



# INTERNATIONAL ROGAINING FEDERATION

IRF Newsletter, January 2000  
PO Box 3, Central Park, 3145, Australia

The purpose of this newsletter is to bring you up to date with what has been happening on the international rogaining scene in the last year.

## IRISH ROGAINING

*Philip Brennan*

*Compass Sport (British Orienteering Federation magazine) Vol20 No5 1999*

Ireland's second rogaine, organised by Dublin based Setanta Orienteers was held in South Wicklow on the weekend of 17/18 July 1999. Buoyed by the enthusiasm of the competitors last year it was decided to extend the open category course to the full 24 hour period with the non competitive class to 14 hours. Mass start for the 24 hour course was 12 noon with a later start of 6pm for the 14 hour people.

Weather at the hash house, situated at the bottom of a sheltered valley, was pretty foul with strong winds and very heavy bouts of rain, so out on the open mountains competitors got a particularly rough time. However the majority of teams elected to stay out for the duration of the event, bivouacking in sheltered areas or hiding in forestry workers huts, with only small numbers coming back for refreshment and some sleep.

The open 24 hour course was won by veteran rogainers Mike and Jeff Powell Davies, who visited 29 of the total 54 control sites and covered 83.6km with total climb of 3250m. Runners up Damian Cashin and Liam Quinn managed to visit 30 controls, but scored considerably lower than the winners.

Compliments to planner Dave Weston, who cleverly placed controls in various groupings with challenging route choices between each group. The old adage about a few extra minutes spent planning saving hours out in the field rang true in this instance.

Rogaining looks to be a permanent feature on Ireland's orienteering calendar and Rogaine 2000 will (barring Armageddon) take place on 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> July.

## SWEDISH ROGAINING

*Lars-Åke Svensk, Täby Orienteering Club*

The second annual Täby Rogaine took place on 30 October 1999, an unseasonably mild day with temperatures ranging around 10 degrees Celsius. The organising club, Täby Orienteering Club, had selected a competition area of some 65 sq km with strong navigational skills required due to a multitude of intricate contours.

66 participants, divided in 29 teams, left the Hash House at noon after an hour's intense contemplation of the best route choices. The nervousness of some of the teams was clearly visible at the start and one team, the "Hash House Campers", even forgot their scorecard at the starting line, never returning to pick it up. The 31 control points were widely scattered from the Hash House to the coastline. From one control, one could see gigantic ferries on their way through the Stockholm archipelago to Finland.

While the Hash House received reports from the water stops through mobile phone contact, the participants' strength slowly made way for fatigue and tiredness. Most teams decided to spend the full 6 hour-period without returning to the Hash House, but a few returned to refuel, and to put on headlamps as darkness fell around 5pm, five hours into the event. In the end, it turned out that all teams except one had accurately judged their timing, and returned just before 6pm. One team came in 58 seconds too late, rendering them 20 penalty points.

After calculation of the scorecards, it turned out that Lars Palmqvist, elite orienteer from Järfälla, took his second consecutive victory in Täby Rogaine, this time together with Jan Lundbäck. They actually managed to visit all 31 control points with 13 minutes to spare, thus scoring the maximum 1,750 points. In second place came Ali Kuosko and Mattias Abellsson with 1,730 points, disadvantaged though by the fact that their car malfunctioned in the morning and they arrived at the Hash House with only 5 minutes to plan their

route choices, and they actually did not leave the Hash House until 12.10, 10 minutes past the start time. In third place came the elite orienteers Fredrik Löwegren and Johan Näsman from Lidingö with 1,700 points, the former arguably the best orienteer in Sweden during the 1999 season, winning the O-Ringen 5-days men's elite class comfortably.

The Women's class was somewhat thin with only three teams starting and here Eva and Katrin Hallsten from the arranging club Täby Orienteering Club were victorious with 1,260 points. In the Mixed class, with 8 teams, the winners were the same as in last year's event; Maria Nordfjäll, Vidas Armalis and Jens Mohlin from SoIK Hellas, with 1,560 points.

The number of entrants made this the largest Rogaine in the Nordic countries ever and the competition enjoyed the sponsorship of Fjällräven, Sweden's largest outdoor equipment brand, which supplied prizes consisting of outdoor equipment (tents, sleeping bags, etc.) at a retail value of SEK 26,000 (AUD \$5,000). During the event, Fjällräven representatives invited the organisers for discussions on opportunities for future co-operation in relation to coming Täby Rogaine events. Also, the Swedish national TV channel has shown interest for coverage at a future Täby Rogaine event.

With the support of Fjällräven, the strong outdoor interest in Sweden and the Nordic countries and the fact that the next WRC will be held in the Czech Republic in 2002, which is close to Sweden, it is reasonable to expect stronger interest in the sport and further increases of participation levels for coming events.

## **1999 NORTH AMERICAN ROGAINE CHAMPIONSHIPS, CANADA**

*Michael Haynes, Orienteering Association of Nova Scotia*

The North American Rogaine Championships were held in the Wentworth area of Cumberland and Colchester counties in northern Nova Scotia on May 22-23. The Maxi-Moose II attracted more than 170 competitors from 10 states and six provinces. Sixty-eight teams participated in the 24-hour championship; six teams entered a six-hour recreational race.

The competition area covered 120 square kilometres of the Cobequid Mountains in Cumberland and Colchester counties bounded by

Highway 4, Highway 246, and the Debert River. The race started and finished at the North Shore Snowmobile Club in Warwick Mountain. Overnight shelters were also available at the Folly Lake Snowmobile Clubhouse and the Freda Wales Warming Hut at the top of Ski Wentworth.

Weather conditions were dreadful, with rain and fog persisting throughout the entire race and often reducing visibility to a few metres. A number of teams were forced to withdraw because of injuries, but the worst of these were sprained ankles.

The best results of the competition were posted by the team of Peter Gagarin (MA, USA) and Ernst Linder (NH, USA). These experienced orienteers and ultra-distance runners reached all 42 possible checkpoints, covering more than 85 kilometres, and finished two hours before the 24-hour deadline. They achieved the maximum score of 6,800 points.

Francis Falardeau and Eric Cyr from Quebec, Canada, who reached all but three of the control locations, produced the next best result, receiving 5,900 points. The top Nova Scotia team was Dan Hennigar and Edward James of Halifax, with 4,100 points. Also receiving 4,100 points, but finishing slightly later, was the Annapolis Valley team of Wayne Miles and Michael Ouellette.

The top female team, with 4,500 points, was Sharon Crawford (CO, USA) and Judith Dickenson (NJ, USA). The highest scoring Nova Scotia females were Halifax residents Maria and Lisa Jacobs, with 2,300 points. In addition to experienced orienteers, several Search and Rescue groups also competed, with the two teams from Clare Search & Rescue achieving the best result.

