



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

YMCA Sailing Club, Yarralumla Bay
Wednesday 28 September 2016 at 6.30pm

Present: D. Bagnall (Chair), P. Marshall, N. Hunter, R. Curtin, A. Chinn, J. Williams, V. McMahon, M. Cusack (Executive Officer).

Apologies: C. Bowyer, P. Davoren.

Board Elections: The Board noted that the 7 Board members carried over from the AGM adopted unanimously on 16 September the following motion by email:

“That Peter Marshall and Jacqui Williams be appointed to the Board for a further two years.”

This brings the Board to its full membership of 9 Directors comprising of the President, 5 elected Board members and 3 appointed members.

Minutes: No minutes were required to be approved at this meeting.

President’s Report: D Bagnall provided an update on the boatshed proposal. J Gasson advised that BMRC will be seeking a direct sale from the ACT Government for one of the Black Mountain Peninsula sites previously pegged for the RACT/TACT joint facility. Part of this proposal will involve the sub-letting of the current BMRC shed to RACT. J Gasson advised that the sub-letting of the facility to RACT will be the easiest and quickest path towards RACT using the facility given the statutory planning processes available. Given that a direct sale must be approved by Cabinet, BMRC will be waiting until after the election to put forward the submission. J Gasson will propose a 20-year rent term with ‘peppercorn rent’ (\$1.00 per annum).

D Bagnall also commended the efforts of ACT based athletes Kym Brennan, Caleb Antill and Luke Letcher for their outstanding recent performances on the world rowing stage. He will be nominating Caleb and Luke for CBR sports awards.

The Board was updated on recent appointments of high performance coaches by Rowing Australia and advised that the location of the second national training centre is yet to be released.

Director of Finance’s Report: V McMahon submitted a table showing that seat fees, mainly from the WTT series, had performed more strongly than last year with 2014-15 remaining our peak year for seat fees.

He also advised that the RACT website has been under cyber-attack for months and had consequently added security software, reduced the number of logins and asked authors to increase the complexity of their passwords.

Executive Officer Report: A progress report was provided by M Cusack. It was advised that:

- All BRO launches, fire extinguishers and life jackets have been serviced and are in good working order ahead of the season;
- Improvements have been made to the Weston Park and Lady Denman BRO trailers by Peter Laidlaw of CRC. Peter did not charge RACT for these modifications. M Cusack was tasked with thanking Peter on behalf of the Board for his contribution;
- All event approval applications and risk management plans have been submitted to the NCA and ACT Government for approval;
- The order of hard buoys has arrived and M Cusack has worked with Ecoway to ensure these are ready for deployment soon;
- Grants documentation has been submitted for 2017 and we await the 2017-19 Triennial Funding Deed to be sent by Active Canberra for signing by RACT;
- BRO training course has received enrolments from Radford and ANU but none from other schools or clubs. M Cusack will be pushing clubs to advertise the course with their membership, particularly CGGS and Daramalan;

M Cusack raised two issues in relation to BRO equipment for the coming season:

1. The boat trailer for the Bill Beadman umpire launch is in a poor state of repair with its deployment for the Head of the Molonglo causing a minor injury to its custodian. M Cusack advised that the trailer needs replacing;
2. At present RACT does not have a suitable 5th umpire launch option. RACT BROs need 5 umpire launches minimum to run ACT regattas (ideal number is 6); any fewer and the stress load on the BRO ranks is too high and it does not permit time for the training of new BROs. The current 5th boat, 'Daisy', attends limited regattas during the season due to reduced availability of its custodian. Furthermore, the launch itself is unsafe for use by BROs other than its experienced custodian. M Cusack recommended that RACT obtain a further umpire launch to address this issue.

The Board agreed to the following in relation to the above issues:

1. To purchase a new trailer for the Bill Beadman umpire launch with an upper limit spend of \$3,000.00;
2. The 'Daisy' boat is in need of retirement from service; and
3. G Northam and M Cusack should provide the Board an equipment procurement and replacement plan that considers the need for an extra umpire launch and the replacement of the existing BRO launch fleet that has been in service since 2000.

Review of Progress Against Strategic Priorities: Strategic Priorities 2 – 5 were reviewed prior to the meeting by M Cusack and provided to the Board. Two items were discussed:

1. Communications Plan Progress: R Curtin advised that a draft terms of reference for the development of the Communications Plan would be provided prior to the next Board meeting.
2. Strategic Priority 5 – ‘Member Clubs’: It was agreed that clubs manage their own ‘planning, governance, management and service provision’ so RACT does not need to report on this focus area of Strategic Priority 5.
3. Indoor Regatta: Rowing Australia have only just released the information needed to run the Australian National Indoor Rowing Championships (ANIRC). RA’s intention is for an event to be hosted in November. It was agreed that this timeframe is too short to provide a quality product and that RACT should seek a venue to take on the event at a more suitable time. N Hunter agreed to liaise with ANU Sport & Recreation about a joint effort between them and ANUBC to host an ACT Indoor Regatta. In the short term RACT will extend an invitation to the ACT rowing clubs to host an ANIRC event this November.

Female Board Representation: The board considered the issue of female representation on the RACT Board and the target of 40% female representation by 2020 set by the ACT Government. However, the Board also noted that the current rate of female participation in rowing in the RACT was 50%, against an increasing current Board membership of 33%. Accordingly the Board agreed, as a principle (not a rule) that the Board would establish a target of 50% female participation on the Board by 2018. The Board noted that this would allow an increase in female Board membership by one female in each of the next two years.

Board Skills Audit: Board discussed and approved a skills audit for distribution to Board members for a response by 7 Oct 16, with responses to be collated by P Marshall and presented to the next Board meeting.

High Performance in the ACT: D Bagnall acknowledged the efforts of Renae Domaschenz who has managed the ACTAS Rowing Program in partnership with Nigel Harding for the past 4 months whilst Andrew Randell has been overseas. During this time Renae has also represented Australia as an Under 21 coach in the Trans-Tasman Series and has held down a busy research job at ANU.

WTT / Col Panton / HotM Presentation Event: This will be held following the Col Panton Marathon on the 9th of October. This will also be an opportunity to recognise the efforts of Luke Letcher and Caleb Antill. D Bagnall to ask BMRC if this event can be hosted there.

State Team: Andrew Randel, as ACT Head Coach and Selector, has been consulted about the state team policy for 2017. The intention is for last year’s policy to be reused.

Safety: There were no reported incidents.

Other Business: J Williams proposed that Board members RSVP for meetings a week prior to the meeting date to ensure meetings don’t have to be moved at late notice due to lack of a quorum. The meeting agreed to this.

Meeting Closed: 8.00pm

Action Items:

- Asset Replacement Plan (Umpire Launches) – M Cusack and G Northam
- RACT Communications Plan Terms of Reference – R Curtin
- Liaison with ANU Sport & Recreation regarding indoor rowing – N Hunter
- New Beadman Boat Trailer – M Cusack
- Board Skills Assessment – P Marshall
- RSVP with M Cusack 1 week before next meeting – Board

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Executive Officer

30/09/16