



Australian Rogaining Association Inc.

2011 Annual General Meeting

21st January 2011

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

1. Apologies and Notification Of Proxies

Apologies received: Ricky Thackray, Tony Knight, Glenn Bridgart, Steve Cooper, Derek Morris, Michael Aylott.

Proxies advised:

- Jim Langford is proxy for Ricky Thackray (WARA)
- Tamsin Barnes is proxy for Tony Knight (QRA)
- Julie Quinn is proxy for Glenn Bridgart (ACTRA)
- Peter Milnes is proxy for Steve Cooper (SARA)
- Robin Gardner is proxy for Derek Morris (VRA).

Delegates were in attendance representing all states and territories:

- Tamsin Barnes, Richard Robinson (QRA)
- Julie Quinn, David Baldwin (ACTRA)
- Jon Potter, Simon Saunders (NTRA)
- Greg Robinson, Robin Gardner (VRA)
- Alexa McAuley, Gillian Fowler (NSWRA)
- Ian Thomsett (WARA)
- Peter Milnes (SARA)
- Nick Bowden (RTas)
- David Rowlands (Secretary)

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Correction to minutes from 2010 AGM: Under item 7. Australian Championships, the action "David Baldwin shall advise Christine Brown of the availability of ACTRA's Navlight equipment for the Australian Championship" should read: "...Peter Squires' Navlight equipment".

MOTION: That the minutes of the 2010 AGM be accepted as true and accurate.

Moved: David Baldwin, Seconded: Jon Potter.

3. Matters Arising From the Minutes Not Discussed Elsewhere

None

4. President's Report

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

- The success in finally achieving reform of the IRF Constitution. The most significant change replaces individual members with formal representatives of national bodies. This has been followed by the ARA's submission of an

application for IRF membership. The President requested that the minutes record the tireless efforts of previous ARA Presidents: Phil Holman, Peter Taylor and Neil Smith over the last 12 years which played a significant part in this achievement.

- Nationally, rogaining participation rates are holding steady, which contrasts positively with the sport of orienteering which has struggled to maintain its competition numbers.

5. Financial Matters

a) Treasurer's Report:

The ARA is well positioned to meet any reasonably foreseeable funding and cash flow needs, with a 2010 balance at \$48,300 and a solid underlying operating surplus of \$3,491. A total of \$3703 was contributed to the International Development Fund which now stands at \$10,785. No State Grant applications were received in 2010. The Treasurer expressed his thanks to Brian Austin, the ARA's Honorary Auditor.

MOTION: That the Treasurers Report be accepted. Moved: Richard Robinson, Seconded: Jim Langford.

- ### **b) Capitation Fee 2010-11:** The President recommended that the capitation remain at \$1 per member for the next year.

MOTION: That the Capitation Fee be set at \$1.00 per member in 2010-11. Moved: Richard Robinson, Seconded: Ian Thomsett.

- ### **c) The setting of the International Development Fund (IDF) capitation was deferred pending clarity of the IRF capitation fee.**
- ### **d) The 2010 AGM tasked Richard Robinson to adjust the ARA Grant Policy wording to accommodate variations in "annual revenue". A draft for discussion has been completed. Discussion of the Grants Policy was deferred to allow delegates to consider the proposed amendments.**

ACTION: The Secretary shall circulate a digital copy of the proposed amendments to the ARA Grants Policy, together with the Treasurer's comments.

6. Election of Office Bearers

a) All Executive positions were up for re-election for three years:

- President: Richard Robinson was elected as President. Moved: David Baldwin, Seconded: Nick Bowden.
- Secretary: David Rowlands was re-elected Secretary. Moved: Jon Potter, Seconded: Julie Quinn.
- Treasurer: Michael Aylott was re-elected Treasurer. Moved: David Baldwin, Seconded: Gillian Fowler.

- ### **b) Auditor:** Subject to Brian Austin accepting the role, the meeting proposed that he be appointed Auditor. Moved: Richard Robinson, Seconded Ian Thomsett.

7. Australian Championships

- a) 2011 Rogaining Tasmania 22-23 January: Organiser: Christine Brown, Course Planners/Vetters: John Brock, Karen Pedley, Nigel Davies, Darryl Smith, Map: Mike Morffew, Admin: Bernard Walker. At close of entries, there were 124 teams, 275 entrants in total entered for the 24 and 15 hour events.
- b) The 2012 Australian Championship will be organised by SARA. The location is Parachilna Gorge in the Flinders Ranges, 6.5 hours drive north from Adelaide. The event date is being reviewed by SARA to avoid a clash with the World Rogaining Championship in Czech Republic. The organiser is Rob Tucker. SARA has obtained permission from the 6 landowners. Peter Milnes said that the event will use Navlight. SARA offered to pay the costs for a Navlight expert to provide local instruction in the use of Navlight.
- c) The subsequent Australian Championship schedule is: 2013 QRA, 2014 VRA, 2015 NTRA, 2016 NSWRA.
 - Richard Robinson advised that the 2013 Australian Championship will be on the Atherton Tableland making it the first held in North Queensland. The event date is 20/21 July 2013. The organiser is Mike Coleman, setter Andrew Campbell and the vetter will be Rod Gray.
 - The NTRA Australian Championship may be rescheduled to allow NTRA to run the World Championship in 2014 or 2016.
- d) Management of ARC Trophies: The 2010 AGM decided that where duplicate trophies exist, they should be archived and the original trophies should continue in use. This necessitates a task to transfer the plaques and update as necessary.

