

St Kilda, Victoria - In an effort to generate excitement and public support for Australia's struggling athletics circuit, elite athlete and recently turned race director, Michael Kavanagh, announced on Monday that he will "bring track and field back to the masses".

AUSTRALIANS still view athletics as a dribbleathon," said Kavanagh. "Who wants to pay to watch a bunch of people who look like matchsticks with the wood scraped off run around in circles without secondary entertainment? We've tried everything: stupidly long races like Sydney to Melbourne, and even man against beast [i.e. Shirvo vs Northerly] - but nothing we've done has captured the public's imagination...or goldfish-like attention span".

It was revealed during a press conference to unveil Kavanagh's athletic realignment plan that he had met with Westfield officials several times over the past few weeks. "I'm happy to announce that we have finally reached a decision: Every single Australian athletic event of any significance will be relocated to the Chadston Mall over the next two years."

Kavanagh said that he had gleaned the idea when sitting at the MCG, watching Craig Mottram compete in his historic Commonwealth Games 5000m final. "I got a bit bored at about lap 6 or so, and I'm sure I wasn't alone. But then the ice-cream guy came past, so I grabbed a Gaytime and bingo. With a couple of mouthfuls I was reinvigorated. I tuned back in to see Mottram doing his pseudo victory lap - it was excellent!"

"So it's all about making the spectators comfortable. And Chadston Mall is perfect. The question is, what DOESN'T the mall have?!" said Kavanagh.

Kavanagh noted that the Chadston Mall has never actually played host to anything that resembles an athletic contest, except when the Victorian State Froga Championships were staged at Timezone in 1997. "It's a mystery to me why no one has ever thought of this before."

"In terms of athletic-specific facilities, we may have to modify events slightly to suit the environment. For example, long jump could be conducted over the mid-mall chasm with an extra factor of interest being you fail, you die." Other suggested events included Food Court relays, Rebel Sport treadmill marathons and a shopping trolley toss, replacing the need for 4 separate throwing events. "We could even conduct the 100m on the travelator - it'd be over in half the time, so people could get back to their shopping," Kavanagh said.

Local mall identity and ex-Australian distance running representative Ryan Taylor commended Kavanagh's plans, stating that if Rugby was "the game they play in heaven", athletics also deserved a similarly high prestige home. "Along with most Australians, I've felt the mall to be my

spiritual home for many years now. Whether it be Belconnen, Chadston or even Erina Fair...it doesn't matter..I'm just so happy that I'll now be able to get a pedicure and watch the Men's Level 1 400 Shop Race simultaneously. I'm almost too emotional to speak. If only Pre could see this..."

Kavanagh's plans don't just revolve around track either. He plans to host the Australian Mountain Champs "up one side of the mall façade and down the other side", and various cross country races will be accommodated as well: "Floor surfaces vary from toilet areas through to food courts and general walkways - this is cross isn't it?"

"We have even negotiated with the Funny Shop to host the Australian Race Walking Championships," Kavanagh stated.

After delivering his ground-breaking plan for athletics, Kavanagh announced that his second managerial decision will be to step down immediately and permanently from his new race director position—a bold, unexpected move that he successfully carried out just moments later. "My time in Race Directorship has been great, and it feels like it was just yesterday that I started this job, but I truly believe that this move will give me a better opportunity to win," Kavanagh said at the press conference, while ceremoniously removing his suit and tie. "I'm very excited about leaving." After the announce-

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ment, an Athletics Australia spokesperson praised Kavanagh's sound judgment and pure athletics instinct, saying that "his ability to make quick, smart decisions like this one is exactly why he'll be successful...who is he anyway?"

Michael Kavanagh enjoying the first 6 laps of Mottram's Commonwealth Games 5000m.

