

MEETING MINUTES (Open Meeting)

Meeting of the Interim Committee of the International Adventure Racing Association.

Wednesday, 22 May 2024 @ 19h00 GMT held on Zoom

Attendance

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| 1. Cormac MacDonnell, Chair (Ireland) | 13. Maeve, Ireland (AR Ireland) |
| 2. Marijn Edelenbosch, Organisation (Netherlands) | 14. Ajita Madan, India |
| 3. Lisa de Speville, Admin (South Africa) | 15. Arnaldo, Brazil (CBCA) |
| 4. Alen Pujol, Comms (Uruguay) | 16. Emma Dutback, Sweden |
| 5. Adrian Crane, Membership (USA) | 17. Juan Portillo, Paraguay |
| 6. Samuel Eloy, Media (Brazil) | 18. Lars Bukkhave, Denmark/Norway |
| 7. John Harris, Media (USA) | 19. Nicholas Davyt, Uruguay |
| 8. Warley Costa, Membership (Brazil) | 20. Ricky Velez, Colombia |
| 9. Ross Philips, Organisation (UK) | 21. AUCA, Uruguay |
| 10. Kim Beckinsale, Youth (Australia) | 22. Ruurd Noordhuis, Netherlands |
| 11. Damon de Boor, Membership (UK) | 23. Wladimir Togumi, Brazil |
| 12. Romy Viale, Safety (France) | 24. Ezequil ? |
| | 25. Raul Fodor, Romania |

Apologies

Alexandre Provost (Canada) & Marek Navratil (Czech)

• Welcome / Conflict of Interest Declarations

Chairperson welcomed everyone to the first IARA Open meeting and provided a brief update on progress the new association has made in its first six months. Reference made to the following:

- Interim Committee established with representatives from all over the world contributing
- Monthly meetings happening and good governance systems being adopted
- 5 Work Groups being established
- New website established (with no budget) and new logo created for IARA
- Good engagement happening with AR Countries re membership
- Communications happening about new Association
- Focused Working groups progress projects in the areas of Rules, Safety, Environment
- Good governance systems being created as we go.

Chair invited questions from all guests on projects being worked on, and anything else.

Minutes last meeting / review and adopt

Proposed by John, Seconded by Damon and adopted.
These minutes will be uploaded to the IARA website.

Working group Updates

1. Organisation Development & Admin

- WG meets after the monthly committee meeting to tie down actions needed and other ideas.

- We briefly discussed the registration of IARA as a sports organisation.
- We need to begin investigating:
 - the merits of registering IARA in any specific country
 - Recognition of IARA as an organisation
 - available subsidies / grants
 - Funds required by IARA
 - funds required to be a legal entity
 - How to get funds
 - online bank accounts.
- WG have discussed the need for a 3 year strategy / plan for IARA and what that might look like.
- We have connections in France and Czech Republic and Romania who have experience with organisation registrations.

2. Comms & Media WG (Working Group) Updates and decisions

- Alen suggested an introduction video and has created a script for each person to say. Lisa to follow up. Samuel and Lisa to edit.
- Samuel to create an intro and outro clip for IARA videos.
- As we progress with Membership validation, we need to increase our communications with the AR countries and community as a whole.
- Media WG to work with Membership on a document highlighting the benefits of IARA membership, IARA's role, what it brings to the party, and value.
- Minutes will also be published in other languages, starting with Spanish.
- Media release with an update on our activities is needed.
- Media release announcing our logo should go out.

3. Membership WG feedback (by Damon)

- The Membership Statutes & application form will be available online.
- We have done testing reviews with Ireland, Czech Republic and Uruguay.
- After testing, we will roll out the Membership validation to other countries.
- The Membership Statutes will be circulated to the committee for comment in the next few days.

