



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Rowing Australia Board Room  
Monday 18 March 2018 at 5.30pm

1. **Attendees:** David Bagnall (Chair), Catherine Bowyer, Alison Chinn (Regatta Secretary), Alison Creagh, Nick Hunter, Bill Mason, Deb Styman (Secretary), Stuart John (Executive Officer)
2. **Apologies:** Vince McMahon (Director of Finance), Caroline Pijpers
3. **Acceptance of Minutes of the February 2019 meeting.**
4. **Matters Arising:**
  - a. Lake Users Group meeting – water police provided feedback at this meeting following the recent incident in Central Basin. They expressed an imperative that they must be informed of any incidents occurring on the lake and were reassured this will occur now that it is understood that dialling triple 0 does not get to them. **ACTION:** recommendation to call the Water Police on 131 444 to report any incidents will be provided in information to the ACT rowing community.
  - b. Restricted access to various areas of the lake – this was raised at the recent LUG meeting also after increased activity by rowers was noticed by the water police and they also commented on aggressive responses by rowers to instructions from the Water Police or other lake users. Water police insist there are no rules on the lake, although it was noted that the rowing community does have rules and guidelines in place. Politeness and being considerate of other lake users is a concern and an area to work on within the rowing community. **ACTION:** Awareness campaign to be created including a community message to use the lake safely and to be friendly to all lake users.
5. **Action Items from last meeting:**
  - a. Interstate selection process – suggested data points for future selection panels to use should be reviewed. A couple of appeals are being worked through now for this current selection. Selection nomination processes and the selection policy should be determined and published earlier. It was noted communication and RACT support of Interstate Rep teams needs to be refreshed within the rowing community.
  - b. Incentives for regatta volunteers – it was noted the HotL pontoon volunteers worked well and experienced rowers do a great job in this role.
  - c. Key strategic plans – Bill Mason presented a summary table of recommendation outcomes to date for the key RACT policies. Some further work on all of these outstanding recommendations is required and will be followed up at the next meeting. BRO shortage was discussed following the regatta last week. Administrative assistance with BRO scheduling is needed to pre-empt and address shortages. It was noted that ADF RC running this regatta last weekend was the first time in Australia this has happened – thanks were noted from the Board for the contribution by the ADF RC. Thanks were also noted by the Board to the BRO's who

attended this regatta under slightly trying conditions.

## 6. Presidents report

- a. Head of the Lake – thanks were noted to all involved in this successful regatta. All additional expenses (parking, security, waste-away etc) were considered worthwhile. Presentation arrangements to be amended slightly for future HotL regattas.
- b. Surf boats are currently being stored in the ACTAS compound due to the CGS shed renovation. A request to move the surf boats out of the ACTAS compound has been denied at this stage. Lease arrangements for this site to be investigated. **ACTION:** Due to the many logistical concerns of these boats being kept at this location, David will raise this issue with the tripartite group to address this as an unsatisfactory arrangement and request these boats are stored elsewhere.
- c. Negative RACT funding comments on social media were noted. **ACTION:** A community statement of the facts are to be posted on the RACT website.

7. **Director of Finance Report** – Vince McMahon circulated financial reports and a full summary of these prior to the meeting. RACT remains in a strong financial position currently and Vince was commended on all his work in ensuring this healthy financial situation has been sustained. Nick Hunter commented that the current RACT accounting practices, in a broad context against other sports, was outstanding.

The issue of ACT schools attending local regattas in the future was noted as a concern to consider. Radford were to be complimented on their junior crews attending the local regatta recently, even though the HotR in Sydney was on at the same time.

## 8. Regatta Secretary Report

- a. WTT email has been sent to the regatta subcommittee with the 2019 dates proposed.
- b. Pointscore is about ready to go out.
- c. 1200+ rowers are registered now with RACT with almost a 50/50 split male/female and 50/50 split between clubs and schools members also.
- d. The regatta schedule is to be examined ahead of next season with the double quad race issue (heat and final) and other issues to be reviewed.
- e. Regatta Sub-committee meetings should be focused on a deadline for Board acceptance of the summer regatta details at the August Board meeting.

## 9. Executive Officer Report.

- a. RA Rower of the Year awards are now not being held in Canberra for 2019.
- b. 16 April RA Roadshow – will be live streamed for the open forum component.
- c. MPIO training in process now – 9 April training will be completed by both RACT EO and the new volunteer MPIO.
- d. EO annual leave was noted in April.

## 10. Safety & OHS.

- a. The recent Central Basin pontoon incident was noted as being an issue previously. The current safety light on the pontoon obstacle is not sufficient. A row of buoys as a warning for approaching rowers was considered the better outcome – this suggestion was sent to the NCA and will be followed up by David Bagnall. An advisory notice has been sent to the community regarding this hazard. The incident was reported as per the guidelines; to the NCA and the AFP.

- b. Coaching tinny wash out of a single rower was noted as a second incident reported this month. Coach education and briefings to coaches at the start of the season to be actioned. Ongoing awareness to tinny drivers to be addressed with website items and educational notices. Suggestion that NSW briefing/instruction document and a following sign-off form was endorsed as a good action for RACT to introduce.
- c. The issue of other lake users coming onto the regatta course during a regatta was discussed as another issue to consider. This is following recent regatta disruptions by commercial and other water vessels.
- d. Lake traffic guidelines – RACT President meeting with club representatives is still to be undertaken, as an educational opportunity.

**ACTION:** A system of tracking of rowing incidents by the RACT office is to be established. This will allow for proper governance and to ensure RACT is addressing the issues appropriately.

#### **11. Other business.**

- a. An extensive re-enactment and commemorations regarding the Kings Cup Centenary will be undertaken this week. Filming and the creation of one hundred year old 'props' will be advertised for the rowing community to watch. Also, a row-over will take place at the Kings Cup with the one hundred year old 8 v a new 8.
- b. Athletes in the HPP – question has been asked regarding what is the correct channel for them to have their concerns and issues raised with the Board? Athletes can contact the HPP sub-committee to feed concerns through to the Board. If a small sub-committee of athletes is formed and meet, a representative of this athlete group can be invited to attend the RACT HPP sub-committee, if they have significant issues or view they would like to raise.  
**ACTION:** Catherine Bowyer to report back at the next meeting on the preferred format or recommendations of the HPP athletes who have enquired.
- c. BRO Dinner and Awards – details are being confirmed and the event will be promoted amongst the BRO's soon.
- d. A standing item at all future Board meetings was requested – ACT Representative Teams.

**Meeting closed 7.21pm**