



**1st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MEETING MINUTES**

International Adventure Racing Association.

Wednesday, 22 October 2024 @ 19h30 GMT held on Zoom

Video recording on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/z2eB4LjyJeA?si=xoFP-ezJbSuPRoOE>

Attendance Register

44 participants from 19 countries attended IARA's first AGM.

Please see Annexure F

Confirmation of Quorum

Constitution calls for a quorum of 70% for voting matters to be resolved at the AGM.

Apologies

Heidi Muller, AR World Series

Pedro Pinto, Portugal

Lorraine Horan, Ireland

Alexandre Provost, Canada

1. Welcome and introductions from the Interim Chairperson Cormac MacDonnell

2. Minutes of previous AGM

This is the inaugural AGM so there are no previous minutes for consideration.

3. Matters arising from minutes

There can be no matters arising from previous minutes.

4. Interim Chairperson’s report

See Annexure A

Accepted by Ross Phillips, seconded by Adrian Crane.

5. Administration / Secretary report

See Annexure B

6. Treasurer’s report and presentation of proposed budget

IARA will not charge Membership fees in 2025 but will generate funds through donations from member countries and from individuals using a variety of fundraising methods such as crowd funding. The proposed budget looks at likely expenses and areas for which funds will be required going into 2026.

This budget is purely informational and does not require acceptance.

See Annexure C

7. Membership report

See Annexure D

8. Media & PR report

See Annexure E

9. VOTING

9.1. Proxy Votes

No proxy votes were received.

9.2. Voting in of Constitution and Membership Statutes

Majority votes, placed in the ‘Chat’ of Zoom, confirm acceptance of Constitution and Membership Statutes.

9.3. Voting in relation to motions put forward for consideration

No motions were put forward at this first AGM.

9.4. Confirmation of nominations received

A document listing all nominees was circulated to voting members a week in advance of the meeting.

Transfer of Chairperson role to independent person, Adrian Crane, for election of the 2025 Committee.

9.5. Election of committee – by officer role followed by general committee members

Only one candidate for each position of Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, Media and PR. These were accepted by majority vote, as submitted in the 'Chat' of Zoom.

- Chairperson: Cormac MacDonnell (Ireland)
- General Secretary: Lisa de Speville (South Africa)
- Treasurer: Ross Phillips (UK)
- Media & PR: Wayne Leek (USA)

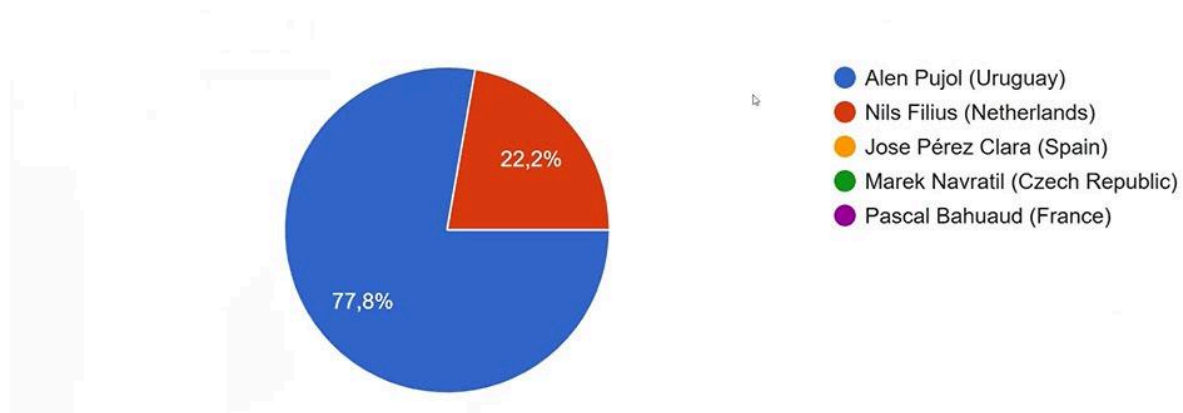
9.6. For the two General Member roles, voting was done anonymously online:

- **General Member 1:** Alen Pujol (Uruguay)

Which nominee are you voting for the first position of General Member

for the steering committee of the International Adventure Racing Association?

