2	W70	H	2		=	
3 2	M45	S	2		=	2 2	W70	F	1	4.20	WA	
3 2	M45	F	1	0.70	O	2 2	W75	F	1	3.50	WA	
2 2	M50	H	1		WA	2 2	W80	F	1	3.50	WA	
2 2	M50	H	2		WA	5 8H	M70	H	1		=	
2 2	M50	H	3		WA	6 8H	M70	H	2	1.85	A	
2 2	M50	H	4		WA	6 8H	M70	F	1		0.30 O	
2 2	M50	H	5		WA	6 8H	M75	F	1	0.60	0.00 A	
2 2	M50	H	6		WA	2 8H	M80	F	1	1.95	A	
2 2	M50	H	7		WA	1 8H	W40	H	1		OK	
2 2	M50	H	8		WA	1 8H	W40	H	2		OK	
3 2	M50	S	1	0.30	O	1 8H	W40	H	3		OK	
3 2	M50	S	2	0.70	0.00	A	2 8H	W40	F	1	4.00	WA
3 2	M50	F	1	1.10	A	2 8H	W46	F	1	4.50	WA	
2 2	M55	H	1		WA	1 8H	W50	H	1		OK	
2 2	M55	H	2		WA	1 8H	W50	H	2		OK	
2 2	M55	H	3		WA	2 8H	W50	F	1	2.45	WA	
2 2	M55	H	4		WA	2 8H	W55	F	1	2.00	A	
2 2	M55	H	5		WA	2 8H	W60	F	1	1.95	A	
2 2	M55	H	6		WA	2 8H	W70	F	1	1.95	A	
2 2	M55	H	7		WA	2 LJ	M40	-	0		OK	
2 2	M55	H	8		WA	3 LJ	M45	-	0		OK	
3 2	M55	S	1	1.00	A	5 LJ	M50	-	2	2.20	WA	
3 2	M55	S	2		O	5 LJ	M50	-	14	2.40	WA	
3 2	M55	F	1	0.90	A	6 LJ	M55	-	0		OK	
2 2	M60	H	1		WA	1 LJ	M60	-	1	2.20	WA	
2 2	M60	H	2		WA	1 LJ	M60	-	3	2.90	WA	
2 2	M60	H	3		WA	1 LJ	M65	-	3	2.70	WA	
2 2	M60	H	4		WA	1 LJ	M65	-	9	3.40	WA	
2 2	M60	H	5		WA	6 LJ	M70	-	0		OK	
2 2	M60	H	6		WA	6 LJ	M75	-	0		OK	
3 2	M60	S	1	1.30	O	6 LJ	M80	-	0		OK	
3 2	M60	S	2	0.30	A	6 LJ	M85	-	0		OK	
3 2	M60	F	1	2.10	WA	5 LJ	W35	-	0		OK	
2 2	M65	H	1		WA	5 LJ	W40	-	1	2.30	WA	
2 2	M65	H	2		WA	3 LJ	W45	-	0		OK	
2 2	M65	H	3		WA	1 LJ	W50	-	4	2.40	WA	
3 2	M65	F	1	2.40	WA	2 LJ	W55	-	4	0.70	A	
2 2	M70	H	1		WA	2 LJ	W55	-	7	1.50	A	
2 2	M70	H	2		WA	2 LJ	W55	-	9	1.70	A	
2 2	M70	H	3		WA	2 LJ	W55	-	10	2.00	A	
3 2	M70	F	1	1.10	O	2 LJ	W60	-	0		OK	
2 2	M75	H	1		WA	3 LJ	W65	-	0		OK	
2 2	M75	H	2		WA	4 P	ALL	-	0		OK	
2 2	M75	H	3		WA	1 TJ	M40	-	0		OK	
3 2	M75	F	1	0.40	A	2 TJ	M45	-	0		WA	
1 2	M80	H	1		=	3 TJ	M50	-	0		OK	
1 2	M80	H	2		=	5 TJ	M55	-	0		OK	
2 2	M80	F	1	5.00	WA	6 TJ	M60	-	2	2.70	WA	
2 2	M85	F	1		WA	6 TJ	M60	-	5	2.10	WA	
2 2	M90	F	1		WA	6 TJ	M60	-	7	2.30	WA	
2 2	M95	F	1		WA	6 TJ	M60	-	13	2.15	WA	
5 2	W35	H	1	1.90	O	6 TJ	M65	-	3	2.35	WA	
5 2	W35	H	2	1.80	O	6 TJ	M65	-	5	3.20	WA	
5 2	W35	H	3	1.25	O	6 TJ	M65	-	7	2.15	WA	
6 2	W35	F	1		OK	6 TJ	M65	-	9	2.90	WA	
5 2	W40	H	1	2.40	O	5 TJ	M70	-	0		OK	
5 2	W40	H	2	0.90	O	5 TJ	M75	-	0		OK	
5 2	W40	H	3	1.90	O	5 TJ	M80	-	0		OK	
5 2	W40	H	4	1.45	O	5 TJ	M85	-	0		OK	
6 2	W40	F	1		OK	3 TJ	W35	-	1	1.80	A	
5 2	W45	H	1	1.60	O	3 TJ	W40	-	7	1.90	A	
5 2	W45	H	2	2.40	O	3 TJ	W40	-	9	1.90	A	
5 2	W45	H	3	0.80	O	3 TJ	W40	-	11	1.10	A	
5 2	W45	H	4	2.10	O	2 TJ	W45	-	0		WA	
5 2	W45	H	5	1.90	O	6 TJ	W50	-	1	0.80	A	
6 2	W45	F	1		OK	6 TJ	W50	-	3	1.50	A	
5 2	W50	H	1	1.70	O	6 TJ	W50	-	7	1.85	A	
5 2	W50	H	2		=	1 TJ	W55	-	0		OK	
5 2	W50	H	3	2.15	O	1 TJ	W60	-	0		OK	
5 2	W50	H	4	0.80	O	2 TJ	W65	-	0		WA	
6 2	W60	F	1		OK							
5 2	W65	H	1		=							
5 2	W65	H	2	1.00	O							
5 2	W65	F	1		OK							