## **WORLD ROGAINE CHAMPIONSHIP JAN 2000 NEW ZEALAND**

*by Peninsula and Plains Orienteers for New Zealand Orienteering Federation (IRF # no33)*

The World Masters Orienteering Championship will be held [in New Zealand] in early January 2000. Based on a similar event in Tasmania in 1992, they are realistically expected to attract 2000 participants. Although the main event is for orienteers aged 35 years and above, a supporting programme will be open to all ages. After the orienteering (in the south part of North Island) it is expected that many overseas visitors will want to travel to the outstanding scenic areas of the South Island where warm-down orienteering

events are planned. The WMOC organisation has endorsed the proposal to make one of these events a rogaine. Just as the “Most Awesome Rogaine” which followed a major orienteering carnival in British Columbia and Alberta was responsible for sparking rogaining interest in Canada, USA and New Zealand, so a New Zealand rogaine at this time will gain converts from many countries.

In the host city, Christchurch, there exists 31 continuous years history of a rogaine-like event: the Canterbury University Tramping Club 24-hour Walk or “TWALK”. A large number of the host club, Peninsula and Plains Orienteers (PAPO), including members of the organising committee, have participated in and organised several TWALKs. The TWALKs have used areas and maps similar to rogaines, presented similar organisational logistics and required 24 hour catering for competitors. PAPO is one of the most vigorous orienteering clubs in the country and in 1997 has just run NZ’s second rogaining championship.

PAPO has significant experience in organising major events, including the 1992 NZ Orienteering Championships and the 1997 Australia New Zealand Orienteering Challenge. It also has a history of running mountain marathons in the UK style. After ten years of mountain marathons, PAPO organised its first rogaine in 1992. Rogaining is run with orienteering in New Zealand, by conscious decision of the country’s participants and NZOF.

## **10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF USOF ROGAINING**

United States Orienteering Federation is the most successful rogaining association outside Australia, having run about 120 rogaines in the last 10 years.

The first rogaine in the United States was on 20/21 May 1989 at Buck Meadows, Wenatchee National Forest, Washington State, in the Cascades near Ellensburg. The event was hosted by the Washington State Orienteering Association with organisers being Bob Reddick, Carl Moore, Knut Olson, and many others from four of the area's orienteering clubs. There were 112 participants in 52 teams.

Canadian orienteer Jim Force brought rogaining to North America with the first events in Alberta, Canada from 1986. There are orienteering clubs all over USA currently running rogaines, with the strengths being in Arizona (Tucson Orienteering

Club), New York (Central New York Orienteers), California (San Diego Orienteers) and Seattle (Sammamish Orienteering Club). For example, CNYO ran their ninth annual 24 hour rogaine in 1999, plus a third snogaine, and a six hour event.

According to former USOF President Gary Kraght, about half of USOF’s 66 orienteering clubs have run a rogaine in the ten years of USOF rogaining. These clubs bear the financial risk, promote the rogaines, and utilise their equipment and personnel. USOF provides the insurance cover for rogaines on the basis that rogaining is a type of orienteering. North American rogainers have clearly expressed their belief that orienteering and rogaining are “like Siamese twins”, realising the synergy between the two forms of cross country navigation.

The driver, particularly in the early days of USOF rogaining, has been Bob Reddick in his capacity as USOF Rogaine Committee Chairman. Bob says that particularly supportive and influential in the success of rogaining in USA has been the United States Orienteering Federation’s official magazine *Orienteering North America* with its regular ‘In the Long Run’ articles. Eric Smith became committee chairman in 1996.

USOF is further developing rogaining in USA by a strategy to encourage:

- more USOF-chartered clubs to try rogaines
- clubs with rogaine experience to run more and longer events.

## **USOF AND IRF**

*From Gary Kraght, Jan 1998*

For the record, USOF considers Rogaining to be an integral form of orienteering, and fully supports the development of Rogaines in the United States. USOF has a Rogaine Development committee, headed by Eric Smith, which reports to the Vice President of Program Development (currently Mike Minium).

A number of USOF-chartered clubs are engaged in formal and informal rogaine activity. In addition to the formal U.S. events, three to six hour "mini-rogaines" are becoming quite popular with many USOF-chartered clubs.

USOF also fully supports the IOF Council in their decision to support Mountain Orienteering, which includes Rogaining. In fact, USOF lobbied the IOF Council, via our representative on the Council, for this to happen. We understand that different IOF-member countries have different

ultra-orienteeing traditions and experiences, and hope that IOF can successfully support this diversity.

## **USOF AGREES TO JOIN IRF**

*From Gary Kraght, (then) President, USOF*

The United States Orienteering Federation Board of Directors met on February 20, 1999. On the agenda was the status of Rogaining and USOF's relationship to it, which the Board devoted about a half hour of discussion to.

First, the Board confirmed that USOF fully supports Rogaining in the United States. In fact, perhaps a majority of the Board members have participated in at least one rogaine. The Board also unanimously expressed its support for the bid by the Tucson Orienteering Club for the 2002 World Rogaine Championships. Our Tucson club is quite experienced in holding Rogaines, including the 24-hour variety. We are confident they will do a superb job if they get the bid.

The Board took several straw votes, as follows:

- (Agreed) - USOF to aggressively push IOF to support international Rogaining, including the awarding of World Championships and the maintaining of rules and standards.
- (Agreed) - for USOF to formally join the International Rogaine Federation.
- (Not sufficient support) - for USOF to join a "bridging" organization that would support international Rogaining until IOF support could be obtained.

None of these votes is legally binding, as they were straw votes only. But they do give a sense of the USOF board, and perhaps the larger U.S. orienteeing community, at this time. I have already requested to Bruce Wolfe, the IOF Council member from the U.S., that he continue his efforts to get Rogaines pushed to the forefront in IOF. Since the Board has formally endorsed the Tucson bid (this was a legal vote), we will make a bid for the 2002 World Rogaine Championships to the IOF, even though they don't have a mechanism in place for awarding the championship yet, or even recognize them. Perhaps this can be a lever to push them some more. We also understand that Tucson will be making a bid in parallel to the IRF, and Tucson is welcome to include the USOF endorsement with their bid.

## **IOF MARATHON ORIENTEEING INTERNATIONAL TROPHY 1999**

(Organised by French Orienteering Federation)  
*by Peter Taylor, (then) ARA President*

On the weekend just past I visited La Chappelle en Vercors, which is south-east of Lyon in France. There the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Raid was held and the IOF working group on marathon orienteeing had its first face-to-face meeting. The RAID was designated by the IOF as the International Marathon Orienteering Trophy event for 1999.

A RAID is similar to a mountain marathon (although not all are held in mountains). Competitors follow a line course on the first day, bivouac overnight and then follow another line course on the second day, with a chasing start. There were seven courses ranging from 2 by 10 km to 2 by 25 km with a couple of different levels of navigational difficulty.

This RAID was held on a plateau at about 1000 metres in a forest reserve. This is Europe, though, and there were a number of villages on the map. The vegetation varied from thick forest to open country. However the extensive track network meant that it was rarely necessary to go off track. The navigational challenge even for the "hard navigation courses" was easier than that generally found in a rogaine.