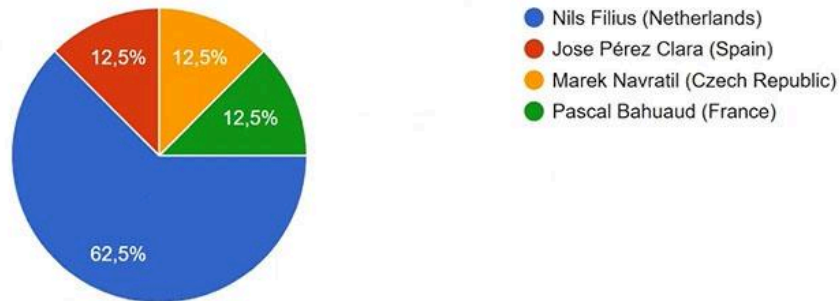
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- **General Member 2:** Nils Filius (Netherlands)

Which nominee are you voting for the second position of General Member for the steering committee of the International Adventure Racing Association?

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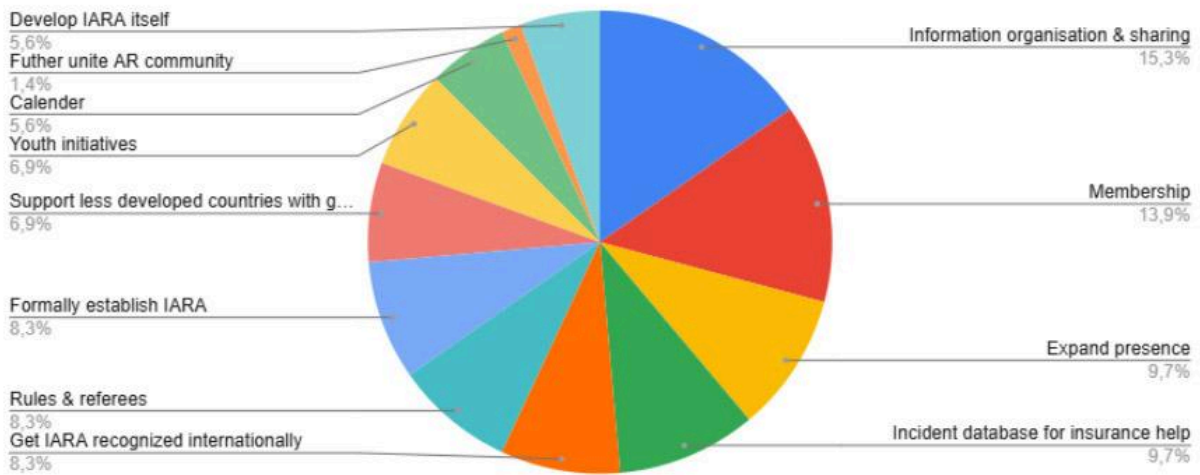
10. Discussion Items

No items were raised for discussion.

11. Summary of Priorities for 2025

A survey of adventure racing countries yielded the following suggestions from them for IARA to focus on in 2025.

Priorities categorized weighted



12. Date of next meeting

To be advised closer to the time but circa 12 months from now.

Meeting is closed.

Annexure A

2024 Chairperson's Report

2024 was a start-up year for IARA, with an Interim Committee and group of helpers coming together from around the world to start the new association. Someone described it as being similar to a business start up with lots to be done and lots of good positive energy around it.

The new Committee settled into action quickly with monthly online meetings and correspondence over WhatsApp. We organised ourselves around key areas like marketing and communications, admin and organisation development, membership development and a few project areas.

Early achievements in the communications area including.

- Domain registration and the development of our own website with no budget
- Getting Social Media Channels activated and
- the design and launch of a new logo for the association. Big shout out to Fletcher Hammel from The Handrail, an American adventure racer and brand strategist for his wonderful work on this!

The Interim Committee established good governance practice around our meetings and adopted an open policy around our work, with all minutes being published on our website and the hosting of two open meetings during the year, for anyone to attend. The Committee believes strongly in this approach to our work.

Throughout the year, we maintained open dialogue and communications with the international AR community and country representatives from many countries, introducing the new association, responding to queries and writing letters of support when requested.

One of the key areas we needed to progress was the development of membership criteria for the new association and getting ourselves set-up for members to join. This involved significant consultation and review of different AR structures in countries and led to the development of our Membership Statutes. This document sets out the 4 categories of membership for IARA and the process for countries and organisations to join IARA.

This process was opened to all countries in June 2024, and we are very proud to see 11 national adventure racing associations and two associate members working through this process to join IARA in 2024. I can say that it was a highlight for all Committee members to see this process up and running and to see countries joining. A big thank you to Membership Working Group (Alen, Damon, Marijn) that led this work.

We are all aware that IARA was established in response to the no-consultation take-over by the World Obstacle organisation. World Obstacle continues to claim adventure racing as one of its sports, despite requests from IARA to stop this.

This situation took a bizarre twist in late 2024 with the proposed merger of World Obstacle with World Pentathlon and World Obstacle's attempt to take adventure racing with it. IARA made a firm stand against this with significant lobbying to the members of World Pentathlon - over 130 national Pentathlon

associations around the world, and the launch of the #ARsaysNo Campaign. A petition was signed by 1,300 adventure racers from around the world supporting IARA's stand on this.

