

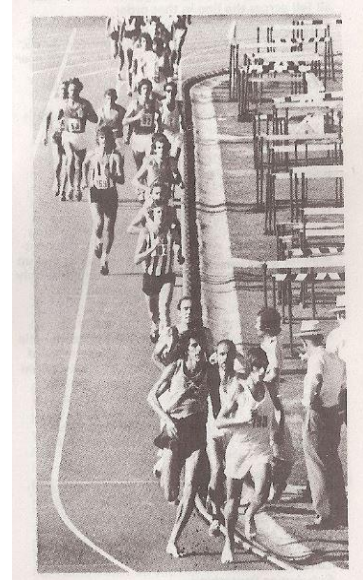
In search of the lost “10,000”

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On a Sunday afternoon in the distant year of 1976 some twenty odd of the best distance runners in Queensland lined up for the state 10,000 metre championship. The “10,000” is the longest of the Olympic track distance and involves running 25 laps of the 400-metre track.

The event was at the end of the state championship weekend and apart from the competitors there were of course the officials and a handful of spectators. As the runners readied themselves on the infield near the start line there was another small group who were not the usual track and field officiating type. This group busied themselves with their cameras and sound recording equipment.



They were a group of young film makers headed up by director and producer Nik Kospartov. Nik had come to the track to put in place his idea of blending the repetitiveness of the constant strides of a running event with a musical score that also had a repetitive theme throughout it. Up to this time not many sporting events had been specifically set to music and this was the first to be undertaken in Australia. Nik and his team were operating on a “pair of football laces budget”. They undertook the filming with a minimal number of cameras and with limited funds to for the post filming work.

Running barefooted, Gerard Barrett, a future Olympian battled the hot and windy conditions on his way to comprehensively winning the championship while the film crew captured the 30 minutes of the race.

Nik edited down the race into a 12-minute film simply titled “10,000”. The race was set to the music of composer Maurice Ravel’s *Bolero* better remembered as background music to the Bo Derek and Dudley Moore film *Ten*. If you know the movie you will recall the “physical” scene where the music was played. If not - you can google it!

10,000

Australia 1976

s., d., p., sc.— N.D. Kospartov, ph. — R. Bollman, R. Marks, ed.— B. Benson, N.D. Kospartov, sd.— R. Blasdall, R. McManiss, m.— M. Ravel, l.p.— Brisbane Athletes.

35mm

Colour

12 mins

10,000 metres, not dollars.

Nik Kospartov’s film ‘TRIALS’ was screened at last year’s Festival.

Sydney Short Film Festival 1977

Australian Film Awards, Melbourne 1977

Listing and credits for the “10,000” film from the 1977 Brisbane Film Festival Program.

“10,000” was shown at the 1977 Brisbane Film Festival and in the same year at the Sydney Short Film Festival.

Fast forward forty years to 2016 and the release of the film, *The Draw*. This is a film of the drawn Australian Football grand final game between Collingwood and St Kilda in 2015. This film was also set to music. Nik’s original idea had been taken to a new level with a professionally filmed game and a specifically written music symphony by Tamil Rugeon performed by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. By now, sport and music had a bi-partisan relationship.

Unfortunately since its original showings “10,000” has been unsighted. A search of the usual film archives such as the National Film and Sound Archives has not turned up a copy. Sure -it is not as significant a film as the missing segments of Australia’s first feature film *The Story of the Kelly Gang* but it is a piece of Australian sporting cinematic history.

So the search to locate a copy goes on. The author would be happy to hear from anyone with any information about - or a copy of the lost “10,000”.

Sources of information:

Australasian Athletics Magazine, March, 1976.

Brisbane Cinema Group, *Twelfth Brisbane Film Festival, Program*, 11th – 17th July, 1977.

Personal communication with Nik Kospartov, October 2016.

Presenting The Draw: A Symphony <http://www.afl.com.au/news/2016-07-01/presenting-the-draw-a-symphony> Accessed July 2017.

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