



## **VOA Council Meeting**

Sunday, 13 February, 2005  
Macedon Primary School

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Present:** Neil Barr (BG), Peter Beggs (TK), Peter Gossip (CH) – morning, Lois Ewels (CH) - afternoon, Sue Heally (NE), Kathy Liley (Mtb), Peter Jackson (MF), Barry Hart (YV), Ian & Debbie Dodd (DR), Henry Post (AW), Allen Miller (BK), Pat Miller, Peta Whitford, Tina Smith, Bruce Arthur, Blair Trewin, Dick Barker (EU), Warwick Williams, Mike Hubbert (Park/Street), John & Jenny Sheahan – afternoon.

Meeting opened 9:40 AM.

#### **1. Apologies**

Ruth Goddard.

#### **2. Minutes of October Council Meeting and January Board Meeting**

- Tina Smith was not an apology at the October Council.

*Motion that the minutes be accepted with the above qualification. PJ/HP. Carried.*

#### **3. Reports**

##### **3.1 Finance**

- We are looking at a \$3,000 deficit for 2004, compared with a budgeted deficit of \$6,000.

##### **3.2 Promotion & Development**

- There are still clubs that have not ratified the responsible alcohol management policy and the healthy eating policy. It is now 12 months since Council agreed that they should be ratified.

##### **3.3 MTBO**

- Report received.

### **3.4 Park/Street Orienteering**

- Weather has been chancy, but event participation numbers are healthy.
- Final draft of autumn/winter/spring fixture is now circulating.
- Thanks to Peter Creely for emergency notice of event cancellation.

### **3.5 Bush Orienteering**

- Progress in bush-O sub-committee has been slow during 2004.
- Successes have been controller training (thanks to Kathy Liley) and Bush-O advocacy (thanks to Peter Creely).
- Need to move on (a) terrain reservation, (b) map costing, and (c) Easter 2006 planning and organisation.

### **3.6 MTB WOC**

- All that remains to be done is to sell the maps and tie off the finances.
- It looks like we will end up with a deficit of approximately \$5,000 (big variations were transport and drug testing).
- Prices have been calculated for the maps.

*Moved a vote of thanks to the organising committee. BT/NB Carried.*

*Motion that the reports be accepted. KL/BH. Carried.*

## **4. Future of MTB WOC Maps**

- 3 options were considered by Council:
  - retain maps in VOA hands
  - sell by tender to clubs
  - sell at fixed price to clubs.
- KL & RB have calculated prices based on likely future use & consequent likely future revenues for map owners.
- There was little support for retaining the maps in VOA ownership.
- Clubs are keen to hold onto the rights for areas to which they have provided the base maps.
- Joint ownership of maps is a real possibility.
- Calculating the cost of a map from the cost of production gives a figure about \$1.50 greater than calculating a maps value based on its capacity to bring in entry fees. Should this extra \$1.50 be added to entry fees?
- BA: It is already difficult to justify financially running an event on another club's map.

*Motion that MTBWOC maps be offered at KL & RB's calculated prices with bids to be received by 15<sup>th</sup> March. In the event of more than one offer being received, the Board will choose, based on (1) pre-existing rights, (2) joint bids ahead of sole clubs, and (3) a*

*club which does not have other bids in will get preference over a club which does. The maps will be included in the MTBWOC accounts at the pre-determined prices to enable the accounts to be finalised. BT/NB. Carried.*

- WW to write to clubs to invite offers. The Board will make any necessary adjustments to the calculated prices to adjust for the value of this year's events.

### **9.1 Athlete Development Strategy**

- This is not just about the elites.
- There has been a lack of organised support to progress people through the rungs of the sport.
- The important step is to find people willing to take on the roles necessary to give development opportunities.
- RB: The big weakness is the transition from junior to senior ranks.
- BT will chair a working group with BA & call for expressions of interest from other members.

### **9.2 Funding of NOL Teams in 2005**

- There is a NOL weekend in Western Australia this year which is not part of an Easter or national championships. The Vic Nuggets have requested funding from the VOA to reduce the costs to team members of the weekend.
- OA has agreed to top up state funding to competitors to attend this weekend.

*Motion that the VOA provide \$400 per person for up to 4 men and 4 women to attend the WA weekend. If more than 4 members of either sex intend to participate, funding will be allocated to the 4 best performed athletes of each sex at Easter 2005. BT/KL. Carried.*

- Don Fell will be approached to act as selector if required.

## **5. Major Events Planning & Area Allocation 2007 to 2009**

- We need to be mindful of keeping our options open for staging the 2009 Australian Championships.
- Bush O sub-committee will consider and recommend event locations.
- The timetable in BT's paper was supported in principle.

*Motion that EU be allocated the 2006 Victorian Championships on Mt Beckworth. This map will be a stand-by map in the event of losing a map for Easter 2006. If required for Easter, the Victorian Championships will be relocated. PJ/BH. Carried.*

## **6. Financial Framework for Easter 2006**

- EU will charge \$3,000 to administer the Easter carnival. Tom Norwood and Richard Bice are the principal operatives. BJ Johnson will be the treasurer.
- Revenues less expenses will be divided between clubs. \$4 per competitor will be the initial distribution with any excess being the subject of a second distribution.

*Motion that the Council endorse these arrangements. BH/RB. Carried.*

- We should set Easter levies now to allow budgeting. BT has proposed that the levies be the same as the last time Victoria hosted the Easter carnival plus CPI.

