

## RA Masters Commission – Minutes

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014, 6.00pm AEST

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

**Apologies:** N/A

1. John Whiting welcomed all to the meeting.
2. **Australian Masters Championships Review**
  - a. David reported that the event had received a lot of great positive feedback overall from the rowing community. He gave special thanks to Events SA for their support of the event and use of their large marquee. The Commission widely noted that it was a very successful and enjoyable event.
  - b. Alan queried whether it should be noted that the change of time of the Interstate races was a success. Mark commented that in his experience the atmosphere and feeling around the venue was better than for other AMRC's during the Interstate races, and David noted it was great that a lot of people stayed for a drink and socialising for the presentation, if not a massive amount for the dinner. Susan reported she had a couple of comments in the ACT that it should remain at lunch time, but not enough to change back.
  - c. Susan noted that it was felt by some that the policing of trailer loading and boat racking could have been stronger, and that there was an issue of some people slipping on submerged sandbags on the beach, which David said was noted generally at the venue.
  - d. John A also noted that it would have been ideal to have a secure trailer parking location for the Sunday night as many trailers did not leave until the next morning.
  - e. Overall the event was voted a large success! David commented that the weather in Adelaide has been perfect since the regatta, which shows Murphy's Law is alive and well!
3. **Australian Masters Championships – Cancellation of Races Policy**
  - a. All agreed that it was unpopular throughout the Masters community that Mixed events where automatically the first cancelled if races needed to be cancelled due to poor weather, and that the policy needed to be changed. Nikki proposed that whatever the decision is it should become part of the event standards, which was agreed.
  - b. It was proposed that Mixed events be made championship events to avoid this issue. It was noted that this would create a lot of additional issues including less medals being awarded to crews, and a large amount of additional races into the program which would not fit given current entry numbers.

- c. Mark proposed that small boats should be cancelled first if required regardless of mixed or otherwise, as this would affect a less amount of people than if big boats are cancelled. This was generally agreed to, however it was noted that this would affect Champion of Champions if singles races are cancelled.
- d. Susan commented that it was undesirable that any event be cancelled ahead of others, and that events affected by the weather should be the ones cancelled rather than others not affected; and that any event that is automatically cancelled ahead of others should be charged a lesser seat fee.
- e. It was also generally agreed to that the Referee should always consider racing boat categories that may be able to handle conditions even if other events are cancelled, to keep the regatta going in that regard.
- f. It was agreed that John W and Cam would put together a draft proposal to put to Rowing Australia event staff.

#### **4. Australian Masters Championships medal tally**

- a. John W commented that currently the club medal tally published on Regatta Central included medals for composite crews ie. a medal awarded to each club that is involved in the crew; and that this is misleading when noting the performance of a club at the regatta.
- b. Mark commented that it would be good to have a composite and non-composite medal tally, to ensure smaller clubs that may not be able to fill crews without compositing are still recognised.
- c. Susan added that medal counts including composite crews should take count of the proportion of the crew from each club eg. an eight with 7 rowers and a coxswain from one club and 1 rower from another club should add a count of 8 to the first club and 1 to the second, or 8/9<sup>th</sup>'s to the first and 1/9<sup>th</sup> to the second.
- d. It was agreed John W would continue to liaise with Regatta Central to find a suitable solution for the AMRC.

#### **5. Tasks for following months**

- a. John W expressed desire to have the order of events and standards documents finalised by October/November, including collating and reviewing feedback on the Bulletin documents, and then finalising order of events and standards. Until feedback closes at the end of June not too much to action.

**6. Other Business**

- a. Mark made a suggestion that could be thought about for the future – to reduce costs for Organising Committees it may be worth looking at running the AMRC straight after the Australian Rowing Championships at the same venue.
- b. John W formally thanked David Eichler for his excellent service and contribution to the Masters Commission over the past 12 months as representative of the AMRC OC.  
Cam to advise when NSW appoint an OC and subsequently the OC's representative to the Masters Commission.

**7. Next meeting – Proposed 7<sup>th</sup> July**

**8. Close of meeting – 6.51pm**