

RA Masters Commission – Minutes

Monday 14th April 2014, 6.00pm AEST

Attendees: John Whiting, David Eichler, Mark Mussared, Fenton Jones, Nikki McAllen, Alan Nicol, John Allen, Cameron Allen

Apologies: Susan Linacre

N/A: Charles Lloyd-Jones

1. John Whiting welcomed all to the meeting, and especially new member John Allen from Dragon's Rowing Club in Brisbane.

2. **Australian Masters Championships Update**
 - a. David noted that the venue looked very good and all was progressing very well in that regard. The start pontoon was in place and just start tower to be moved. Looking to have venue fully set up and running by COB on Tuesday 29th April.
 - b. An electrical contractor had been engaged, and part of the brief was to ensure emergency power was available for timing and finish systems to ensure no loss of productivity should there be a power outage. Mark and David liaising with electrician.
 - c. It was noted that entries were strong and David was pleasantly surprised at the level that had been reached.
 - d. John W noted that there had been further issues surrounding some older Masters categories, specifically the MK4x. Mark to follow up on this with Chris G. *Note: fixed with the release of the provisional race schedule.*
 - e. Mark confirmed the process for the race schedule once entries closed, being the provisional race schedule released late Tuesday/early Wednesday, the Withdrawal Without Penalty period ending Thursday night, then the updated race schedule being released after Easter.

3. **Australian Masters Championships – Principles and Standards/Order of Events Review**
 - a. Alan requested additional comments surrounding the order of events principles that had been sent to the group, and noted that it was strongly taken from the Chris Grummitt principles. Nikki followed this with an urgent request for comment on the event standards document.
 - b. It was noted that some of the order of events principles link in with the event standards.
 - c. It suggested that a meeting be held on Wednesday 30th April in Adelaide from 3.00pm to 5.00pm to discuss both order of events and event standards. Suggested attendees pending availability included John W, Alan, Susan, Fenton, Nikki, Cameron and external experts such as Jim Lowe, Chris Grummitt and Bob Alexander depending on availability. Cameron to arrange a suitable space for the meeting.

4. Interstate Masters Events

- a. Current debate in Victoria surrounding the allowance of C crews in Interstate Masters events and whether this should be encouraged in larger states, which leads to discussion about future direction – whether a handicapped race or single age race was more desirable.
- b. The general feeling from the group for future direction was that a single age category was desirable, with the flexibility for a state in extreme situations to enter a C or E crew with relevant handicaps through application to the Masters Commission.

5. Masters Commission Bulletin

- a. John W confirmed the intention to release a bulletin electronically and in hard copy at the AMRC from the Masters Commission. Topics for the Bulletin were discussed to include:
 - i. Order of events principles when confirmed
 - ii. Event standards principles when confirmed
 - iii. Interstate Masters events principles as discussed earlier in teleconference
- b. It was proposed that the Bulletin be released during the AMRC, with feedback being taken until late June prior to an actual order of events being put together.

6. Other Business

- a. John W noted that the 'fastest club crew' medal had been very well received in Melbourne, and mentioned that the additional suggestion had been put forward to include in the racing program a separate Men's and Women's Club (non-composite) Eight event into the program, of any age category and handicapped as such. It was suggested that this idea be included in the Bulletin.
- b. John W proposed that the Masters Commission catch-up together at the AMRC on the Saturday evening to watch the Interstate races together (asides from those members competing in the Interstate events!).

7. Next meeting – 19/05/2014

8. Close of meeting – 6.40pm