



Australian Rogaining Association Inc. 2010 Annual General Meeting 26th March 2010

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

1. Apologies and Notification Of Proxies

Apologies received: Phil Holman, Ian Thomsett, Nick Bowden, Joel Mackay, Tony Knight.

Proxies advised:

- Andre Morkel is proxy for Ricky Thackray (WARA)
- Richard Robinson is proxy for Tony Knight (QRA)
- Rob Tucker is proxy for Andrew Murphy (SARA)

Delegates in Attendance:

- Richard Robinson (QRA)
- Glenn Bridgart, David Baldwin (ACTRA)
- Jon Potter, Simon Saunders (NTRA)
- Andre Morkel (WARA)
- Rob Gardner, Derek Morris (VRA)
- Gillian Fowler (NSWRA)
- Rob Tucker, Steve Cooper (SARA)
- David Rowlands (Secretary)

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOTION: That the minutes of the 2009 AGM be accepted as true and accurate.
Moved: Gill Fowler, Seconded: Rob Gardner.

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:

- The rapport the ARA has built with key overseas rogaining organisations, and the opportunity this has given us to influence the direction of international rogaining towards development of a representative and democratic international peak rogaining body.
- The 2009 Australian Rogaining Championships held by WARA near Wandering provided wonderfully subtle terrain and a course that used the terrain to its fullest advantage.
- Australian Intervarsity Rogaining Championships held in conjunction with the ACT Championships in early August with the enthusiastic and material support of the Nigel Aylott Memorial Sports Foundation (NAMSF).

5. Financial Matters

a) Treasurer's Report:

2009 was another strong year for ARA financially with a solid underlying operating surplus of around \$2,500 plus the further accumulation of just over \$4,500 in the ARA's international development fund. The ARA's uncommitted cash balance stands in the \$30,000+ range, in excess of the \$20,000 required. The Treasurer expressed his thanks to Brian Austin, the ARA's Honorary Auditor.

MOTION: That the Treasurers Report be accepted. Moved: Richard Robinson, Seconded: Glenn Bridgart.

- b) Public Liability Insurance and Directors and Officers cover is in place with OAMPS Insurance Brokers, as stated at the 2009 AGM:
 - Public Liability cover and landowner protection \$20M
 - Directors and Officers Insurance \$2M.

The states were reminded to provide membership numbers to the Treasurer as soon as possible to facilitate renewal of the insurance in June.

- c) Capitation Fee 2009-10: David Baldwin said that the bus for ARC 2010 could produce a loss of less than \$1000. Given the ARA's strong reserve, the Treasurer recommended that the capitation be retained, but waived for the next year.

MOTION: That the Capitation Fee be set at \$1.00 per member, but that this be waived in 2009-10. Moved: Richard Robinson, Seconded: Rob Gardner.

- d) ARA Auditor:

MOTION: That Brian Austin be appointed as Honorary ARA Auditor for 2010-11. Moved: Richard Robinson, Seconded: Glenn Bridgart.

- e) Applications for State Grants close on 30 November 2010. The guidelines are published on the ARA website at: rogaine.asn.au/ARA-Council/ARA-Council-Policy-Documents.html.
- f) There were no suggested changes to the ARA Grants Policy. David Baldwin said that the ARA grants, though not large, can support volunteers by supporting such key event assets as tents and computers. Glenn Bridgart said that these can supplement Federal grants that have been utilised by the states. David Baldwin pointed out that technically, there would be little revenue next year, whilst the policy provides a distribution "up to 40% of annual revenue".

ACTION: Richard Robinson shall adjust the ARA Grant Policy wording to accommodate such variations in revenue, or investigate whether NAMSF could provide an alternative source.

- g) To encourage ARA delegate transport to the AGM, the policy remains 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”.

6. Election of Office Bearers

The Treasurer’s position has remained open since the 2008 AGM when no nominations were received. The position has been filled by Richard Robinson as acting Treasurer during 2009-10. The nomination of Michael Aylott has been received.

MOTION: That Michael Aylott be appointed as ARA Treasurer.

Moved: Richard Robinson, Seconded: David Rowlands.

7. Australian Championships

- a) 2010 ACTRA 27/28 March: Organiser: David Baldwin, Course Planners/Vetters: David Baldwin, Julie Quinn, Admin: Claire Edwards. With 388 competitors in 171 teams the event was expected to break even financially, though the bus uptake was short of expectations. Rob Gardner noted that many interstate competitors were staying in the region for an extended period, including Easter.
- b) The 2011 Australian Championship has been allocated to Rogaining Tasmania. The event date is 22/23 January and the location is south of Launceston. Organiser is Christine Brown, Course Planners/Vetters: John Brock, Karen Pedley, Nigel Davies, Darryl Smith.

