

International Rogaining Federation Informal Meeting

4 July 2025

Quintanar de la Sierra

People present: Matt Bixley, IRF President; Julie Quinn IRF Vice-President; Paul Guard, Australia; Valters Kaminskis, Latvia; Roberto Pascual "Paski", Spain; Anton Puhovkin, Ukraine; Volodymur Lipka, Ukraine; Jane Snellman, Finland; Oleg Kalinin, Russia; Pavel Demeshehik, Russia; Timmo Tammae, Estonia; Rod Gray, Australia; Amanda Koopman, Australia; David Baldwin, Australia; Jaroslav Najman, Czech Republic; Zbynek Krejcek, Czech Republic; Milan's Klapkova, Czech Republic; Neeme Looirts, Estonia; Oliver James, Australia.

The Major of Quintanar de la Sierra welcomed all to the town and the meeting.

Matt Bixley suggested an agenda comprising

1. WRC rotation policy revision suggestion
2. Governance of the IRF
3. General discussion

WRC Rotation policy

The current policy is a WRC event every two years with the rotation being Europe/ Australasia/ North America.

Matt Bixley suggested a change to Europe hosting every alternate WRC. He noted that getting a North American-hosted WRC has been challenging.

Discussion points:

- Julie Quinn thought it was important to keep hosting WRC events in North America to help maintain and develop the sport.
- Jaroslav Najman suggested North America could be expanded to the Americas and countries that area strong in adventure racing sports may be able to host a WRC.
- Paul Guard noted there has just been an international adventure racing organisation set up and they are working out governance of this. There is some overlap with Lisa de Speville from South Africa who is also on the IRF Council email list.
- Valters Kaminskis said that rogainig started in Latvia through the efforts of a couple of dedicated rogainers who had competed successfully in the WRC and started organising events. This highlights the need to have a champion for the sport in each country to help drive the organisation of events.
- A suggestion was made by several people that, if a potential champion was identified, sponsorship to attend a WRC event could be a way the IRF could help.
- Matt Bixley noted that there are many event organisers in Sweden and Norway but they are not interested in organising rogainig events.
- David Baldwin reminded people that adventure racing organisers are professionals which is different to the volunteer model of rogainig.
- It was noted that there are about 12 Argentinian people at the WRC2025, and perhaps one or more of these may be suitable champions for their country.

- David Baldwin said that the IRF has been challenged with growing the membership for a long time, with no new countries since 2010. There is interest from France, Romania, Italy and Turkey. Some countries do not have the capacity to organise 24 hr events.

Matt Bixley thanked people for the discussion. The rotation policy revision proposal will be given to the IRF Council for deliberation and voting. He noted that the start of 2026 will be the time for requesting Expressions of Interest (EOIs) and bidding for the WRC to be held in 2029. His recommended preference is for a European bid.

Governance of the IRF

Matt Bixley introduced this agenda item noting that the executive positions can only be held for two terms of three years. All of the executive are now beyond this timeframe.

Matt Bixley has formally resigned by email to the IRF Council and this will take effect as of 1 August 2025. Matt Bixley has not been successful in recruiting nominations to take over the President's role.

Matt Bixley noted that Julie Quinn will nominate to be Treasurer unless there are other nominations. At present there are advantages in having an Australian resident as the Treasurer, but this is not absolutely necessary.

- Valters Kaminskis proposed a regular video meeting of the IRF Council to progress issues. They will need to be structured with topics or questions for discussion to ensure they are worthwhile.
- Paul Guard agreed with regular meetings for the rest of 2025, and that 2-3 people review the IRF Executive and present options to the IRF Council meeting.
- Matt Bixley proposed Richard Robinson or Neil Phillips as ex-Executive.
- Janne Snellman proposed one option of having advisors for the Executive in a non-operational role.
- David Baldwin expressed support for regular video meetings.

Matt Bixley concluded with a request to Valters Kaminskis to organise 2-monthly meetings.

General: Website and IRF promotion

There was general agreement that while the website has been refreshed that it lacks content about events in different countries and opportunities for people.

- Valters Kaminskis made the point that the IRF needs to be up to date and more active, being led by a suitable website.
- Jaroslav Najman noted the website should help with the development and promotion of the sport and recommended paying someone to help with the promotion. Instagram has been good for WRC2025.
- Valters Kaminskis said that rogaining can seem exclusive to people because they don't have the right skills and it is difficult to find this information.
- There is a need to distinguish content for active rogaining countries and new/emerging countries.

David Baldwin will create log-ins for anyone who wants to contribute content for the website (and did so for a number of people at the meeting) and encouraged people to be active.

The website will be a topic of discussion for the IRF Council video meetings.

Matt Bixley thanked everyone for attending.