



**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**  
YMCA Sailing Club, Yarralumla Bay  
Wednesday 18 March 2015 at 6.30pm

**Present:** D. Bagnall (Chair), N. Hunter, V. McMahon, P. Davoren, C. Bowyer, V. Newman, A. Butorac, J. Williams, M. Cusack (Executive Officer),

**Apologies:** P. Marshall

**Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2015 were read and confirmed, subject to an amendment recording the Board's decision to relocate the boat race officials' boat *Brindabella* in the ACTAS compound at Yarralumla.

**Matters Arising:** V. Newman reported on options and costs for polo shirts. The Board confirmed that RACT polo shirts are required. V. Newman to circulate arrangements for purchase of a suitable garment.

**President's Report:** ACTAS - The appointment of A. Randell as coach of the Australian Women's VIII has implications for resourcing and staffing of the ACTAS rowing unit and highlights the need for an additional RA funded staff member. Senior Rowing Australia staff say that costs (such as the vehicle) for the Head Coach position currently met by RA make it difficult to justify an additional position. RACT's position is that ACT, like other states, should have two paid positions (Head Coach and TID Coach). The Head Coach's position is already a part-time job because of the significant United States component of his work. Additional tasks such as national coaching duties add to the staffing difficulties faced by the rowing unit. The Board agreed to continue representations for a more equitable approach to support from RA. ACTAS talent search and talent transfer programs are going well. Use of Coach Boats – Water Police have recently found a school coach operating a power boat without a licence. Clubs need to ensure all coaches are licensed to ensure that more onerous conditions are not placed on boat users. There have been complaints in the Lake User's group about coach boats washing off kayakers. Adherence to effective boat lighting needs much closer attention by clubs and active involvement of club safety officers in line with RA safety guidelines.

**Director of Finance Report:** A formal report has not been circulated due to the DOF's commitment to preparation of full year accounts. Board noted the growth in seat fees for the season and championship regatta compared to 2013-14. Jubilee Medals – Board agreed that medal sets be provided to member clubs and the interstate clubs that regularly support ACT regattas. The Board agreed that rowers who register for the first time in order to

participate in the ACT Championship regatta be exempted from payment of a registration fee.

**By Laws:** The Board approved the By-laws on an interim basis so as to allow further consultation with members. It was agreed that any minor remaining issues could be dealt with by email and issued ahead of the next Board meeting.

**Executive Officer Report:** EO reported the successful administration of recent regattas. The Weston Park venue continues to be well received as has the live results service, thanks to assistance from Stephen Croot. Digital streaming of regatta commentary has proved popular and sets the scene for video streaming. Compact PA system for starting platforms has proved successful. Interest in the ANU Sprint Regatta is being canvassed. Board noted arrangements for the Head of the Lake regatta on 21 March 2015.

**Strategic Plan:** Arrangements have been firmed up for the meeting facilitated by Brendan Lynch to develop the strategic plan. Senior RA staff (O'Brien and Fernandez) and A. Randell (ACTAS Head Coach) will be present.

**Pontoon Update:** This project is proceeding as planned. Agreement has been secured for clearance of weedy vegetation around attachment sites. Attachments and associated works are likely to cost around \$30,000. The Board considered funding options including a disability sports grant, considering the difficulty current boating arrangements present for disabled athletes. Funding by a special circumstances grant might be considered by the ACT Government seeing that the need for funds has arisen outside the normal grant cycle.

**Risk Management:** Meeting considered an incident where a sculler was hit by a boat rowing against the agreed traffic flow near Scrivener Dam. Board agreed that this incident arose because of inadequate club briefing of members on agreed traffic flows. Board agreed to placement of buoys to separate traffic flows in this area subject to agreement of other lake users. These should be soft round buoys rather than tall hard buoys which present an additional hazard of capsize and equipment damage.

**State Teams:** D. Bagnall reported on selection and preparation of State crews for the Australian and Masters Rowing Championships. Women's VIII has not been resolved because of the failure of some candidates to complete an ergometer test.

**Other Business:** Regatta Subcommittee - Board discussed the operation of the RSC and the benefits from specifying its role in the By Laws. Board noted that attention needs to be given to allowing sufficient time (at least 1 hour) between heats and finals. Winter Time Trials – Board agree that that the WTTs be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of the month, except the last event in September that would be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend.

**Meeting Closed:** 8.20 pm

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Chairman  
15 April 2015