

MEETING MINUTES

IARA Steering Committee 2026

Date : Thursday, 16 April 2026 @ 19h00 GMT held on Zoom

Attendance

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| 1. Ross Philips, Chairperson (UK) | 5. Mike Garrison - General (USA) |
| 2. Lisa de Speville, Admin (South Africa) | 6. Jose Rivas - General (Spain) |
| 3. Alen Pujol, General-Membership (Uruguay) | 7. Cormac Mac Donnell, General - Projects (Ireland) |
| 4. Wayne Leek, Media & PR (Canada) | |

Apologies:

1. Conflict of Interest Declarations

No conflict of interest reported.

2. Minutes last meeting / review and adopt

- Minutes from March have been adopted.

3. General

- Lisa to follow-up on finalisation of Raid In France support letter.
- Lisa and Wayne to finalise Membership Guidance documents.

4. Junior AR World Champs

- Lisa met with Bastien at the end of March to review registered teams and countries. He was following up with those he had not heard from. Teams have been requested to confirm participation and pay registration fee.
- Cormac has sent an email to Heidi with the following enquiries:
 - i. Reallocation of IARA entries to additional teams from Canada, USA and France.
 - ii. Query about the child protection & safeguarding procedures for the event.
 - iii. Wayne's suggestion of the post-race, add-on AR camp concept.
- IARA will enquire about course validation ahead of the event in having two or three experienced course directors to review the maps to comment on level of difficulty (navigation, route choice, elevation, terrain, skill requirements). Difficulty standards of this event should be high to challenge the best junior teams in the world.

5. Membership

- Alen is in comms with Ecuador. They have many events and an active community but no structure. He is guiding and assisting them. He will meet with them again on Monday, 20 April.
- Alen has also reached out to Costa Rica, Italy and Estonia. Switzerland is progressing.
- UK should be making more formal moves around July.

6. Finance

- Mike has drafted a letter to Members about membership fees as a follow-up from the AGM where Members agreed in principle to membership fees to raise income for IARA's base expenses (company registration renewals, domains etc).
 - i. Observer members can be encouraged to contribute if they are able.
 - ii. Associate members are excluded from fees to maintain our independence from them.
- Committee to review.
- We encourage discussion and engagement with Members on this topic to refine our tiers.
- Two elements that we are conscious of that come into play with fee 'affordability'
 - i. Size and establishment duration of a national association
 - ii. Pricing parity between 1st and 3rd world countries

7. Tasks

- Adverts for volunteers were shared on our socials at the end of March.
- For now we are focused on:
 - i. Fundraising (membership fees)
 - ii. Event Calendar: Jose and Cormac to drive the first phase of the Calendar project through information gathering and scope definition and to report back at next meeting
 - iii. Membership
 - iv. Junior AR World Champs
- In June / July we can look at adding Safety and Resource Hub, which were our other two focus projects.

8. General

- We reached out to the international federations of related sports. We welcome contact from the International Orienteering Federation and look forward to dialogue with them around shared objectives as navigation sports. Lisa and Ross to meet with IOF to explore further their proposal to enter into a MoU and the benefits this arrangement could bring to IARA.

- **NEXT MEETING:** Thurs, 21 May 2026 at 19h00 GMT