LATE ENTRIES

From the last seven days of August, entries arrived faster than they could be processed, and we did not catch up until about the middle of September. I accepted entries whilst we were still processing, but closed them to all but special cases from that time. It took two weeks to prepare the competition timetable, for assessment by all the Key personnel.

The special case late entries were subject to being able to fit into the list without altering the prepared timetable.

I stopped considering special entries on the 30th September. This was in line with my previously declared position on this matter.

A number of applicants for entries and late entries were included in the Program Book, although they had not finalised payments. This was because the Book could not be delayed any longer. I preferred the possibility of crossing names out. A fair number reneged.

LATE ENTRIES AT THE START OF THE GAMES

In the few days prior to the Games I received requests from several individuals and national bodies, to consider the inclusion of athletes who had taken the chance and travelled 1/2 way around the world on the off chance that they would be accepted. With three exceptions, they had applied late, and missed my final deadline by several days. To those foreign athletes who had previously made a late application I allowed entry. One who had not was rejected. Two of the three exceptions were given entry on the grounds that it was due to a national body administrative failure. Non of the Australian residents, who applied, were allowed this late entry.

I made special allowances for one overseas group that had had great difficulty gaining travel authority. They could not be sure, until they boarded their plane, who would actually be allowed to come. I allowed those who had unexpectedly been able to gain permission to come, but had not been on the submitted list to change with those that were on the official list, but couldn't make it.

It was necessary for me to work closely with this group for several weeks to achieve their attendance.

