



INTERNATIONAL ROGAINING FEDERATION Inc.

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Newsletter No. 174 President's Reports

Box 3, Central Park, 3145 Australia
www.rogaining.org
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IRF Team [end 2004]

President: Neil Phillips
World Rogaining Championships Manager: Gordon Birch
Promotions and Development: vacant
Secretary/Treasurer: Rod Phillips

Czech Republic: Jaroslav Vavra, Miroslav Seidl
Finland: Iiro Kakko
New Zealand: Pete Squires
Canada: Alan Stradeski
United States of America: Eric Smith, Clinton Morse, Bob Reddick
Australia: Rod Phillips, Gordon Birch, John Berwick, Neil Phillips
Founders Representative: Bob Reddick

Observer status
Estonia: Andres Kaar
Ireland: Sean Hassett
Latvia: Guntars Mankus
New Zealand: Michael Wood
Sweden: Lars-Åke Svenk
Russia: German Shestakov, Sergey Yaschenko
South Africa: Pieter Mulder
Ukraine: Efim Shtempler
7th WRC Co-ordinator: Alan Mansfield

Every year a President's report is compiled to accompany the Annual Report of the International Rogaining Federation. Although the IRF Constitution stipulates that the President will present an annual report to Council, these reports have not always been readily available to newer Council members. President's reports for some years are available in earlier IRF Newsletters (1996-#28; 1997-31; 1998-#42; 1999-#54; mid-2000-#58; 2000-#65; 2001-#72; 2002-#84; 2003-#94; #100-decade report; 21st anniversary 2010-#150).

The intention now is to publish the remaining annual President's Reports in a series of IRF Newsletters, and to make them readily available on the rogaining website..

President's Report 2004

This is the 15th year of the International Rogaining Federation, and the fourth year since incorporation.

The IRF has continued the initiatives during 2004 that were outlined at the start of 2003 to further enhance levels of governance, communication and transparency. For the election of IRF Executive coming up in early 2005 (WRC Manager, Promotions and Development, Technical Convenor), the role descriptions created in July 2000 for the Constitution have been expanded to take into account actual practices over the last four years. Communication continues to have a high priority through the IRF Newsletter (seven issues in 2004), IRF News to association newsletter editors, IRF Executive Roles and Responsibilities report to Members and ARA (six issues in 2004), IRF face-to-face meeting at 6WRC in Arizona, IRF website www.rogaining.com and regular email contact with individual IRF Members and Observers especially on major issues and events. Incorporation and adoption of a formal Constitution in 2000 have provided the greater transparency and the framework for decision-making that have enhanced governance in the last four years.

The World Rogaining Championships remain the showcase rogaining event every second year and these are becoming genuinely global. 6WRC in Arizona in May 2004 attracted 380 participants from 15 countries including 33 states of USA. 7WRC is planned for Sydney, Australia on 13-14 October 2006. Regional rogaining championships are becoming important on the global rogaining calendar with the Australian Rogaining Championships (26ARC in 2005), North American Rogaining Championships (8NARC in 2005) and European Rogaining Championships (2ERC in 2005 in Estonia). The IRF plays a role in awarding, ratifying and/or promoting each of these major rogaines.

Establishing and maintaining an international rogaining code (Rules, Technical Standards, procedures and practices) has been a major focus of the IRF since inception in 1989. This

has been greatly assisted by the Australian Rogaining Association, and the Rules of Rogaining draw heavily upon rules developed and tested by the Victorian Rogaining Association and Australian Rogaining Association since 1976. The adoption of the international code, and posting and updating on www.rogaining.com have allowed wider access and prompted translation to non-English languages. Two Rules changes that had been discussed previously were introduced in 2004 for 6WRC and subsequent major rogaines to reflect international needs: one involved the raising of the Junior age category to 'under 20 years of age' to reflect the need for broader representation at Junior level at international rogaines, and the other fixed the finish time to accommodate logistic arrangements at major rogaines (i.e. regardless of when the rogain starts, the finish time does not change). The start time has flexibility to accommodate starting formalities, and the need for an exact 24 hours of competition has been dispensed with. Safeguards were put in place to accommodate route planning in the case of a significantly foreshortened rogain if the start was delayed.

Structure of rogaining communities in various countries has received considerable thought and attention recently, especially given different success pathways. The Australian rogaining community has developed formal rogaining associations in each state over the period from 1976 to 1999, and all eight associations are current and active today, and collaborate closely with other organizations with interests in cross country navigation including schools, Scouting, orienteering, university and bushwalking clubs. One of the great achievements of this structure is the continuity for the sport and association over the years as leaders have come and gone (and sometimes return later). The Australian Rogaining Association links all eight states leading to a high degree of co-ordination and synergy. Queensland is the only state with a formal regional rogaining centre in addition to the capital city base, and the north Queensland rogaining group celebrated their tenth anniversary in 2004. Developments in New Zealand following 4WRC in 2000, led to establishment of the New Zealand Rogaining

Association. There has been a high level of rogaining activity in New Zealand over recent years evidenced by their 100th rogaine recently, and arising from a co-ordinated effort by member clubs of the NZ Orienteering Federation and NZ Rogaining Association.

Growth of rogaining in recent years has been uneven globally. The number of countries active in rogaining has grown considerably since the IRF was formed, based on rogaining participation (1979: Australia, Canada and a small number of individuals; 2004: 30 countries participating in international rogaines), and on rogaining activity (1979: rogaines held in Australia and Canada; 2004: 14 countries hold rogaines including eight that have run 24 hour rogaines). The recent development of rogaining in Ukraine, Latvia and Lithuania suggests that major international rogaines, such as 5WRC in the Czech Republic, can provide the catalyst for rogaining growth in neighbouring countries in following years. The IRF has been strengthened in 2004 by new Observers from each of these three European countries.

The financial position of the IRF remains stable following the success of the 6th World Rogaining Championships. The IRF has net assets equivalent to US\$2000.

Important long-term issues that are on-going include land access for rogaining globally and closer links to regional communities, a new strategic plan for rogaining, continuing improvement of every international rogaine, and increasing the public profile of the sport.

As we work towards our mission to provide the opportunity to rogain in as many parts of the world as practicable, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all those who have contributed to rogaining successes in 2004: this is a volunteer sport, and many people have given generously of their time, energy, and intellect to advance rogaining – thank you.

Neil Phillips
President
International Rogaining Federation Inc.