

Thompson Magawana winds of change

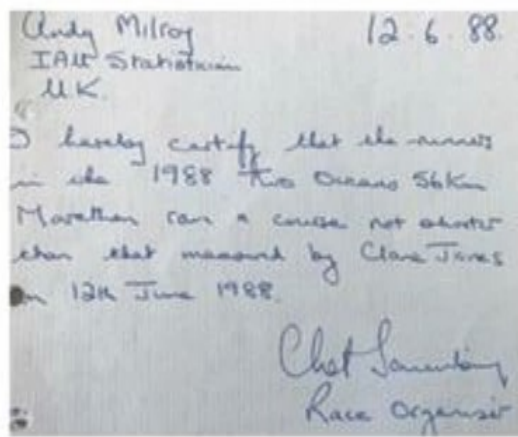
RUNNING Williamson

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Thompson Magawana's
2:43:38 set on April 30,
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van der Merwe's 1989
e (3:08:38) is the Conti-
th Aly Dixon's 3:07:20
019 IAU World 50 km

SA's leading ultra-runners to aim for new 50 km record

championships the European and ratified World Best. Earlier this year, previous Boston Marathon winner, Des Linden (USA) ran a male paced special event to become the first lady to break three hours, (2:59:54), but has yet to apply to the International Association of Ultra-runners for ratification. World Athletics currently list this as best performance as they do not ratify those distances. **The 'noteworthy performance' that took five years to be a World Best:** Magawana and Van der Merwe ran their blistering times when South Africa was isolated. It was politically convenient for the world to be sceptical of any performance in South Africa.

Jones Counter measurement was only just introduced in SA and neither technical officials nor our national federation were recognised, which allowed the world to question or ignore results. Under leadership of Malcolm Campbell, a small group of global ultra-running enthusiasts regularly communicated which gave birth to the IAU, who by 1987 held the first World 100 km under



The original measurement and recognition of Thompson Magawana's times set in 1988 (and used for Frith vd Merwe in 1989), a piece of history that few know. **PHOTOS: NORRIE WILLIAMSON**

patronage to IAAF. They also produced the first guideline rules and standards. SA Runner publisher, Peter Walsh, mentored me into Course Measurement with an introduction by Peter Riegel (USA) who gladly reviewed my work. As chair of the Centurion Runners

Club, my approaches to South African Road Running Association and Natal Marathon Runners eventually delivered National and Provincial Ultra Running sub committees. Two Oceans Organiser, Chet Sainsbury, quickly adopted the ultra and measurement protocols to put

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