



Australian Rogaining Association Inc.

2009 Annual General Meeting

5th June 2009

The meeting was opened by the President at 2:30pm.

1. Apologies and Notification Of Proxies

Apologies received: Phil Holman, Joel Mackay, Tony Knight, Glenn Bridgart, Gary Carroll, Steve Cooper, Nick Bowden.

Proxies advised:

- Owen Horton is proxy for Gary Carroll (WARA)
- Richard Robinson is proxy for Tony Knight (QRA)
- Keith Conley is proxy for Glenn Bridgart (ACTRA)
- Rob Tucker is proxy for Steve Cooper (SARA)

Delegates in Attendance:

- Ian Thomsett, Owen Horton (WARA)
- Keith Conley, David Baldwin (ACTRA)
- Derek Morris (VRA)
- Gillian Fowler (NSWRA)
- Richard Robinson (QRA)
- Jon Potter (NTRA)
- Rob Tucker (SARA)
- David Rowlands (Secretary)

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOTION: That the minutes of the 2008 AGM be accepted as true and accurate.

Moved: David Baldwin, Seconded: Jon Potter.

3. Matters Arising From the Minutes Not Discussed Elsewhere

None

4. President's Report

The highlights for the year as stated in the tabled President's report were:

- Membership/participation rates passed 6,000 for the first time
- Continued development of the Intervarsity category at the Australian Championship, sponsored by the Nigel Aylott Memorial Sports Foundation
- Insurance continued a trend of reduction in cost with increased cover
- The establishment of an International Development Fund by the ARA
- The 2008 Australian Rogaining Championships held in the Copeton Waters State Park on the Gwydir River near Inverell in NSW offered a technically challenging course in spectacular countryside.
- Continued improvements and updates on the ARA website.

5. Financial Matters

a) Treasurer's Report

The ARA's financial position is stable with over \$30,000 in reserve. The year saw a balance between a low uptake of state grants, against a bus subsidy for the 2008 ARC that was higher than normal. The Treasurer expressed his thanks to Brian Austin, the ARA's Honorary Auditor.

MOTION: That the Treasurers Report be accepted. Moved: Richard Robinson, Seconded: Rob Tucker.

b) Public Liability Insurance has been renewed with OAMPS Insurance Brokers:

- Public Liability cover and landowner protection up to \$20M
- Directors and Officers Insurance up to \$2M.

c) Capitation Fee 2008-09:

MOTION: That the Capitation Fee for 2008-09 be \$1.00 per member. Moved: Richard Robinson, Seconded: Ian Thomsett.

d) Applications for State Grants close on 30 November 2009. The guidelines are published on the ARA website at: rogaine.asn.au/ARA-Council/ARA-Council-Policy-Documents.html

e) The 2008 AGM resolved to create a policy for funding of ARA delegate transport to the AGM. The proposed policy stated by the President is that: "If delegates, in attending the AGM, are forced to spend more than they would normally in attending the event, then this difference should be reimbursed".

f) The ARA has moved its bank account from the Commonwealth Bank to take advantage of Westpac's secure electronic signatures facility for payments.

MOTION: That Brian Austin be appointed as ARA Auditor for 2009-10. Moved: Richard Robinson, Seconded: Ian Thomsett.

6. Election of Office Bearers

The Treasurer's position remains open since the 2008 AGM when no nominations were received. The position has been filled by Richard Robinson as acting Treasurer during 2008-09. The Treasurer's position is an important part of the ARA Executive, which meets every 6 weeks. Phil Holman who has filled the void on the Executive during the last 12 months is no longer available. Ian Thomsett suggested that a wider broadcast for candidates be made through the states' electronic discussion groups.

7. Australian Championships

a) 2009 WARA: Event Director: Warren Smith, Course Setters: Gary Carroll and Jim Langford, Course Vettors: Keith Stewart and Steve Brown. Ian Thomsett stated that the organisers had embraced the conventional numbering system for controls. The electronic punching system will not be used.

b) 2010 ACTRA 27/28 March: Organiser: David Baldwin, Course Setter: David Baldwin, Vetter: Julie Quinn. Event posters were distributed at the AGM and at

the event. Location: Snowy Ranges, Kosciuszko National Park, with highest altitude 1600m. The event has a maximum of 550 competitors. The meeting agreed that the date is probably too early for university students, hence the location and date of the Intervarsity Championship should be opened to the States for proposals.

ACTION: The Executive shall circulate the states with a list of suitable dates for the Intervarsity, calling for submissions.

