

Intervarsity Travel Subsidies – Future Payment Proposal

NAMSF

Nigel Aylott, as a student at Monash University, first enjoyed intervarsity competition when he played hockey for Monash and travelled to Wollongong in 1984 to play intervarsity. Reports from the event indicate he enjoyed more than just the hockey! Intervarsity Hockey eventually became part of the University Games. As a rogaining administrator, he was a big supporter of intervarsity rogaining, although with only limited success. To this day, rogaining is not part of the university games.

When he died in September 2004, there was considerable urging for the family to set up a foundation in his name. The Nigel Aylott Memorial Sports Foundation (NAMSF) was set up the following year to provide financial support for encouraging sporting involvement, particularly in rogaining and adventure racing. In 2006, Phil Holman, then president of the ARA, put a proposal to NAMSF to restart intervarsity rogaining competition by using NAMSF funds to enable students from around Australia to enter the Australian Rogaining Championships each year and compete for the intervarsity trophy.

The NAMSF agreed and, since 2007, has been allocating funds to meet the travel costs of university teams travelling to the national intervarsity championship. NAMSF would set the subsidies at a level which would allow for a team of two to travel to the Australian Championships each year, covering the air and bus fares to get to the event. In the early years, the NAMSF would provide the total subsidy amount to the ARA and any subsidies not used would be refunded. The State and Territory Rogaining associations would then advertise for applicants to receive the subsidy and make the decisions about which applicants would receive.

The NAMSF provided guidelines to the States for choosing the successful applicants. These guidelines stated that it was essential that the team must be from the same university (so that they could enter the intervarsity category), that selection be based on ability but preference be given to full-time under-graduate students. The team selected could incorporate more than two people but the funding subsidy would only cover the full travel costs of two members. The ARA, upon receiving evidence of the team either having bought airfares or having competed in the event, would then deposit the subsidy in a team member's bank account.

In more recent years, the ARA has paid the subsidies awarded and then the NAMSF would reimburse the ARA for the total subsidies actually paid. In no year has there been a representative from every State and Territory. The average number of State/ Territories represented each year is four or five. This means that the subsidy from the NAMSF each year averages only about \$3500.

In the early years, NAMSF members themselves promoted the subsidies, producing flyers for use during orientation week at universities. However, this was not sustainable and did not continue. If the intervarsity championship is going to flourish, buy in from all State and Territory associations will be required. This used to also be considered good for the sport, being a prime source of new rogaining participants. The proliferation of universities, each with multiple campuses, has indeed made this task harder.

The Proposal

The NAMSF is keen to wind up within the next year but would like to continue supporting the intervarsity rogaining championships. In order to do this, the NAMSF is proposing the following:

- An advance to the ARA of \$40,000 (a nominal ten years' funding based on the historical average of roughly \$3,500 per year and allowing for some inflation);
- The ARA would take over the annual setting of the subsidy amount;
- The ARA commits to providing travel subsidies to students until the advance has been spent;
- The ARA would produce individual trophies for each member of the winning team each year;
- There would be no obligation to continue providing the subsidy once the advance from the NAMSF has been spent;
- No further reporting to the NAMSF on the outcomes of the intervarsity championships would be required;
- The ARA would have full freedom to produce a more interesting perpetual trophy.

Michael Aylott

President

Nigel Aylott Memorial Sports Foundation

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