THE INFORMATION CENTRE

Set up to handle all athletes enquiries, booking-in, and results display, had an extremely difficult job in setting up as the normal tenants could not make the area available until 2 days before it was to be open to the athletes. It was the hidden success story of the Games, that this team opened early, had to dismantle everything again for the Monday rest day. (Dogs Day) and rebuild ready to take the early booking-in on the following day. Very little sleep was had by this group during that hectic week.

The failure to follow advice (given to us by Rome) and glue the instant results to the Information Centre notice boards resulted in the removal, by athletes, of those results, and the other athletes coming to the Distribution Centre for information on the results, a problem that, once started, became impossible to reverse.

Although the duplication of results display at Distribution created a work load problem, in the end I feel that that was the best place for it, as we had instant access to the official results papers for answers to queries. This was greatly appreciated by the athletes.

It also gave us a quicker indication when anything was wrong.

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS

The most serious technical problem was the fact that a month prior to the Games, I was advised that we had only 1/3 of the WINDGAUGE OPERATORS needed. This required a last minute training of volunteers, but we still did not have enough.

To reduce this problem, I instructed the officials to ensure that all the relevant track finals, and 1st divisions of the long and triple jump, had to be covered when necessary.

To cover the maximum possible track events, and be ready to switch to the pits on request.

THIS WAS A SERIOUS ORGANISATIONAL FAILURE.

IN THE WALKS, both track and road, there was a failure to ensure that all disqualified competitors were advised immediately after their event. Although the problem had been clearly defined, and a procedure developed prior to the Games, in practise we could not achieve our aim.

In the track walks this appeared to be that Judges did not have enough time between events. We had originally worked on the basis that the Judges would work alternate events. There were not enough of them for that. In the Road Walks, the Chief Judge had gone to great trouble to advise the athletes prior to the event as to where to obtain this information, with notices in several languages. Regretably this still did not work out.

It is understandable that the half a dozen or so of athletes affected by this felt let down.

THE NEXT GAMES MUST TAKE WARNING FROM OUR FAILURE IN THIS MATTER.

INTER-COMMUNICATION had been very thoroughly organised prior to the Games, including ensuring that the equipment was delivered to the correct place, and in plenty of time. The one thing we did not anticipate was that some unknown person would move the equipment to another storage room, without advising anyone. The result was that we spent 24 hrs trying to trace the equipment. On the first morning we had to operate without communication between all Key personnel. This resulted in a number of avoidable first day problems.

A misplaced notice board, and a subsequent written note that was misinterpreted, led to a switch to HAND TIMES for the first day sprint heats. I was not able to correct this problem for several hours, by which time we were committed to selecting the semifinalists from hand times. For the Results Book I re-inserted the correct electronic times.

I CONSIDER THESE FIRST DAY BLUES PROBLEMS.

The failure on Track 2 to follow defined RESULT RECORDING procedures led to a number of incorrectly allotted times. Due to the unexpected source of this problem, and the variety of ways in which it surfaced, the problem took quite a while to pinpoint the cause. The percentage of error from this track was far in excess of the most charitable acceptable figure. This put the Distribution checking section under enormous pressure right from the first event, and made it impossible for me to be 100% sure that results had been properly confirmed during the Games.

It took four weeks of thorough checking to ensure that the errors had been corrected, before I was able to consider passing the results for publication.

Although no competitor was disadvantaged by this, several had avoidable worries, prior to having their correct result confirmed. The degree of this particular failure is why I do not consider the Games an organisational success.

RESULTS RECORDING

An aim of these Games was to produce the Results Book within two weeks of the Games, if possible, with the priority being accuracy. The excessive time taken to produce the Program Book made it clear that I couldn't hope to achieve that. However, I went into the Games intending to keep to the aim of having the results checked and confirmed during the Games, so that they could be supplied to the printer immediately after the Games.

At this stage, I believed that we were looking at a late January early February production. (Because of the Christmas Break.)

During the Games, and particularly the first two days, the Result error was in excess of expectation. Particularly from No.2 track.

