



International Rogaining Federation

Informal Meeting – 26 July 2019

La Molina, Spain.

Attendees (check all addresses)

Pep Mayolas Casas	Spain
Matt Bixley (President)	New Zealand
Julie Quinn (Vice-President)	Australia
David Baldwin	Australia
Anton Puhovkin	Ukraine
Volodymyr Lipka	Ukraine
Eduard Pukkonen	Estonia
Vladim Hora	Czech Republic
Aigars Actrius	Latvia
Ilze Lapina	Latvia
Ken Walker	USA
Oleg Kalinin	Russia
Bernard Dahy	France
Jaak Rohtsalu	Estonia
Heidi Cusworth	USA
Bill Cusworth	USA
Gavin Wyatt-Mair	USA
Roberto Pascual	Spain
Monika Krejakova	Czech
Zbynek Krejcik	Czech
Jan Tojnar	Czech
Jan Tojnar	Czech
Lauri Leppik	Estonia
Vladimir Gusatnikov	USA
Kevin Matrosovs	Canada
Jay Hann	USA
Sergey Solommenov	Russia
Derek Morris	Australia
Ted vanGeldermalsen	Australia
Sergey Yaschenko	Russia
António Baptista	Portugal
Luis Quinta-Nova	Portugal

Introduction

Pep Mayolas welcomed everyone to La Molina and the World Rogaining Championships. Catalunya have only been organising rogaining events for 10 years and it was an important goal and challenge for them to host the WRC.

Roberto Pascual (President of Iberogaine Spain) said they have already organised two European Rogaining Championships and are confident the WRC will be good.

Matt Bixley (IRF President) Welcomed everyone and introduced himself. He invited people to raise ideas they would like from the IRF and Executive.

Website

An approach has been made to a New Zealand web designer for a new website. All the content is on the current website but it needs to be better with more images. There were no objections to this approach.

Regional Championships

The IRF Executive would like to improve support for regional championships, especially in years that there is no WRC.

North America: there will be a regional champs in 2019 and 2020. It would be good to maintain these champs and to help Canada to become strong again. It is understood there are challenges for Canada fitting rogaining in with Orienteering Canada. It was commented that other countries (e.g. New Zealand, Ukraine, Spain, Finland etc) use their orienteering organisations to integrate rogaining.

There is a problem with using the name "rogaining" in the USA. Instead they tend to use MapTrek and Nav-X as names. Matt Bixley suggested they only need to associate the name rogaining with their national and regional champs, otherwise just use the other names for the sport. It was suggested that the IRF Executive could write a letter to Orienteering USA to indicate the alternative names were acceptable to the IRF.

Europe: The Europeans have a good system to award the ERC to various countries and to take the champs outside of the IRF member nations. There is no ERC in 2019, partially because Czech, Finland and Spain did not support it because of the WRC. There is varying interest in holding ERC's every one or two years. There has been interest from Israel to host a rogaine, including one bid but this was subsequently withdrawn due to security concerns. There has also been a bid from Belarus but they require some further development before hosting an ERC. There are also some areas of Europe that have great terrain for rogaines but no interest in holding events, including Sweden and Norway.

Lauri Leppik has coordinated the ERC for the last 10 years and is looking for a new coordinator. He has agreed to sort out host countries for the next two years.

Romania and France are emerging countries and Portugal has held small events. There is some interest in Germany with an event organised for the end of August 2019. Poland have also organised rogaines.

Czech has offered Poland an observer spot in the organising of the WRC in 2022 as this event will be on the border. The intent is to try to get Polish people involved, but to date Jan Tojnar has not been able to find an appropriate person.

Matt Bixley asked if having an advisor for the ERC might be useful (like for the WRC)?

David Baldwin took an informal advisor role for the ERC held in Italy. He thought this was a useful way to help develop the sport across Europe. The IRF could provide assistance to these people, and it would be best if they were also European and shared a common language.

David Baldwin also noted that the Australian Rogaining Association has a development fund to help the sport grow, and that any country can ask for funds. For example, the USA have been loaned money to cover initial costs of the 2020 WRC.

