

VOA Council Meeting

Saturday, 12 February 2006
Macedon Primary School, Macedon

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: Blair Trewin, Sue Key, Bruce Arthur (MF), Ian Dodd, Tom Norwood (EU), Ruth Goddard, Peter Beggs (TK), Debbie Dodd (DR), Lois Ewels (CH), Don Fell, Barry Hart (YV), Rob Edmonds (NE), Neil Barr (BG), Jim Russell, Mike Hubbert (BK), Peta Whitford, Warwick Williams.

Meeting opened 9.30 AM.

1. Apologies: Jenny & John Sheahan, Diane Shalders.

2. Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes of the October Council meeting and the January Board meeting – Ian Dodd/Ruth Goddard. Carried.

3. Business Arising

Insurance: it has cost us \$355 extra to insure the SI equipment having drawn the insurance company's attention to the fact it is stored in a trailer. Members should be aware that the policy requires the trailer to be LOCKED when storing & transporting the SI gear.

4. Reports

4.1 Finance

- Overall 2005 accounts show a surplus of ~\$3,750. This figure has been improved by the arrival in 2005 of grant money budgeted for 2004.

4.2 P & D

- A report by Ballarat University has been released regarding parental perceptions of sports injury risk. The survey group included 11 orienteering parents. The role of coaches in reducing injury risk was rated very highly by parents. Decisions about children's participation in sport are most often made by the child themselves, with mothers having a greater role than fathers.

4.3 Bush Orienteering

- Clubs have been very slow to find and nominate controllers for events this season. The plan that controllers must be nominated at the time an event is fixtured has not worked.
- Neil Barr will not continue to chair the Bush-O subcommittee.
- A controller is still needed for this year's Victorian long distance championships.

4.4 Park/Street Orienteering

- Winter fixtures are ready for the printer.
- Street O entry fees will be raised to \$4 senior and \$2 junior as of November 2006.

4.5 MTB Orienteering

- The new "Summer Series" events have been a real hit with numbers in the 70's – far better than expected.

4.6 Easter 2006

- The rate of receipt of entries has slowed after the "early-bird" deadline passed. We have ~ 500 entries to date.
- Sponsorship approaches to Telstra Countrywide and the Bendigo Bank have come to nothing. In future, the organisers recommend that OA avoid scheduling major events at similar times and places to major spectator events like the Commonwealth Games.
- Support from the local community has also been limited, apparently due to a surfeit of "events" in the district.
- No Castlemaine group is interested in catering, but in the smaller centres of Newstead and Harcourt support has been good. The lesson may be to choose a smaller town than Castlemaine as the event centre. The CFA will be providing the catering. There may not be any catering at the Australian Middle Distance Championships, however.
- Camping at Harcourt is all organised.
- As an aside, we are still looking for a number of VOA representatives for OA subcommittees which will meet at Easter.

4.8 SI

- The new SI controls are all functional and in use.
- The first of two training courses in using the gear in general and the new controls in particular has been run, and was felt to have been very useful.
- We need to work out a common numbering system for clubs' SI control stands as the new controls do not need to be reprogrammed between events, but only if they keep their number.

4.9 Membership & Participation

- A report summarising the data collected by Barry Hart was presented.
- VOA membership continues to increase – seems to be mainly park/street growth.
- Western park/street in particular has made incremental long term gains in numbers.

Motion that the ability to get a year and a half membership for the cost of one year when joining late in the calendar year be only available to FIRST-TIME members. Jim Russell/Ian Dodd. Carried.

4.10 Correspondence

- Emergency grants are available from Department of Victorian Communities. In the past these types of grants have been received to enable mapping when event areas have been burnt.
- The Draft Management Plan for the Greater Bendigo National Park has been received. This is an important area for orienteering and will need to be responded to.

5. Athlete Development Working Group

- The vision for the Athlete Development Strategy is to allow all orienteers the opportunity to develop to the maximum extent possible. At present this opportunity is principally available to the elite end of the sport.
- We have about 15 active coaches.
- The interim report presented contains a “wish-list” to enable scoping of the ideas in the list and the setting of priorities.
- The prospects for funding from Department of Victorian Communities for items in the final strategy appear to be good.

Recommendations:

- 1 To develop the Strategy.
- 2 That the VOA stage a Level 1 coaching course.
- 3 To introduce coaching at events this year as a priority.
- 4 To reintroduce the talent ID camp, targeting years 8 and 9.
- 5 To stage introductory courses to orienteering (some of this happens already).
- 6 To appoint an NOL coach and a state coaching co-ordinator.

Motion that the recommendations be accepted. Peter Beggs/Bruce Arthur. Carried.

6. VOA Risk Assessment

- A draft risk analysis has been done, based on the OA national conference’s risk analysis.