With around 3000 competitors, the event completely took over La Chappelle en Vercors. No car could arrive in the village without being shepherded into parking spots. Registration spread over a number of marquees.

The A and B courses started in the centre of the town at 9.45, the C and D at 10.00 and the E, F and G classes at 10.15. Teams had to travel about 1 km to a soccer field where there were given coordinates of the controls (about ten on each course). They had to plot them on the map there or one at a time as they were going along. Seeing bums in the air as competitors tried to plot controls took me back to the bad old days when we didn't have pre-marked maps. I would hate to see how the RAID system works when it is raining.

One thing that struck me at the start was that, as in rogaines, the majority of competitors were social. There were the hard running athletes at the front with all the latest gear, but most of the rest looked like competitors at a typical rogaine (actually about ten typical rogaines) walking

away from the start. I think the two events cater for the same clientele.

After visiting a couple of controls (by car) we arrived at the bivouac at about 12.15. Some teams on the short courses were already there. The first long course competitors turned up after about three and a half hours. Competitors have to carry all their gear and food for the bivouac. In fact, there is a list of gear requirements which is strictly enforced at the start, at the bivouac and at the finish (a significant administrative burden on the organisers). Safety reasons are the rationale for this. However I am not sure that it works. Competitive teams in particular travel with the minimum gear that they can get away with, and this certainly doesn't make for a luxurious night - in most cases I suspect a very uncomfortable one. If the weather clapped out, I wouldn't want to be sleeping in some of the tents that were there.

For these reasons, I don't think the bivouac has anything like the atmosphere of a hash-house. Even though the weather was relatively mild, most people were huddled in tents trying to keep warm. I think our idea of having a central hash-house with food and where people can have their amenities is much better. Overall though the atmosphere at the event was good. I would have preferred to be in it rather than watching it. Next year I am planning to be in Belgium again at this time of year and I hope to be able to enter.

## **IOF MARATHON ORIENTEERING WORKING GROUP**

*Peter Taylor, ARA Rep. on IOF Working Group  
Edited highlights from report to ARA*

This was the first face to face meeting of the IOF Working Group on Marathon Orienteering.

Representatives were:

- Edmund Szechenyi - IOF Councillor;
- Michel Devrieux - chief organiser of the French RAID;
- Peter Taylor - President ARA and orienteer;
- Mark Seddon - A British mountain-marathon competitor and orienteer;
- Jiri Sumbera - representing Czech Association of Rogaining and Mountain Orienteering (CARMO)
- Ove Gesbjerg - The Chairman of the IOF Foot Orienteering Committee.

Peter Taylor described the current attempts to form an international rogaining body and stated that while we are still discussing the format, the principle that there should be an international rogaining body is pretty much agreed to by all rogainers. Only such a body would have the authority to talk to the IOF on behalf of rogaining. I told the group that there are a number of state associations in Australia opposed to any form of cooperation with the IOF, and that those who do favour exploring the possibilities of cooperation would not do it if they felt that there was a threat to the essential culture of rogaining. I emphasized that rogainers like the format that they have and would not want to change it substantially. Accordingly I said I believe that rogaining should be recognised as a discipline separate from other forms of long orienteering.

Jiri explained the situation with mountain marathons in the Czech Republic and emphasized very strongly that it would be extremely unpopular in his country if gear regulations were enforced as is done very strictly in France, Switzerland and Great Britain.

This discussion highlighted the fact that when a tradition grows up somewhere there is strong resistance to it being changed from outside. I think that this became apparent to the rest of the committee and that if it was going to proceed at all, it would have to find a way of accommodating the different types of long orienteering without trying to change them.

It was decided that the best thing to do at the moment would be to encourage cross-fertilisation between different types of long orienteering. Then we can see if either one form emerges as dominant or if it becomes apparent that the different forms are here to stay and that they should be regarded as separate.

## **IOF MARATHON ORIENTEERING INTERNATIONAL TROPHY 2000**

*by Peter Taylor*

The IOF Marathon Orienteering Working Group decided that a series of sanctioned events will constitute the IOF Marathon Orienteering International Trophy in 2000. This series would consist of three events, and competitors will need to compete in at least two events to be eligible.

Date	Event, Location	Type of event	Organiser
January 2000	World Rogaining Championships, South Island, New Zealand.	24 hour Rogaine	New Zealand Orienteering Federation (NZOF)
June 2000	RAID ITCN Francital, France	Mountain marathon with compulsory equipment	French Orienteering Federation (FFCO)
October 2000	Slovenia	Mountain marathon without equipment	Czech Association of Rogaining and Marathon Orienteering (CARMO)

The NZOF applied to the IOF that WRC2000 be included in the marathon orienteering trophy series for 2000. Including a rogaine in the series must have the effect of raising rogaining's profile. Either we are interested in spreading rogaining internationally or we are not. If we are, and if any rogaining event is to be included in the series, this is the logical one.

## 1998 WORLD ROGAINING CHAMPIONSHIP

*David Rowlands*

*Orienteering World 5/98*

Canada's largest ranch, Douglas Lake, was the setting for the third World Rogaining Championship on 4-5 August 1998 near Kamloops, British Columbia. Rogaines are a 12 to 24 hour score-style version of orienteering which is popular in Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and increasingly so in Europe.

Sage Orienteering Club and Orienteering Association of British Columbia staged the event as part of Sage Stomp '98 orienteering carnival. The program also included the Canadian classic, short and North American championships, and was followed by the USA Orienteering Championships.

Competitors in the rogaining championship experienced record breaking summer temperatures reaching 40 degrees on both days. Successful strategies included reducing sun exposure and dehydration, route planning to maximise points score whilst minimising distance and climb, and careful navigation at night. The incredibly detailed 240 sq km topographic map at 1:50,000 with 10m contours was produced by Pat Dunlavey, cartographer for the USA WOC in 1993. The leading team covered about 102 km and climbed 3900m in amassing 3190 out of 3600 possible points.

300 Competitors from 10 countries competed in three gender categories: mens', womens' and mixed, and, for each gender category, three age sub-categories: open, veterans' (all team members 40+) and super-veterans' (all team members 55+). In rogaining, competitors compete in all categories for which they are eligible.

Rogaining events are equally as popular worldwide as the other major type of long orienteering called mountain marathons. Formal inclusion of rogaining within the IOF infrastructure is supported by rogaining groups including the provisional International Rogaining Federation, the Australian Rogaining Association, Czech Rogaining Association and the USA, Canada and New Zealand orienteering federations.

The next World Rogaining Championship is on 15 January 2000, near Christchurch, on New Zealand's south island, directly after the World Masters Orienteering Championship. Expressions of interest for the following World Championship in 2001 or 2002 are currently sought with leading candidates being Czech Republic and Arizona, USA.