With support from World Pentathlon members, the words 'adventure racing' were removed from the proposed definition of Pentathlon sport when the members voted against a motion that was presented at their Annual Congress in November. This was a small victory that brought the AR community together. It is our hope that World Obstacle will take this as another sign that the adventure racing community does not want them to represent our sport.

Our committee created three specific project groups to progress projects in the areas of Rules, Safety and Environment - all important areas for the sport. All these projects made some progress in 2024 and will continue into 2025.

The Admin and Organisation Development Working Group placed its focus on where and how to register IARA as a Company, a re-write of our Constitution and preparations for our first AGM. The Working Group examined the company establishment options in many countries, and eventually landed on a recommendation to register IARA as a company limited by guarantee (not for profit) in the UK. This was judged to be the easier, lower cost option that could be progressed quickly, and this view was supported by the Committee. The registration of the company is in progress.

On the Constitution, the Working Group looked at other international sport federations and decided in the end to keep our Constitution as simple and clear as possible. We believe the Constitution presented today serves its purpose, clearly setting out what IARA aims to do, its structure and operation. It is highly likely that there will be amendments to the Constitution as our organisation develops and matures, but we believe it is a good foundation to build on.

As we move into 2025, we have decided to make the organisation's Steering Committee smaller with only 6 officer positions. We see much of the development and policy work being shaped by small project groups, made up of volunteers and people from the AR community.

We think this model will be more efficient and it also means that people can get involved in the projects that they are interested in for short-term, fixed periods, and they will not have to attend monthly Steering Committee meetings and the like.

In terms of priorities for 2025, there will be some discussion on that later in the meeting but it is clear that there will be a continuation of some of the activities from 2024, the membership base will continue to grow and we will see a range of projects and awareness-raising events happening.

Overall, it has been a busy and productive first year and I would like to extend a word of thanks to everyone on the Interim Steering Committee. It has been great working with you all and seeing your passion for the sport of adventure racing.

I would especially like to give a big thank you to our general secretary, Lisa de Speville from South Africa, who has given a huge amount of time to getting the new association off the ground. Thank you Lisa.

As we look to 2025, the road rises before us. We have made a good start and we have established a good foundation for IARA to build off. It is up to the members and the adventure racing community to continue to give their support by taking opportunities to get involved and help IARA to develop and grow as a strong voice for the sport of adventure racing around the world.

Thank you all.

Cormac MacDonnell, interim Chairperson 2024

Annexure B

2024 Secretary / Admin Report

In our fledgling association, the administration load is fortunately low. Admin includes recording minutes of meetings and posting these on our website, as well as keeping track of country contacts.

We have a general email address - contact@internationaladventureracing.org - and this mailbox is monitored so that we can respond promptly to any enquiries.

- *Lisa de Speville, General Administration 2024*

Annxure C

2024 Finance Report

Provisional annual budget, looking at 2025 and into 2026 with likely expenses.

IARA Provisional Budget 2025-2026

Provisional annual bduget, work in progress, for IARA.

Income.	Income Amount (USD)	Expense Amount (USD)	Notes
National member fees	1500		estimate 15 countries at \$100
Individual member fees	1000		estimate 50 members at \$20
Donations	1255		Go Fund Me and similar
Grants	0		
Product sales (apparel etc)	0		under investigation
Corporate sponsorships.	0		possible corporate sponsorships
Other fund raising	22500		
TOTAL Income	26255		
Expenses			
Non profit entity , establishment fees.		500	One time only
Non profit entity annual fees		200 Annual	Fees Reporting costs.
Web site fixed costs		100 Annual	Domain names and hosting
Video conferencing (zoom)		235 Annual	Zoom
App subscriptions		200	Social media and promotion
Cloud storage		20 Annual	Google
Graphic design services		500	Currently donated
Web design and maintenance services		500	Currently donated
Web services costs		500	Storage, web apps
App		0	Future IARA app.
Accounting services		500	As needed
Legal services		0	As needed
Office expenses		500	Currently donated. Printing costs, mailing costs
Proffesional web design		2500	Dependant on Fundraising
Executive assistant		20000	Dependant on fundraising
TOTAL Expenses		26255	

- *Adrian Crane, Finance officer*

Annexure D

IARA Membership Report 2024

After the first draft of the Constitution and following the voting in of the Interim Committee in late 2023, it was clear that focusing on our membership base was a key mission for IARA for 2024.

