



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

YMCA Sailing Club, Yarralumla Bay
Wednesday 20 April 2016 at 6.30pm

Present: D. Bagnall (Chair), V. McMahon, P. Davoren, J. Williams C. Bowyer, A. Chinn R. Curtin, M. Cusack (Executive Officer).

Apologies: P. Marshall, N. Hunter.

The Chairman introduced Mr Barnaby Eaton (National Talent Pathway Manager, Rowing Australia) and Ms Angela Ryder (consultant to Rowing Australia on the post Rio high performance plan) who outlined their roles. Mr Eaton said that the driver of his role was the declining success of Australian rowing since the Athens Olympics. This demanded a changed approach to preparing representative crews. In a new strategy, Rowing Australia will establish two centres of excellence, one for men at Yarralumla and another for women at a venue to be determined. These facilities will be underpinned by State/ACT pathways programs. RA is looking for States/ACT to consider the best way of structuring their program and fund aspects of it. Mr Eaton said RA would continue to contribute to the ACTAS but wants ACT to maximise opportunities presented by this centre. RA will initiate a school draft regatta for Under 19 rowers to provide a clearer pathway for school rowers to continue in the sport. Mr Eaton acknowledged the high level of ACT representation in the 2016 Australian rowing team and prospects for further success. He emphasised the need for RACT and ACTAS to work more closely to identify and progress opportunities for ACT school and club rowers to have a go at international representation. This will require commitment of additional resources. The Chairman welcomed Mr Eaton's assurances of support for the ACTAS rowing unit. As a small association RACT needs to balance expenditure on pre-elite development activities with its responsibilities for infrastructure and the base of the sport.

Mr G. Northam made a presentation on difficulties facing the Union of Boat Race Officials in maintaining numbers and how this problem might be remedied. In part this problem was due to senior members choosing to race in Masters' events rather than officiating and in diminished activity in school programs that have provided many BROs in the past. Mr Northam asked the Board to consider approaches to the clubs to encourage greater support. He acknowledged the BRO recognition functions held by BMRC and RACT.

The Board considered ways of encouraging members to become BRO's. Ideas included production of a flier explaining the role of BRO's with case studies of current BRO's, and putting recruiting material on the RACT website.

Schools could assist BROs by rigorous assessment of the readiness of novices to enter competition. It is clear that some beginners had not been briefed on start procedure. R. Curtin suggested a YouTube video be prepared describing what happens at a regatta.

Minutes: Minutes of the Board meeting held on 3 February were read and confirmed.

Matters Arising: Meeting noted A. Butorac's resignation from the Board because of interstate work commitments. The President acknowledged Alan's significant contribution as a Board member and BRO. The meeting noted the out of session decision to appoint A. Chinn to the consequent vacancy and welcomed Alison to the Board.

President's Report: President noted that the RA presentation raises a major issue in deciding what is required of the association in supporting the pathway program. He will report back to the Board after discussions with A. Randell on options for support of the program and ACT Rowing's role in a re-organised elite rowing program.

Director of Finance Report: Report (circulated) was received. Director of Finance outlined the process for finalising accounts with the audited report expected in the first week of June 2016. He foreshadowed a significant jump in profits for 2016 over the previous year largely because of the additional cost of overlapping Admin officers in 2014-15 and RA compensation to States and Territories following its decision not to rotate, at this time, the National Championships.

Executive Officer's Report: Competition – A. Chinn is preparing a paper on improving competition within the intermediate status category. National Ergometer Championships – A competition has been proposed to be run at venues in each state and scores submitted to RA. RACT is interested in participating. Head of the Molonglo – Agreed that a winter date is more suited to a long distance event such as this in view of the difficulty of fitting it in to the early season already containing events such as the Colin Panton Marathon and the Head of the Yarra. EO to come up with proposed date. Royal Life Saving Society – Society has offered to run free bronze medal first aid classes. Clubs to be advised. Paramedic Attendance – Paramedics were not in attendance at a recent regatta when their services could have been used due to miscommunication with RACT office. EO to remedy. Presentation Event - Combined presentation function and representatives fundraiser will be held as in 2015. Meeting confirmed that ACT Australian team members would receive \$1500 each from RACT towards their team costs. Safety - No incidents have been reported. End of Season Forum – Date in May to be settled. President and Board members should attend. Advance notice of issues required before the forum.

Cliff Hill Trophy: Board agreed that this trophy be awarded to Geoff Northam in recognition of his exceptional dedication to leading the Union of Boat Race Officials.

Boathouse Development: The next stage in progressing this project is for BMRC to apply for the lease of land for the new facility. The BMRC committee has yet to agree to this.

Meeting Closed: 8.30pm

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Chairman

18/5/16