



# **AUSTRALIAN OFF ROAD** **COMMISSION**

## **Minutes of meeting held at the CAMS National Office 851 Dandenong Rd, Malvern East Saturday 28 February 2004**

**PRESENT:** Messrs John Paterson (Chairman), Gordon Bailey, Ben Erceg, Daniel Rogers, Russell Innes, Marilyn Emmins, Adam Barnacoat, Campbell Andrea (Secretary), Adam Power (Minute Secretary).

<b>VISITORS:</b>	Les Siviour	Griffith AORC Event	1030 – 1430 hrs
	Jan Siviour	Griffith AORC Event	1030 – 1430 hrs
	Andy Ryan	Griffith AORC Event	1030 – 1430 hrs
	Shannon Irvin	Griffith AORC Event	1030 – 1430 hrs
	Murray Rogers	AORC Clerk of Course	1040 – 1430 hrs
	Rod Sams	Goondiwindi AORC Event	1040 – 1430 hrs
	Phil Hateley	Millicent AORC Event	1040 – 1430 hrs
	Morrie Williams	AORC Tech Commissioner	1040 – 1300 hrs

The meeting commenced at 0845hrs.

The AORC Organisers Forum was held between 1030 - 1430hrs

The meeting concluded at 1800hrs.

The chairman welcomed all to the meeting. Mr Paterson noted that there had been some changes to the structure of AORCom with Laurie Svenson resigning his position. Mr Svensons technical abilities and knowledge of regulations will be missed. Andrew Ryan has also stepped down from AORCom due to work commitments.

Mr Paterson introduced Marilyn Emmins and Adam Barnacoat as the new members of Australian Off Road Commission. It is envisaged that Mr Barnacoat will be in a position to better communicate with the NSW Off Road Panel. Mr Richard Bennett has also been appointed to the Commission with a view to increasing the technical knowledge of the Commission, however Mr Bennett was unable to attend the meeting.

Confederation of Australian Motor Sport Ltd

A.B.N 55 069 045 665

851 Dandenong Road, Malvern East, Victoria, 3145 PO Box 147, Caulfield East, Victoria, 3145

Telephone: 03 9593 7777 Facsimile: 03 9593 7700 [www.cams.com.au](http://www.cams.com.au)

International Tel: +61 3 9593 7777 International Fax: +61 3 9593 7700



Mr Paterson conveyed that although off roading has been quiet recently there have been two issues that required attention. Fuel has been discussed at length due to the amendment of Schedule G. This issue is almost at rest and the Commission will be informed of the outcome as soon as possible.

The other major issue is the allocation of the AORC Series Steward. AORCom had previously presented a recommendation to the National Stewards Committee for Andy Clark to perform the AORC Series Steward duties. Another recommendation had been put forth by the National Stewards Committee and appointed by the Board, but that person was unavailable for the role.

Another recommendation has been put to the Board and will be considered at their next meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> March.

## **1. OPENING**

### **1.1 Apologies**

Mr Richard Bennett.

### **1.2 Additional Agenda Items**

The following additional agenda items were accepted and included into the agenda:

- a) LED Dust Lights (item 5.4)
- b) Roof Reinforcement Diagram (item 5.5)

### **1.3 Reports**

#### **1.3.1 Board Members Report**

Mr Peter Marcovich expressed that the Chairman had already covered most of the off road issues discussed at Board level in his opening. However one further matter to inform the meeting of was that CAMS have just received the findings from the coroner of the 2001 Phillip Island Spencer Flack accident.

Surprisingly the Coroner had made his recommendations without hearing, and CAMS had not been invited to submit the report it had prepared.

#### **1.3.2 State Delegate Reports**

South Australia-

Mr Erceg reported that there were currently no outstanding issues in South Australia as the start of the season was the same weekend as the AORCom meeting.

Victoria –

Mrs Emmins also reported that there were no major issues to contend with at present.

Western Australia –

Mr Rogers also conveyed a lack of issues in WA at present, however the first round of the WA Championships and the first meeting of the WA Off Road Panel were coming up so there has not been a chance for any matters to be discussed.

Tasmania –

Mr Innes informed the Commission that he has moved and now resides in Queensland. Mr Innes is still able to report for Tasmania however the need for another Tasmanian delegate will need to be considered in the future.

The Tasmanian Off Road Panel were able to meet with Cara Tatnell chairing the meeting. It was noted that 3 of the top 5 competitors had ceased competing in Tasmania leading to a significant impact on the competition and perhaps the outlook of other competitors. It was suggested that there has been little interaction between off roading and other disciplines, and that this should be looked at in the future. It is also possible that the number of off road clubs given the number of competitors could be detrimental.