David Baldwin suggested that the ARA should appoint someone (preferably from the east coast states) to manage the trophies. Gill Fowler volunteered for this role, since NSWRA have a complementary requirement for some trophies.

Ian Thomsett queried whether the trophy concept is sustainable and should be reconsidered. The oldest trophies that have a second tier are bulky and heavy for shipment to and from the ARC. However, Richard Robinson and David Baldwin supported the retention in circulation of these historical trophies, provided that they can be redesigned to reduce weight.

The XO and XV trophies currently require additional space for winners' plaques. Ian Thomsett confirmed that Bill Baxter from WARA has volunteered to organise an extra tier with the trophy engravers and to investigate the feasibility of hollowing out the bases. David Baldwin suggested that a prototype be created, followed by a batch of second tiers. The agreed plan is that all trophies with second tiers would be rebuilt.

8. International Rogaining

- a) Successful implementation of the IRF constitution reforms recommended by ARA since 2001 occurred through an IRF vote completed on 28 March 2010. These reforms provide the structure for a representative and democratic international peak rogaining federation comprised of national peak rogaining bodies. David Baldwin added that the existing IRF national body members

(Czech Republic and New Zealand) have re-applied for membership to ensure that their membership meets the constitution requirements.

The Council motion “That the ARA apply for membership of the IRF” was passed on 15 November 2010. The ARA Executive subsequently submitted a formal application for IRF membership, which was approved by the IRF’s membership sub-committee on 16 December 2010. However, Richard Robinson stated that he currently has no visibility as to when a formal IRF vote to approve the application will occur.

Peter Milnes enquired regarding the annual cost of IRF membership to the state associations. Richard Robinson anticipated that the membership fee would be 50 cents per member. However, he commented that this may vary by negotiation because the IRF membership fee structure is not transparent.

- b) As per the ARA’s policy, the ARA President is the first of the two members that ARA appoints to IRF Council. Therefore a further position must be filled by a member of ARA Council. In anticipation of the ARA gaining membership of the IRF, the President called for nominations for the position. Robin Gardner forecast that the VRA may take on an administrative treasurer role to assist the IRF, which may preclude further commitment. David Baldwin is currently filling a similar role, having been nominated as an Observer by the IRF in December 2010. David has attended the IRF meetings for many years and stated that he is happy to continue liaising with the IRF.

MOTION: That should ARA’s membership application be accepted, David Baldwin be nominated as ARA representative on IRF Council. Moved: Julie Quinn, Seconded: Alexa McAuley.

- c) David Baldwin provided a brief report from the IRF Meeting held in November 2010 prior to the New Zealand WRC. The main topics of discussion were membership capitation fees, frequency of hosting the WRC, selection of hosts for the next WRC events and WRC entry criteria.

A proposal to increase the frequency of the WRC from bi-annually to annually has been floated by the IRF because the number of applications from nations regularly exceeds the events available. Richard Robinson suggested that an increase in the frequency of the WRC would “cheapen the brand” and lead to the best rogainers making a choice, rather than attending all events. David Baldwin spoke in support of retaining the current frequency in order to maintain the high quality of recent WRCs. He said that no country would want to host the event more frequently than every 6 years.

- d) The WRC has been oversubscribed since WRC2006 held in Australia. The current qualification events for the WRC are the Australian Championship, North American and European Championships. Richard Robinson suggested that in future there will be more people “pre-qualified” than places available. A portion of entries have been reserved for “all comers”, being those who do not “pre-qualify”. The IRF has proposed a WRC Entry Criteria condition whereby “all comers” must demonstrate recent volunteer service for the sport. Alexa McAuley said that NSWRA provide free event entry to members who

demonstrate a significant contribution to volunteering. Greg Robinson said that similar issues exist in other sports, but that there is no fair solution. He was concerned that mandating qualification as a volunteer may lead to unfair practices. Simon Saunders, Jim Langford and Ian Thomsett cautioned regarding the administrative overhead and difficulties the proposal might cause the state associations. Ian Thomsett spoke against the concept of “all comers” because a quality World Championship is only achieved if the best rogainers in the world compete.

The President asked all ARA delegates to state their position for or against the proposal, with the result that the vast majority were against it.

