

# ARA Annual General Meeting – Minutes

## Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2006

### 1 Apologies and Notification of Proxies

The meeting was opened by the President at 2:54pm.

**Apologies:** Alan Mansfield (NSWRA), Mike Hotchkis (NSWRA), Peter Taylor (Immediate Past President), Nick Bowden (RT), Neil Smith (RT), Brendan Miller (QRA), Kate O'Brien (VRA), Di Young (VRA), Steve Cooper (SARA).

**Present:** Phillip Holman (**PH**) - President and Chair, David Rowlands (**DR**) – Secretary and minute taker, Richard Robinson (**RR**) - Treasurer & QRA Rep, Emma Murray (**EM**) - ACTRA Pres, David Baldwin (**DB**) - ACTRA Rep, Jon Potter (**JP**) - NTRA Pres, Jon Smith (**JS**) - NTRA Rep, Jim Langford (**JL**) - WARA Pres, Gary Carroll (**GC**) - WARA Rep

**Proxies:**

- QRA – Brendan Miller's proxy held by Gregor Wilson (**GW**)
- SARA – Andrew Murphy's proxy held by Rob Tucker (**RT**)

### 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Correction: General Business j) Geoff Simmons spelled incorrectly.

**MOTION:** “That the minutes of the 2005 ARA AGM be accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting.” Moved **RR**, Seconded **JS**. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### 3 Matters Arising from the Minutes Not Discussed Elsewhere

**a) Position of Promotions Officer**

ARA to enquire of the State Associations as to which have Promotions Officer positions. Contact Liz Bourne regarding potential interest in Promotions Officer position. Alan Mansfield may also be interested after the World Champs.

**ACTION: Phillip Holman**

**b) Review and update of Environmental Guidelines**

The updated guidelines were ratified by the ARA Council and updated on the ARA website in October 2005.

## 4 President's Report

The President's Report was tabled. The President welcomed the new Councillors and briefly outlined the ARA's activities over the last 12 months. The main work of the ARA Executive and Council during the period has been implementation of the revised Technical Standards, negotiations regarding a suitable structure for the IRF, and a reprint of the colour rogaining brochures. The year has continued to be busy and successful for all the state associations, particularly NSWRA who have been busy preparing for the World Rogaining Championship in October 2006.

## 5 Financial Report

### a) Treasurer's report

The Treasurer's Report was tabled. Following the considerable preoccupation with insurance over recent years, in 2005-06 the focus was able to return again to opportunities to support the States in the development and promotion of rogaining.

The insurance renewal in June 2005 realised a further modest reduction in premiums over that obtained for the 2004 renewal, based on the continuing lack of claims and the Insurer's increasing knowledge of the sport.

Support for the States for legal review of the draft insurance clauses for letters to landowners and Participant Indemnity forms could require significant expenditure by the ARA in 2006. Therefore the Treasurer recommended that a \$1.00 capitation fee be levied in 2006-07.

### b) Public Liability Insurance

A set of standard clauses for letters to landowners and Participant Indemnity forms that set out details of the insurance cover have been prepared and approved by the Broker. These have also been reviewed by a sports lawyer who has confirmed that they provide the appropriate clarity in respect of the ARA insurance. Distributed to the States.

### c) Setting of Capitation Fee for 2006-07

**MOTION:** "That the Capitation Fee be set at \$1." Moved **RR**, Seconded **DB**.  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

### d) ARA Grant for Bus to 2006 Australian Championship

The only grant application received was from ACTRA for a grant to subsidise bus travel from Canberra to the 2006 ARC. **RR** reported that funds are available, but was concerned that this provided a benefit to ACT rogainers that is not available to others. The grant of \$1040 was approved as some funds were still available under the Grant Application Policy.

### e) ARA Funds Available For State Grants

States are encouraged to apply for grants by 30 November each year. The Grant Application Policy is on the ARA website: <http://rogaine.asn.au/ara/docs/index.html>.

f) **Delegate transport to the AGM venue**

**PH** reported that there were 3 delegates plus 6 others who took advantage of the Friday afternoon bus in 2006.

**JP** outlined that the venue for the 2007 ARC and AGM being 90km east of Alice Springs will be slightly more difficult to access than previous years. The organisers plan to provide two mini buses “on demand” to shuttle competitors.

Liaise with **JP** regarding timing of the AGM and therefore delegate transport requirements.

