



Australian Rogaining Association Inc.

2008 Annual General Meeting

14th August 2008

The meeting was opened by the President at 3:00pm.

1. Apologies and Notification Of Proxies

Apologies received: Peter Taylor, Nick Bowden, Colette Sims, Gary Carroll, Alan Mansfield, Robin Gardiner

Proxies advised:

Martina Honey is proxy for Robin Gardiner (VRA)

Phil Whitten is proxy for Alan Mansfield (NSWRA)

Rob Tucker is proxy for Steve Cooper (SARA)

Delegate in Attendance:

Derek Morris, Martina Honey (VRA)

Phil Whitten, Joel Mackay (NSWRA)

Glenn Bridgart, David Baldwin (ACTRA)

Richard Robinson (QRA)

Jon Potter (NTRA)

Rob Tucker (SARA)

Phil Holman (President)*

David Rowlands (Secretary)*

Richard Robinson (Treasurer)

[* = attended via phone conference]

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOTION: That the minutes of the 2007 AGM be accepted as true and accurate.

Moved: Jon Potter, Seconded: Richard Robinson

3. Matters Arising From the Minutes Not Discussed Elsewhere

- a) The placing of the VRA's Risk Management documents on the ARA Council website has been delayed pending migration to the new website Content Management System and will be completed shortly.
- b) The ARA Sponsorship Guidelines activity is with Julian Ledger and was discussed further in the context of the Subaru sponsorship proposal under General Business.

4. President's Report

The President summarised the significant changes that have occurred in rogaining over the last nine years, largely due to Internet technology:

- Electronic punching provides results and splits immediately at the conclusion of an event.
- Online entries can speed and simplify event administration.

- ARA and state websites simplify promotion of rogaining. The ARA website was renewed by Alastair Honeybun, then recently by David Baldwin. During this period, the insurance industry has come full circle: from good value, to very expensive, and now back to a reasonable state. An important improvement for the sport is the reinstatement of landowner protection.

Achievements in the last 12 months include:

- Improvements to the technical regulations covering electronic punching systems effective from 1st August 2007.
- The 2007 Australian Rogaining Championships saw the re-introduction of the Intersarsity Category, launched in conjunction with the Nigel Aylott Memorial Sports Foundation.
- The ARA presented its arguments for constitution change to the IRF Council.

5. Financial Matters

a) Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer expressed his thanks to Brian Austin, the ARA's Auditor. Contrary to expectations at the 2007 AGM, NTRA's ARC balanced its budget, through the efforts of organiser Jon Potter.

A softening of the market has allowed ARA to achieve an increased level of cover with a reduction of about 50c per member compared to the previous renewal. More importantly the new underwriter, Lloyds of London, has agreed to provide full cover for landowners irrespective of the landowners' negligence or insurance position. This is an excellent outcome and returns ARA to the sort of cover enjoyed up until 2001.

b) Public Liability Insurance:

- New Insurer commenced on 13 June 2008: through OAMPS Insurance Brokers. Insurance cover has now been increased to \$20M, with full protection for landowners.
- Directors and Officers Insurance is in progress, currently awaiting financial data from VRA.

c) Capitation Fee 2008-09:

MOTION: That the Capitation Fee for 2008-09 be \$1 per member. Moved: Richard Robinson, Seconded: Rob Tucker

d) Discussion of remaining grant funding/marketing budget was deferred until the later agenda item regarding IRF Capitation.

e) The cost and logistics of transport of delegates to the AGM venue was topical given that the AGM was held on Thursday in a remote part of NSW. David Baldwin stated that the delegates should not be out of pocket attending the AGM, compared to regular travel to the ARC.

ACTION: The meeting resolved that Richard Robinson should create a policy guideline for funding of ARA delegate transport.

6. Election of Office Bearers

All Executive positions are up for re-election for three years:

- President: Phil Holman is retiring after nine years as President. Richard Robinson thanked Phil for his energy and great leadership over this extended period of success for Australian Rogaining.
- Richard Robinson was elected as President. Moved: Phillip Holman, Seconded: David Baldwin.
- David Rowlands was re-elected Secretary. Moved: David Baldwin, Seconded: Jon Potter.
- There were no nominations for Treasurer and the position remains vacant. The delegates were asked to actively enquire of suitable candidates in their associations, such as former state association treasurers. Richard Robinson remains acting Treasurer in the interim.
- The meeting appointed Brian Austin as ARA Auditor for 2008-09.

ACTION: In the absence of a Treasurer, David Rowlands is to be included as a signatory on the ARA account.