The check that was ignored was the simple one of ensuring that the list of finish times, matched, and were allotted correctly to, the finishers. On several occasions the times were one out, and on two occasions on the first day, actually allotted to the wrong heat.

We had several errors on Track 1, but they were more the result of communication problems, and human error.

Field events had no problems, just one misrecorded throw, and that was picked up by the athlete concerned. Although an error in presentation occurred when normal 'tie' rules were ignored.

Team events were a constant worry as just one misrecorded result could throw the whole result off. We had 1 onfield error and 1 data input error that created problems in this area.

I would recommend that team awards would be best not presented until 24 hours after posting the result, to prevent the problems in this area.

The Pentathlon was the one area in which the Computer Team was caught short, and this was because only 1 printer was assigned to the printout of the points and results. If 2 printers had been assigned, no problem would have occurred. After the first three events, the printer dropped behind, and there was nothing we could do about it. This was an area in which I feel that the athletes were entitled to be annoyed. Thankfully, most accepted the problem with good grace.

The results of the pentathlon were questioned by a couple of athletes and all were withdrawn for a thorough check. The problem must have been in the way it was displayed, as the check showed no problem in relation to the results as entered. After the Games I found that, in a couple of cases, hand-times had been used instead of the electronic. (An inexperienced recorder.) This made a minor adjustment to the points but none to the results.

The Outside Events group followed the recording procedures and had a total of 3 minor errors which were easily corrected from the back-up.

This group had the toughest recording job, their performance was excellent.

KEY AREAS

THE JURY

I made a point of advising the jury convenor that the 30 minute deadline should not be too strictly enforced, due to the natural communication problems in Vets World Games.

Eight protests were dealt with by the jury, one of which I requested to be reconsidered as I could supply an official film of the incident. All judging decisions were supported. An error by a lap scorer, effecting a placing, was corrected.

WAVA made every effort to supply 2 members for the 3 member jury. Australia covered the shortfall when necessary.

LAPSCORING

One of the major areas of possible confrontation. Was handled extremely well.

The supplying of athletes with their copies of the lapscoreing ensured that any errors were easily spotted.

Several athletes had bad calls during their events. Most were sorted out prior to the finish of their event. Four brought back their lapsheets to point out an error. Each of these errors were satisfactorily resolved, one of which effected a placing in a multi age event.

The key to good lapscoreing is to have all lap 'times' recorded, not ticks, and to have one or two supervisors ready to check any questioning of calls by the athletes. This enables the scorers to continue to concentrate on the athlete while the supervisor does the checking.

The assistance of several overseas athletes was greatly appreciated.

QUALIFIED OFFICIALS

These magnificent people accepted the aims of the Games, and applied the rules with consideration for the age of the athlete, at the same time maintaining a correct position to technical requirements.

With the exception of windgauge operators, most positions were adequately covered.

A shortage on the Thursday and Friday was covered by a number of support personnel.

TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT

Properly ensured the supply, layout, maintenance and placement of all technical equipment.

One group looked after grounds 1 and 2. A second one looked after Gosch's Paddock.

A few words covering 3 years of hard work by our Technical Director.

All technical equipment needs to be ordered at least 12 months in advance.

UTILITY EQUIPMENT

Supported the technical group by supplying labour for the hurdles setup and ensured the placement of all utility items such as tent, tables, notice boards, etc.

The main requirement of the utility group was in the early morning and late evening, although they were on call all day.

COMMUNICATIONS

No one person can cover all aspects of communications. The main aim of this area was to try to cover the inadequacies of the established in-ground system.

Coordinated the announcing and presentation, under considerable difficulties. A shortage of announcers occurred on a couple of occasions.

The help obtained from the radio group enabled us to have constant updates on the marathon and road walks.

PRESENTATIONS

The aim, to present medallions as soon as possible after the event.

The result, mixed.

My decision to have presentations on Track 1 continued throughout the competition came in for some criticism. Apparently, mainly because I indicated that if an event was in progress, the presentation should continue, but not be made over the public address system.