## RESULTS (top 10)

Place Score Team

- 1 3190 I.Kakko (FIN), N.Aylott (AUS)
- 2 3050 G.Barbour (NZ), D.Rowlands (AUS)
- 3 2860 M.Baath, L.Schagerstrom (SWE)
- 4 2480 A.Stradeski, P.Mair (CAN)
- 5 2470 A.McComb, P.Hoopman (AUS)  
**(First Veteran)**
- 6 2420 F.Falardeau (CAN), D.Baldwin (AUS)
- 7 2420 R.Gray, G.Lawford (AUS)
- 8 2400 E.Linder, A.Ruutopold (USA)
- 9 2300 G.Jeffrey, D.Morris (AUS)
- 10 2210 C.Hagen, P.James (CAN)  
**(First Women)**

## ARA AND IOF

*In November 1998, the ARA's state associations voted 4-3 in favour of discussing with IOF the possibility of rogaining becoming a discipline of the IOF. The ARA constitution defines ARA voting as follows: 2 votes per state, one vote per executive member or co-opted persons. By the ARA constitution, the vote for IOF was 12-7 in favour. However, there was opposition from the three oldest and largest state associations and even a threat to secede from ARA by one. The following is the proposition as put to the ARA by Peter Taylor.*

At the moment, we are running world championships using the resources and insurance cover of another sport. I believe that this is unacceptable, and that it would be irresponsible for me to ignore the situation. Similarly, as state representatives, it would be irresponsible for you to ignore the situation. Hence I am writing this message to get some definite opinions from ARA members (ie the state associations).

### Question 1.

**Does your state association believe that it is appropriate for ARA to be interested in the development of rogaining internationally?**

Some comments:

- If the answer is no then you can skip the rest of the questions.
- Also if the answer is no, then this means that your state association is effectively saying that there should be no World Rogaining Championships.

### Question 2.

**Does your association believe that it is appropriate for representatives of ARA to consider the option of rogaining becoming a separate discipline of orienteering within the IOF?**

Some comments:

- The IOF has already claimed jurisdiction over rogaining internationally.
- All overseas rogaines are organised using orienteering association insurance cover and equipment.
- Even if rogaining came under the umbrella of the IOF internationally, this will have no bearing on the organisation of rogaining in Australia. ARA will remain separate from

OFA whatever happens and we would all keep on doing what we always have done. There are already precedents for this. Ski-orienteering is organised by a separate association in Sweden.

- The representatives of rogaining will not commit to anything unless the values and culture of rogaining as we know it are preserved.

### Question 3.

**If the answer to question 2 is “no”, how should rogaining be organised internationally?**

Some comments:

- If you do answer “no” to 2, then I believe that it is incumbent on you to have a well-thought-out and realistic answer to this question. I think almost all Australian rogainers who think about these things would like there to be separate rogaining associations in each rogaining country. However, every North American or New Zealand roganier that I have ever talked to has told me that there is no chance of a separate rogaining association being formed in their country. Frankly, the only evidence that I would accept that it could happen would be if it actually does.
- I don't believe it is morally or practically feasible in the long term for overseas World Championship rogaines to use orienteering club resources but for rogaining to stay separate from orienteering on an organisational level. I think your answer should take this into account.

## RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

*WA Rogaining Association*

“We would rather see Rogaining spread slowly internationally or not at all than have Rogaining under the control of the International Orienteering Federation.”

*Victorian Rogaining Association*

“The International Rogaining Federation should work closely and collaboratively with related organisations to seek maximum benefit for its member rogainers, many of whom have membership of related activities. This specifically includes continuing mutually beneficial relations with orienteering, and working to clarify relationships between the two sports outside Australia.”

### *NSW Rogaining Association*

“ARA to form an International Committee. This committee would take up the activities of the present IRF (with the agreement that it be dissolved) and would act as an interim body until such time as all of its responsibilities could be passed on to another body representing rogaining internationally. The members of this committee would be nominated by the ARA and would include a number of Australian and overseas rogainers, with the emphasis being to select people wishing to play an active role in promoting rogaining in new countries, while at the same time ensuring a broad international representation.”

### *Rogaining Tasmania*

- “A large part of our members are orienteers and I presume that they have no problems with rogaines being run under orienteering administration.
- Anything that helps with organising rogaines on any levels (including internationally) must be a good thing.
- Setting up a separate organisation would need a large effort from interested parties for very little gains.
- If the IOF agrees to similar rules to those used by the ARA then I think that counters most arguments about whether the culture of rogaining will be preserved.”

## **TWO FEDERATIONS?**

*By Michael Wood, NZOF rogaining representative, Nov 1998*

As the temperature rises, I just want to repeat a little observation, some might have heard it before.

Rogainers (not all) think that orienteering is different from rogaining, much more competitive and serious. A little enquiry finds that this is because orienteers **run**.

Orienteers (not all) think that rogaining is different from orienteering, very gruelling and physical. A little enquiry finds that this is because rogainers go for **twenty-four hours**.

Of course some orienteers can jog a bit if they don't have to last more than an hour. But 90% of them are not serious enough to do any training, they would not think of themselves as competitive. They bend over backwards to put on courses for beginners and little kids at every event.

Of course some rogainers start at noon and finish 24 hours later. But 90% of them aren't on the move for that time, they would not think of themselves as competitive. Many come back to the hash-house, and eat and sleep like normal human beings. They take great delight that even by getting one control you can be classed as a finisher.

Try and appreciate how the other “side” sees **you**. Now step outside both orienteering and rogaining into the wider world of sport.

“You say you need **two** federations for navigation sports? How many people did you say you had worldwide?”

“You mean we should have a separate international javelin federation, a shotput federation, a sprint federation, a marathon federation....”

Fellow mapsportpeople, there **must** be tensions between the spear-throwers, the ball chuckers, the fast runners and the long runners. They work at their differences for the greater good of athletics.

## **CONTROLLER: WRC 2000, CZECH REPUBLIC**

*By Neil Phillips*

Careful planning for the 5<sup>th</sup> WRC is in the interest of both the Czech organizers and all participants. If the participants are kept fully informed of progress and have confidence in the organization as it unfolds, they will be far more likely to travel a great distance to the rogaine. If they make these travel plans, they will be expecting an event of championship quality.

This is a call through Australian state associations and to rogainers worldwide to ask if there is a person who can help immediately as controller for the 5<sup>th</sup> World Rogaining Championships. This person should be an experienced roganer fully conversant with rogaining rules, high level competition, and organization of rogaines. This is also a call for volunteers who may be able to contribute to one or more components under the controller's brief. The 5WRC controller reports to the International Rogaining Federation, and keeps the IRF and national rogaining associations fully informed of progress of the championships. The controller also co-ordinates the volunteers who are contributing components within the controller's brief.



The controller's role is to contribute to a very successful world rogaining championships. To quote from the guidelines for world rogaining championships in the Strategic Plan for rogaining of 1994:

The focus of a World Rogaining Championship is on:

- a) enjoyable terrain (typical of local events),
- b) an accurately set course, that is fair and challenging,
- c) friendly atmosphere of the Hash House,
- d) professional organization,
- e) a wide cross-section of participants,
- f) elite and other levels of competition.

