

# **VOA Council Meeting**

Thursday, 28 July 2005  
"Amberley," Lower Plenty

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Present:** Blair Trewin, Ruth Goddard, Ian Dodd, Warwick Williams, Russell Bulman (YV), Neil Barr (BG), Dianne Shalders (BK), Debbie Dodd (DR), Peta Whitford, Laurie Niven, Peter Cusworth, Peter Beggs (TK), Ian Stirling.

Meeting opened 7.30 PM.

**1. Apologies:** Bruce Patterson (AR), Bruce Arthur (MF), Peter Jackson.

### **2. Minutes**

*Motion to accept the minutes of the Council meeting 13 February 2005 and the minutes of the Board meeting 17 June 2005 – Ruth Goddard/Ian Dodd. Carried.*

### **3. Business Arising**

- Warwick Williams spoke to the paper (circulated) regarding the use of waivers. He noted that the OA public liability policy covers the events with respect to which competitors may be asked to waive their rights. The VOA has taken a position that we shall not at this stage ask for waivers for any event. O Tas has included a waiver on the Australian Championship Carnival entry. WE are awaiting a response from them as to why they have done this.

### **4. Reports**

#### **4.1 P & D**

- The VOA office computer has been replaced with a new one and a broadband connection has been installed.
- 3 clubs are working on the "Club Development Network" process. Peta will provide a package of materials to the remaining clubs. The deadline for completing the program is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006.
- Peta has new "Runners/Cyclists on Road" and "Orienteering →" signs for sale to clubs at \$5 each. WE need to ensure that our safety signs, at least, are up to scratch.

#### **4.2 Finance**

- The audited 2004 financial statement is now completed. The "headline" loss of ~ \$53,000 is almost entirely due to three factors:

- (a) Distribution of the 2003 Aust Champs carnival surplus to clubs was not made until 2004,
- (b) State Government funding due during 2004 did not arrive until 2005, and
- (c) Sale of maps from the world MTB Champs did not take place during 2004, as budgeted, but was delayed until 2005.

If these items are netted out, the underlying loss was ~ \$6,000.

- Peta Whitford's current hourly wage is \$24/hr.

*Motion that the hourly rate be increase to \$25/hr effective 1/7/05. Neil Barr/Debbie Dodd. Carried.*

- The current vehicle mileage rate is 48c/km.

*Motion that the vehicle mileage rate be increased to 52c/km effective 1/7/05. Ian Dodd/Neil Barr. Carried.*

Several clubs have underpaid or overpaid event levies as a result of wrongly categorising events and incorrect levy forms. It was discussed whether the underpayments should be waived. No motion was moved to this effect.

The Vic ARDF Group have sought an exemption from event levies for their poorly attended Endeavour Green event. VOA approved the scheduling of an event at Mt Robertson on the same day at short notice.

*Motion that the levies be waived for this event because of the late scheduling by the VOA of a clashing event. Warwick Williams/Russell Bulman. Carried.*

### **4.3 Park/Street**

- Attendances at the Iceberg Series are up 10% on last year.
- Summer 2005/06 fixture is in final draft.
- Clifford Heath & ARDF are working on a simple electronic punching system.
- Looking to have some promotional activities to launch the summer fixture.
- Need to set a levy for the Western Night Series seasons tickets.

*Motion that the base levy be set at \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members scaled at the usual percentages for junior and family tickets. Ian Dodd/Debbie Dodd. Carried.*

- Levies for summer series season tickets 2005/06. Last year's levy was \$12 for members. It is proposed that entry fee discounts be offered for purchasing seasons tickets to more than one series (10% for 2<sup>nd</sup> ticket, 20% for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 30% for 4<sup>th</sup>).

Motion that the VOA discount levies by the same percentages for multiple seasons ticket purchases. Ian Dodd/Ian Stirling. Carried.

#### **4.5 MTBO**

- State series numbers are up on last year.
- A state series event this year will be held in Central Gippsland. This is a new area for orienteering.
- A low-key summer series is being considered for weeknights in areas near Melbourne.
- We have funds for 11 further orienteers to attend 1<sup>st</sup> aid courses. Contact PW to attend.

#### **4.4 Bush Orienteering**

- Most energy is going into preparations for Easter 2006 & the 2006 fixtures.

#### **4.6 Participation Database**

- Report received.

