

RA Masters Commission – Minutes

Monday 7th July 2014, 6.00pm AEST

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

Apologies: John Allen

1. John Whiting welcomed all to the meeting.
2. **Masters Commission May Bulletin Feedback**
 - a. Interstate Masters Races proposal – it was noted that of all points raised in the Bulletin, this received the most mixed feedback, with strong positive and negative feedback. Cameron was requested to approach State offices for feedback from there.
 - b. Champion Club Eights event proposal – the feedback was generally very positive with no negative comments, and following the positive reception of the ‘fastest club medal’ in Adelaide it was resolved to propose this additional event for the 2015 AMRC. It was noted that with the Interstate races being on Saturday and the Champion of Champions being on Sunday it would be best held on the Friday of the regatta.
 - c. Following from the Club Eights proposal it was recommended that the ‘fastest club crew’ medals be extended to include pairs and doubles.
 - d. There was a range of discussion regarding comments against the progression of only the first two place getters in a heat to the Final or Semi-final which potentially creates unfairness in non-seeded heats. It was proposed that seeding based on results from the previous year’s AMRC take place only in singles events that have a progression of only the first two place getters.
 - e. It was noted that there was a strong feeling that the seat fee for AMRC was too high. It was generally noted that the seat fee was justified given the costs associated with running the AMRC, however it was highly desirable to be able to publish the major cost drivers for the event including fixed and variable costs per venue. It was also noted that it should be shown that if seat fees are reduced for a certain competitor group within the regatta, the fee for other groups would then have to rise accordingly; similarly if refunds are given cancelled events seat fees would rise to cover additional event insurance. Cameron to work on a document based on earlier 2013 work.
 - f. Generally it was noted that the feedback on the Order of Events principles was positive. Discussion was held surrounding the timing of the Interstate races, and it was felt that the positive feedback outweighed any negatives and it was resolved to support it remaining at the end of the program on Saturday. It was noted that there was a high level of importance given to heats and finals of an event being run on the same day. An additional principle of ensuring boat classes were suitably spaced was proposed, with the note that given the existing principles this should generally occur in any case.

- g. The proposal of North Shore RC to implement a State-based overall point score trophy for the AMRC was discussed, and felt that it was hard to justify given the population disparity between states.

3. Australian Masters Rowing Championships – Cancellation of Races Policy

- a. Following email conversation around proposed wording of a race cancellation policy for the AMRC, the Masters Commission confirmed its view that while seat fees should not be refunded for cancelled events, all events including Mixed should be treated equally in regards to cancellation. The intention would then be that should there be a need to cancel races, the events affected directly should be first cancelled rather than automatically cancelling Mixed.

4. General Business

- a. Cameron reported that the RA Events staff had recently travelled to QLD to inspect three potential venues for the 2016 AMRC, and once a preferred venue had been confirmed with Rowing QLD it would be referred to the Masters Commission for endorsement before going to the RA Board for approval.

5. Next meeting – 11th August

6. Close of meeting – 6.55pm