- e) Nominations were called for the ARA’s International Development Fund (IDF) sub-committee. The responsibilities as per the IDF Guidelines include promotion of the availability and purpose of the funds to assist the growth of international roganing, assessment and decisions regarding the granting of funds and loans. The President proposed that Michael Aylott should be a member of the sub-committee. Greg Robinson and Rob Gardner from VRA expressed interest and were duly appointed.
- f) ARA has submitted to IRF an Expression of Interest for NTRA to host WRC 2014 or 2016. David Baldwin understands from discussions within IRF that up to 3 bids are expected from North America for WRC2014. The ARA view is that the best outcome for the development of roganing would be a WRC in North America. Jon Potter advised that the proposed site will remain available for 2016. Hence ARA Executive has indicated to IRF that it will withdraw the bid for 2014 in favour of 2016.

Ian Thomsett enquired as to whether state associations other than NTRA had considered future applications for WRC. Richard Robinson said that QRA had not thought about the subject because the next opportunity was likely to be in the distant future.

9. Technical Subcommittee

Convenor: David Baldwin

- a) David Baldwin provided a report on the 2010 Australian Rogaining Championship organised by ACTRA. At conclusion of the event there was an operational issue whereby the organiser was involved in both results generation and search and rescue. This was exacerbated by the difficult access to the rogaing site wholly within Kosciuszko National Park. As a result, some results were not finalised at the presentation. Alexa McAuley said that Bush Search and Rescue volunteers provide that role for NSWRA. The lesson learned is that the organiser should have no specific roles to provide flexibility to coordinate the team. David felt there was an opportunity to write some operational guidelines for event organisation.
- b) The ARA’s proposed review of the ARA Rules and Technical Regulations is overdue. David said that there is now an opportunity for synergy with the IRF, should it also undertake a review. Some recent changes to the IRF rules provide solutions that ARA could adopt. Ian Thomsett enquired regarding the timeline: David confirmed it would be 2011. Richard Robinson suggested finalisation for

implementation at the 2012 ARC. States will be asked to nominate representatives for the Technical Sub-committee.

ACTION: David Baldwin shall organise a refresh of the technical sub-committee and commence the review process in 2011.

10. General Business

- a) Date for the 2011 Australian University Rogaining Championship. WARA representatives agreed to host the Australian University Championship in conjunction with the WA State Championship on 13/14 August 2011. Advice from NAMSF prior to the meeting was that the distance to Western Australia and therefore the cost to NAMSF of funding the travel should not be considered a negative factor, but rather may be a positive.

Gill Fowler agreed to act as University Convenor, the role being to promote the event within universities and progress formal accreditation with Australian University Sport.

The meeting confirmed that the University Championship would most suitably be held in conjunction with the Australian Rogaining Championship. SARA are currently reviewing the date for the 2012 ARC in South Australia. The meeting suggested retention of an event date in winter to meet this objective.

- b) Australian Sports Commission (ASC) National Sporting Organisation (NSO) accreditation. Nick Bowden said that Rogaining Tasmania had missed out on a \$3000 grant for the ARC because ARA is not recognised by ASC. David Baldwin acknowledged that this was the first time that lack of formal recognition had impacted rogaining. Greg Robinson said that a number of formalities are required such as an anti-doping policy and audited accounts. David Baldwin agreed that the ARA should have little trouble qualifying, with submissions for formal recognition possible twice per year. Julie Quinn and David Baldwin volunteered to pursue the accreditation for the ARA.
- c) Rogaining stickers were distributed to the delegates who had previously expressed interest. This has exhausted the ARA's stock of stickers. The book "*Organising a Rogaine*" was distributed to all delegates. The Secretary holds further copies that are available to states on request.
- d) Review of ARA Constitution under Federal Law: The Executive intends to migrate the ARA constitution from South Australian to Federal law during 2011-12. Richard Robinson has located a colleague with legal expertise who is willing to assist.

11. Other Business

Ian Thomsett enquired as to whether electronic punching would become compulsory in future. Richard Robinson said that despite some technical risks, the main benefit was in preventing teams from splitting, which would drive adoption at championships. The ARA's Technical Regulations continue to allow flexibility to event organisers, including the brand of electronic device, or whether electronic devices are used.

12. Next AGM

The 2012 AGM is proposed to be held from 2:00pm - 5:00pm, on the Friday prior to the Australian Rogaining Championship organised by SARA. David Baldwin spoke in favour of holding the AGM in a building to avoid the weather. Peter Milnes confirmed that the 2012 AGM will have access to the nearby accommodation buildings at the Hash house site.

The meeting was closed by the President at 4:45pm.

Tabled Documents

President's Report - **2010-11 Presidents Report.pdf**

Treasurer's Report - **2010 Treasurers Report.pdf**

Minutes of Previous AGM – **2010 ARA AGM Minutes.pdf**

ARA Council as at 1/01/2011

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

ACTRA

President: Glenn Bridgart Rep: David Baldwin

NSWRA

President: Alexa McAuley 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: Mark Porter Rep: Andrew Murphy

VRA

President: Greg Robinson Rep: Derek Morris

WARA

President: Ian Thomsett Rep: Ricky Thackray