7. Australian Championships

- a) 2008 NSWRA. The unusual scheduling of the 2008 Australian Championship on Friday/Saturday was discussed. Joel Mackay said that the organisers thought it would enhance the event by ensuring people stayed afterwards. Richard Robinson said that the timing meant that more people were forced to take a day off work. David Baldwin said this had cost the organisers (NSWRA), ACTRA and ARA through lower than expected attendance and consequent underwriting of bus costs. Richard Robinson proposed that the Technical Regulations should state that the ARC is held on Saturday/Sunday unless otherwise agreed.

MOTION: That the competition day/date of the ARC be confirmed by ARA Council at the AGM one year prior. Moved: Phil Whitten, Seconded: Glenn Bridgart.

- b) 2009 WARA, 6/7 June 2009

- Organisers are Gary Carroll, Jim Langford, Keith Stewart, Owen Horton.
- A detailed promotional handout from WARA was tabled at the meeting and at the ARC. A website has been setup: <http://wa.rogaine.asn.au/ozchamps>.

- c) The subsequent schedule is: 2010 ACTRA (to be held in February/March), 2011 RTas, 2012 SARA, 2013 QRA.

8. IRF Constitution Reform and ARA Membership

- a) In February 2008 the IRF setup a Yahoo Group for discussion of the IRF constitutional changes agreed with ARA in January 2006. The ARA nominated Richard Robinson, David Baldwin and David Rowlands to participate and the IRF separately invited Gary Carroll and Robin Gardiner to observe.

The key point of disagreement between ARA and IRF since 2001 has not yet been put to a vote. Currently the majority of votes in the IRF are provided to individuals without any formally constituted rogaining body. In practice, such individuals can have equivalent or greater voting power than Czech, New

Zealand Rogaining Association, or Australian Rogaining Association, but without the necessary checks and balances.

The ARA's position and rationale has been stated clearly in the Yahoo discussion group to all key international rogaining representatives. A motion containing the ARA's constitution changes was formally put by Peter Taylor and Peter Squires (NZRA), but the IRF Executive decided not to proceed to a vote.

IRF constitution changes made through this process were: (1) removal of Founder's Position and Commercial Operators' position, and (2) reduction of majority for constitutional change from 75% to two thirds. All have passed easily once delegates were given the opportunity to vote.

Richard Robinson said that there is no indication from IRF when or if there will be further progress. The process is not yet exhausted, but currently the sport is little further progressed towards forming a representative federation of national bodies than it was 10 years ago.

- b) Phillip Holman proposed that the ARA's likely IRF capitation fee, which is substantial and not yet been taken up, could be set aside in an ARA International Development Fund. This would be used once agreement is reached on the IRF constitution, or in the meantime it could be used for worthwhile international development projects. This is essentially the same proposal as floated by David Baldwin at the 2007 AGM.

Glenn Bridgart said that the ARA should become more proactive and more visible internationally. The meeting agreed that the funds could be used to support the ARA's objectives such as development of formal rogaining bodies, or underwriting of a World Rogaining Championship. David Baldwin said that the IRF has limited financial reserves which have restricted its capacity to sustain the sport internationally.

MOTION: That ARA put aside US\$1 per member, either as IRF Capitation Fee, or for worthwhile international development projects. To be funded 50/50 by the ARA's reserves and the States. Moved: Phillip Holman, Seconded: David Baldwin.

ACTION: The ARA should setup a sub-committee to administer the fund.

- c) Richard Robinson suggested that ARA should approach the existing national rogaining bodies, specifically Czech, New Zealand and USA, to discuss their appetite for formation of an alternative federation. At this stage, the International Development Fund is seen as the best way to move forward.
- d) The meeting decided that there should be no bid from Australia for WRC 2010. VRA had agreed to lend support to another state's bid, but this did not eventuate. There was support for consideration of a future bid for WRC 2012 by SARA or another state.

Richard Robinson said that agreement was reached with IRF in 2004 that the WRC should be allocated well in advance through a rotation policy between North America, Australia/New Zealand and Europe. However, bidding for

WRC 2010 appears to have been poorly managed with the consequence that its confirmation is late, whilst the WRC will be held in Europe for two successive events.

ACTION: Phil Holman to advise Alan Mansfield in his position with the IRF that there will be no bid from Australia for WRC 2010.