Some of the components will exclude a volunteer from competing in the 5<sup>th</sup> WRC (these are marked \*\*), others will not preclude the volunteer entering 5WRC (\*). The nature of the controller's role will preclude 5WRC entry. The different tasks include (using the same points a-f):

a) and b) Make sure the selection of the rogaining site is appropriate by having an independent, experienced roganer study proposed maps and possibly visit the site early during planning (\*\*). Three sites were proposed in the original submission from the Czechs and it was acknowledged at the time of accepting their proposal that the Czech countryside, and much of Europe, is crowded compared to parts of Australasia and North America, so a different event style would be inevitable. The key words here are 'enjoyable, fair and challenging'. We need to ensure the event meets these standards. The 'fair and challenging' part is probably achievable by a desk vetter elsewhere in the world (i.e. experienced navigator who sees the map with proposed checkpoints, and comments on the map quality, event site, route choice options and fairness of checkpoints - done in the comfort of their home, not at the course \*\*). Checkpoint accuracy is critical and requires both experienced accurate navigators, and following of the checking and rechecking procedures in the Technical Regulations. The controller needs to ensure the IRF Rules and Technical Standards are made available and followed (\*), and that competent setting and vetting procedures and personnel are in place (\*).

c) A 'friendly hash house atmosphere' will rely on Czech leadership to instill this into organizers and helpers, plus a large dose of goodwill from overseas visitors. The controller would need to inspect the planned menu and make available existing rogaining manuals to assist the Czechs in hash house organization including food selection, costs and volumes (\*). Having Czech organizers involved in rogaines in North America or Australasia would assist here.

d) A 'professional organization' comes down to planning well in advance, setting of milestones, developing an appropriate organization team, asking for assistance along the way, and keeping everyone abreast of progress. The controller's role will be to report regularly to the IRF, and raise any concerns as soon as possible (\*). Additional responsibilities will cover the standard and cost of the WRC map, landowner approval procedures, and the size of the hash house area for the expected large numbers.

e) and f) Achieving elite and other participation from a wide cross-section of the rogaining world is a matter of publicizing the roganie widely well-before the championships, and facilitating entries from all parts of the world. Through the rogaining associations there is a powerful network in place to publicize 5WRC effectively. The controller's role would be to ensure the links between the 5WRC organizers and other rogaining communities are optimized to generate excellent publicity for the event. This will include a co-ordinated program of lead-up events to the world championships (\*).

In summary, there is a controller's role answering to the IRF, but several aspects of the job could be sub-contracted to volunteers, and co-ordinated by the controller.

It has not been the habit for the IRF to either offer nor ask for financial assistance for individuals to travel on what is at least in part IRF business. However, it is possible that rogaining contacts in Europe might assist in kind with travel arrangements during 5WRC work.

Initial expressions of interest from Australians should be through state rogaining associations to the ARA, who will advise the IRF of selected personnel. Offers from all other countries should come direct to the IRF. Expressions of interest

should indicate whether the individual is likely to be in Europe in the next year, and whether they are willing to be excluded from 5WRC participation, or wish to compete.

### **AGREEMENT ON IRF CONSTITUTION**

During 1999, there has emerged a completely new approach to international rogaining. In the past, the smaller but rapidly growing cross country navigation sport has tended to treat its more widely known cousin as a rival. But it is becoming recognised that both orienteering and rogaining are very minor sports in a big world and a joint approach to reaching the wider audience is the way to go.

In the past 10 years there has been a tendency for rogaining enthusiasts to work against orienteering associations and clubs which have taken rogaining under their wing. Now it has become clear that the orienteering associations are largely

responsible for the growth of rogaining that we are now seeing worldwide. As Neil Phillips, IRF President said in 1998: "Rogaining in USA is totally dependent upon the success of USOF."

An enormous amount of hard work by many people and organisations has seen an agreed IRF Constitution proceed towards ratification. The main driver in bringing the orienteering and rogaining groups together as one has been Neil Phillips, who worked to ensure an IRF Constitution which reached agreement from all stakeholders. The constitution was developed and circulated by David Rowlands throughout 1999.

A milestone was the joint meeting of Neil Phillips, Richard Robinson, David Rowlands and Nigel Aylott on 30 June 1999. The constitution will now be considered by the informal IRF at its meeting in New Zealand in January 2000. See **Appendix 2** - Draft IRF Constitution.

1989	Non-IOF	Events / annum	IOF	events / annum
	Australia	27	Canada	1
			USA	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>

1999	Non-IOF	Events / annum	IOF	events / annum
	Australia	35	Canada	5
	Czech Republic	1	USA	12
			New Zealand	5
			Ireland	1
			Sweden	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>
	<b>% of All Growth</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>% of All Growth</b>	<b>72%</b>

### **INTERNATIONAL ROGAINING FEDERATION WILL NOT BE RECOGNISED**

*Australian Orienteer, Summer 1999*

A number of national federations recently sought advice from the International Orienteering Federation regarding a proposal to establish an International Rogaining Federation. The IOF, at its Council meeting in August in Scotland, considered the matter and resolved that rogaining is a form of orienteering practised in some countries and that the IOF will not recognise another international sports federation whose objective is either solely or primarily the practice of a form of orienteering.

IOF Vice President Hugh Cameron confirmed to the *Australian Orienteer* that while discussions

with the rogaining fraternity must continue, the IOF does regard itself as the internationally recognised body for orienteering including marathon orienteering as practiced in its various forms such as rogaining and mountain marathons.

*Comment: the IOF decision endorses each of the 50 IOF member nations as national rogaining associations. The informal IRF will facilitate closer discussions and interaction between rogaining and orienteering groups during 2000.*

## **INFORMAL IRF - INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS**

Since 1989, Neil Phillips has promoted the concept of a federation to administer rogaining internationally. Neil has successfully used the informal IRF as a platform to:

- promote, develop and assist the establishment of regular world rogaining championships;
- act as a central point of contact for international rogaining enquiries;
- assist rogaining to develop internationally with similar characteristics to the successful Australian formula.

Neil has indicated his intention to stand down soon as informal IRF President. The best interim arrangement may be a “Committee of Management”, using the current draft constitution as guidelines. Certainly more than one person is required to replace Neil Phillips. A diverse and representative committee would allow the informal IRF to move towards a democratic, open process and assist IRF to represent the whole international rogaining community. The major goal of this committee will be to develop a relationship with all the national rogaining associations and so move towards the formation of a federation of national rogaining associations.

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## **APPENDIX 1 – IRF : STATE OF PLAY**

*Message from Neil Phillips, IRF President; and Peter Taylor, ARA President  
23 August 1996*

Recently a group of Australian rogainers have been actively debating a more formal structure for an International Rogaining Federation. This is the state of play.

The current IRF is an informal grouping of prominent rogainers worldwide. With the support of the rogaining community in each country, this body has provided a means to support rogaines in new areas and develop guidelines for the sport. There is now a general consensus that the time has come for this informal grouping to be replaced by a more structured body.