Queensland –

Mr Innes informed the meeting that although he has only been in Queensland for a short time he has been able to attend a state off road panel meeting.

There will be a 6 round drivers series to consist of 2 short course and 4 long course events. The panel are trying to arrange an event for both North Queensland and South Queensland competitors to attend.

New South Wales –

Nothing to report.

### **1.3.3 Finance Report**

Although Mr Adam Blythe (CAMS Finance Manager) was not able attend he provided the meeting with a detailed financial report. The report indicated that Off Road financial result was a slightly larger deficit in 2003 due to reasons such as a reduction in licences and also the fact that there had only been 4 rounds of the AORC in 2003.

Mr Paterson will be in Melbourne again next week and will attempt to meet with Mr Blythe in the view of discussing the financial report further as there was not enough time for the Commissioners to comprehend all the information presented.

### **1.3.4 Officials Report**

Due to recent training overseas Ms Phyl Stuckey was not in a position to provide a report in person however Mrs Emmins has recently been appointed to the National Officiating Committee.

Mrs Emmins expressed that the Committee had met during the week and the only issue concerning Off Road was the distribution of the e-module to AORCom. Only one response was received. Commissioners were requested to look at the document and provide feedback as soon as possible.

## **2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **2.1 Meeting of 25-26 October 2003**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25-26 October 2003 were adopted upon the amendment of a minor change presented by Mr Innes.

*OR1002 It was moved (Rogers/Innes) that:*

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2003 be adopted, subject to the following amendment:

“3.3 Timing

Mr ~~Barnan~~ Innes forwarded a recommendation.....”

*CARRIED (4/0/2)*

Mr Barnacoat and Mrs Emmins abstained due to absence at previous meeting.

### **2.2 Decisions between meetings**

There have been no decisions made between meetings.

## **2.3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **2.3.1 Officials Report** (Minute 1.3.4 of October 2003 meeting)

At the previous meeting AORCom requested that the National Officiating Committee discuss the situation concerning Trainee and Grade 4 officials' requirement for direct or indirect supervision.

The National Officiating Committee has since convened and discussed the issue. The committee came to the conclusion that for the purposes of manned road closures only, at rallies and off road events, a suitably briefed adult grade 4 or adult trainee official is qualified to work without supervision and may directly supervise a junior official at that road closure.

### **2.3.2 Technical Commissioners Report** (Minute 1.3.4)

During the Technical Commissioners report at the previous meeting it was moved that the Off Road Standing regulations be amended to further regulate the testing of noise. The Commission noted that this has been promulgated in Bulletin B04/009.

### **2.3.3 Off Road Logo** (Minute 2.3.1)

It was voted at the previous meeting that two of the proposed logos were appropriate and that they should be combined using elements of both designs. A draft copy of the final logo was sent to all Commissioners however only one response was received indicating a preference for the logo incorporating the buggy.

Due to his previous involvement in the project, Mr Svenson was consulted prior to the meeting and he noted that the logo would need to also cater for off road in general, rather than simply the AORC. A final draft of the logo was presented at the meeting.

*OR1003 It was moved (Innes/Bailey) that:*

The Off Road logo presented at the meeting be adopted as the new Off Road/AORC logo.

*Carried (6/0/0)*

An electronic copy of the logo will be made available as soon as possible.

**Action: CA/AP**

#### **2.3.4 Fuel Tanks** (Minute 2.3.2)

Mr Erceg conveyed that there had been no further interest in the recommendation concerning the mounting of fuel tanks in off road vehicles, therefore the matter requires no further discussion.

#### **2.3.5 Off Road Contacts** (Minute 2.3.3)

Mr Paterson has not been in a position to liaise with the current Off Road Contacts in the CAMS manual to determine if they wish to continue as such.

However it was discussed that AORCom members might be better suited as a first point of call in the manual. A list will be made of the classes that the Commissioners are able to contend with and if further contributors are required it will be discussed with potential constituents at the first round of the AORC in Mildura.

**Action: JP**

#### **2.3.6 Hall of Fame** (Minute 2.3.7)

The Off Road Hall of Fame plaques for the 2002 and 2003 recipients are currently being made and will be presented at the appropriate times throughout the year.

#### **2.3.7 Prologue Seeding** (Item 3.2)

It was noted that Article 4.2 Starting Order of the AORC Sporting Regulations has been amended to reflect the motion at the previous meeting relating to seeding. Refer CAMS Bulletin B04-006 AORC Sporting Regulations.