4. Rules & Referees WG feedback (by Adrian)

- Through our discussions, we have realised that IARA's role is not to define rules, but rather to publish some fundamental guidelines of the sport.
- There is a rules hierarchy involving rules from National bodies, Series co-ordinators and events, that will be specific for the disciplines, land permissions, seasons, parks and safety of that event.
- IARA has a role in keeping up with rules around doping and technology, which can be difficult for Race Directors to follow and that should be applied across the sport.
- Rules are important for competitors to read and understand when they enter events so that they understand disciplines, mandatory equipment, restrictions, method of ranking, and what is expected of them.
- IARA has an important role as a repository of case studies from which all referees, race directors and participants can learn. These case studies will show how situations were resolved as a guide to resolving situations in the future.

- This Working Group is tasked with looking at creating a referee structure independent of event co-ordinators that can be used by any event around the world.
- Language should not be a barrier to understanding rules.
- Warley suggested looking at an age group element for greater competition bubbles within an event. This may only be feasible at events with bigger participation.

5. Sustainability / Environment WG (by Marijn)

- Not much progress has been made. This WG needs more people involved.
- Kim and Jan (Australia) have volunteered to jump in with Clement. They have four years of experience with zero-waste events.
- Adrian (USA) has volunteered to jump in too.

6. Safety WG (by Romy)

- Safety is closely related to Rules.
- It is important to keep the freedom and creativity that Race Directors have.
- IARA will be able to provide tips and guidelines regarding safety elements that Race Directors should consider, to help their planning.
- We must log every safety incident that we know so far. This could be through a form on our website.
- In safety, we focus on each discipline separately. For example:
 - Orienteering: an external 'reviewer' can review maps, checkpoint locations and route planning, giving feedback to the Race Director. Organisers can be too involved in the race and planning, not seeing potential hazards from a safety perspective.
 - Ropes: Race Directors usually use an external, registered service provider.
 - Kayaking: the high risk discipline in adventure racing, being on water. On a river or the sea, conditions can change in hours. Guiding companies and local professionals should supervise this discipline / sections of the race in planning and during the race to minimise dangers.
- Lars was a 'Race Counsellor' for an event in Croatia. He got the maps one month before and improved the route from an orienteering perspective. He has 12 steps that he worked through.
- This group will identify safety points to work on.
- Our objective is to build a precise document that can be improved and added to.

Other Items Discussed

- Inspired by last year's International Adventure Racing Conference held at the AR World Championship in South Africa, we have the idea of a World AR Week towards the end of the year. This would be a week of scheduled online talks by a variety of presenters on a variety of topics related to AR. Talks can be scheduled more than once to accommodate different time zones. This would fall under the Media WG with assistance from the whole committee.
- We need to put a plan in place for the first formal AGM in Nov/Dec 2024. Nominations for the committee will need to be gathered.

Chair thanked everyone for attending and contributing positively to the meeting. Committee will host another Open Meeting in a few months time.

- **Meeting Summary/ Actions**

Action	Who	When
Upload minutes from 24 April to website	Lisa	After meeting
Save-the-date whatsapp for committee meetings with next few months	Cormac	After meeting
Media release with update of our activities	Lisa	End June
Media release about logo and recognition of Fletcher's design.	Lisa	End June
Working Groups (WGs) to continue progressing their projects with feedback at the next meeting. Check-in with group heads.	All WG Marijn	Mid June
One-minute video announcing IARA AND structure to be decided for comms videos	Samuel, Cormac, Lisa	End June
Samuel to do an intro and outro clip	Samuel	Early June
Membership Statute to be circulated to all Committee for input. Application form to be finalised and put on the website.	Marijn, Damon, Lisa	After testing

- **NEXT MEETINGS:** **3rd Wednesday of the month**
 Wednesday, 19 June 2024 @ 19h00 GMT
 Wednesday, 17 July 2024 @ 19h00 GMT
 Wednesday, 21 Aug 2024 @ 19h00 GMT
 Wednesday, 18 Sept 2024 @ 19h00 GMT
 Wednesday, 16 Oct 2024 @ 19h00 GMT