I have considered the matter carefully, and consider that, while there may have been one or two failings in the system, I personally would not alter my approach on the procedure.

The option of transferring and/or delaying the presentations presents too many problems for both the organisers and the athletes.

The Gosch's Paddock presentations were a complete success.

The presentation of some team medals were delayed due to a couple of recording errors.

V.I.Ps

Ensured the welfare of designated V.I.Ps and coordinated those for presentations.

RECORDS

Maintained a staff to check and validate all record claims as quickly as possible.

This group had some difficulties, and some records still require documentation. This was partly due to my failure to properly coordinate the wind readings with the recording area.

UTILITIES

Ensured that all police requirements were covered, supplied security for the computer section by placing security guard during periods when this section was not in operation.

Liaised with the various Health Care units to ensure our medical needs.

Liaised with public utilities such as Water Board, Local Councils etc to cover our needs during the Games. Particularly for the Marathon and Road Walks.

OUTSIDE EVENTS

Covered the massive job of coordinating the three Outside events and would have to be considered as having done the most outstanding administrative performance of the Games.

DISTRIBUTION AND COMPUTERISATION

Had the toughest two jobs of the Games in ensuring the smooth paper flow was maintained, despite the difficulties created by some recording errors.

These two areas held the key to maintaining the timetable, and on two

occassion were not able to. Once when a start sheet was not forwarded in time due to a slip up in checking it out. The other was caused by the Track 2 recording difficulties, which created problems in sorting out the finalists of a couple of events.

The paper flow was most under pressure in the critical times between the running of two rounds of the sprints, when any holdup had a cumulative effect. On several occasions the Heat Forming groups were put under pressure due to holdups caused by recording errors which effected qualifiers.

This area operated for 48 hours straight at the start of the Games, and generally 16 to 20 hours a day after that.

PHOTO FINISH

Worked well, but had some difficulties due to inadequate side numbers on the athletes. The aim was to have these numbers placed on the athletes shorts when in the start area. As they were placed on in the marshal area a fair percentage were removed when the athletes stripped down.

This group practised very hard to ensure the maximum speed in processing to meet the tight timetable. The fact that they only missed a couple of events is a clear indication of how well they did.

Photo finish facilities were not available on track 2, so we kept a video operating as a backup to the judges.

A possible concern was that we would have a hand time from a track two division of the 10kms or 5kms that might challenge an electronic time from track one for a medal placing in the M40 or M45.

INFORMATION CENTRE

Had a massive job, controlling the information flow, preparation and distribution of athletes kits, and supplying interpreters. As well, set up all signage, and display areas.

SUB-GROUPS

Organised at venue level, covered :- Main Results Distribution Runners, Photo Finish Results Distribution Team, Heat Marshalling Group, Basket Brigade, Gosch's Paddock Teas, Water And Sponge Supply For Distance Events,

OTHERS

Several other groups had major parts to play, but came more under the Excecutive Directors supervision. They were, Publicity, Host-A-Vet, Welcoming and Accomodation, Sponsor Support and Display, Sales.

There was also the Welcoming and Closing Ceremony Group, which came under the Chairmans' supervision.

APPROXIMATE MANPOWER REQUIRED

	Key	Help	Total Key	Total Help
Games Office Staff	2	2	2	20
Administration	1	3	4	10
Computer	2	4	2	20
Distribution	2	4	2	20
Records	1	1	4	4
Information	1	6	3	30
Finance	2		4	
Sales and Display	2	3	4	20
Announcing	1	2	1	8