#### **2.3.8 Timing** (Minute 3.3)

At the previous meeting it was moved that Article 4.4 Timing of the AORC Sporting Regulations be modified to reduce the likelihood of competitor's times being classified as equal during events. It was noted that Bulletin B04-006 AORC Sporting Regulations has ratified the motion.

### **2.3.9 AORC Point Scores** (Minute 3.5)

After much debate prior to the last meeting it was agreed that the AORC point scores be amended to allocate championship points more evenly between sections, provide greater incentive for competitors to finish all sections of the event and to ensure attendance of competitors of the final round of the AORC. This has been promulgated in Bulletin B04-006, AORC Sporting Regulations.

### **2.3.10 AORC Event Starting Order** (Minute 3.6)

It was noted that the Pines Enduro event has been informed that AORCom provided dispensation to start the 2004 event in the same manner as the 2003.

### **2.3.11 Buggy Frames / Chromoly** (Minute 5.1)

It was moved at the October meeting that high carbon heat treated steel tubing such as chromoly be authorised in the construction of buggy frames. The motion was carried and has been confirmed in Bulletin B04/007.

### **2.3.12 Competition Fuel** (Minute 6.1)

The motion at the previous meeting to restrict the use of exotic fuels in Off Road has now been withdrawn. It is permitted to use fuels complying with the CAMS definitions of Commercial Fuels or Diesel Fuels (refer Schedule G & GR 27).

### **2.3.13 Introductory Level Off Road Drivers Licence** (Minute 6.3)

The recommendation to introduce an introductory level off road drivers' licence has been approved by the CAMS licensing working group and will be presented to the CAMS Board at its next meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March.

It was noted that assuming approval, Member Services have indicated that a 30 April introduction date is the earliest possible due to workload and skilled resources at the present time.

### **2.3.14 Class 5 Rules / Class 4** (Minute 6.5)

Mr Rogers reported that he has not been in a position to give the warranted time to this matter due to work commitments. However Mr Rogers has begun a draft set of Class 5 regulations but they will not be ready for another 6-8 weeks. Mr Rogers will distribute a first draft of the regulations prior to the first round of the AORC in May.

**Action: DR**

### **2.3.15 Recognition of Rally Qualifications** (Minute 6.6)

It was noted that the recommendation to recognise rally qualifications in Off Road has been accepted and referred to CAMS Member Services for implementation.

### **2.3.16 Class 6 (Minute 6.7)**

At the previous meeting Mr Bruce Waldron presented a detailed report regarding the replacement of the existing Class 6 regulations in an effort to increase its support and status. The Commission agreed with Mr Waldron's recommendation though there has subsequently been discussion on the matter on the off road web site.

As requested by the Commission, Mr Waldron has presented another recommendation that the restrictor plate size for Class 6 be 23mm, which is 415.47mm<sup>2</sup>. AORCom believed that in principle the restrictor plate recommendation was satisfactory however it was requested that a diagram be provided on the fitment of the restrictor plate due to the many possibilities that arose during the meeting.

Mr Erceg is to contact Mr Waldron in relation to such a diagram.

**Action: BE**

### **2.3.17 Section Seeding (Minute 6.9)**

AORCom moved at the last meeting to amend the AORC Sporting Regulations to allow vehicles that did not finish a section to be seeded for all remaining sections. This was to reduce the risk of collision whilst overtaking occurs with vehicles of different speed capabilities. This was promulgated in Bulletin B04/006. This issue was also presented and discussed during the AORC organisers Forum. Refer Item 3.5.

### **2.3.18 AORCom / AORC ID Tags (Minute 6.10)**

Mr Power to produce ID tags for AORCom and AORC Series personnel as presented at the meeting before the commencement of the AORC season.

### **2.3.19 AORRA – Class Structure of Pro Class (Minute 6.11)**

Mr Paterson reported that the implementation a Pro Class had not been followed up due to the disbanding of AORRA. No other interest/correspondence has been received.

## **3. AUSTRALIAN OFF ROAD CHAMPIONSHIP ORGANISERS FORUM**

The Chairman suspended standing orders for a forum which commenced at 10.30am. Mr Paterson welcomed all to the forum and notified everyone that Mr Antony Yoffa from the Finke Desert Race was an apology. All organiser attendees expressed their disappointment that there was no representative from the Finke Desert Race.

An agenda for the forum was agreed.

### **3.1 Event Spacing**

The most significant discussion of the meeting was the issue of event spacing. The consensus of the organisers present was that placing the foundation of the calendar at the June long weekend and then working either side was unsatisfactory. It was also agreed that six weeks between events was the optimum spacing and that five events per year was the preferred number.

