



INTERNATIONAL ROGAINING FEDERATION Inc.

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Newsletter No. 178 President's Reports 2008

Box 3, Central Park, 3145 Australia

www.rogaining.org

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IRF Team [end 2008]

President: Neil Phillips

Promotions and Development: Alan Mansfield

Secretary/Treasurer: Rod Phillips

Technical Manager: Lauri Leppik

World Rogaining Championships Manager: vacant

Members of IRF

Czech Republic: Miroslav Seidl, Jan Tojnar

New Zealand: Alan Holdaway

Canada: Murray Foubister

United States of America: Bob Reddick,

Eric Smith

Estonia: Andres Käär, Lauri Leppik

Latvia: Guntars Mankus

Russia: Sergey Yashchenko, Evgeny Dombrovskiy

Ukraine: Efim Shtempler

Members from Australia: Alan Mansfield, Rod Phillips,

Neil Phillips.

Observer status

Brazil: José Nilton Silva Vargas

Canada: Francis Falardeau, Allan Stradeski

Finland: Iiro Kakko

Germany: Marko Rößler

Great Britain: Jeff Powell Davies

Hong Kong: Patrick Ng

Ireland: Sean Hassett

Israel: Dan Chissick

Japan: Kazuhiro Takashima

New Zealand: Michael Wood

Norway: Lars-Åke Svenk

Poland: Magda Czapluk

Russia: Syropyatov Valeriy

South Africa: Lisa De Speville, Pieter Mulder

Spain: Filip Gili

Sweden: Bengt Nilsson

Switzerland: Dieter Wolf

USA: Barb Bryant

4th WRC: Pete Squires

6th WRC: Peg Davis

9th WRC: Grant Hunter

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 2008

Rogaining expanded internationally during 2008, and we held a most successful World Rogaining Championships in Estonia. The mission of the IRF remains to support the development of rogaining in as many parts of the world as practicable.

The 8th World Rogaining Championships were held in southern Estonia in September 2008. There were 747 participants representing 22 countries. Both the entry numbers and results provided evidence of the recent growth of the sport in Europe especially Estonia, Russia, Latvia and Finland. In July 2008, the European Rogaining Championships were held near St Petersburg in Russia. The North American Rogaining Championships were postponed due to land access issues.

The IRF Executive has functioned effectively during 2008 with considerable assistance from Members and Observers. Lauri Leppik was busy organizing 8WRC and also found time for his contributions and input into many of the IRF's deliberations. Alan Mansfield has undertaken a series of tasks including the revitalization of the WRC selection procedures which will decide during 2009 the location of the next three WRCs. Rod Phillips has managed the secretariat, membership and voting issues, which are three areas that have grown rapidly in recent years. Peter Taylor played an important role as World Rogaining Championships Manager liaising with Lauri Leppik and his team, and he retired from the IRF Executive at the end of 8WRC. An election for his position will follow in early 2009. The assistance of others with specific IRF tasks has been most appreciated, including

Lisa De Speville (website), Bob Reddick (Geoduck awards), and Peter Squires (WRC future planning). Since the IRF was constituted in 2000, the number of countries working with the IRF has doubled and the number of rogaines (and of volunteers) has more than doubled. This growth is a good sign, but also means that the workload of the IRF Executive has increased sharply. To continue offering support to all rogainers, the IRF Executive has needed to have a clear focus on the direction for international rogaining. We have aimed to work as a supportive and collaborative group and to be organized and efficient. Much of the 2008 success has been built around these requirements.

Decision making is a major part of the IRF Executive responsibility, and achieving fair and effective decisions has received considerable emphasis. We have focussed on capturing a diversity of opinion, brain-storming and consulting widely and then with the best outcomes for rogaining foremost in mind, being decisive. Lauri Leppik and Alan Mansfield have added much expertise and wisdom to the IRF in this area by drawing upon their respective careers.

Communications has remained a high priority for the IRF with a number of different media methods being used as the opportunities arise. These include IRF Newsletters (12 in 2008), monthly Roles & Responsibilities summaries from the Executive (12), ad hoc meetings when members visit other countries, a formal face-to-face IRF meeting at 8WRC, website, and regular email discussion and news items. Many of the practices of the IRF and especially of the Executive are being recorded for longer term reference by all rogaining leaders. These include: Role of the Executive Team (#136), Annual Business Cycle (#137), Annual Country Plans (#139), Lost (#144), and Land Access (#146). These add to the IRF statement on national rogaining associations (#131) outlined in 2007. Interesting aspects of the sport are similarly recorded for any country to draw upon for its media or community information, e.g. Age is no barrier (#141), and Young Rogainers (#143).

Membership of the IRF Council increased during 2008 with the addition of Observers representing Spain and Great Britain, and some changes through rotation of country representatives. Despite the strong support of the IRF from Australian rogainers (and vice versa), and the continued invitation for the Australian Rogaining Association to join the IRF, the ARA is not a member. The IRF has been responsive to most of the ARA's suggestions for change since 1995 (e.g. communication, governance, incorporation, elections, representation), and has always been quick to adopt any potential improvements.

The IRF Constitution has been amended by three motions during the year. Two motions abolished membership positions for Commercial Operators, and Founders, respectively. The third motion altered the vote required for a Constitution change to two thirds.

The last phase of the 2006 Strategic Plan for Rogaining was completed in 2008 with the Annual Plans for each country. These annual plans help all members understand the progress and priorities for each country. The full Strategic Plan acts as a guide for budgeting priorities for the IRF.

Financially, the IRF finishes the year with AUD\$11,000 cash in the bank, in part due to a most successful 8WRC. Annual budgeting follows a process of closely aligning planned investment with the mission and goals in the Strategic Plan for Rogaining and its Annual Plans 2008 (#139). As foreshadowed last year, for the IRF and Rogaining to take our next step, we will require funding to allow for a secretariat, media and promotion, travel of WRC co-ordinators, and for website development. Sources for funding include government(s), national rogaining association contributions, and a broader contribution from international rogaining championships. Plans to introduce a levy for participants in the European and North American Rogaining Championships have already been discussed with organizers. Currently, national funding comes from the New Zealand Rogaining Association, and other countries are being asked to contribute where their means allow.

The Code of Conduct for Rogaining adopted in 2007 continues to provide a basis for fair, open and respectful dealing between rogainers at all level.

We have 5000 hard working volunteers in twenty countries, and we recognize the contribution that these volunteers make. In 2008, the Geoduck Award for sustained service to rogaining was awarded to Peter Taylor and Peter Squires to recognize their contributions to competition, innovation and international rogaining.

Ultimately, it is the quality and dedication of the leaders of this organization that determine its future direction and achievements. On behalf of all rogainers, my gratitude to the IRF Executive who work tirelessly for the IRF and the sport, and to IRF Members, Observers and our auditor, for your on-going support and work within the IRF and at national level. Thank you.

Neil Phillips
President
International Rogaining Federation