David Baldwin holds two sets of 80 Navlight punches that can be hired by RTAs. Rob Gardner, David Baldwin, Glenn Bridgart, Steve Cooper and Richard Robinson discussed their experiences with Navlight and the probable assistance that may be required by RTAs to utilise Navlight successfully.

ACTION: David Baldwin shall advise Christine Brown of the availability of ACTRA’s Navlight equipment for the Australian Championship.

- c) The subsequent Australian Championship schedule is: 2012 SARA, 2013 QRA, 2014 VRA, 2015 NTRA.
- The 2012 Australian Championship is due to be run by SARA. Rob Tucker advised that the location is likely to be centred on a tourist village near Blinman in the northern Flinders Ranges, with a probable date in August.
 - Richard Robinson said that the 2013 Australian Championship is likely to be in North Queensland on the Atherton Tableland.
- d) The check in/out recording system will be maintained this year to ensure the successful recording of the return of trophies at the ARC and their subsequent new holders. David Baldwin noted that there are not many juniors competing. Two competition categories will not be awarded in 2010: Mixed and Women Juniors. The lost trophies discussed at the 2009 AGM have now been recovered. Where duplicates trophies now exist, the meeting decided to award the original trophies and archive the duplicate trophies created by WARA in 2009.

8. IRF Constitution Reform and ARA Membership

- a) The ARA has over many years continued to press the IRF Executive for commitment to a vote of its members in order to form a representative and democratic international peak rogaining federation comprised of national peak rogaining bodies. Through the last year, the ARA President has established an open and constructive dialogue with the Czech, Estonian, New Zealand and USA rogaining groups to encourage them to develop and sponsor a motion to change the IRF constitution. By contrast over this period, the ARA's attempted discussions with the IRF Executive have been unproductive.

Subsequently, the IRF President has advised that there is a motion before the IRF Council for substantive changes to the IRF Constitution and that voting on this motion was due to be completed by the end of March 2010. Whilst the IRF Executive declined to provide a copy of the motion to the ARA or to comment on its contents, discussions with the above international representatives provided confidence that, should this motion be passed without amendment, all the material objections that the ARA have raised historically about the constitutional structure of the IRF would be addressed.

A key point of disagreement within the IRF has continued to be the status of orienteering associations, with attempts to marginalise rogaining bodies such as USOF. The constitution amendment is understood to provide a phase out of individual voting members by 31 Dec 2012.

Should the IRF constitution be successfully amended as expected, then the ARA Executive will be recommending to Council that the ARA apply for membership of the IRF.

- b) The IRF has circulated for discussion a draft WRC Entry Selection Criteria that would be applicable from 2012. Steve Cooper asked how this differed from the process used for WRC 2010 in New Zealand and the response was that it was only a minor refinement. Richard Robinson suggested that in future, the criteria may provide for more pre-qualification applicants than the places available. David Baldwin felt that a flaw of the process for 2010 was that due to lack of notice, there were no future events available for pre-qualification. No deadline has been advised by the IRF for submission of comments.
- c) 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 it could be used for worthwhile international development projects. The IRF capitation fee applicable to ARA is expected to be US\$1 per member.

Richard Robinson advised that the Executive is in the process of finalising the criteria for administration of the fund, whose balance currently stands at \$7082. He suggested that irrespective of whether ARA joins the IRF, the fund should remain within ARA control.

Steve Cooper, David Baldwin and Glenn Bridgart spoke in favour of continuing to build the fund to a useable size. Michael Aylott questioned whether the ARA

has capacity to administer the fund. However, he stated that NAMSF is also keen to contribute to a fund with such worthwhile goals.

MOTION: That ARA shall levy the states \$0.55 per member, either as IRF Capitation Fee, or for worthwhile international development projects. Moved: Glenn Bridgart, Seconded: Jon Potter.

- d) Jon Potter outlined the NTRA proposal for WRC 2014/16 or ARC 2015, which would expand upon the 2007 ARC site near Alice Springs. The main risks for NTRA are a lack of human resources. Though the land access could continue to be affected by a native title claim. Support was sought from other states for roles such as setting/vetting and administration. ARA underwriting of the map production costs, in the region of \$5500, is expected to be sought by NTRA.

ACTION: Richard Robinson shall contact IRF Development Manager Alan Mansfield regarding a potential ARA bid for WRC 2014 or 2016.

9. Technical Subcommittee

Convenor: David Baldwin

- a) There were no technical issues reported following the 2009 Australian Rogaining Championship run by WARA.
- b) As directed at the 2009 AGM, David Baldwin placed a number of live technical issues onto the ARA Website for discussion, but this did not generate a great deal of discussion from members. An IRF review of rules has been mooted but has not progressed. During 2010-11, 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. If the IRF review is active at the same time, then both processes should be coordinated.

ACTION: David Baldwin shall organise a refresh of the technical sub-committee and commence the review process.