After considerable discussion, including that at a forum last April, the Australian Rogaining Association executive has contacted national orienteering associations in New Zealand, US and Canada asking if they are interested in entering into a more formal federation. If so, the ARA has proposed each country nominating two rogainers to form a steering committee to carry this process through to a constituted IRF. The New Zealand Orienteering Federation has already replied and is willing to proceed. The present IRF supports the ARA's approach.

There will necessarily be a transition phase during this process. During this time, the IRF will continue to function with the support both of the ARA (pursuant to an earlier ARA resolution) and international rogainers. Prior to ARA's move, a sub-committee of the IRF (Nigel Aylott and Rod Phillips from Australia, and Bob Reddick from United States) was engaged in developing a draft to be used as a basis for constituting the IRF. Although any decisions will be the responsibility of the duly nominated steering committee, the subcommittee's report is available to assist it in getting a constitution acceptable to all countries. It will also be used to provide written guidelines for the operation of the current IRF during the transitional phase. These guidelines (and the current IRF) will be superseded by a formal international rogaining federation when it is formed.

*Peter Taylor, ARA President, regarding the outcome of the ARA Forum 1996*

“The forum's thinking on international rogaining was that we could consider that rogaining is mature enough to have an international federation only if USOF, COF and NZOF were interested in joining it. If this is not the case then rogaining is not mature enough to have an international federation.”

## APPENDIX 2 – DRAFT IRF CONSTITUTION

### PROCESS FOR IRF FORMATION

1. The credibility of the IRF will be determined by how well it recognises and democratically encapsulates all the rogaining countries.
2. Commence communication with all the national rogaining groups. The consequence is to broaden the possibilities from that which might be considered feasible, to include all possible input into decisions, and to ensure that the IRF produced is fair and inclusive.
3. Produce a draft constitution based upon the ARA Constitution, and the stated requirements of the ARA member States. This provides a framework acceptable to Australia which is used to demonstrate that

concepts are feasible, to clarify intent, and to speed up the process.

4. Facilitate agreement by the national rogaining associations, in principle, to federate.
5. By discussion and negotiation with the national rogaining associations, then eventual agreement, produce a mutually acceptable IRF Constitution.
6. IRF now exists “in principle”.
7. All national Rogainng groups ratify the IRF Constitution within their own organisations.
8. We now have “formal IRF inception”. National rogainng associations appoint delegates and notify IRF. Voting to appoint executive of IRF. Organise the first formal meeting of the IRF.
9. Incorporation of the Federation to proceed subsequently.

### PROPOSED START UP MEMBERS OF IRF

Nation (organisation)	average number rogaines / annum	Number years rogainng	membership status	votes
Australia (ARA)	35	25	Special Member	8
New Zealand (NZOF)	5	7	Ordinary Member	3
USA (USOF)	12	10	Ordinary Member	3
Canada (COF)	5	13	Ordinary Member	3
Czech (CARMO)	1	3	Associate Member	1
Ireland (IOA)	1	2	Associate Member	1
Sweden (SOFT)	2	2	Associate Member	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64 events</b>			<b>20 votes</b>

### ADVANTAGES OF THE FEDERATION

1. The Federation is inclusive of **all** national rogainng groups and **all** rogainners.
2. This body ensures that Rogainng is controlled by rogainners alone.
3. The body is a real Federation of national rogainng groups.
4. The voting system is democratic, yet deals equitably relative to the commitment to rogainng of each national rogainng group.
5. Executive have limited vote and co-opted persons have no vote to ensure true democracy.
6. No membership fees. No barrier to entry.
7. Encourages growth of rogainng outside Australia through growth of national associations and IRF. Builds upon the groups with existing commitment to rogainng. Ensures continuance and growth of the international rogainng development model which has been responsible for and exceedingly successful in the development of

rogainng outside Australia for the last 13 years.

8. If a national group is not interested in rogainng, it will not/can not become a member.
9. International rogainng aims and objectives are directly mapped to the roles of the executive of the Federation.
10. The body is able to deal legally with finances. Able to gain sponsorship and financially assist international rogainng projects.
11. The body is able to be Incorporated to limit legal liability (it is modelled upon ARA which is Incorporated in South Australia)
12. The structure of the Council meets the stated and agreed requirements of all national rogainng groups.
13. A lean Federation with limited financial sources and few costs. Will not place a burden upon the sport.
14. International rogainng Policy and the wording of the Constitution of the Council are

determined by democratic means by the Council.

15.A decision regarding whether Rogaining should be developed as a discipline of the IOF is deferred for the present and can be dealt with by the Federation in a democratic manner.

16.The body is able to truly represent all rogaining interests and stakeholders, for example in negotiations with IOF.

17.The body could operate within IOF with very few if any modifications. This is a model of how Rogaining as an IOF discipline should/would operate.

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## **CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ROGAINING FEDERATION (IRF)**

*Current draft December 1999.*

Rogaining is the sport of long distance cross country navigation.

### **1. NAME**

The name of the Federation is "International Rogaining Federation" which may also be referred to by the abbreviation "IRF".

### **2. DEFINITIONS**

In this constitution, unless the contrary intention appears:

"Council" means the council of the IRF in accordance with section 5.

"Member" means a national association being a member of the IRF in accordance with section 5.

"Executive" means a member of the management team in accordance with sections 6 and 7.

"Delegate" means a representative of a Member in accordance with section 5.

### **3. AIMS**

The IRF is the peak international body for the sport of Rogaining. The aims of the IRF are to:

- promote and develop the sport of Rogaining internationally,
- maintain the culture of Rogaining,
- maintain international rules of Rogaining,
- promote, award and foster the World Rogaining Championships,
- provide an international point of contact for participants and organisers of Rogaining events.

### **4. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AND DELEGATES**

(i) Responsibility for the IRF is vested in the Council.

(ii) Eligible Members are representative national groups sharing the object of promotion of the

sport of Rogaining, experienced in the organisation of Rogaines and recognised by the Council as the representative body of Rogaining in a particular country.

(iii) There are three tiers of membership of the Council. These reflect the level of participation and Rogaining experience of the Member. The tiers are:

- a) Associate Member,
- b) Ordinary Member,
- c) Special Member. The Special Member category is reserved for Australia.

(iv) The number of Delegates per tier of membership are:

- a) Associate Member - 1 Delegate,
- b) Ordinary Member - 3 Delegates,
- c) Special Member - 8 Delegates.

(v) A Member's first Delegate to the Council shall be the President of the Member or their representative.

(vi) A Member's subsequent Delegates, if any, to the Council shall be formally nominated by the Member in writing at least annually.

(vii) A national group may apply for, or be invited by the Council to take up membership. For an invitation to be made or an application approved there must be a resolution of the Council gaining the support of at least two thirds of Delegates.

(viii) A resolution to adjust a Member from one tier of membership to another must be approved by at least two thirds of Delegates.

(ix) A Member may be removed from the Council by a resolution approved by at least two thirds of Delegates.

(x) Members of the Council do not pay a levy to the IRF.