A Membership Working Group was created. This group developed a draft Membership Statute document, an application procedure and validation process. These were tested by a few countries that had different levels of development of their structure and that of adventure racing in their countries. After testing, some improvements were made and in June 2024 countries were invited to apply to become members of IARA.

The Membership Working Group identified 12 countries with developed structures (national bodies), and made it their first priority to get these organisations on board.

By September 2024, the first group of countries were awarded Full Membership of IARA. These were Brazil, Denmark & Uruguay. Gradually more countries completed the validation process and Paraguay, Spain, Czech Republic, Netherlands, Ireland, France, USA and Canada also became members of IARA to make it a total of 10 full members.

The Membership Working Group also spoke to other countries and organisations that applied for Observer and Associate Membership. During these conversations, they discovered that the small country of Luxembourg ticked all the Membership Statute boxes for Full Membership, and therefore was also granted Full Membership to bring the total to 11 Full Members. Countries able to vote in IARA's first AGM are: Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Paraguay, Spain, and Uruguay.

USA and Finland are Provisional/Observer Members - they are in the validation process and are on their way to receive Full Membership. Five other countries are eligible for Observer status as they are in the process of developing their structures. In 2024, a number of other countries took their first steps towards forming representative national structures. We welcome their applications and we look forward to assisting them.

We also approved two Associate Members: AR World Series and Dirty Events. These organisations contribute greatly to the sport of adventure racing. Associate Members do not have voting rights.

During 2024, we were contacted by many other organisations applying to be Observers or Associate Members. The Membership Working Group will focus on these countries and organisations in 2025. The Membership Working group is also tasked with assisting countries to develop structures to become Full Members. We aim to have 15 Full Members and five to 10 Observer Members by the end of 2025.

For the Membership Working Group and IARA Committee, this has been an interesting learning process. We are still adapting as we learn about each country, their structures, communities, activities, and different needs in every country.

- *Alen Pujol, for the Membership Working Group 2024*

Annexure E

2024 Media & PR Report

The first step for 2024 was deciding on the name of our organisation, registering domains, setting up Facebook and Instagram profiles, and a website.

We then needed a logo and brand identity. American adventure racer Fletcher Hamel stepped in, creating the IARA logo, our brand identity and colour palette.

Websites are organic, and content develops according to the needs of the community. We post news items that are focused on IARA's activities, as well as minutes from our committee meetings. We list the Members and supporters of IARA, and we have a page on our membership process. We added a number of Resource pages, listing books on or related to adventure racing, podcasts, and adventure racing media websites.

We communicate both internally - to adventure racing country representatives, and externally, to adventure racing media, and other international organisations.

A big project in the second half of the year was communicating with members of World Pentathlon to get their support in removing 'adventure racing' from the definition of UIPM sports as proposed in a motion at their annual Congress in November 2024. This was successfully achieved.

Around this, we ran a petition for the adventure racing community to sign. We received an excellent response with 1297 adventure racers in 48 countries taking a stand and adding their voice.

Looking ahead to 2025, we will continue to develop our website and social media presence. We are looking forward to sharing more about adventure racing countries, their national associations, the adventure racing environment in those countries, and what various organisations and groups are doing with innovations in races and youth development.

- *Lisa de Speville, for the Media and PR Working Group*

Annexure F - Attendance Register

44 participants from 19 countries

Australia, Jan deVries-Leverton	Netherlands, Guido de Jong	Spain, Jorge Garcia
Australia, Kim Beckinsale	Netherlands, Marijn Edelenbosch	Spain, Jose M Rivas
Australia, Linda Davis	Netherlands, Nils Filius	Spain, Marta Armisen
Brazil, Thiago Bonini Bagnolesi	Netherlands, Ruurd Noordhuis	Spain, Paco Cobas
Brazil, Warley Costa	Norway, Lars Bukkhave	Spain, Pablo Lopez Franco
Canada, Wayne Leek	New Zealand, Michael Mitchell	UK, Damon de Boor
Croatia, Igor Dorotic	Paraguay, Felix Carvallo	UK, Ross Phillips
Czech Republic, Marek Navratil	Paraguay, Juan Portillo	Uruguay, Alen Pujol
Denmark, Johan Nielsen	South Africa, Danie Steyn	USA, Adrian Crane
France, Pascal Bahuaud	South Africa, Lisa de Speville	USA, Andrew McMichael
Ireland, Cormac MacDonnell	South Africa, Mark Goulding	USA, David Graetz
Ireland, Paul Mahon	South Africa, Robert Le Brun	USA, John Harris
Italy, Marco Colombo		USA, Kate White
Luxembourg, Leo Clement		USA, Mike Garrison
Luxembourg, Raoul Bourckel		AR World Series, Rob Howard
Luxembourg, Sonia		Imanol (?)