



## **VOA Board Meeting**

Friday 17 March, 2006  
Outdoor Recreation Centre, Viewbank

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Present:** Blair Trewin, Ruth Goddard, Ian Dodd, Peta Whitford, Warwick Williams

Meeting opened 7:10 PM.

#### **1. Apologies**

Nil.

#### **2. Business Arising**

- VicHealth's position with regard to the advertising of alcohol is relaxed, although they prefer not to be promoted on the same page as alcohol. There is therefore no impact on the advertising policy adopted by the Council at its February meeting.

#### **3. Reports**

##### **3.1 Finance**

- Report received. The cost of Nuggets uniforms and the new SI sticks are accounted for in this report, but not the upgrading of the SI trailer.
- Entry fees for Easter have mostly been received. The 4.6% merchant fee on credit card payments is substantial, and to be avoided where possible.
- The annual report has been submitted to the auditors.

##### **3.2 P & D**

- Report received.
- A small score event run as part of a Bendigo Sports Focus sports day proved to be a good low-labour-input promotion with a ready made clientele.
- A proposal received for a joint fundraising event with the Guide Dogs Australia was not supported by the Board.

### **3.3 Easter 2006**

- In-forest aspects of the carnival are all right on track.
- Staffing for the starts and finishes are not completely organised yet.

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

- No report received.
- Map and event allocation are live issues. In this regard, Ian Stirling is proposing that the procedure for event allocation in future be that:
  - Event numbers be set for each club for each series, then
  - Clubs nominate the maps to be used for their events, then
  - The Park/Street sub-committee finalises the fixtures.
- The controversial step is the allocation of event numbers between clubs. John Sheahan has proposed that event allocation be in proportion to participation by members of each club. Blair Trewin proposes that (a) 10% of events in any series be allocated to any club that wants such an allocation, and (b) each club be able to nominate a “home” series over summer. Clubs will then receive preference in allocating remaining events for that series.
- The issues are for the park/street sub-committee to resolve in the first instance.

### **3.5 MTBO**

- No report received.

### **3.6 Bush Orienteering**

- We still have no organiser for the 2006 Victorian Middle Distance Championships. NE has declined, and it is hoped that BK will pick it up.
- We also need to appoint controllers to 2006 & 2007 Victorian Championship events and for the 2009 Australian Championships carnival.

### **3.7 SportIdent**

- New sticks have been received.
- VOA has made an error in costings for the trade-in scheme, and will end up paying considerably for traded-in sticks than planned.
- The Board believes that the reasonable second hand value of version 4 SI sticks to be \$10 each.
- The SI trailer needs new tyres. Ian Dodd authorised to procure same.
- Ian also presented a range of costed options for fitting a lockable top onto the trailer, as required by our new insurance.

*Motion that the Board authorises the expenditure of \$800 to buy and fit a top similar to the present cover, but made of aluminium and fitted with gas struts to control opening & closing. RG/ID. Carried.*

### 3.8 Correspondence

- A preliminary life membership nomination was received. The nominator will need to flesh this out properly by the time of the April Board meeting.
- VicTalent grants have been received for Jasmine & Moreton Neve.
- VicSport Awards – we have no obvious nominees.

**Action PW**

*Motion to accept the reports. RG/ID. Carried.*

## 4. VOA website

### The Park/Street Website

- The Board felt that there is a need for a park/street section as part of the official VOA website. As a minimum, this section will include fixtures and results, and general information about park/street orienteering.
- 5 people have expressed interest in contributing to the development of these pages.

*Motion that we establish an official park/street section as part of the VOA website. WW/RG. Carried.*

Blair will contact those who have volunteered to get work started.

**Action: BT**

### Host Transfer and Potential New Features

- Our new web host offers us the potential to use additional features such as the ability to organise email lists.
- Blair will discuss these possibilities with Geoff Hudson.

**Action: BT**

## 5. VOA Risk Assessment

- Paper received. The assessment was adopted as presented whilst the need for further development was recognised and scheduled for further discussion at future meetings of the Board.

## 6. VOA Operational & Strategic Plans

- The plan documents have been amended by Blair in the light of the discussions that took place at the February Council meeting.
- Targets in the Strategic Plan have been revised to better reflect reality, particularly with respect to staff and coaching.

- Membership growth has been in line with previous targets, but some participation targets have not been met.
- The plans must be submitted to Sport & Recreation Victoria as part of our funding requirements.
- The plans were accepted as final drafts.