9. Technical Subcommittee

Convenor: David Baldwin

- a) The review of the 2007 Australian Rogaining Championship has been completed and is on the ARA website. There was discussion regarding sub-committee feedback and how this could be better disseminated and synthesised.
- b) The ARA website and those of WARA, SARA, NTRA and IRF were migrated to a new ISP due to the collapse of Informed Technology in Western Australia. David Baldwin was congratulated by the meeting for an excellent job in coordinating and implementing this. He also migrated the ARA Website to a new content management system which provides ARA with many useful features such as discussion groups, an events calendar that delegates can contribute to, and a moon phase calculator.
- c) The Technical committee is currently planning for the next full revision of the ARA Rules and Technical Regulations. There was discussion lead by David Baldwin and Glenn Bridgart of the need for the rules to adapt further to the current usage of electronic devices. Whilst there is a preference to mandate a Navlight tag for each competitor, an issue is that the smaller states do not yet own a set.

ACTION: Each state should notify David Baldwin of suitable a sub-committee member for 2008-09 who is particularly interested in the rules and regulations.

10. General Business

- a) Australian Sports Commission (ASC) accreditation was discussed in detail at the 2007 AGM. There has been little further progress because there has been no urgent requirement. Drivers for accreditation could be the application to Australian University Sports (AUS), or if accreditation becomes a mandated requirement for future funding of state associations.
- b) The Australian University Rogaining Championship is in its second year of the three year commitment by the Nigel Aylott Memorial Foundation (NAMSF). The goal has been to firmly establish Intervarsity Rogaining so that the sports unions will support the event into the future. However, voluntary student unionism has decimated the university sports unions and reduced student involvement in all sports. Richard Robinson said that the funding logistics with NAMSF have been organised 6 months in advance, though it is difficult to predict airfares.

After an excellent start in 2007, numbers were down for 2008, probably due to the remote location. Hence a significant effort will be required in 2009 to build the momentum. The 2009 ARC in Western Australia falls during exam time, so

the 2009 Intervarsity Championship could ideally be held in July-September in conjunction with a state championship.

ACTION: Phillip Holman should negotiate a suitable event date with the state associations and liaise with Michael Aylott of NAMSF.

The accreditation with Australian University Sports (AUS) requires five letters of support from participating Universities. Only four were received by the deadline, hence the process must recommence from scratch in 2009.

ACTION: Phillip Holman will reconvene the Intervarsity sub-committee.

- c) The Secretary holds stocks of Rogaining stickers which will be posted on request. A redesign of the stickers is likely in the near future and states are requested to be alert for a suitable graphic artist.
- d) The Publicity Officer position remains vacant.
- e) ARA received a request from ACTRA, seeking approval to approach Subaru regarding a potential promotional article for the Subaru lifestyle magazine. The meeting was generally supportive of the promotional article concept. Glenn Bridgart said that for ARA involvement, the article would require a national focus. Phillip Holman felt that, in this case, the benefit for Subaru is greater than that for rogaining. Richard Robinson cautioned that the states are better equipped to handle promotion at a local level, with the ARA focussing on Australian Championships, rules and insurance.
- f) The ARA Constitution is due for revision to ensure compliance with South Australian current legal requirements. Andrew Murphy (SARA) has offered to conduct this review. David Baldwin has identified a potential constitution issue during his review of the ASC accreditation requirements. A review should also incorporate minor amendments identified by Richard Robinson in 1999.

ACTION: Rob Tucker is to follow up Andrew Murphy regarding his offer to review the ARA Constitution.

11. Next AGM

The next AGM is proposed to run from 2:00pm-5:00pm, Fri 5 June 2009, at or near the Hash House of the 2009 Australian Rogaining Championships, Western Australia.

The meeting was closed by the President at 6:00pm.

Tabled Documents

President's Report - **2007-08 Presidents Report.pdf**

Treasurer's Report - **2007 Treasurers Report.pdf**

Auditor's Report - **ARA 2007 Audit Report.pdf**

Minutes of Previous AGM – **ARA AGM 2007 Minutes.pdf**

WARA ARC Promotion - **2009 Australian Rogaining Championships.pdf**

ARA Council as at 1/08/2008

President: Phillip Holman
Secretary: David Rowlands
Treasurer: Richard Robinson
Immediate Past President: Peter Taylor

ACTRA

President: Glenn Bridgart Rep: David Baldwin

NSWRA

President: Joel Mackay Rep: Alan Mansfield

NTRA

President: Jon Potter Rep: Jon Potter

QRA

President: Richard Robinson Rep: Richard Robinson

RT

President: Nick Bowden Rep: Nick Bowden

SARA

President: Steve Cooper Rep: Andrew Murphy

VRA

President: Robin Gardiner Rep: Derek Morris

WARA

President: Colette Sims Rep: Gary Carroll