Given this, those present offered a draft 2005 calendar that had six week gaps but it would mean the Finke Desert Race (or Sea Lake, or someone else) would need to apply for a date around the March/April (possibly Easter period) if they were interested in doing so. Having no representative from Alice Springs made overall debate on this proposal impossible. However, the four organisers believed that it should be seriously considered by AORCom. The calendar will be discussed towards the later part of the year.

It was also suggested that State Panels review the numbers of events that are being conducted as state championship rounds as some states are running excessive numbers of events which is making it difficult for competitors to attend while also committing to the AORC.

### **3.2 Event Differences**

There was discussion from the organisers about permitting differences between events. At present there are two dispensations in place, the first being the alternative starting order at Millicent that is sanctioned again this year and the Griffith reconnaissance only providing for registered vehicles. Approval to close the public road is still being negotiated but it is hoped the Griffith Council will ultimately oblige with continuing pressure from the organisers.

It was made very clear by the Commission that there is only one set of Sporting Regulations, however where anomalies existed, dispensations could be sanctioned as appropriate.

### **3.4 Event Formats**

It was presented that AORC organisers might wish to incorporate short course sections to increase spectator involvement. Griffith is hoping to present a four section event this year with one section being short course on the Saturday night under lights. It was agreed that AORC events could, in future, incorporate short course style competition as part of their event whilst the emphasis on long course would always be paramount. Formats would need to be presented to AORCom for their approval when submitting applications.

*OR1004 It was moved (Erceg/Emmins) that:*

*Article 4.1 General of the AORC Sporting Regulations be amended as follows:*

“4.1 General: All rounds will be long course Off Road events, as defined by CAMS. ~~The minimum length of each event shall be 250km, save for cases of force majeure CAMS may give recognition to event in which the total length has been reduced to a lesser distance~~ **In determining the structure of the Australian Off Road Championship, the Australian Off Road Commission will consider applications from organisers/promoters to conduct a round. Such applications shall incorporate a description of the planned event.”**

*CARRIED (6/0/0)*

**Action: CA/AP**

### **3.5 Seeding & Regrouping**

It was requested that AORCom consider allowing faster competitors who have had trouble during a section and finished well back in the competition to be seeded for the next section. This was discussed at length however no changes to the existing regulations were moved.

It was also noted that Article 4.12 of the AORC Sporting Regulations can be interpreted as the organisers having the right to reject an application for seeding upon the DNF of a section by a competitor. It was later discussed during the AORCom meeting and the following was concluded:

*OR1005 It was moved (Emmins/Barnacoat) that:*

Article 4.12 of the AORC Sporting Regulations be amended to read as follows:

4.12 Starting position after failing to finish a section: Competitors failing to finish a section ~~may~~ **shall** be seeded upon application. Seeding will be.....”

*Carried (6/0/0)*

**Action: CA/AP**

### **3.6 Prologue Seeding**

The organisers questioned the recent change to implement seeding for Prologue. It was expressed that it may be difficult to source information regarding unknown competitors.

It was resolved that the importance of seeding Prologue outweighed the difficulties and it was agreed to share the AORC seeding data with all organisers.

### **3.7 Event Evaluations**

Some organisers claimed they had not received copies of their event evaluations.

It was agreed that all organisers should receive their evaluation report and in addition, every event will now receive copies of all AORC events in the season.

**Action: CA/AP**

### **3.8 Combined Events**

It was agreed that where possible AORC and state events should continue to be combined. With national events and state events sometimes competing for the same entrants this is seen as beneficial to both parties and commissioners are hereby requested to liaise with state panels as appropriate.

**Action: AORCom**

### **3.9 Course Security**

It was highlighted that spectator control at events must remain very high priority. Factors relating to risk management, duty of care and litigation were discussed at length. Comparisons were drawn between what happens at rallies vs off road events. Rallies provide formalised spectator areas at off road events where security is an issue may reduce the risk of unmanaged or disorderly people being injured.

Organisers are encouraged to look at this issue. Copies of the rally spectator guidelines are available from state offices.

### **3.10 Official Accreditation**

The deadline for having officials accredited is June 2005 and it appeared all those present were on track to achieve this.

The issue of road closure officials has also been discussed by the National Officiating Committee, refer item 2.3.1.

### **3.11 Event Advertising**

It was noted to the Commission that the Finke Desert Race has been advertising its event in the Auto Action magazine with no mention of it being a round of the Australian Championship. The AORC Sporting Regulations state that any promotional material must include the full title of the Australian Off Road Championships. The Off Road Manager is to write to the organisers and advise them of this regulation.