**ACTION: David Rowlands**

## 6 Australian Championship Schedule

a) **2007 NTRA**

The “Yeperenye Yaw” Rogaine is on 28-29 July, in the Eastern MacDonnell Ranges, near Alice Springs. **JP** reported that the event organisation is well in hand. Special photogrammetry has been created for the eastern part of the rogaine course. The map will be complete in 3 months. Organiser/Course Setter is John Potter. Course Vettors are Rob Tucker and Andrew Murphy. The event website is:

<http://nt.rogaine.asn.au/events/ARC2007/ARC2007.html>

b) **2008 NSWRA**

No information has been received from NSWRA. The meeting decided to ask NSWRA for confirmation of go ahead by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007.

**ACTION: NSWRA**

c) **2009 WARA**

**GC** suggested that the event was likely to be held in June.

d) **2010 ACTRA, 2011 RT, 2012 SARA, 2013 VRA**

States should advise ARA as soon as possible of any difficulties with this schedule.

## 7 IRF Constitution Reform and ARA Membership

a) **ARA/IRF In-Principle Agreements For Constitution Reform**

**PH** tabled a status summary document. This shows that a mechanism for resolution of the high level issues is now agreed between ARA and IRF.

The key change to the IRF constitution required by the ARA is that only Peak National Rogaining Bodies be a voting member. **DB** supported this stating that a federation should consist of only genuinely representative national bodies. **PH** outlined that the transition to the ARA’s constitution model had in the past been a barrier because it involved taking votes away from individuals. However the sunset clause (of about 2 years) in the current proposal has met with universal support.

Mechanism to proceed: A number of loose ends are to be finalised (such as the number of votes for the ARA, selection of ARA delegates). In the current ARA proposal there is nothing to stop an orienteering association such as USOF being admissible as an IRF member. **DB** proposed that payment of membership fee to IRF demonstrated sufficient commitment by any national body to rogaining.

A final meeting between ARA and IRF representatives is planned to finalise the constitution wording. **PH** and Neil Phillips to jointly write to international rogainers to promote the changes. **DR** and Rod Phillips to draft the constitution wording. IRF to implement the constitution changes, followed by an ARA Council electronic vote to join IRF.

**ACTION: Phillip Holman**

**b) ARA's Potential Responsibilities As a Member of the IRF**

The major responsibility for the ARA would be an annual capitation fee of around US \$1.00 per member (about AUS\$9000). This is likely to be financed by an extra levy on each Member State Association. The state representatives expressed no concerns with this.

The IRF would be free to use these funds in many ways to develop rogaining internationally, such as:

- Waiving of Australian Championship fee for international entrants.
- Sponsorship of key international rogainers to the Australian Championships each year (such as some proportion of air fare).
- Financial support for the development of rogaining associations.

The delegates felt that any financial commitments above the Capitation Fee would be limited due to lack of ARA funds and varying state financial capacity. However, the ARA as a member would be fully committed and engaged with IRF activities. Key experienced ARA individuals would be able to assist IRF in such areas as:

- Technical support for World Rogaining Championships and European Rogaining Championships.
- Pairing of developing rogaining groups with Australian rogaining associations for assistance with development.
- Alignment of ARA and IRF Technical standards under the same Chairman.

## **8 Technical Subcommittee**

**a) Amendments to ARA Rules and Regulations**

A new version of the Australian Rules and Technical Regulations came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006. The ARA website has been updated at:

<http://rogaine.asn.au/ara/docs/regs/regs.htm>. The following are the key changes:

- All team members to approach to within 5m of controls (rather than previous 20m).
- Clarification of the “no punch, no points” rule and expectations for marking of intention sheets.
- Reflectors on controls banned at the Australian Championship.
- An Under-23 age category for the Australian Championship, to replace the Junior (under 18) category.

**b) Change to Technical Committee Charter**

The sub-committee is now required to conduct a review following each Australian Rogaining Championships, drawing on the experiences of the organiser and the participants, to examine issues arising related to the standard of the event with respect to the application of the Rules and Technical Regulations. The amended Sub-Committee Charter is at: <http://rogaine.asn.au/ara/docs/charter.html>

**c) Position of Technical Convenor 2006-2007**

Whilst the current Convenor Mike Hotchkis is fully engaged by the course setting for the World Rogaining Championship it was agreed that a new Convenor was urgently required to address a number of current technical issues. **DB** volunteered and was duly accepted by the delegates as the Technical Sub-Committee Convenor for 2006-07.

