



INTERNATIONAL ROGAINING FEDERATION Inc.

A0040409P

Newsletter No. 176 President's Reports 2006

Box 3, Central Park, 3145 Australia
www.rogaining.org
December 2011

IRF Team [end 2006]

President: Neil Phillips
World Rogaining Championships Manager: Peter Taylor
Promotions and Development: Brad Hunt
Secretary/Treasurer: Rod Phillips
Technical Manager: vacant

Czech Republic: Miroslav Seidl, Jan Tojnar
Finland: Iiro Kakko
New Zealand: Pete Squires
Canada: Murray Foubister
United States of America: Brad Hunt, Bob Reddick, Eric Smith
Australia: Rod Phillips, Neil Phillips, Peter Taylor

Observer status
Brazil: José Nilton Silva Vargas
Canada: Francis Falardeau, Alan Stradeski
Estonia: Andres Käär
Germany: Marko Rößler
Hong Kong: Patrick Ng
Ireland: Sean Hassett
Israel: Dan Chissick
Japan: Kazuhiro Takashima
Latvia: Guntars Mankus
New Zealand: Michael Wood
Sweden: Lars-Åke Svenk
Russia: German Shestakov, Sergey Yashchenko
South Africa: Pieter Mulder
Ukraine: Efim Shtempler
6th WRC: Peg Davis
7th WRC: Alan Mansfield
8th WRC: Lauri Leppik

A President's report is compiled to accompany the Annual Report of the International Rogaining Federation. The intention now is to publish the annual President's Reports in a series of IRF Newsletters.

President's Report 2006

This is the 17th year of the International Rogaining Federation, and the 30th year of the sport of rogaining.

Highlights of our 30th year include a successful 7th World Rogaining Championships attracting 691 participants from 14 countries, and a new Strategic Plan for the sport assembled by representatives from 17 countries embracing 12 languages. The recent rogaine in Estonia with 914 participants illustrates the strong growth of the sport globally and especially in parts of Europe.

Since incorporation six years ago, the IRF has continued its emphasis on governance, communication and transparency. This is showing results in the form of high quality decision making on a number of issues. The IRF functions as a democratic working group that gives and receives thoughtful feedback and commentary on a wide range of issues. All Members and Observers are thanked for their on-going contribution to discussions throughout 2006. It is only with such input that the IRF can truly represent rogaining views globally.

The IRF Executive continues to be guided by its executive roles and responsibilities. We have developed an annual business cycle in order to address in a balanced fashion those issues that are urgent, those with specific time deadlines, compliance issues, and important but non-urgent topics such as long-term planning, membership, and surveys.

There is still some healthy debate about the best long-term structure for the IRF and our

associations, and how we might yet evolve. As a first step before any decision, IRF representation of all countries is being reviewed. This process is already completed for USA, Canada, Czech Republic and New Zealand, and new representatives have been selected by rogainers in those countries. Representation for most European countries is almost decided. When the membership is up to date and fully representative of rogainers' interests worldwide, the IRF will consider changes to the IRF structure that have been proposed.

Discussions continue with the Australian Rogaining Association. They have been invited to join the IRF, and several of their suggestions are now in place. In the meantime, Australian rogainers are strongly represented on the IRF with three former ARA Presidents on the IRF Executive team, and the current ARA President being included in discussions and regularly asked for input.

No IRF elections were held during 2006 which means elections for President and for Promotions & Development will be held during 2007.

The Strategic Plan for Rogaining, *Rogaining: 2010 & beyond*, has been finalized, and was distributed around the time of 7WRC. The Plan has evolved over three years, and received input from all rogaining countries. Key stages in preparation of the Plan were the analysis of the current position of global rogaining, an electronic forum devoted to an environmental (SWOT) analysis, and repeated circulation of various drafts seeking member input. Time was allowed for the translation to various languages, and for responses to the IRF. The Plan follows a new format specifically designed for Not-For-Profit organizations and incorporates a strategy that links our broad inspiring mission with our specific programs and budgeting. The next stage will be the development of country-specific annual programs based around the Strategic Plan. The Plan is already being translated into other languages.

Communication remains a high priority and includes the IRF Newsletter (twelve issues in

2006), monthly IRF Executive Roles and Responsibilities report which now goes to Members and Observers (twelve issues in 2006), rogaining website www.rogaining.com, and regular email contact with individual IRF Members and Observers especially on major issues. In 2006, issues included the international rogaining championship circuit, national representation, and membership of the IRF.

It has been a busy year for international rogaining championships culminating in the 7th World Rogaining Championships in the Warrumbungle Ranges north of Sydney, Australia on 13-14 October 2006. Organized by the New South Wales Rogaining Association, this event attracted elite and other participants from many countries who spoke highly of their experiences. This was a very important opportunity to display and share the various components of a well-run major rogaine. Other components of the international rogaining championship *circuit* included the 27th Australian Rogaining Championships at Avoca, Victoria in May, 9th North American Rogaining Championships in New York state in June, and 3rd European Rogaining Championships at Chernivtsi in the Ukraine during August.

Establishing and maintaining an international rogaining code (Rules, Technical Standards, procedures and practices) remain important for the IRF, and major rogaining championships follow the practices for the World Rogaining Championships documented at www.rogaining.com.

The financial position of the IRF remains satisfactory with assets equivalent to US\$4200 following the success of 7WRC. The main items of expenditure during 2006 relate to the Strategic Plan, communications (website) and protecting our brand (trademark). The budget will be even more closely linked into the Strategic Plan to help guide the sport to its objectives. We welcome our new auditor, Shane Tanner, an accountant by training who is chairman of three public companies and former chief financial officer of a large health care and logistics company.

We continue to make progress towards our mission to provide the opportunity to rogain in as many parts of the world as practicable. This year Brazil and Germany were added to the countries holding rogaining events. This global progress comes from a clear plan, a dedicated group of rogaining leaders throughout a dozen countries, and an enormous amount of hard work. Behind the scene, the IRF works hard to grow the sport in new countries, so it is encouraging when new events are held.

Let me thank everyone who has contributed to the cause of international rogaining on behalf of the thousands who reap the benefit of your initiatives and efforts. Let us particularly acknowledge Alan Mansfield (Australia 7WRC) and Mike Sheridan (NZ) as our recipients of 2006 Geoduck Awards for their services to rogaining.

At this moment, it is interesting to reflect on the thirty years of rogaining and the different focus during each of the decades. The first decade was about the actual practice of the sport and its rules and guidelines, the second decade saw the formation of a national rogaining association and spread of the sport throughout Australia, and the third decade involved formation of the International Rogain Federation and spread of the sport globally.

As we look ahead to our next decade, we will need to focus on our external relationships. External communication of our sport and its benefits will need to include land owners, competitors, organizers, donors and sponsors. New alliances with those whose activities complement our will be important, and as these alliances have done in the past, they will provide us with platforms for further growth. The *value proposition* is what an activity offers its stakeholders; and rogaining offers a compelling value proposition that includes physical exercise, teamwork, respect for the natural environment, and leadership skills. We welcome in year 2007 as we begin our fourth decade of rogaining.

Neil Phillips
President, International Rogain Federation