## 5. EXECUTIVES AND CO-OPTED PERSONS

(i) The Council shall at each Annual General Meeting, or in the event of a vacancy, elect Executives of the Council, comprising:

- a) President,
- b) Secretary/Treasurer,
- c) Promotion/Development Officer,
- d) World Championship Controller, and
- e) Technical Convenor.

These Executives may be Delegates or they may be co-opted members of the Council.

(ii) Nominations for Executive positions must be in writing. If no written nominations are received by the date of the meeting at which the positions are to be determined, then nominations shall be accepted from the meeting.

(iii) The Council may co-opt any person onto the Council.

(iv) A Delegate or Executive of the Council is deemed to have vacated their position if they tender their resignation to the Council and it is accepted by the Council. A Delegate of the Council is deemed to have vacated their position if their status as a Delegate of a Member is revoked by that Member.

(v) A co-opted person on the Council may be removed from office by a majority vote of Council.

(vi) An Executive may be removed from office at any time by two thirds of Delegates.

## 6. DUTIES OF EXECUTIVES

(i) Day to day management of the IRF is vested in the Executives who must act according to the policy of the IRF, and the decisions of the Council.

(ii) **The President** shall:

- a) ensure that activities of the Council are consistent with the constitution and policy of the IRF, and consistent with decisions of the Council;
- b) manage the day-to-day affairs of the Council, and the IRF;
- c) present an annual report to the Council.

(iii) **The Secretary/Treasurer** shall:

- a) keep minutes of all meetings of the Council, and
- b) keep all records of the Council and the IRF
- c) receive all monies belonging to the IRF and make payments directed by the Council, and
- d) keep an account book of all such receipts and payments, and

e) present an annual report to the Council of receipts and expenditure, of assets and liabilities, and the financial position of the IRF.

(iv) **The Promotion/Development Officer** shall:

- a) develop and implement strategies for the promotion of Rogaining internationally;
- b) develop and maintain an Internet presence for the IRF;
- c) act as a central point of contact for information about the sport of Rogaining;
- d) maintain a calendar of international Rogaining events.

(v) **The World Championship Controller** shall:

- a) coordinate bids for the World Rogaining Championships;
- b) coordinate assistance to the organisers of the World Rogaining Championships;
- c) ensure that the World Rogaining Championships meet the standards set by the Council.

(vi) **The Technical Convenor** shall:

- a) facilitate international discussion towards improving the IRF's technical standards and rules;
- b) make recommendations to the Council regarding maintenance of the IRF's technical standards and rules.
- c) review the operation of each World Rogaining Championship and make recommendations to the Council accordingly;

## 7. FINANCES

(i) Finances of the IRF include a levy on the World Rogaining Championship.

(ii) The Executives are responsible for the day-to-day financial affairs of the Council.

(iii) All cheques written against the general funds of the IRF shall require the signature of the Secretary/Treasurer or President, and one other Executive.

(iv) The income and property of the IRF shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its aims as set forth in section 3 of this constitution.

(v) All positions on the IRF are honorary.

## 9. VOTING

(i) The Council shall decide on:

- a) all matters involving changes in the policy of the IRF;
- b) changes to the IRF's technical standards and rules;

- c) all matters involving changes to the membership of the Council and of the IRF;
  - d) applications from Members to hold the World Rogaining Championships;
  - e) motions put to it by any Delegate and seconded by any other Delegate.
- (ii) Notification of matters requiring consideration by the Council shall be provided in writing to all Delegates a minimum of 28 days before the date of the meeting of the Council at which that matter is to be considered.
- (iii) All Delegates of the Council may exercise one vote and voting shall be by simple majority of votes cast unless otherwise provided for in this constitution.
- (iv) If the President and/or Secretary/Treasurer are not Delegates, they also receive one vote each.
- (v) Written proxy votes shall be accepted and counted at a meeting if received by the Secretary/Treasurer before the meeting. On matters notified for voting in writing, votes to be valid must be received by the Secretary/Treasurer by the date specified which shall not be less than 28 days from the date of notification.
- (vi) In addition to all other requirements imposed by this constitution, no motion shall be passed by the Council if it is supported only by the Delegates representing a single Member.

## **10. MEETINGS**

- (i) Meetings may be held in person or by other means as determined by the Council.
- (ii) The Secretary/Treasurer shall call an ordinary meeting of the Council when so directed by the President or within 28 days of the receipt of a meeting request from two or more Members.
- (iii) The President is entitled to take the chair at any meeting of the Council. In the event that they are not present, or decline to take the chair, the Secretary/Treasurer shall chair the meeting, or failing that a chairman shall be elected from amongst those Delegates present.
- (iv) The Annual General Meeting shall be held in conjunction with each World Rogaining Championships unless the Council agrees on an alternative time in the same calendar year. If there is no World Rogaining Championship in a particular year, then the Annual General Meeting shall be held at a time deemed suitable by the Council.

## **10. WORLD ROGAINING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- (i) The World Rogaining Championships shall be a Rogaine of twenty four hours' duration, held no more frequently than once in any calendar year.
- (ii) The World Rogaining Championships remain the championship of the IRF and shall only be held under the technical direction of, and with the approval of the IRF.
- (iii) The Council shall call for expressions of interest to host the World Rogaining Championships at least two years prior to the year of the event. Only Members may apply to the Council to host the World Rogaining Championships.
- (iv) The Council shall, in consultation with the Member hosting the World Rogaining Championships, determine the levy payable to the IRF from the World Rogaining Championships.

## **11. AMMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

- (i) This constitution may be amended by a resolution agreed to by a two thirds majority of Delegates.
- (ii) The role of the IRF and the relationship of rogaining to orienteering shall be formally reviewed within three years of inception.

## **12. WINDING UP OF THE IRF**

The International Rogaining Federation can be dissolved at a Council meeting by a resolution agreed to by all Members. Upon dissolution of the IRF all funds and assets will be vested in any non-profit organisation including either a rogaining association or a charity, as determined by the President.

## **FEDERATION STARTUP**

- (i) All eligible members as defined in this constitution shall be invited to join the IRF at inception. Inception of the Federation shall be deemed to occur once three or more eligible members formally accept membership.
- (ii) Copies of the constitution are available from the Secretary/Treasurer.

### **APPENDIX 3 - ROGAINING / IOF CORRESPONDENCE**

To: Edmond Szechenyi, Vice President IOF  
Date: 21 April 1997

Dear Edmond,

I have been told by Doug Smith of the Canadian Orienteering Federation that you are looking into Rogaining and Mountain Marathons for the IOF.

I am not an office bearer of the rogaining infrastructure in Australia, but have been both a regular rogainer and orienteer for 20 years. I have an interest in rogaining and orienteering working together.

Rogaining involves cross country navigation for durations of 6 to 24 hours. Rogaines use a score-O format with the objective to get the highest score. A rogain is usually for teams of 2 to 5 people and does not require compulsory gear. Rogaining utilises orienteering compasses, orienteering markers, pre-marked maps, and often special topographic maps.

