



MINUTES COMMITTEE MEETING
ACT Sports House
Wednesday 4 January 2012 at 6.30pm.

Present: D. Bagnall (Chair), P. Davoren, V. Newman, N. Hunter. D. Gwynne-Jones, B. Burbidge, V. McMahon, A. Butorac, J. Hammond, S Cook (Administrative Officer)

Minutes: Minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2011 were read and confirmed.

Matters Arising: UK Team Visit 2013 – D. Bagnall advised he would be seeking a meeting with Minister Barr to emphasise the status of LBG as a world class rowing training venue worthy of further investment. Weston Park D. Bagnall and J. Hammond attended a meeting with ACT officials concerning recreational facilities in Weston Park. Options were discussed for reducing conflicts between bicycle use and boat access to the shoreline from racking sites. ACT officials were made aware of the problems at the course finish area when the bicycle path was constructed through an established regatta spectator area with no regard to moving boats across the path. Water Safety – V. Newman will email safety documents discussed at the December meeting. Correspondence with ACT Health on Lake Water Quality – Response received that current water quality guidelines are completely acceptable.

New occupational health and safety legislation: The Work Health and Safety Act and Work Health and Safety Regulations which came into effect on 1 January 2012 in all Australian jurisdictions impose additional responsibilities for worker health and safety on workplace managers. A. Butorac informed the meeting of his understanding of the implications for RACT and affiliated clubs. It was noted that Rowing Australia will be seeking formal legal advice on the implications of the new law for rowing organisations.

Treasurer's Report: RACT currently has around \$122,000 cash in the bank. There is \$17,700 in accounts receivable of which just under 15% or \$2,600 has been owed for over 6 months. This rises to about \$3,000 once some overpayments are taken into account. The bulk of this relates to 2010 and 2011 Youth Cups and it is doubtful whether all the money can be recovered. Some \$400 is owed with a further \$3,300 grant money to be distributed in respect of 2011 Youth Cup participants. AO has circulated draft lists from Rowing Manager for Registration Fees to Clubs. The Treasurer has requested numbers for the RACT affiliation fees. He expects most invoicing to be completed by the end of January. Debit cards are in the process of being issued to people who regularly undertake purchases on behalf of RACT. I have asked the following protocols to be observed:

- use to be restricted to circumstances where cash would otherwise have been required e.g. petrol purchases;
- Cards are not be used where RACT can be invoiced;
- Receipts are retained and promptly submitted.

MYOB is now balanced to the auditor's figures for the first time in several years. This is a significant step and should be maintained. However, to ensure that the accounting system

remains in balance, accounting costs will remain elevated, although we are no longer paying for a financial officer.

Super and BAS statements are up to date but the Treasurer will need to double check past BAS statements. The ATO could follow up on the late payment of superannuation and has issued a warning over the late return of the PAYG withholding payment summary annual report. They have agreed to desist from legal action until 15 February but we still are potentially liable to be fined. The report was received and the Committee expressed its appreciation for the Treasurer's perseverance in resolving the long standing issue of balancing the Association's account.

Pontoon Grant: In view of the potential use of the grant funds sought for a major launching pontoon on Yarramundi Reach to help alleviate hardship arising from reduced lake levels, SRACT provided advance notice that our grant application was successful. The purpose of this grant was to provide a launching facility in Weston Park for the Masters Rowing Championship events to be held on Yarramundi Reach in 2013.

The meeting considered the type of pontoon that would best suit this requirement. It was considered one pontoon would be inadequate considering four were in regular use at the Championships in June 2011. It was agreed that purchase of three pontoons in addition to the NCA pontoon would best suit RACT's needs. It was further agreed that the *Connect a Dock* pontoon be purchased in view of its established suitability as a rowing pontoon. The cost of three units including freight is estimated at \$60,000. The Treasurer confirmed funds were available for this project. The pontoons will be ordered promptly so that they can form part of the response to lowered Lake levels.

Response to Lowered Lake Levels: AO and committee members have had two meetings to advise the NCA of the issues raised by the lowering of Lake levels and discuss possible responses. NCA has moved the pontoon from the course finish line to Sullivan's Creek to enable ANUBC to resume operation from its boatshed. It has also completed minor works to improve lake access for boats at Radford College RC, CCEGGS RC and Black Mountain/Daramalan RC. The authority will do the site preparation works to enable pontoons to be installed at Capital Lakes RC, where access is extremely difficult, and at CGS RC and Canberra RC, where Lake access is significantly impeded by the wall around western Yarralumla Bay.

Meeting agreed that temporary use of the pontoons is to assist clubs with difficulty in accessing the water following lowering of the Lake, rather than to upgrade existing launching facilities. A further consideration is the need to facilitate Lake access for significant winter rowing programs.

Regatta Communication Equipment Grant: AO is progressing and has obtained prices for the equipment which can be accommodated within the project budget of \$6,000.

Development Squad Update: Meeting noted the presentation by S. Cook on this project to retain rowers completing Year 12 in ACT rowing clubs in order to strengthen the clubs and representative crews.

Meeting Closed: 8.10 pm

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Chairman
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