



## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

YMCA Sailing Club, Yarralumla Bay  
Wednesday 15 March 2017 at 6.30pm

**Present:** J. Williams (Chair), V. McMahon, R. Curtin, P. Davoren, A. Chinn, J. O'Brien.

**Apologies:** N. Hunter, D. Bagnall, P. Marshall, C. Bowyer.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting of 15 February 2017 were read and confirmed.

**Matters Arising:** V. McMahon reported on action in recovering most outstanding fees. Winter Time Trial dates have been circulated and can now be locked in.

**President's Report:** Report tabled and noted. Preferred candidate for position of ACTAS Head Coach will be interviewed on 23 March 2017. R. Domaschenz has been successfully managing the ACTAS rowing unit as Acting Head Coach. Meeting discussed structure of the ACTAS rowing unit noting that this will depend largely on whether the Pathway Coach is a full-time position. Discussed V. Newman offer of an excellent trophy. Agreed it would be appropriate for a school single scull championship event.

**Director of Finance Report:** Circulated report was received. Noted that funds for ACTAS rowing unit were heavily underspent owing to delays in appointment of Head Coach and settling the structure. Good progress made in acquiring HC vehicle. Meeting discussed regatta revenue for the season. Decline in revenue and increase in entries reconciled by less championship entries at a higher fee and higher WTT entries.

**Executive Officer Report:** Most of EO's time has been spent on regatta management and meeting clubs and members of the ACT rowing community. Currently working on the communications strategy, merchandising and branding and seeking sponsors. EO noted the need to review the RACT Strategic Plan in the light of changed circumstances.

**High Performance:** Meeting discussed RACT's role in relation to RACT Rowing Program now that we employ the staff and are responsible for them. A. Chinn suggested that RACT's responsibilities could be discharged through a small management committee that could develop performance criteria against which the program's activities could be assessed.

**Regatta Secretary Report:** A. Chinn reported on a current review of practice in other states in respect of young competitors. Young scullers (11 and 12 year old) competing in the ACT would be ineligible in other jurisdictions. These competitors raise issues concerning safety and efficient management of regattas. Board discussed cancellation of the ACT Masters Championship Regatta and the March Autumn Regatta. Cancellation followed consultation within the Board about difficulty in getting sufficient boat race officials. The Board

confirmed there was little alternative to cancellation given the staffing issue and uncertainty about the format of both events. It was agreed that in developing the program new events should only be added where the format is clearly defined and resources for promotion and management are clearly identified, preferably by event proponents. Board noted that BRO availability needs to be more closely examined in developing the program.

**Boathouse Update:** D. Bagnall and P. Davoren attended a meeting with ACT Government officials from the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate and SRACT (Simon Dolesji) to discuss BMRC's application for the lease of Block 11 and the options for RACT to occupy BMRC's current boatshed. Jeannette and John Gasson and Paul Griffiths (President) represented BMRC. Officials welcomed the BMRC application noting the ultimate decision would be made by Ministers. They were attracted by the amount of private funding to be leveraged by award of the lease. In relation to the current BMRC lease, they noted that RACT would be a suitable entity to receive the lease via transfer. It is not necessary for BMRC to surrender the lease and remove improvements (the boatshed). Current review of policy on concessional leases could delay consideration of the BMRC application and consequent lease transfer.

**Safety: Incidents** - There was a complaint by Daramalan RC that a DRC rower was struck by a blade in a clash of boats during the CGS regatta. There were two scull capsizes at this event. It was agreed that extracts from a report into this incident by Mr Northam would be passed to DRC. **Traffic Protocols** – Clubs need to be reminded of these protocols, in particular that the overtaking crew must avoid the boat being overtaken. Board discussed changes to the Traffic Flow Poster to accurately reflect the responsibility of the overtaking crew. V. McMahon will consider draft amendments.

**State Team:** ACT representatives at the interstate regatta will be Luke Letcher in the President's Cup, Katherine Ross in the women's Para single and Ian Cooper in the Men's para single event.

**Head of the Lake Regatta:** Meeting noted that some school clubs were most unhappy with this event because last minute changes removed opportunities for established crews to compete and short course format tended to trivialise the event. It was agreed the regatta should be highly promotable to interstate participants provided that the format is agreed early and stuck to over successive events.

**BRO Recruitment:** Board agreed that BRO support is a critical issue for RACT. This matter needs to be resolved through more energetic recruitment and reduction of BRO workload by staging shorter regattas, including by eliminating many of the sculling races. Agreed to discuss further at the April Board meeting.

**Presentation Event:** Board agreed that this be held on 30 April 2017. J. Williams agreed to coordinate with J. O'Brien.

**Meeting Closed:** 8.25pm

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Chairman

19/4/17