*Motion that this levy be approved. TS/PM. Carried.*

## **7. SportIdent Upgrade**

- The Board has approved upgrading half the SportIdent controls to version 7. Council is being asked to endorse upgrading the remainder to version 7 at a cost of approximately \$10,000 in total.
- KL: It is possible for members to make tax deductible donations to the sport via the Sports Foundation for projects such as this.

Motion that Council approves upgrading all the SI controls to version 7. NB/WW. Carried.

## **14. Participation Database Development**

- This database is need to support funding applications and to allow proper planning and management.
- It is mainly bush O that needs to collect additional participation data Park/street and MTBO are already collecting the required information.
- There is a range of operational problems, but the data are important.

*Motion that Council approve development of a participation database and that small working group be established to get it happening. PJ/NB. Carried.*

## **10. Member Protection**

- OA has in place a new Members Protection Policy.
- VOA will be required to have a Members Protection Officer, who can be shared with other states or other sports.
- The Victorian Parliament is considering a “Working with Children Bill.”
- This bill, if enacted, would have a considerable on sporting organisations, particularly volunteer-run organisations.
- The Board will be making a submission on this.

## **7. Participation Working Group**

- A draft participant survey has been prepared. Are there any other questions that need to be asked?
- ID presented a breakdown he and DD had done on the people at events:
  - MTB: (of 60 participants)
    - 30% also do bush & street O
    - 25% also do bush O
    - 7% also do street O
    - 38% do no other orienteering
  - Park/Street: (of 372 participants)
    - 5% also do rogaines
    - 19% also do bush O
    - 5% do all forms of orienteering
    - 59% do no other orienteering
    - 11% were once-only participants
  - We need to identify whether the issues are distance, the social side, lack of inter-club competition or that people are really only interested in what they are presently doing.
- RB: Certain actions are clearly needed immediately:
  1. Medium-level bush events need better designed start & finish areas
  2. We need to compress start times to get more social interaction because everyone will be at the event at more or less the same time.
  3. Results displays need to be improved.
  - Each of these can be done, but it requires commitment to doing it.
- Coaching at events – the Sheahans ran this last year at several events and are willing to do so again. This was agreed.

## **11. Review of Funded Programs**

### Club Development Network

- BG, DR and AR are willing to give this a go. PW hasn't had time to give this the support she would like.

### Newcomer Liaison

- Alistair Hughes is keeping this on track. Thanks to him for this work.

### Galway Schools

- 7 schools held their own O championships. This will be integrated into the statewide championships this year.

### Castlemaine Schools

- The key teacher organising orienteering has moved on, but PW expects the program to continue.

### Maryborough MTBO

- This has not really happened, but we are developing an alternative program at Castlemaine &/or Macedon.

## **12. Registered Officials Membership**

- Question is whether we will require officials to be registered or not.

*Motion that all event organisers and course setters for all VOA endorsed events be required to be VOA members or registered officials. KL/PJ. Carried.*

*Motion that all controllers seeking accreditation be full VOA members. KL/BH. Carried.*

*Motion that the previous two decisions be implemented as from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005. BH/MH. Carried.*

- Registered officials membership attracts an \$8 OA levy on the VOA. We have set the membership fee at \$10 for this year & this will not change.

*Motion that registered officials upgrading to full membership be given credit for any registered officials membership fee they have paid with respect to that year. NB/MH. Carried.*

### **13. Life memberships**

- Issues are how many life members should we have and what benefits should they receive. Present life members get free entry to all but national level events.
- Paper received setting out options.

*Moved that option 3 be adopted with an additional option to life members to take a seasons ticket free for any one of the summer park/street series. For the time being this policy will only apply to life memberships bestowed from this time forward, but we will write to the existing life members to ascertain their views about the future application of this policy to them. BT/RN. Carried.*

- Should we limit the number of life memberships or set objective criteria for nominations?

*Motion that a maximum of 2 life members may be nominated by the Board in any one year. HP/BH. Carried.*

### **Volunteer Recognition**

- The view of the meeting was that set service awards are the appropriate way to recognise volunteers.

### **15. Disclaimers**

- No present requirement for these from our public liability insurer.
- They can be legally effective if correctly drafted.

*Motion that the Secretary investigate the legal options and obligations of the VOA with respect to waivers. PJ/HP. Carried.*

#### Parental Consents

- The meeting did not feel we have a need for these.

#### **16. Fixture Process for 2006**

- Trying to link the nomination of officials to the allocation of events to clubs had the effect of holding up the fixture process massively.
- The framework should be in place by the end of June and the final draft to clubs by the end of August.

#### Major event scheduling

- Easter 2006 – dates & clubs finalised.
- Australian Middle Distance Champs 2006 – club & date finalised.
- Victorian Championship 2006 – club allocated but date not yet fixed.
  
- Clubs to be asked to express interest in staging 2006 Victorian Middle Distance and Sprint Championships. The Saturday of the Victorian Long Distance Championships weekend will be used for the Middle Distance Championships.
- From 2006, Australian Middle Distance Championships will be offered for all age classes. States have the option of following suit or continuing to offer M & W 20 & 21 classes.

#### **16. Review of Strategic & Operational Plans.**

*Motion that this be delegated to the Board. NB/SH. Carried.*

Meeting closed 5.10 PM.