In Australia there is a formal structure consisting of one national association and 7 state associations that is independent of orienteering. There are no rogaining clubs.

Outside Australia, rogaines are run by orienteering clubs and supported (formally or informally) by the orienteering infrastructure. Orienteering has successfully established regular rogaining events in USA, Canada and New Zealand. The grass roots rogainers in North America believe that orienteering and rogaining are "like Siamese twins", that the same people do both, and orienteering clubs regard rogaines as part of their orienteering activity. The third North American Rogaining Championship was held on 1 March 1997, organised by Tucson Orienteering Club, Arizona. The second NZ Championship was near Canterbury, Easter 1997, organised by Peninsula & Plains Orienteers. The third world rogaining championship is to be held by Sage Orienteering Club in Kamloops, BC, Canada. In Australia, orienteering clubs have run several rogaines.

The NZOF has formally adopted rogaining under its wing, whilst the USOF established a Rogaine Committee in 1989. The COF is also working

towards forming a Rogaine Committee. Recently, the ARA (Australian Rogaining Association) invited the USOF, COF and NZOF to join it in forming an International Rogaining Federation. An alternative proposal is that rogaining can only be administered by independent national rogaining associations, like ARA.

From reading UK's Compass Sport magazine, I understand that the French Orienteering Federation has adopted "Marathon-O" as an orienteering discipline, whilst the Mountain Marathons in UK and Switzerland are not formally linked to their respective orienteering federations.

Rogaining has proved very successful in Australia and in numerical terms claims about three times more members than orienteering. Rogaining is regarded as an enjoyable way to socialise without the need to be fit or competitive. Rogaining competitions are dominated by orienteers. In the two World Championships held to date, orienteers have filled all the top places. Orienteering provides a good training ground for rogaining in terms of map and compass navigation skills and terrain fitness. Rogaining is an entry point for people from a bushwalking, tramping or outdoors background into orienteering.

Rogaining administration is unsophisticated and poorly developed. Promotion, sponsorship, strategic planning, coaching and so on generally do not exist. Consultation with membership is rare. The two World Championships to date have been held in Australia, attracted few international representatives, and were won by Australians.

The vision that I have been promoting is that orienteering clubs throughout the world could be encouraged to run rogaining events. Under the IOF banner, rogaining and mountain marathons could become legitimate orienteering activities. With IOF promotion, and the backing of the worldwide orienteering infrastructure, we could develop rogaining into many more countries.

My questions:

- 1) Is the IOF interested in long versions of orienteering? I understand from its charter that IOF encompasses "navigation on land using a map and compass" (or such words). Rogaines and Mountain Marathons seem to fit this description.



- 2) Should rogaining and orienteering be structurally separate, as some from Australia insist.
- 3) Is there interest in forming a group to promote "Ultra-O" or "Marathon-O" as an IOF discipline?

If you are interested in discussing these matters, I would be interested in talking to you.

regards,  
David Rowlands

To: David Rowlands  
Date: 25 April 1997

Dear David,  
I was very pleased to get your mail. Many thanks for the many informative details. Though you may not be an office bearer in rogaining, it sounds as if you are a good entry point for IOF's point of view.

We believe that Orienteering is a sport with many facets which has one fundamental basic concept, that is that the result of any competition must reflect the ability of the competitors to choose and find their way in unknown terrain with the aid of a map. So whether they are called rogaining, mountain marathons, marathon orienteering, or anything else, long orienteering events are still orienteering and as such the IOF is institutionally interested. Of course, in the same way as classical orienteering events, long events can be on foot, on skis or on mountain bikes.

In Europe almost all long orienteering events are organised by orienteers, even if the national federations do not always exercise control. As you are aware, in France these events are an integral part of the Orienteering Federation's competition calendar. Since last year we have inaugurated an annual international Trophy which takes into consideration 6 events held in different countries. In 1997 three countries are involve (BEL, FRA and SUI) but we hope to have events in 6 different countries in 1998.

Now to answer your questions:

- 1) Yes, IOF is interested in long orienteering though there is a lot of inertia to overcome to make people aware of all the very diverse potentialities of our sport.

- 2) The fact that rogaining and orienteering are structurally separate in Australia must have historical reasons which are of a local nature and may depend on the actual definition of "orienteering" in Australia. There are precedents for this type of situation, for example, in Sweden ski-O is structurally separate from foot-O. It is clear that there is no question of a separate long-O sport in any European country we know of, just as short distance orienteering is not separate from relay events.

- 3) I am very keen on long orienteering (whatever name we may give it, but I rather favour "marathon orienteering") gaining the same international status as classic orienteering. It is clear that KIMM type events have a tremendous attraction for the public at large and are much more media friendly than classic orienteering events. My hope is that the present International Trophy will attain World Cup status within a few years.

Long orienteering events come under very many different forms: score events, timed courses, 1 day, 2 day with or without overnight equipment, single, in pairs, etc. I will be sending a questionnaire to all members of the IOF to find out what is practiced in each country, whether under the auspices of the orienteering federation or not. On the basis of the answers, the IOF will decide on what lead to take to promote this form of orienteering.

I would be pleased to have your further comments, or anyone else's, on this subject.

Best regards  
Edmond

## **NATIONAL ROGAINING ASSOCIATIONS**

Australian Rogaining Association (ARA)  
Canadian Orienteering Federation (COF)  
Czech Association of Rogaining and Marathon Orienteering  
Irish Orienteering Association (IOA)  
New Zealand Orienteering Federation (NZOF)  
Swedish Orienteering Federation (SOFT)  
United States Orienteering Federation (USOF)

## **STATE ROGAINING ASSOCIATIONS**

Australian Capital Territory Rogaining Association  
New South Wales Rogaining Association  
Northern Territory Rogaining Association  
Orienteering Association of British Columbia  
Orienteering Association of Nova Scotia  
Queensland Rogaining Association  
Rogaining Tasmania  
South Australian Rogaining Association  
Victorian Rogaining Association  
Washington State Orienteering Association  
Western Australian Rogaining Association

## **ROGAINING CLUBS**

*Note: this is not a complete list. For additions please contact IRF*

Arctic Orienteering Club, AL, USA  
Bay Area Orienteering Club, CA, USA  
Central New York Orienteering, NY, USA  
Columbia River Orienteering Club, OR, USA  
Dunedin Orienteering Club, NZ  
Hudson Valley Orienteering Club, NY, USA  
Hutt Valley Orienteering Club, NZ  
Los Angeles Orienteering Club, CA, USA  
Minnesota Orienteering Club, MN, USA  
North Eastern Ohio Orienteering Club, OH, USA<BR>  
Peninsula and Plains Orienteering Club, NZ  
Sage Orienteering Club, BC, Canada  
Sammamish Orienteering Club, WA, USA  
San Diego Orienteering, CA, USA  
Setanta Orienteers, IRE  
St Louis Orienteering Club, MO, USA  
Taby Orienteering Club, SWE  
Tucson Orienteering Club, AZ, USA  
VictOrienteers, BC, Canada