**d) Future Tasks and Timing of Next Review**

Current technical issues to be addressed including adapting the Rules for events with electronic punching systems but no punch card, international language control descriptions, and potential changes to punching requirements to combat team splitting. Since electronic punching is already in common use, the review should start immediately.

**ACTION: David Baldwin**

## **9 World Rogaining Championships 2006**

**a) Progress Report**

Progress Report from NSWRA was tabled. **Map, course setting and vetting:** at the time of the AGM, course setting and checking was complete with vetting in progress. The map has been developed specifically for this event from specially commissioned photogrammetry. Map contours will be 10m with scale 1:50 000.

**Equipment:** NSWRA will approach other State Associations as needed.

**Electronic punching:** the organisers expect to use Navlight at the World Championship in a manner similar to that used at the 2005 Australian Championships.

**b) Procedures to Control Event Numbers**

Maximum field size was set at 500 as requested by the NSW National Parks Service, with open qualification and entry on a "first come first served" basis. **RR** suggested that the organisers should hold up to 50 places for international entrants and setup a waiting list. **JL** suggested that the organisers negotiate an increase in the event limit with the landowners, however **RR** expressed concerns about competitors' enjoyment of the event with numbers greater than 500.

NSWRA was requested to advise the ARA and other States of any assistance required.

**ACTION: Michael Hotchkis**

## 10 Australian Sports Commission Accreditation

### a) **Proposal That ARA Set a Goal To Achieve ASC Recognition**

**DB** proposed that ARA investigate the merits of ASC recognition and whether such accreditation is achievable. Details of the ASC's recognition criteria are at the following link:

[http://www.ausport.gov.au/nso/documents/nso\\_recognition\\_criteria.pdf](http://www.ausport.gov.au/nso/documents/nso_recognition_criteria.pdf)

The benefits of ASC accreditation include inclusion in the Australian Sports Directory, and hence recognition of rogain as a legitimate sport, plus access to ASC expertise and resources. ASC recognition may become necessary in the future to achieve government funding or insurance.

Current issues for ARA to overcome for recognition include:

- Operable three year strategic plan
- Audited financial statements for last three years
- Anti-doping policy; harassment and member protection policy
- Affiliation with an international federation that is affiliated to the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) or the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Investigate feasibility of auditing last three years of ARA accounts.

**ACTION: Richard Robinson**

Technical Subcommittee investigate implementation of a harassment and member protection policy for ARA.

**ACTION: David Baldwin**

Technical Subcommittee investigate anti-doping policy for ARA.

**ACTION David Baldwin**

Determine whether IRF membership of GAISF is a show stopper for ARA.

**ACTION: David Baldwin**

Pursue listing of ARA in ASC's directory immediately, prior to accreditation.

**ACTION: David Baldwin**

## 11 ARA/IRF Strategic Plans

### a) **Proposal That ARA and IRF Commence Work On a Joint "Strategic plan for Rogaining" Once ARA Has Joined IRF**

The IRF has commenced a strategy process, but ARA has not participated because it is not a member. The value of a strategy would be to drive ARA policy and avoid a reactive approach to issues. **PH** said that the ARA had a strategy about 15 years ago produced by then President Tracy Martin. ACTRA (**EM**) and WARA (**JL**) have strategies, being a pre-requisite for state government funding. **EM** outlined the critical importance of grass roots participation in a strategy development in order to ensure ownership and therefore successful implementation. Such a strategic planning process could involve workshops in each state jurisdiction. **DB** had advised previously that ASC recognition requires an operable three year strategic plan. **JL** said that it would be worthwhile for ARA to have a promotions strategy. SARA (**RT**) and NTRA (**JP**) felt that a risk assessment plan is more useful.

The meeting felt that there would need to be a definite proposal or driver such as ASC accreditation to support such a strategy process.

## **12 Victorian Government's Proposed Activity Standards / Provider License**

### **a) Potential impacts on rogaining**

The VRA delegates were not in attendance hence this item was not discussed.

## **13 General Business**

### **a) Publicity Brochure Reprint**

**PH** has arranged for a printing of 20,000 copies of the new Publicity Brochure in conjunction with VRA. The brochure is a single sided colour montage of scenes depicting rogaining activity. The reverse can be printed by the States with promotional information or calendars. These will be distributed to the states shortly.