#### **4.7 SportIdent**

- The original upgrade plan was to upgrade all 130 controls to version 7. The SportIdent Group now propose that this be varied so that we purchase 70 new v.7 controls and upgrade our existing controls locally to v.6, which will take the new SI sticks, but still require programming.

The meeting was concerned that keeping the old controls means keeping the need to program them, even if only occasionally. Blair Trewin is to take the meeting's belief that we should continue with the plan for a complete change-over to v.7 back to the SI Group. The meeting delegated the final decision to the Board, on the understanding that informal consultation with clubs will occur before a decision is taken.

#### **4.8 Easter 2006**

- Report received.
- Event Centre likely to be at Harcourt.

#### **4.9 Website**

- The club directory has recently been updated, but the VOA levies are still out of date.

#### **4.10 Correspondence**

- Report received.

#### **4.11 OA Funding Cuts**

The OA has suffered a \$50k cut in its Sports Commission funding. Consultation is taking place with the States on how this should be managed. A discussion paper is in circulation about this. The next VOA Board meeting has been brought forward to 18<sup>th</sup> August to allow the Board to arrive at a position on this matter.

#### **4.12 Membership**

Current VOA membership is 15 people short of 2004. It is likely to finally creep up to more or less the same level as last year.

*Motion that the reports be accepted. Ruth Goddard/Ian Dodd. Carried.*

#### **6. Confirmation of Sub-Committee Chairs**

- Ian Stirling elected unopposed to chair the Park/Street committee.
- Peter Cusworth elected unopposed to chair the MTBO committee.

#### **5. Participation Working Group**

- The meeting discussed the report circulated by the working group.
- There is a strong desire for a more social post-event atmosphere.
- Double-header events are favoured for more remote locations.

The “Event Arena” issues:

- Results display needs to be clear and up-to-date.
- Food and drink should be available at more events.
- The car park, the finish and the results area should be close together to increase the social side of the event.
- A site should be provided for club banners to be erected and club members to meet.

Fixturing issues:

Double-header weekends are popular. If we are to schedule these, we should try to have some sort of social event on the Saturday night. Both events do not need to be part of the State Series. A nearby local event will be satisfactory, eg a YV event at Kooyoora and a BG local event making up a weekend.

- The report contains 8 specific recommendations. To some extent we need to compromise between technical excellence and the social side of the sport.

Motion that the proposed actions 1 to 7 be agreed and implemented, and that action 8 be referred to the Bush O Sub-Committee for investigation with the understanding that it is Council’s strong preference that it be implemented. Russell Bulman/Ian Dodd. Carried.

## **12. Fixtures Framework**

- Tom Norwood has put forward a draft fixture for discussion.
- An inter-club meeting is scheduled for 5th August to allocate events to clubs.

## **7. Levies for Non-VOA Members**

- The MTBO Sub-Committee has proposed that the non-member surcharge be split between the VOA and the organising club, rather than all being remitted to the VOA. This is because the surcharge is intended to pay for the costs that members have shared in as part of their membership fee. These costs are partly borne by the organising club.
- It was agreed that this idea should be considered as part of developing the 2006 budget.

## **8. “Free Event” Voucher Proposal**

- This proposal is that the free event voucher scheme used in the Wesrern Summer Series be extended more widely.
- The meeting felt that the benefits and costs of the existing scheme are not yet clear.

*Motion that Council endorses the Western Summer Series scheme as a pilot and requests that it be evaluated next summer to provide a basis for possible wider implementation. Russell Bulman/Peter Beggs. Carried.*

## **9. On-Sale of Maps to 3<sup>rd</sup> Parties**

- Should the VOA act as a broker for outside parties who may wish to use information from maps owned by affiliated clubs or just pass on any such requests to the relevant club(s)?
- The feeling of the meeting is that requests should be forwarded to clubs.

## **13. Support for MTBWOC Team Members**

- First question is whether MTB and foot O WOC team members should be supported equally. The meeting was agreed that this should be so.
- Secondly, the level of support needed to be determined. This has been set at \$500 per head for several years (except for the MTBWOC in Victoria).

*Motion that we pay \$600/head (upon application) to all Victorians selected in WOC or JWOC teams. Warwick Williams/Peter Cusworth. Carried.*

## **14 Other Business Nil.**

Meeting closed 10.30 PM.