

President's Report - July 2016

With the colder weather upon us, the hardest part of training is often getting to the door. Having a goal in mind does help, so I trust those planning to go the Perth in late October are using that as motivation to 'just do it!', as Nike would say.

Since the April Vetline, I have had very little additional feedback about the proposed membership MoU between NZMA and Athletics NZ. However, I am quietly confident that all Centre representatives who attended the AGM in February with the expectation of voting for or against the MoU still have the same view as nothing has changed since then.

As decided at the AGM, we are holding a Special General Meeting (SGM) in Auckland on 6 August 2016. This is the same day as ANZ's Club Connect Conference and we have arranged to use the same venue, Novotel Ellerslie. Our meeting is planned for 5.00 p.m.

The reason for using this venue is that many Centre representatives may well be at the Conference. It will also allow non-NZMA masters at the conference to listen in on what is planned and give us an opportunity to prompt what we have to offer to this group.

Although we set our NZMA fees at the AGM in February, it will be necessary to change these fees if the MoU is accepted. Athletics NZ increased their fees in April, but fortunately our fees do not have to mirror their fees. However, I do expect our fees to go up, which is not unrealistic given we have not increased the fees for several years.

In May, I sent an information letter to all Centres about how I think the new system will work. This was also another opportunity for Centres to provide feedback and ask questions. Thank you to those Centres who responded.

If you are still unsure of what this all means to you, ask yourself this question ... "Have you or are you intending to join an ANZ affiliated club?"

If the answer is YES, then you will register through an ANZ Club as many of you already do. However, you will no longer pay a second fee to join NZMA. If you intend to compete at SI, NI, NZMA, OMA or WMA championship events, you will join ANZ as a 'Competitive Member'.

If the answer to the question above was NO, (I will not join a club) then you will join NZMA. This will be done exactly the same way as you have done for years - via your local Masters Centre. Previously there was only one fee for NZMA members. However, we are intending to introduce two options. A NZMA Competitive Member who intends to compete at SI, NI, NZMA, OMA or WMA events or a NZMA Social Members who only competes locally.

As mentioned previously, Vetline will become optional. Therefore, this will be an additional cost over and above whichever subscription you pay. One option is to offer a PDF version of Vetline free to all members and a user pays paper version. These options were discussed at the July Board meeting. We have at least until the end of the year to decide so if you have an opinion either way, we need to know.

Finally, a lot of work has gone on behind the scenes to create this Sharing of Membership MoU with ANZ. I am keen to make sure we do what is required so that we can vote on this issue at the SGM. If you are going to be in Auckland attending the ANZ Club Connect and / or Oceania / ANZ Cross Country Championship to be run on Sunday 7 August and can be your Centre's representative at the SGM, please let your Centre President know, so that your name can be passed onto the NZMA Secretary prior to the meeting.

Thank you for the supportive comments I have received regarding this issue.

I look forward to seeing many of you in August.

Andrew Stark - NZMA President