



13 - 14 March 1993

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Minutes of ARC Scoring Sub-committee meeting held 21 December 1992 at the Cuthbert residence

Present: Glenn Cuthbert, Gary Hodgskiss, John Brann, Roger Baker, Howard Small, Peter Holt

Apologies: Ken Cusack

1. **Availability of results.** The standard we are aiming for is:
 - a) Scores to be at headquarters within 5 minutes, available to media within 10 minutes.
 - b) To have the ability to have the scores available at Marysville, Healesville town, and the mobile home. Scores to be transmitted to these locations via fax. The standard of presentation is to be laser printers only.
2. **Collection of data.** Wicen have available approximately 15 laptops connected to a packet radio network. Laptops will only be needed at the flying finish. If a competitor is late at the end of the stage, a voice message to that effect will be sent to headquarters. If the packet radio system fails, scores can be sent over the voice network.
3. **Processing of data at Headquarters.** PC network nodes are required for reception of laptop data, manual updating, faxing out, and media. 4 minimum but 6 would be nice. Multi-user software is required.
4. **Scoring software.** Ken Cusack's program does not work on PC's at the moment, and he will be unable to fix it in time for the event. He has spoken to a professional programmer by the name of Lionel Lauer who has offered to re-write the program in Visual Basic under Windows for \$1500. Ken's specification to Lionel did not include electronic input. With Ken absent it was not known if the re-written program was going to be multi-user. The Committee thinks that a re-write even by a professional is a massive task. It was thought that it would be unlikely that the program would be written, tested, de-bugged, changed, tested, and finally working in time for the rally. Other questions were: Will Lionel leave us in the lurch if he gets a proper contract? Will he want more money if it becomes very hard? Several options were canvassed: a) \$1500 at the end when the program works, i.e. money until the program works. b) The program would have to be tested against another independent program to ensure accuracy. c) A backup program would be required in case the new program failed. Gary's program would suit for this purpose. Concerns were raised about who would own the software, Lionel Lauer, Victorian Rally Services, or Ken Cusack. Lionel and Ken would always own the intellectual rights because of their contributions, but the right-of-use would probably remain with whoever paid the money. The Committee thought that if Ken wanted to use the program for his own purposes later on then he should pay \$1500 and VRS could pay a licence fee.

The Committee decided the following points were relevant:

- a) Money is very short
- b) It is risky to assume that Ken's program can be successfully re-written in the time-frame
- c) To have a media set-up of the standard we require, Ken's existing Commodore program is not suitable.
- d) We need to stick to what we know.
- e) Gary's program works and it runs on PC's. A pseudo multi-user program can be concocted by regular downloads to the network.

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Melbourne Motorsport • Rod Marks Computers • Hilton on the Park

Recommendations:

- a) In the absence of further information from Ken, that Lionel not be proceeded with. Gary to speak to Ken.
- b) That Gary's program be modified to accept packet radio input and to download files on a regular basis to a network.
- c) The matter be referred to the Executive Committee for a final decision.

5. **Complexity of system.** The Committee sees 3 risks with using a fully integrated packet radio/PC network setup:

- (i) scoring software failing - brand new, likely to have bugs
- (ii) packet radio system failing
- (iii) integration between 2 systems.

Glenn reiterated that no matter what, the scoring must work. It was agreed that any system must be capable of accepting keyboard input from voice messages.

6. **Radios.** We have a problem with radio repeaters. Due to the terrain, many repeaters will be needed. If a full network is required for Logistics, Scoring, SOS, and Safety, we will not have enough repeaters. The scoring uses a packet system which can repeat itself. The Logistics has priority for repeaters. The SOS may not need repeaters because there is not really a need to have the location of every car relayed back to headquarters. We can set up a local network on every stage. The stage commander will have access to two radios, logistics & SOS. The SOS operators will only be able to communicate on their own stage. We need to also have a full network for Safety, and if we do we will run out of repeaters. John has given Roger a map of the route, and Roger will try and determine how many repeaters will be needed.

7. **Personnel requirements.**

- a) Flying Finish Stop. 2 rally people - 1 to fill out a proforma, the other to take the proforma to the radio person. 1 radio person with laptop and packet radio at Finish Stop Point (300 m after flying finish). Wicen have 15 people available for this task. Almost without exception the computer and packet radio will be the personal property of the operator which will ensure familiarity with the equipment.
- b) Headquarters. A radio person will monitor the packet radio input. A principal scorer, 2 assistants, 1 media monitor (not Suzi or Margaret).
- c) Other places. We need one or more persons whose sole duty it will be to collect control cards. Logistics to be sorted out later. 2 people will be required at each in-field results centre (Marysville, Healesville, Motor Home). Probably 6 six people. We also need to deliver results to spectator points for the commentators. Maybe motorbike riders could be used. A person will be needed to handle the results at each spectator point.

8. **Equipment.** The Committee will need to compile a complete list of hardware that will be needed.

Next meeting 27 January 1993 at Gary Hodgskiss' house, address 21 Blair Court, Warranwood.