



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

YMCA Sailing Club, Yarralumla Bay
Wednesday 19 August 2015 at 6.30pm

Present: D. Bagnall (Chair), V. McMahon, P. Marshall, C. Bowyer, J. Williams, N. Hunter, M. Cusack (Executive Officer).

J. Gasson (BMRC) was invited to speak to the Board. He departed the meeting after discussion of the first agenda item, the Boatshed Proposal.

Apologies: P. Davoren, A. Butorac, V. Newman.

Boatshed Proposal: D Bagnall introduced J Gasson to the meeting. J Gasson is a Black Mountain Rowing Club (BMRC) Committee member and a construction expert. D Bagnall summarised Rowing ACT's efforts in developing a lakeside facility since 2010 with the primary goal of a permanent home for RACT umpire launches and equipment and to provide a nursery capability for new Clubs. Until recently the focus of this project has been on a government funded Joint-Facility between RACT and Triathlon ACT on Black Mountain Peninsula. With current economic pressures on the ACT Government in the wake of 'Mr Fluffy', funding opportunities for such a project are minimal.

Mr Gasson advised of his proposal to fund and manage a project for the redevelopment of the BMRC shed. He also advised that BMRC have given approval for him to proceed with the design and siting of this project by way of a Club referendum. Mr Gasson detailed two options for redevelopment that he is considering:

- a) BMRC develop their new shed on the block(s) to the north of Radford Rowing that were earmarked for the RACT/TACT joint facility and hand the current BMRC shed at no cost to Rowing ACT; or
- b) BMRC demolish the shed at their current location and build a new shed on this site.

He advised the meeting that he has had discussions with the NCA, ESDD and the LDA and has received verbal support both options. He also advised that the planning constraints in both cases are manageable. He saw option a) as the best outcome for the sport in the ACT and intends to pursue this option, with permission from the RACT Board. The Board supported this option in principle, and for further development, and thanked Mr Gasson for his generous offer.

D Bagnall offered his support to driving this project forward on behalf of RACT and noted that he has discussed Mr Gasson's proposal with TACT. TACT advises they have recently secured a further 5 year lease at their current location in Deakin and are happy to maintain their operation out of this location.

Minutes: Minutes of the June Board meeting were discussed and broadly agreed. However, some further changes were to be agreed out of session.

CLRC Safety Report: D Bagnall reported that he met with G Northam, M Cusack and N Hunter to discuss Regatta Safety for the 2015-16 Regatta season as part of the continuous review of rowing safety. It also dealt with any further action arising from the CLRC safety report. D Bagnall had circulated a range of safety measures which were discussed and broadly supported.

Discussion centred on how the safety of rowers, particularly under 17's, can best be secured given that the BROs responsibilities relate only to the Yarramundi reach area. Consideration was given to having all Under 17's boat from Weston Park but that this would require further consultation. The meeting resolved that RACT should take a progressive and consultative approach to the introduction of measures to improve regatta safety working in conjunction with Clubs to propose solutions to mitigate risks. A phased approach implemented progressively across regatta season 2015-16 should be adopted with various initiatives foreshadowed in advance to allow clubs to prepare, and then to trial full implementation of each initiative, with a target of full implementation of all initiatives in time for the 2016-17 regatta season. It noted that V. McMahon was working on an overarching architecture to guide Clubs and rowers through safety issues. He agreed to draft for discussion a note to Clubs on rower safety including asking Clubs to review their approach to the On-Water Safety Guidelines ahead of the regatta season. The meeting also agreed to RACT undertaking spot safety checks of boats at Weston Park.

President's Report: Mr Bagnall provided a review of the recent RA Council meeting. Rowing Australia is undertaking a strategic review of planning and High Performance and Participation, in part with a view toward increasing the visibility and growth of the sport. Rowing Australia is also appealing the 5% levy that has recently been introduced on all donations made to the Australian Sports Foundation.

Director of Finance's Report: Balance sheet and a P&L statement were circulated before the meeting. Accounts receivables are very low. RACT has approximately \$300,000 in cash reserves and this will increase towards the end of the year given the revenue cycle. Finance Director also submitted report on seat fees showing a slow start to the season with WTT numbers down. N Hunter pointed out that the biggest drop is in the Sunday, crewed races.

Executive Officer's Report: Thanks to the work of Simon Dunphy a productive Regatta Sub-Committee was held on 1 July. Regatta dates and order of events for the 2015-16 season have been finalised without the need for a second meeting. Mr Cusack is close to completion of the event approvals process for these regattas.

M Cusack also noted that there were two items raised at the Regatta Sub-Committee meeting that fell outside of its Charter and should therefore be discussed by the RACT Board:

- I. Close of Entries date: Dafydd Gwynn-Jones (CGGS) requested that the RACT regatta close of entries be changed from the current Friday 10pm close to the Monday before the regatta. Noting that the RACT regatta developer is only available on weekends to produce the RACT draw and that a number of clubs have preferred the draw being released early in the week the Board moved to reject the request. The Board asked that Mr Cusack investigate a 12pm Saturday close of entries to give clubs more time to enter.
- II. Alphabetised Bow Numbers: Tom Trobe (CRC) suggested that RACT move to begin using alphabetised bow numbers for regattas. The Board agreed in principle to this suggestion and asked that Mr Trobe investigate the implementation of this bow number system at RACT regatta's and report back to the Board with his suggestions by the next meeting.

National Database Update: V McMahon and M Cusack have been working with RA and Rowing Manager to investigate the requirements for RACT to begin taking membership though the chosen

National Database provider, Revolutionise. Nationally the effort towards taking all membership via Revolutionise is meeting resistance as for South Australia, Victoria and NSW, uptake of Revolutionise would require significant changes in business practice. Stephen Croot of Rowing Manager is currently investigating a work around that could allow member associations to largely retain their business practice whilst feeding a National Database. RACT would postpone moving forward with Revolutionise until Mr Croot has completed his investigation and all states have discussed.

Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP): M Cusack recently attended an ACT Government WWVP seminar. Mr Cusack advised the committee that the relevant legislation requires ‘employers’ to have a WWVP assessment prior to engaging with vulnerable persons. For the 28th of November this will be mandatory and heavy fines apply for non-compliance. In the context of ACT rowing, member clubs are ‘employers’ as they deal directly vulnerable persons. Member clubs have responsibility to maintain their compliance with WWVP. RACT could only be classed as an ‘employer’ when managing ACT state crews that comprise members under the age of 18.

RACT will disseminate information about WWVP requirements to clubs. M Cusack noted that if needed, ACT Government Representatives who manage WWVP certification are willing to meet with club Member Protection Officers.

Risk Management: P Marshall proposed that RACT develop a business Risk Management Plan and volunteered to investigate this and report back at the next Board meeting on his progress.

ACTAS: It was agreed that D Bagnall be the primary point of liaison between RACT and RA/ACTAS on the development and operation of the ACTAS program.

State Team: N Hunter recommended RACT seek out a representative for the Para 1x interstate event at the 2016 Interstate Regatta. N Hunter to investigate this and report on progress.

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Executive Officer
August 2015