**ACTION: Phillip Holman**

### **b) Rogaining Stickers**

A new batch of rogaining stickers have been printed and are available on request from the Secretary. The current stock is reasonably low. **GC** suggested that the current design is difficult to read and hence he has offered to assist in production of a new design.

**ACTION: Gary Carroll**

### **c) ARA Website**

The ARA website is not well known by the rogaining population. **DR** proposed to continue improvements including more news and resources. A new website has been designed by Alastair Honeybun using a freely available Content Management System (CMS). The default Australian rogaining site <http://rogaine.asn.au>, which contained a map with links to the state associations has been removed and has become the new ARA website. The old site remains at: <http://rogaine.asn.au/ara> for a short while before being redirected to <http://rogaine.asn.au>.

**ACTION: David Rowlands**

### **d) Nigel Aylott Memorial Sports Foundation Inc. and Interschool Competition**

Nigel Aylott Memorial Sports Foundation Inc. has been established. The Foundation would like to provide benefits to outdoor adventure racing and rogaining. The Foundation has invited the ARA to submit a proposal.

The proposal was outlined by **PH** is for the Nigel Aylott Interschool Trophy. This is to be awarded annually to the winning university team at the Australian Rogaining Championships. Funds to be put towards:

- A perpetual trophy (one off).
- Cover costs of travel and entry for a team from each state to compete in the Australian Championship (annually).

Each State Rogaining Association would appoint an Intersociety Representative. The job of the Representative is to prepare a list of all eligible universities in their state, contact the appropriate bushwalking club representative at each university, promote the scheme, and devise a process for selecting the team to represent their state. Eg: highest placing in the state Rogaining Championship.

The ultimate goal is to achieve Intersociety status and thus sufficient teams for a sustainable annual Intersociety Competition. This would enable more university teams to have their costs covered to compete in the Australian Championship.  
Define costing model.

**ACTION: Phillip Holman**

**e) Application to Rename Mt Nelse West After Nigel Aylott**

Geoff Simmons' submission has not yet progressed.

**f) Risk Management**

If VRA agrees, place appropriate VRA documents relating to Risk Management process on ARA Council website.

**ACTION: Phillip Holman**

**g) Sponsorship Guidelines**

Remind **Julian Ledger** regarding his offer to write ARA sponsorship guidelines.

**ACTION: David Rowlands**

**h) Inquiry Into Women in Sport and Recreation in Australia**

The States are invited to make submissions to Federal Senate. The web site is: [www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/ecita\\_ctte/inquiries.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/ecita_ctte/inquiries.htm)

**EM** outlined that ACTRA ran a navigation workshop specifically for women by women. This was funded by an ACT "Womens Sport" grant.

**i) NTRA Grant to Underwrite ARC**

JP discussed the high cost burden on NTRA for setting and vetting ARC 2007. The possibility of a grant was discussed.

NTRA formulate entry fee and event budget then request grant if required.

**ACTION: John Potter**

**j) Next AGM**

The next ARA AGM is proposed for the Friday afternoon prior to the Australian Rogaining Championship, in Alice Springs (NT). Time: 2:00pm - 5:00pm.  
Location: at or near the Hash House.

The meeting closed at 5:28pm.



**ARA Council as at 11 May 2006**

**President:** Phillip Holman

**Secretary:** David Rowlands

**Treasurer:** Richard Robinson

**Immediate Past President:** Peter Taylor

**ACTRA**

President: Emma Murray, Rep: David Baldwin

**NSWRA**

President: Mike Hotchkis, Rep: Alan Mansfield

**NTRA**

President: Jon Potter, Rep: Jon Smith

**QRA**

President: Brendan Miller, Rep: Richard Robinson

**RT**

President: Nick Bowden, Rep: Neil Smith

**SARA**

President: Steve Cooper, Rep: Andrew Murphy

**VRA**

President: Di Young, Rep: Kate O'Brien

**WARA**

President: Jim Langford, Rep: Gary Carroll

**Attachments:**

- Presidents Report: 2005-06 PRESIDENTS REPORT.DOC
- Treasurers Report: 2005 TREASURERS REPORT.PDF
- WRC 2006 Progress Report: 7WRC REP ARA AGM 2006.DOC
- IRF status summary: CONSTITUTION CURRENT STATUS - MAY 2006.DOC