## **7. 2006/07 Grant Applications**

- VicHealth is rolling over current funds for a further 12 month period.
- SRV is allocating funding anew, but only for the next 12 months.
- There are 3 SRV funding areas:
  1. Business improvement plans – likely to be for \$10,000 per year.
  2. Sports development scheme – not likely to offer much to the VOA.
  3. Future directions – we will apply for \$20,000 and believe we are likely to be allocated \$15,000.
- Our application will be based around plans in our Athlete Development Strategy
- Proposals to assist the retention of juniors are likely to be well received by SRV – eg a grant to assist the establishment of a university based club.
- Our existing Golden Triangle work could be further developed.
- Blair and Peta will draft our application for approval at the April Board meeting.

## **8. Implications of Having a “Dominant” Club in the VOA**

- The Board discussed the relative numerical dominance of the Bayside Kangaroos Club in Victorian orienteering. It was generally felt that perceptions that this is a problem for other clubs are not well based, and that healthy membership numbers is something to be desired rather than a concern.

## **9. Orienteering Australia AGM**

- A general levy of 20 cents per competitor is proposed to be levied on all events nationwide. The levy is proposed to be used to enhance the OA website, reinstate the biennial National Development Conference, provide a CPI increase to high-performance funding and create a small contingency fund. If adopted the levy will commence in 2007.

*Motion that the VOA support this proposal. RG/ID. Carried.*

- The 2006 subscription for the OA magazine has been set at \$21. The editor has proposed a motion that this be lifted to \$21.60. No strong feeling emerged from the meeting, and the VOA representatives will vote as they feel best in the light of the discussion at the AGM.
- BT and ID will be the VOA representatives.

- The following will be approached to represent Victoria on the various sub-committees:

Mapping	Alex Tarr
Technical	Neil Barr (BT as fallback representative)
Coaching	Jim Russell
Development & Participation	Peta Whitford (confirmed)
IT	Ian Chennell
MTBO	Blake Gordon &/or Peter Cusworth
Schools Liaison	Adam Scammell or Steve Bird

#### **10. Constitutional Amendment**

- To give effect to Council’s decision to restrict eligibility for the “membership valid until the end of the following year” provision to new members, it is necessary to amend clause 7.5 of the VOA Constitution.
- The amendment will be put to the AGM as drafted.

#### **11. Access to Land – MTBO in Greater Bendigo National Park**

- A recent application to stage an MTBO event in this park was refused because the officer handling the application believed that the only tracks allowed to be used are those explicitly shown in the draft management plan, and thus MTBO would involve off-track riding.
- This would create an unfortunate precedent, were it stand. The Bendigo Club is following up on this decision. The VOA will leave the running to them, but will fully support their efforts.

#### **12. Public Land Commercial Operations Licensing**

- A proposal has been received from Parks Victoria regarding this.
- The proposal does not adequately distinguish between events which current happen under permit, from truly commercial operations.
- The other issue is how not-for-profit activities, such as those of the VOA, will be regulated cf those of commercial profit making concerns.
- Submissions are due by 29 March. BT to prepare a VOA submission.

**Action: BT**

#### **13. Intellectual Property Issues**

- An email received from Phil Poulton raises issues to do with the ownership of IP associated with orienteering by the VOA. The issue will be put on the agenda for the next Council meeting. In the meantime it must be clear that anything to do with the VOA website must remain under the control of the VOA.

## 14. Appointments

- The following appointments were ratified:

Steve Bird	Schools team coach
Adam Scammell	Schools team assistant coach
Mandy Hennessy	Schools team manager

## 15. Other Business

- Annual report items must be sent to Snap Printers by 1 May. Items will need to be with Warwick Williams by April 20th.

**Action WW & others**

- The Special Purpose Financial Report for 2005 was presented.

*Motion that the Board declares that:*

1. *The financial statements and notes as set out therein present fairly the financial position of the VOA as at 31 December 2005, and of its performance for the year ended on that date, in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.*
2. *In the Board's opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the VOA will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.*

*and authorises the President and the Treasurer to so affirm on behalf of the Board. ID/RG. Carried.*

- Ian presented the current draft of accounting controls for the VOA.
- The importance of including Total Fire Ban District in coming event information was emphasised, particularly at the start and finish of the season. Anyone unsure as to the District in which their event lies is welcome to contact the Secretary for clarification.

Meeting closed 10.40 PM.