- c) The subsequent schedule is: 2011 RTas, 2012 SARA, 2013 QRA, 2014 VRA. Rob Tucker advised that SARA is investigating possible locations near Blinman.

ACTION: The Secretary shall contact the President of Rogaining Tasmania to ensure that preparations for the Australian Championship in 2011 are in hand, and offer support from the ARA if required.

- d) There have been considerable problems in the management of ARC Trophies since the 2007 ARC. A number of trophies have been misplaced, despite a system that records the holders of the trophies each year. The problem has been in successfully recording the return of trophies at the ARC. To overcome this, a new check in/out recording system will be trialled in 2009. WARA have kindly arranged to manufacture of a number of new trophies, however the recording of past winners on the trophies may have been lost.

ACTION: The Secretary shall create a record of past winners of each eligible class for the last 10 years.

8. IRF Constitution Reform and ARA Membership

- a) As reported at the 2008 AGM, the IRF setup a Yahoo group in February 2008 for discussion of the IRF constitutional changes agreed with ARA in January 2006. The ARA Executive has participated in this group when requested to clarify the ARA's position. During 2008, a motion containing the ARA's constitution changes was formally put by members of IRF Council, but the IRF Executive decided not to proceed to a vote.

Richard Robinson in the President's Report has explained his attempts to gain a commitment from the IRF Executive to a vote of its members in order to form a representative and democratic international peak rogaining federation comprised of national peak rogaining bodies. The President of the IRF advised the ARA that the IRF had no intention of discussing any further constitutional change in the short or medium term with the ARA. However, just prior to the ARA AGM, the IRF Secretary announced a future opportunity for IRF members to discuss the constitution.

David Baldwin said that the IRF is clearly constrained by the lack of financial resources, caused by a majority of individual members who pay no fees, and lack of national structures to administer the proposed WRC Selection Criteria.

The ARA President has actively held discussions with the Czech and New Zealand Rogaining Associations to encourage them to develop and sponsor a motion to change the constitution. David Baldwin explained how the significant

international groups such as Russia have been distracted by misconceptions that there are barriers to forming national associations.

Ian Thomsett stated that, given the ARA's persistent attempts over 12 years to work with the IRF to change it into a federation structure, and given the constant rebuffs from the IRF Executive over that time, there was now a sufficient case for ARA to abandon this course of action. The ARA should instead form a separate international federation for rogaining using the constitution it has proposed. The meeting agreed that a deadline has to be set, beyond which the ARA should examine an alternative course.

- b) The IRF Executive has setup a process for WRC host selection whereby the IRF Executive makes the final decision, from a recommendation by the members. This seems to be contrary to the wording of the IRF constitution. The process for selection of WRC 2010 was marred by controversy when the IRF Executive overlooked the three formal submissions, instead arranging for the event to be allocated to New Zealand.
- c) Given the likelihood that all future WRCs will be over-subscribed, the IRF is currently developing a Selection Criteria to limit and prioritise entries. The ARA has not been formally invited to participate, but Richard Robinson and David Baldwin submitted proposals for discussion. Gill Fowler questioned whether the criteria could be settled in time for the New Zealand WRC.
- d) The 2008 AGM decided to utilise the ARA's likely IRF capitation fee, in an ARA administered International Development Fund. This would be used as a membership fee once agreement is reached on the IRF constitution, or in the meantime it could be used for worthwhile international development projects. Both Rob Tucker and Keith Conley sought clarification on the definition of "worthwhile projects".

The meeting supported the Fund's goal to develop the growth of international rogaining associations and their events through grants and loans. There was enthusiasm for the proposal to invite international bodies to be involved in administering the fund, as a prelude to establishment of a suitable IRF structure.

Ian Thomsett and Owen Horton stated that WARA is reluctant to continue to finance the International Fund if the IRF situation is not progressing and/or the funds are not being utilised. Richard Robinson argued that the Fund needs sufficient resources to be functional. He agreed that the policies surrounding the administration of the fund must be documented urgently.

MOTION: That ARA shall continue to put aside \$1.00 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: David Baldwin, Seconded: Jon Potter.

ACTION: The ARA Executive shall document the policy to administer allocations from the fund and circulate this to the states within 3 months.