IRF Finances

Julie Quinn and Matt Bixley outlined the current financial situation of the IRF. There is a balance of AUD\$53,000 / €32,000 / USD\$36,000 (approximate conversions). Main expenses have been for travel associated with WRC advisors and income has been from member levies and capitation fees on regional and world champs.

It was noted there is a challenge in many of the levies are small and the costs of moving money to other countries was considerable. Julie Quinn will see if there is a corresponding bank in Europe to the Australian bank where the IRF money currently sits that could accept deposits.

Jan Tojnar suggested regional champs where there are low numbers do not pay a levy.

Shorter events as Regional Champs

Eduard Pukkonen proposed that the IRF Executive consider the option of a shorter event being considered a regional championship because of the greater interest from participants in the shorter events. It may also be a way to attract the Scandinavian countries, particularly top level orienteers who will not do longer events.

The European IRF members have had an email discussion in the past but, at that time, it was resolved to leave regional champs at 24 hrs. Lauri Leppik noted there was a conflict between hard-core rogainers and orienteers on the duration of these events.

In other countries (e.g. New Zealand and Australia) the shorter events are also more popular. One suggestion was to hold a 24 hr alternating every other year with a shorter event.

Matt Bixley agreed that the IRF should have further discussions on this topic.

David Baldwin, while supportive, noted there may be challenges of too many people wanting to compete and needing to have a qualifying process. Jan Tojnar and Jan Tojnar do an excellent job of collating the information for the WRC qualifying process, but it may be more complicated for a shorter event as more information would be needed on shorter events.

Jan Tojnar took the opportunity to remind everyone that they should email the results of their country championships to him for collation.

WRC 2020 – Northstar, California, USA

Gavin Wyatt-Mair gave a presentation on the next WRC. Website: cal-o-fest.com.

In association with the WRC, there will be 10 orienteering and rogaining events over 14 days, with the first 9 events being orienteering and the final event the WRC. The North American Orienteering Champs are part of the events. There will be a prize for people who do all 10 events.

The terrain for the WRC 2020 will be similar to the Pyrenees with steep country including ski resorts. The start will be at the top of a gondola. The map has been made by Bill Cusworth and the course designed by Heidi Cusworth. The map has been made using Lidar contours and vegetation. There are lots of old logging roads and mountain bike trails, with all of these trails marked. The vegetation is moderately thick in places. No snow is expected to be present in August.

There is a back-up course being planned by Vladimir Gusiaticov in case of a major event such as an earthquake or bushfire, although it will not be possible to change too close to the event.

The first bulletin is on the website. There will be a limit of 1000 participants and the entries will open in October 2019. The organisers have a dedicated person ready to assist competitors requiring a visa to visit the USA. Queries about this can be sent to info@cal-o-fest.com.

The event is based in Northstar with the towns of Reno (airport and bus station) and Truckee (Train and bus stations) nearby. There are also airports at Sacramento, San Jose and San Francisco. Organisers will ensure that there are transport options for competitors.

The organisers are hosting the North American champs in September 2019 and intend to use this as practice for everything they intend to do at the WRC 2020.

Gavin Wyatt-Mair asked for advice on GPS tracking devices as the system being used at the WRC 2019 does not work in the USA. A few suggestions were provided. Matt Bixley suggested a paper outlining the various options around the world be written for the IRF.

Gavin Wyatt-Mair also asked whether there were IRF rules about juniors competing in the WRC. There are no IRF rules but some countries have their own laws or rules about the age of people competing.

There has been a request for a shorter event to be conducted in association with the WRC. Matt Bixley indicated the IRF will have a formal discussion on the hosting of a shorter event after the WRC 2019.

Other

A discussion was held on the timing of WRC events, with a suggestion that the middle of summer is not a good time as the orienteers are in the middle of their season and unlikely to compete. However, there are trade-offs for the WRC as this event needs to optimise weather conditions at the particular location where it is being held.

It was noted that Richard Robinson (former President) had contacted the President of the International Orienteering Federation to try to make better connections between the two sports. Matt Bixley intends to follow this up.

There will be a formal announcement of the WRC 2022 being awarded to Czech at the prize-giving of the WRC 2019.

Matt Bixley thanked everyone for attending and for providing lots of ideas for the IRF Executive and members to think about.