



**NSW ROWING ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY 28th April 2009
KEN BROWN ROOMS, SPORTS HOUSE
SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK**

PRESENT

Andrew Rowley (President NSWRA) (Chair), Wade Hewett (NSWRA Councilor to RA), Norma Perry (NSWRA Director), Barry Moynahan (NSWRA Vice President), Yasmin L'Estrange (SUWRC/SUBC), Tim Wainman (Northern Rivers Rowing Association), Richard Stanistreet (Leichhardt Rowing Club), Mick Daffy (Sydney Rowing Club), Petra Macaskill (Sydney Women's MLC), Tim Clare (NSWRA Director), Owen Nix (NSWRA Director/Central Districts Rowing Association), Alexander Weilsmann (Balmain Rowing Club), Lee Wright (Penrith Rowing Club), Greg Smith (Nepean Rowing Club), Barbara Ramjan (Balmain Rowing Club), Greg James QC (NSWRA Director), Ray Green OAM (Lake Wallace Rowing Club), Dr Philip Sharp (UTS Rowing Club), Glenn Ryder (NSWRA Vice President), Monique Heinke (UTS Rowing Club) and Georgie Lee (NSWRA Operations Manager).

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mark Williams SC (NSWRA Director), Charles Bartlett (NSWRA Deputy President), Stephen Handley (NSWRA Director), Steve Taite (Penrith Rowing Club), John St Vincent Welch (Sydney University), Geoff McIntyre AM (NSWRA Vice President), David Longhurst (Balmain Rowing Club), Keith Jameson (NSWRA Vice President)

PROXIES

Nil.

WELCOME

The President called the meeting to order and opened the meeting.

THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

That the minutes of the General Meeting of the 10th February 2009 be adopted as a true and correct record.

MOVED: Mick Daffy

SECONDED: Tim Wainman

CARRIED: Resolution 011/2009

MATTERS ARISING

Nil

TO CONSIDER BUSINESS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

3.1 John St Vincent Welch – Code of Conduct

The NSWRA Board resolved at the recent Meeting on the 15th April to put before the April General Meeting a Code of Conduct breach by Mr. John St Vincent Welch. A letter had been sent to Mr. Welch advising him of the matter and the allegations made against him and invited Mr. Welch to apologise or retract in accordance with the NSWRA By-Laws. Mr. Welch telephoned the NSWRA Office on the day of the General Meeting extending his apologies for not attending the meeting as asked the matter to be dealt with at the next General Meeting in June.

Mr. Greg James QC explained to those in attendance the process of dealing with a Code of Conduct violation, in particular relating to Mr. Welch.

In Mr. Welch's absence, the Meeting moved that the matter be resolved by the NSWRA Board no later than the next Board Meeting; 20th May 2009. Mr. Welch is not to act as a Boat Race Official until the matter is resolved. Mr. Welch is to be invited to attend the Board Meeting on Wednesday 20th May 2009 along with a representative of the Union of Boat Race Officials together with the minutes of the Union of Boat Official meeting on the 25th March 2009.

MOVED: Dr. Philip Sharp
SECONDED: Alexander Weilsmann
CARRIED: Resolution 012/2009

3.2 Recognition of Honours Recipients

Mr. Rowley officially acknowledged and congratulated Mr. Ray Green on his recent receipt of the Order of Australia Medal. Mr. Rowley would encourage more nominations to be submitted as there are countless dedicated and deserving people of such an honour involved with the sport of rowing.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Rowley announced and congratulated the 32 athletes and 1 coach has been selected into the 2009 Australian Rowing Team of various age groups as a result of the recent Rowing Australia Selection Regatta. NSW continues to be a large contributor into Australian teams and is a sentiment to the hard working and talented athletes and coaches within our clubs and schools and their development pathways.

Mr. Rowley presented to the General Meeting the proposed NSW version of the common National Branding initiative of Rowing Australia. NSWRA's Councillor to Rowing Australia Mr. Wade Hewett explained to the meeting that at the December Rowing Australia Annual General Meeting it was agreed to adopt the logo. The logo is to be used to promote the sport of rowing as a commercial whole rather than as individual bodies.

The consequence of adopting the logo would in fact mean that New South Wales Rowing Association would need to change its name to Rowing New South Wales. Mr. Rowley informed the General Meeting that the logo would not replace the Waratah.

MOVED: Wade Hewett
SECONDED: Barry Moynahan
FOR: Majority
AGAINST: Barbara Ramjan, Alexander Weilsmann
CARRIED: 012/2009

CEO'S REPORT

Mr. Rowley advised the Meeting that the CEO and the NSWRA Board have decided to part company and Mr. Evans' last day will be Friday 1st May 2009. Mr. Rowley reiterated that the office will function as per normal until such time that a new Chief Executive Officer is appointed.