**Action: CA**

### **3.12 Vehicle Eligibility**

It was noted to the Commission that the modification made to the Class 2 classification in Bulletin B03-043 required the adjustment in Class 1 also. Class 1 currently reads "Buggies over 1600cc and up to 6000cc" however the article should read "Buggies over **1650cc** and up to 6000cc". The meeting **resolved** that this should be amended by Bulletin.

**Action: CA/AP**

Mr Paterson concluded the forum at that point having covered all of the agenda items.

Those present believed the forum was very beneficial and should be conducted each year.

#### **4. OFF ROAD CODE**

No items were presented.

#### **5. OFF ROAD VEHICLES**

##### **5.1 Class 6 Restrictor Plate**

Refer Item 2.3.14

##### **5.2 Crotch Straps**

Mr Bailey requested that the fitment of crotch straps be clarified as some competitors had been instructed differently by scrutineers and technical advisors on how they should be fitted.

It was apparent that some competitors had installed their harnesses over the front cushion of their seat, which in the majority of cases would not comply with the CAMS regulation. The FIA rule that outlines the procedure in which crotch straps are to be fitted was tabled.

It was noted that it was possible that some competitors may have received incorrect advice in relation to the fitment of belts.

The Commission noted that the fitment of crotch straps should not deviate from the existing regulations which are detailed in Schedule I.

##### **5.3 Class 4 & 8 Frames / Roll Over Protection**

Mr Andrea presented a recommendation that a working group be established to develop an appropriate set of frame regulations for Class 4 & 8.

The regulations governing rollover protection for Class 4 and Class 8 both rely on Schedule J of the CAMS Manual of Motor Sport. Schedule J is written mostly around full body vehicles, however both Class 4 & 8 allow for full space frame construction cars.

It becomes difficult with a space frame to determine what part of the frame constitutes the ROPS and what constitutes frame. In addition, many cars incorporate bars which are not permitted under Schedule J, such as the windscreen (or 'Larry') bar. Cars incorporating such bars are presently in contravention of the written rule.

It was recommended that the best approach would be something more along the lines of the requirements for off road buggies. This is for two reasons:

1. It does not dilute the requirements of Schedule J, thus doesn't create precedents and individual arrangements for other categories for which Schedule J is appropriate.

2. It sets a minimum standard for the construction of the frame. While the construction of most cars would be acceptable, it is possible that cars may be built which include bars of insufficient strength.

AORCom agreed that a revision was in order and that (in principle) a single diagram should cover all off road vehicles with 'space-frame construction'.

A working group will be established to undertake the work.

#### **5.4 LED Dust Lights**

The Queensland Scrutineering Advisory panel and the Queensland State Council presented a recommendation that LED dust lights be made compulsory for all Off Road vehicles.

AORCom noted that this item had been discussed at the previous meeting and although the cost of LED lights is reducing the Commission does not wish to impose further expenses on competitors at present. Further information of the costs and availability of the lights would be of interest however.

It was also noted that many competitors still wish to use bayonet style dust lights as it is a common belief the LED lights cannot be seen from an angle.

#### **5.5 Roof reinforcement Diagram**

It was conveyed to the meeting by Mr Power that a misprint had been recognized and reported to CAMS by Mr Laurie Penpraze. The "Compulsory reinforcement for Buggies with roof spans of 700mm or greater" diagram on Page 12-17 of the CAMS manual states:

"Dimension X – max 300mm  
Dimension Y – max 250mm  
Dimension Z – max 300mm"

It was noted that it should state "min" after Dimension Z. AORCom **RESOLVED** that this should be amended by issuing a CAMS Bulletin.

**Action: AP**

### **6. GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **6.1 Licence Maintenance**

Mr Barnacoat recommended that the Maintenance condition for 03 and 03N Off Road licences be amended to read 'Compete in at least one Off Road event during the previous five years.'

The pass book is to be signed by senior official' to ensure that if a driver or navigator does not renew their licence for reasons such as taking a sabbatical, building a new vehicle, is pregnant or has work related obligations they do not need to conduct an observed licence test to regain their licence for an appropriate time frame.

The Commission agreed that the 2 year limit should be expanded however it was noted that 5 years did not align with timeframes set for prerequisites for other disciplines, whereas four years did.

*OR1006 It was moved (Barnacoat/Emmins) that:*

The CAMS Licensing Working Group consider the amending Article 10 of the Licences section of the CAMS manual as follows:

“Compete in at least one Off Road event during the previous ~~two~~ **four** years. Pass book to be signed by senior official”

*Carried (6/0/0)*

**Action: CA**

The matter will be referred to the Competition Licences Working Group.

## **7. CLOSE**

### **7.1 Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next AORCom meeting will be 6-7 November 2004