Distribution Runners	1	6	2	30
Distribution Photo Fin.	1	4	4	30
Photo Finish	1	3	3	10
Video Camera	1	1	4	4
Publicity	2	2	4	8
Promotion O.P.	1	2	1	2
Presentations	3	12	6	30
Ceremonies	3	120	3	120
V.I.Ps	1	2	1	6
Security	1	1	1	10
Officials	10	80	20	180
Utility Marshals	1	6	2	20
Lap Scorers	3	48	3	300
Heat Forming Marshals	2	4	6	20
General Equipment	1	4	1	20
Technical Equipment	2	4	3	20
Jury	1	3	1	20
Outside Events	1	5	10	300
Medical	3	10	12	50
Massuers	1	15	3	50
St Johns	1	6	1	30
Host A Vet	1	4	5	??
Welcoming & Accom	3	6	3	20
Sponsor Support	1	2	1	2
Basket Brigade	1	8	1	30
Sponges & Water (Track)	1	8	1	20

While these figures can be mind-boggling it must be remembered that quite a few people would have doubled up by helping in several areas. By using the Veterans Club as our main pool we created a short-term help situation. That is, people were available for limited periods, as they were also competitors. I believe this was more than compensated for by the understanding and friendliness this generated. However, as this attitude was also very evident in our Competition Officials, perhaps I didn't prove anything. We did avoid Romes problem of some uncommitted helpers becoming bored and disappearing during the latter part of their Games. We were never without helpers.

NOTES OF INTEREST

TEAM LEADERS

A vital group of people, whose help and support made it possible to hold these Games with great harmony. Most problems were ironed out with their help.

It was obvious that the larger teams needed several assistants, to cope with the many demands made on their time. Not many athletes appreciate just how much time and effort these people put into their jobs.

PRINTING

The major printing jobs of the Program and Result books had different methods applied. The Program book was set up by cutting and pasting the competition pages. For the Results book the printers had our IBM disk converted to a 'Mac' format to suit their newly installed machine, and paginated using a Pagemaker type software.

The commercial production of the daily results proved too slow and unreliable, so we finished up doing our own, with our photo copiers.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

During the Games we used 3 computers, one was the 'master', one as the backup, and one for development and correction. A printer was attached to each one. The third one was made available for report writing for one or two of the WAVA members.

A total of 4 photo copiers were supplied, two standard office type and two desk tops. One of the office types was used as 'backup' and when we did the daily results, we used that one.

The main office type was used in the distribution centre for all competition copying. One desk top was used in the photo finish centre to enable us to give instant track results to the announcers and media unit.

The other desk top was used by the media unit.

COMPETITOR EVENTS

Including the pentathlon events, there were a total of 11,150 event results.

1282 competitors recorded 1 result only	
1101 had 2 results	30 had 10 results
725 " 3 "	22 " 11 "
368 " 4 "	14 " 12 "
185 " 5 "	5 " 13 "
122 " 6 "	3 " 14 "
85 " 7 "	4 " 15 "
54 " 8 "	
49 " 9 "	1 " 17 "

A total of 4843 names went on the master list, 4042 actually recorded a result. A further 170 collected their kit, may have competed and failed to finish in the outside events, and 631 did not collect their kits.

GRADINGS

While there were some obvious outlandish standards claimed by a few athletes, some giving times performed 30 or more years ago, the medals were generally won by people who were listed in the top eight of their age group.

With the men, the average would be about 2 out of 3, while the women were closer to 2 1/2 out of 3. The men 40 and 45 in the running events were the most unreliable, although much of this could be attributed to the greater number taking part.

RESULTS BOOK ERRORS

I have been advised of 3 Results Book errors.

- 1) M50 John Hewitson NZL was shown as Dnf in the 10km track run. Was in fact 103rd with a time of 47.35. The error was due to a lapscorer recording the wrong runner on several laps, and a checking misjudgement.
- 2) M70 Vivian Hyland AUS incorrectly shown as 8th finisher in heat 2 of the 800m. He booked-in but said he did not compete in this event.
- 3) W70 Angie Sole NZL incorrectly awarded a time of 16.24 in the 80m hurdles. Correct time 27.74. Error due to photo finish misreading.

TIMING

To ensure record performances where acceptable in unlaned events for all athletes we had four electronic printout watches on each track so that we could guarantee three timers per competitor. The fourth watch was backup.