REPORT FROM THE BAY CLUBS FORUM ON THE VICTORIA ROAD UPGRADE AND IRON COVE BRIDGE

Mr. Rowley advised the Meeting that Mr. Greg James QC attended the Bay Clubs Forum in the absence of both himself and the Chairman of the Forum, Mr. Charles Bartlett.

Mr. James QC explained to the Meeting that the Bay Clubs Forum met the night before the General Meeting at Leichhardt Rowing Club with attendees from Dobroyd Aquatic Sailing Club, Leichhardt Rowing Club, Drummoyne Rowing Club, Balmain Rowing Club, UTS Rowing Club and UNSW Rowing Club. Mr. James QC told the meeting that there had been meetings between the President on behalf of the NSWRA and the Minister for Roads and Transport Mr. Michael Daley at which the representatives of the RTA and the CEO attended. Minister Daley had asked the RTA to reconsider the matter to see how to accommodate rowing continuing its programs on Iron Cove Bay.

Mr. James QC informed the meeting that the Bay Clubs Forum understands that the Minister for Planning gave approval on the 9th April. The Minister for Buses, Mr. David Campbell announced that the bus lane will go in though Minister Daley had not made any such announcement. The RTA has apparently made some concessions to the design in regards to reorient the piers to accommodate rowing. Issues have arisen as to whether the announced RTA design is the design that was advertised by the RTA under the Roads Act; the advertisement being necessary to set time on objections. Several clubs, the Association and the Bay Clubs Forum have submitted written objections.

Mr. James QC informed the Board that there is prospect of litigation and some prospect that Canada Bay Council and Leichhardt Council may assist or indemnify the NSWRA against the cost of commencing litigation, but so far they haven't procured into commitment. There has been a little money forthcoming for legal advice which Torquil Murray and Mark

Williams SC are preparing. However, the prospect of an injunction in the Supreme Court or Land and Environment Court will be very costly and we would not necessarily win. We would have to get competent advice before going any further.

The Minister has been informed that there is a strong climate amongst the Bay Clubs and Association to litigate and seek an injunction to restrain the bridge going ahead as it will bar navigation or make it unsafe for rowers. Similarly the Dobroyd Aquatic Club are in a similar position; they will lose 150m of their course on Iron Cove.

Within the Bay Clubs Forum Jeff Andrews, Mike Morrissey and Joe Grech form a technical committee looking at the design matters of the bridge, Anne Parbury and Matthew Braithwaite-Young are the media committee while Mark Williams, Torquil Murray and Sheldon form the legal committee. The Sailing Committee are from Dobroyd Aquatic Club, Joe Grech, Anne Parbury and Murray Clarke OAM are the rowing committee and Mr. Rowley, Mr. Charles Bartlett & Greg James QC are the Board representatives.

Mr. James thanked Mr. Alexander Weilsmann for compiling the minutes of the Bay Clubs Forum.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Dr. Phillip Sharp explained to the meeting an incident that was brought to the attention of the NSWRA some months ago referring to a child with epilepsy. After legal, insurance and medical advice was sought this child was still unable to take part in her school's rowing program. Dr. Sharp asked Mr. James QC's legal advice regarding the Anti Discrimination Act.

Mr. James QC contacted the Anti Discrimination Commission, whose legal officer provided the relevant sections and material extracted from the Act to enable NSWRA to draft a circular for all coaches, clubs and schools that no discrimination against any persons on the grounds of disability is acceptable unless there is reasonable basis or cause. The circular will be drafted for approval at the next NSWRA Board Meeting or at least before the June General meeting.

Dr. Sharp expressed his concern about non accredited coaches being able to coach any athlete for which Mr. James QC explained that if any club or school is willing to employ the services of a non accredited coach then they may be liable. Dr. Sharp asked that if there are any enquiries regarding any discrimination to let the NSWRA know.

Mr. Ray Green OAM gave the meeting a verbal report as to the status of the Lake Wallace Rowing Club. Mr. Green OAM advised that there is a meeting the night after the General Meeting to discuss the Community Boat Shed as the money has been confirmed to build it. Mr. Green OAM is also looking at Chifley Dam at Bathurst to engage greater development for regional schools.

Mr. Green OAM would like to thank the clubs that have supported both he and the Lake Wallace Rowing Club for donating equipment to them including Penrith Rowing Club, Sydney Rowing Club, Glebe Rowing Club and Shoalhaven Rowing Club.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 8.15pm.
Next General Meeting: Tuesday 9th June 2009

Approved

Chairman / /2009