9. Technical Subcommittee

Convenor: David Baldwin

- a) There were no technical issues reported following the 2008 Australian Rogaining Championship run by NSWRA. The only problems were the missing trophies (as discussed elsewhere) and the lower than expected attendance.
- b) Ian Thomsett on behalf of WARA expressed thanks to David Baldwin for migrating the WARA website to a new host at short notice. Future activity for the ARA website will be to migrate all the ARA Council pages to a secure location within the same content system. Richard Robinson expressed a desire for ARA to be as open as possible. To this end, the AGM Minutes back to 2004 have already been made public.
- c) During 2009-10, the ARA plans to conduct a full revision of the ARA Rules and Technical Regulations. States will be represented by their nominated sub-committee members.

ACTION: David Baldwin to advise the current committee of his plans and create a location for the discussion process on the ARA website.

Ian Thomsett questioned whether electronic punching may be mandated in the future. Owen Horton said that WARA is concerned about possible system failure and is not convinced we have the right system, while Ian Thomsett said that WARA is opposed at present due to cost. Richard Robinson stated that cost is not an issue for the ARC because the system can be borrowed from another state. QRA has a full set of Navlight, obtained with a government grant. Derek Morris said that VRA does not yet own a Navlight system. David Baldwin responded that Peter Squires has provided ACTRA and other states with a flexible rent/purchase arrangement.

Another area discussed was GPS tracking of competitors, where this information is recorded, but is not available for analysis until after the conclusion of the event. This is not allowed by the current rules, but Keith Conley obtained special permission from the organisers at the ARC in 2003. David Baldwin said that the intent of the rules is that teams must not see progress of other teams or be able to use GPS for navigation.

ACTION: The Technical sub-committee shall consider how “headless” GPS tracking can be accommodated in the Rules and Regulations.

10. General Business

- a) The Australian University Rogaining Championship is in its third year of sponsorship by the Nigel Aylott Memorial Foundation (NAMSF), with funding secured for at least a further year. Because the 2009 ARC in Western Australia falls during exam time, the Intervarsity Championship has been scheduled to coincide with the ACT State Championship near Narooma on 1-2 August 2009.

The accreditation with Australian University Sports (AUS) requires five letters of support from participating Universities. Only four were received by the deadline in 2008, hence the process must recommence from scratch in 2009.

The attendance in 2008 was lower than 2007, but this was attributed to the location and timing of the event. Keith Conley said that lack of Federal funding of sports unions has reduced their capacity to support rogaining. Owen Horton noted that university students were not naturally forming university teams.

The President stated that with Phil Holman's retirement, the ARA needs an Intersarsity Rogaining Convenor with enthusiasm and energy. Keith Conley expressed interest.

ACTION: The Executive shall confirm with Keith Conley whether he may be willing to volunteer for the role of Intersarsity Rogaining Convenor.

- b) The Publicity Officer position remains vacant. David Baldwin and Keith Conley argued that the ARA's role is focussed on insurance and technical regulations, while the states have the promotions expertise. The President suggested that the since the position has been vacant for 8 years, there is a case for removing it.
- c) The Secretary holds stocks of Rogaining stickers which will be posted on request. Ian Thomsett and Jon Potter expressed interest which will be followed up by the Secretary.
- d) The Executive plans to revise the ARA Constitution during 2009-10 to accord with Federal law. ARA is currently registered in South Australia, which is the only state where auditing is not compulsory. There are a number of minor issues in the current constitution that were identified in 1999 for consideration as part of a revision.

11. Other Business

Jon Potter alerted the ARA to a potential site for an Australian Championship or World Championship adjacent to the recent 2007 Australian Championship site. This would require funding assistance for photogrammetry and map production.

12. Next AGM

The next AGM is proposed to be 2:00pm - 5:00pm, Fri 26 March 2010, at or near Hash House of the Australian Rogaining Championship, run by ACTRA.

The meeting was closed by the President at 5:00pm.

Tabled Documents

President's Report - **2008-09 Presidents Report.pdf**

Treasurer's Report - **2008 Treasurers Report.pdf**

Auditor's Report - **ARA 2008 Auditors Report.pdf**

Minutes of Previous AGM – **2008 ARA AGM Minutes.pdf**

ARA Council as at 5/06/2009

President: Richard Robinson
Secretary: David Rowlands
Treasurer: Richard Robinson
Immediate Past President: Phil Holman

ACTRA

President: Glenn Bridgart Rep: David Baldwin

NSWRA

President: Joel Mackay Rep: Gillian Fowler

NTRA

President: Jon Potter Rep: Jon Potter

QRA

President: Tony Knight 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: Ian Thomsett Rep: Gary Carroll