



INTERNATIONAL ROGAINING FEDERATION Inc.

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Newsletter No. 175 President's Reports 2005

Box 3, Central Park, 3145 Australia
www.rogaining.org
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IRF Team [end 2005]

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

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, Peter Taylor
Founders Representative: Bob Reddick

Observer status
Estonia: Andres Käär
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: Alan Mansfield

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 2005

This is the 16th year of the International Rogaining Federation.

Since incorporation five years ago, the IRF has continued the emphasis on governance, communication and transparency that was outlined at the start of 2003. The IRF Executive has refined its description of the executive roles, and developed an annual business cycle in order to address evenly

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. A questionnaire to members during the year surveyed the performance of the Executive and recent decisions; responses included encouragement to develop more national rogaining associations and engage further with related sports, and support for the four international rogaines and standardized rules of rogaining.

Elections for four of the IRF Executive positions were held during 2005 with the election of Rod Phillips (Secretary / Treasurer), Peter Taylor (WRC Manager), Gordon Birch (Technical Manager), and Brad Hunt (Promotions and Development). Regrettably, Gordon Birch has had to resign recently due to health reasons, and we thank him sincerely for his contribution to international rogaining including the IRF Executive since 2000.

Rogainers in some European countries have been working towards full IRF membership, and we need to consider new Members and Observers in the near future. There have been on-going discussions regarding the membership structure of the IRF and how this can best serve the various aims of international rogaining. Discussions are continuing with the Australian Rogaining Association on optimizing the important role of the ARA in international rogaining and in the activities of the IRF.

The development of a new strategic plan for rogaining is progressing. An analysis of the current position of global rogaining has already been published some months ago (#100), and an electronic forum devoted to an environmental analysis provided an opportunity for suggestions from the membership to supplement wider email exchanges. A draft plan is currently in preparation for distribution to the international rogaining community.

Communication remains a high priority and includes the IRF Newsletter (eleven issues in 2005), IRF Executive Roles and Responsibilities report to Members and the ARA President (twelve issues in 2005), IRF website www.rogaining.com and regular email contact with individual IRF Members and Observers especially on major issues. In 2005, these issues included the four international rogaining championships, seeking feedback and reporting progress on the Australian rules review, an environmental analysis of rogaining as part of the strategic planning process, and elections.

Preparations for the 7th World Rogaining Championships continue in the lead up to this major event near Sydney, Australia on 13-14 October 2006. The concept of a *circuit* of four international rogaining championships gained wide support during 2005; and there was progress including the establishment of guidelines for regular European (ERC), and North American Rogaining Championships (NARC). The IRF plays a role in awarding, ratifying and/or promoting each of these rogaining championships. The international championships during 2005 were 2ERC in Estonia, 26ARC in Queensland, and 8NARC in Kamloops, Canada. Currently being planned are 27ARC at Avoca, central Victoria in May 2006, 9NARC in upstate New York in August 2006, and 7WRC.

Establishing and maintaining an international rogaining code (Rules, Technical Standards, procedures and practices) remain a major focus of the IRF to provide some certainty for competitors travelling to events in other countries, and to ensure fair competition in major rogaining championships. The new guidelines for ERC and NARC follow the practices for the World Rogaining Championships documented at www.rogaining.com, and several national rogaining championships are following these rules also. During 2005, the IRF has been involved with a review of rogaining rules in Australia and plans to discuss these with IRF members in early 2006.

The financial position of the IRF remains satisfactory with assets equivalent to US\$1200. The main items of expenditure during 2005 relate to communications (website) and protecting our brand (trademark), with a significant postal saving since all IRF Newsletters, meeting documentation and voting have become electronic.

Our communications to the community outside rogaining will assume increasing importance over coming years with a number of inter-linked issues: these include our external profile as a sport, our communication with the broader public, local

community support for our activities, our track record on environmental issues, and land access for rogaining events. These issues differ slightly in importance between nations, but there is a common thread that highlights some incongruity here. Local community support for rogaines and our environmental record are generally strong and need preserving; but our low public profile as a sport and hence the lack of general information that we supply to the public continues to lead to land access issues in many states, provinces and countries. As a sport we have a strong set of benefits that we offer (our *value proposition*) including physical exercise, teamwork, respect for the natural environment, leadership skills; and we need to communicate these benefits more widely. Where this is already being done, we have achieved some excellent relationships with local communities.

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 Israel was 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. 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 Andres Käär of Estonia who is our recipient of the 2005 Geoduck Award for the *organizing, promoting, and running of 24-hour rogaines with an international focus*.

We welcome in year 2006 as we celebrate thirty years of rogaining.

Neil Phillips
President, International Rogaining Federation Inc.