COMPETITION NUMBERS

To reduce possible errors in recording multi age events, men over 60 had numbers allotted so that no one had the same last three numbers, this also applied to the womens groups. example M60 had 001 to say 399, M65 say 500 -699 -M70 say 701 to 800 etc. I had to juggle a bit at the finish.

To overcome the problem of more than 1000 M40s I started a four number sequence after 40999 ie 4001 etc. I tried to avoid giving these numbers to marathoners and road walkers in case of a mixup with the womens numbers.

OLYMPIC PARK GROUND STAFF

The behind the scenes work by these people was fantastic. They were caught by a couple of problems, which needed extra staff and could not be properly corrected until after the first weekend because of that.

1.) Toilet paper, Veteran Athletes use twice as much as normal. The staff had to double their normal replacement and cleaning procedure.

2.) General ground cleaning, again there was a need to increase normal procedure, excess seemed to be caused mainly by packaging waste from various displays.

CATERING

A sharp difference of opinion occurred with the catering organisation, on when to shut down operations. A balance between our requirements and the need for them to run profitably had to be accepted.

GENERAL COMMUNICATION

We made a practice of distributing, world wide, copies of all major planning papers. This was to allow for critical analysis, and also to act as guidelines for future organisers to either follow or say "We wouldn't want to do that thataway."

STANDARDS

I have always had a strong distaste of the practice of implementing standards, and I cannot let this report finish without some comment on WAVA's decision to implement them for future World Championships.

This distaste was reinforced by my experience of having to conduct a National Championship governed by them. My representations after that experience led to the dropping of all such requirements for Australian Veteran competition. Apart from the basic unfairness of the system, namely that the best in some age groups are not given equal awards, I found that the very sharp and, I consider, warranted criticism, was directed at the Organisers who had to implement the rule, rather than at those who formulated it.

The disharmony that standards cause reflect very badly on the organisers and leaves a bad taste that cannot be overcome by even the best organisation.

I would not again implement such an unacceptable rule.

I will give this factual example of an unacceptable implementation of this rule : -

In a hurdles race, the leader, three metres clear of the field, tripped and fell on the last hurdle, badly bruising and grazing her knees and arms, got up and finished third. The two in front of her got medals, she did not !

This type of unfairness is inherent in the standards rule, a rule that will please a few purists, but cause a lot of displeasure to the majority when they see how it must be implemented.

NEARLY FINISHED

It is now late November '88 and there are still a few matters to be finalised, particularly in relation to the documentation of a number of records. I hope to have it all cleared up by Christmas, but can't be sure as my time is very limited and has been for some time.

I will include a paper on the windgauge readings with this report, and will send copies of a few relevant 'after Games' reports to Eugene and also to the Wava secretary.

THANK YOU

In closing this report, I must give special thanks to two overseas people, whose advice and support helped greatly in easing the pressures involved.

To Bill Taylor of England, who displayed an understanding of administration requirements second to none. Your advise was invaluable.

• To Al Sheahen of the U.S.A. Your communications on the effects of our plans from various athletes points of view, helped avoid problems, and your articles helped set the tone for these 'Games'. Your help during the Games was also greatly appreciated.

We could not have done as well without your contributions, Thank you both.

To WAVA, thank you for giving your support to our, at times, controversial efforts. The personal support from so many of you over the last few months was greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to the Organising Body, the Coordinating Committees, and all the officials, support groups and athletes who helped make these a good Games.

Ray Callaghan



28.12.88



December 4, 1987

Memo to Executive and Regional Members of WAVA

M.E.(Peg) SMITH - Executitve Vice President.

Policy

The biggest event on the WAVA calendar is the next Championships to be held in Eugene, Oregon USA. All efforts should be made to assist organisers to run the event efficiently and profitably.