- Major risks:
 - Risk that land access may be curtailed due to (eg) disease or fire. Our areas are more scattered than those of the ACT, so fire is not too great a risk. The limitations caused by a foot & mouth type outbreak could be managed, as it was in Britain.
 - Loss of government funding. Our funded programs are “stand-alone.” As such, they can be stopped, if necessary, without excessive disruption to the remainder of our operations.
 - Regulatory limitations. Damage done by other land users, eg MTB (cf MTBO), may cause more general access limitations to be imposed. This is a real threat that must be managed.
 - Ageing demographic. The most immediate manifestation of this as a problem may be in the lack of new mappers.
 - Major increases in the cost of fuel. This highlights the importance of retaining access to areas near Melbourne.
- The most significant risk is that of serious injury or death of a competitor. This risk seems to be most acute for park/street events. The main aspects of this are (1) the immediate care of the injured, (2) negative publicity and (3) legal consequences. The park/street sub-committee is planning a workshop to prepare a “disaster plan.”
- The Board will complete a risk assessment for all forms of the sport and return to Council with a response plan.

7 Long Term Future of Victorian Orienteering

- We need to take a realistic look at where we sit in the sporting spectrum & promote ourselves as such – we are a family sport.
- The sport may split into “recreational” and “elite” arms. Already, park/street and summer evening events can be seen as in between recreation & sport.
- More club events & less State Series may be the future.
- The atmosphere at an event is as important as the event itself. We need to keep working on assembly areas, compressed start windows and social interaction.
- We need to work on our relationship with the Victorian Rogaining Association, considering cross-fertilisation of participants, and scheduling.
- Adventure racing may also have a role in orienteering.

8 VOA interim Junior Sport Policy

- This is mainly about putting existing policy & procedures into “bureaucratese.”
- The ASC has published a framework for these policies, which has been used, as far as possible, for the draft.
- Such a policy is potentially a future requirement for government funding streams.

Motion that the draft policy be adopted. Tom Norwood/Don Fell Carried.

9 VOA Employment Policy

- The “policy” in fact contains an employment policy and an employment management procedure.
- The potentially controversial area is the question of who can employ people. The policy is drafted to allow “sub-employees” to be employed by people who’s employment has been authorised by Council.
- The constitution retains the power to employ as a Council function. To implement this policy, it would be better to place this power in the hands of the Board.

Motion that the proposed policy be accepted. Ruth Goddard/Don Fell Carried.

- Further, Council recommends that a Constitutional amendment be put to the AGM to change formal responsibility for employment from the Council to the Board.

10 VOA Advertising & Publications Policy

- Inserts are extra work for those sending out the magazines. Ken Dowling recommends that they be charged at the OVic full-page advertising rate (\$150).
- Alternative is to retain differential rates according to size. This is more in accord with other not-for-profit groups.
- Advertising of alcohol was discussed eg if we obtained sponsorship from a winery or a club undertook a wine bottling. VicHealth policy is important here.
- Insert rates may be reviewed from time to time by the Board

Motion that all inserts be charged at the full page rate. Motion lapsed.

Motion that the question of alcoholic beverages be referred back to the Board for decision considering VicHealth requirements. Barry Hart/Tom Norwood Carried.

11 Proposed Changes to VOA Competition Rules

- 5 rule changes were proposed: (1) a 10 course structure for badge events, Victorian middle distance champs to include all age classes, (3) Victorian long & middle distance champs to count for State Series points, (4) 2006 State Series awards on the basis of best 8 point scores and (5) to delete the rule requiring a minimum of 3 qualified competitors before an award is made in AS & B classes in the State Series.
- Noted that if the Vic long & middle distance championships count for State Series points, and only a person’s best 8 events count, this only requires attendance at 6 State Series events to be competitive.

Motion that the rule changes be agreed to. Neil Barr/Barry Hart Carried.

12 Commercial Operations at Events

- The existing agreement with the Ogear Shop was way out of date and has been terminated by agreement.
- Proposed policy would allow the existing regulars unless organisers advise otherwise. Other groups may trade with the organisers' consent.

Motion that the proposed policy be agreed to with the addition of the following additional final paragraph:

“Where the services required are beyond the range or capacity of the regular operators, the event organisers are encouraged to offer, where feasible, a service club or other fund raising voluntary group, or local businesses in the event region, the opportunity to supply those services.” Don Fell/Barry Hart Carried.

13 Major Event Allocation 2006 to 2008

- Neither NE or BK was in a position to commit to running the 2006 Middle Distance Championships.
- NE and BG are likely to take one each of the 2007 Victorian Relays and the 2008 Victorian Middle Distance Championships.

14 VOA Vacancies

1. The Presidency will almost certainly be vacant.
2. At least one Vice Presidency.
3. Chair of the bush-O sub-committee
4. VOA selector
5. Schools team manager
6. NOL coach
7. Atate coach
8. Fixtures guru

15 Review of VOA Operational & Strategic Plans

Motion to refer finalisation of the 2006 plans to the Board. Barry Hart/Ian Dodd Carried.

16 Other Business

- YV's 2 hour street score event will move to 18 June in place of DR's 3 hour event. Council is happy with this switch.
- The event calendar recently circulated was not as complete as people have grown used too. Robyn Sunderland is willing to get back involved with this publication.

Meeting closed 3.50 PM.