- c) WARAs proposal to allow carrying of “headless GPS” was discussed at the 2009 AGM. This is GPS tracking of competitors, where this information is recorded, but is not available for analysis until after the conclusion of the event. David Baldwin said the intent of the rules is that teams must not see progress of other teams or be able to use GPS for navigation. Richard Robinson said that the rules cannot ignore advancing technology. Rob Tucker raised mobile phones as a good safety device that could also be used to contravene the rules. David Baldwin said that although the practice could be approved once-off on a discretionary basis. This would require sealing of the device and inspections before and after the event. Rogaining has traditionally avoided the high level of gear scrutineering found at adventure races.

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

10. General Business

- a) Various dates for the 2010 Australian University Rogaining Championship were discussed, before the meeting agreed that the event should be held in

conjunction with the Victorian Rogaining Championship on 18-19 September. VRA representatives endorsed this proposal.

Michael Aylott on behalf of the Nigel Aylott Memorial Foundation (NAMSF) conveyed a message of strong support for the University Championship for the next three years. This is conditional on the state associations' continued support for and promotion of the event. Richard Robinson observed that the event attracted good numbers last year. Michael Aylott noted that the payment for all student entries in 2009 was well received and at least partly responsible for a pleasing number of university entrants. He expected that NAMSF would continue this in 2010.

Steve Cooper requested clarification of the selection criteria to be used by the states. Richard Robinson suggested that they nominate a "selection event" and also consider general performance. Gill Fowler said that the preference is for full time students. Rob Gardner added that a number of university teams have attended VRA training sessions.

The ARA continues to seek an enthusiastic and energetic Intervarsity Rogaining Convenor. Ideally the convenor would have direct links with universities. The process to achieve accreditation with Australian University Sports (AUS) should be pursued by the new convenor.

Looking to 2011, Michael Aylott indicated that NAMSF preference would always be to have the University Championships coincide with the ARC. However in 2011, the ARC date will not be suitable. Michel requested that the event date be finalised at least one year in advance.

ACTION: The Secretary shall request the states to confirm their 2011 state championship dates before the Intervarsity in September, so that the Australian University Rogaining Championship date for 2011 can be decided at that time.

- b) The Secretary holds stocks of Rogaining stickers. There was an enthusiastic response from the states, which will likely clean out the stocks.

ACTION: The Secretary shall provide batches of stickers to Jon Potter, Rob Gardner, Gill Fowler, Rob Tucker and Ian Thomsett.

- c) The Executive intends to review the potential to migrate the ARA Constitution from South Australian to Federal law during 2010-11.

11. Other Business

Rob Gardner initiated a discussion of states' initiatives to attract event volunteers and to increase rogaining membership.

- Rob Gardner – Rogaining originally found 80% of its members through bushwalking clubs, but they are no longer a vibrant source.
- Richard Robinson – Volunteers are easier to attract for an event if land access is secured. QRA pay volunteers an amount per day from government grants to source land access.
- Gill Fowler – NSWRA provide incentive of a free event entry or an amount towards a first aid course.

- David Baldwin – ACTRA fully fund a first aid course with obligation to be First Aid Officer at an event within 2 years.
- Andre Morkel – WARA promote rogaining as practice for adventure races.
- Richard Robinson – QRA gains younger members in 20-30 year age group from adventure racing.
- Steve Cooper – SARA have embraced the geo-caching community by creating a hybrid event.
- Rob Gardner – VRA have an ongoing strategy review of rogaining branding.
- Glenn Bridgart – ACTRA surveys its members' expectations.
- Rob Gardner, Glenn Bridgart and Richard Robinson – Training sessions attract 20-30 new members.
- David Baldwin – ACTRA has received much positive feedback from its weekend workshops including talk, practice and night navigation.
- Derek Morris – VRA has for many years run a 5 hour school events in conjunction with a public 6 hour event. This has increased in popularity every year to about 300 school kids.
- Richard Robinson – QRA organise a three hour event supported by Queensland School Sports. This currently attracts 30-50 school kids.
- Derek Morris – the schools event requires intensive coordination and coaching. VRA are finding coordinators hard to find and retain.

12. Next AGM

The next AGM is proposed to be 2:00pm - 5:00pm, Fri 21 January 2011, at or near the Hash House for the Australian Rogaining Championship, organised by RTAs.

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

Tabled Documents

President's Report - **2009-10 Presidents Report.pdf**

Treasurer's Report - **2009 Treasurers Report.pdf**

Auditor's Report – **2009 ARA Auditors Report.pdf**

Minutes of Previous AGM – **2009 ARA AGM Minutes.pdf**

Grants Policy - **ARA Grant Application Policy.pdf**

ARA Council as at 1/03/2010

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: Simon Saunders

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: Ricky Thackray