This will be the 8th Championships and until this time, there has been no package handed on from one event to another by WAVA. There is need for a package, which should consist of:

1. A video of television highlights shown through the Championships.
2. A computer program which can be taken and developed.
3. A full financial statement of all expenses and income. This should also include expenses covered by contra donations.
4. A report on competition aspects and programming. Including the aims of the Competition Director and if they have been achieved.
5. A report on the labour force, including judges, referees, police, council workers, volunteers, sports medicine, security, catering, cleaning and ground staff.
6. A newspaper clipping service, which would put together all media coverage of the event.
7. 100 program books and copies of all printed material produced.
8. Report on merchandising.
9. Report on sponsorship.
10. Report on public relations and advertising prior to the event.
11. Recommendations to future organisers, including possible pitfalls.
12. Report on any rehearsal competition held prior to the Championships.

The above items listed are all absolutely essential to an organiser of the WAVA championships. To have these on hand in the early stages of preparation, will ensure that work and finances are not expended unnecessarily.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

All aspects of the General Assembly, including budget, venue and requirements should be the responsibility of a member of the executive of council. If all energies are to be put by the organisers into competition, then the burden of WAVA meeting venues etc. should be on WAVA. All meeting dates should be set well ahead of time for full publicity. It is not necessary to put exact dates, but instead nominate, 3rd day after start of competition.



SITE VISITS.

Careful consideration should be given to the exact purpose for site meetings. These can very easily develop into pleasure jaunts without anything being achieved except extra expenses which get put back onto organisers and through them the athlete. In most cases a written report from organisers to the full council will indicate if all aspects are fully in hand and being considered. In this day and age the use of world wide communication link up and facsimile machines leave very little need for the expense of 10's of thousands of dollars to be expended.

The organisers should be asked whom do they envisage giving the most assistance, if a visit is to be made. Finance and programming are the two vital areas and should be considered before all others.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS AND CHANGES

Any technical changes or additional events which are added to a program should not be done without full communication with the Competition Director of the next WAVA championships. Each change can have a ripple effect on the full competition and in some cases be logistically quite impossible to implement. I believe all the needs of the athlete should be taken into account but at the same time consideration must always be given to the difficulty some of these preferences present.

FUTURE CHAMPIONSHIP SITES.

Attention needs to be given to the reasons why in some instances the Championships have been run very smoothly and in other instances why from time to time it has been rather chaotic. There appears to be a significant indication that there are some primary requirements.

1. At least two athletic tracks side by side.
2. Parkland which can be implemented for field events if necessary.
3. A strong athletic organisation within that city, Particularly in the way of qualified judges and referees as well as indications of strong commitment from the community.
4. Strong government backing particularly local and immigration departments as well as the police force.

Consideration should be given by all council members to indicate to the Executive any City which it is believed that meets all these requirements. WAVA should then take the initiative and make an approach to these cities and invite them to make a submission to host the Championships. This invitation would need to contain quite a few items from the package of the previous Championships, but in the long run would ensure that it is not necessary to take un-satisfactory bids because there is no other choice.



BUDGET

Events which are included in the championships such as teams events cause a large increase in the budget of the organisers. These are the responsibility of WAVA as there are no extra fees collected for these. This also applies to the finishers medal for the marathon which has been requested by WAVA.

EFFICIENCY

WAVA should be conducted on a business like basis. All members of the council should be given specific areas to observe and report on at the Championships. The reports can be put to all council in writing within 30 days of the Championships. This would assist getting an overall view from outside the organisation. Meetings through the Championships should be kept to an absolute minimum. Members of the Executive and Council are also competitors and it is also important that full observation of the Championships is done throughout the competition.

SUMMARY

Full support and information should be available for organisers of WAVA sanctioned events.

Site visits should only be for a specific purpose and costs be met by WAVA and kept to an absolute minimum.

Future sites for Championships should be initiated by WAVA.

Specific duties be given to council members through competition at Championships.

Budget costs must be taken into consideration when requests are put to the organisers.

Meetings must be conducted on business like basis where written reports are presented and discussions are kept to these areas.