



BOARD MEETING
Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Kirribilli
Wednesday 20 April 2011 at 6:35pm

MINUTES

Attendees: Norma Perry (President) Bryan Weir (Deputy President), Ivan Adlam, Stephen Handley, Joe Zammit, and Christian Renford (CEO)

Apologies: Bronwen Watson, Chris Noel, Tim Clare, and Greg James QC

1. Welcome

N Perry welcomed all to the meeting. N Perry noted B Watson will be attending the May Board meeting, returning to Australia after 3 months in Japan.

2. Confirmation of Minutes and Business Arising

2.1 Previous Meetings Minutes

Motion: To accept the minutes of the 23 February Board Meeting as true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: J Zammit Seconded: I Adlam

Motion Carried

2.2 Business Raising

The CEO tabled the Board action sheet. The President and CEO provided a verbal update on the status of pending items to be actioned from previous minutes.

Additional advice was provided on the following:

2.2.1 *Transfers Working Group*

N Perry and B Weir summarised the debate from the membership at the April General Meeting regarding part one of the Transfers Working Group; Protocol for Ethical Recruiting.

The Board reconfirmed its endorsement of the Protocol for Ethical Recruiting

3 CEO Update

3.1 CEO Report

The CEO report for April was tabled. This report summarised the activities of RNSW programs and initiatives from the period 11 March to 15 April 2011.

The meeting spoke further to the following sections of the CEO Report:

A. 2011/12 Budget

- The development of the 2011/12 budget is nearing its conclusion. The Finance Officer, CEO and Director of Finance have met to review the working and assumptions within the budget, and will present to the Finance and Audit Committee at its 20 April 2011 meeting.
- I Adlam congratulated M McCormack on the excellent efforts to date in managing the associations finances and preparing the 2011/12 budget papers.

B. Australian Rowing Championships Results

- From the new selection system we have seen an improvement in New South Wales' performance in the Interstate Regatta to reach third place and 37 points with one gold, one silver and one bronze medal in 2011. This is up from 4th place and 30 Points with one gold and bronze in 2010 and 4th place and 32 Points with one gold in 2009.
- The meeting congratulated the Competition Commission for the excellent work that they have done to date with the state team, and also acknowledge the support and successful implementation from NSWIS and our senior coaches
- Ongoing focus for coming state teams is the pointscore or Rowing Australia Cup (8 points for 1st, 6 for 2nd, 5 for 3rd....)

	Women's 1x	Men's 1x	Women's LWT 4x	Men's LWT 4-	Women's Y8+	Men's Y8+	Queens Cup	Kings Cup	Total
QLD	8	3	8	5	8	2	6	4	44 (2 nd)
NSW	4	<u>5</u>	3	3	4	<u>6</u>	4	<u>8</u>	37 (3 rd)
ACT	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	7
Vic	6	6	4	4	5	8	8	6	47 (1 st)
Tas	5	4	5	8	2	3	0	2	29
SA	0	8	0	0	6	4	0	5	23
WA	2	2	6	6	3	5	5	3	32

C. Edward Trickett Regatta

- Initiatives that were launched at the State Championships were again implemented at the Trickett Regatta such as event specific website, regatta posters, new event logo, sponsors flags etc.
- The regatta witnessed a modest 7% increase in seats and an 8% increase in participants. Further analysis of the 2011 regatta highlighted that of the 464 people that competed in 2011 Regatta:
 - 199 people competed in the both the 2010 and 2011 regatta
 - 306 people competed in the 2011 regatta for the first time
 - 266 people that entered in 2010 did not enter the 2011 regatta.

With our renewed efforts in event promotion (NSW and interstate) we have done well to attract the new people to the event, however not enough to retain over 56% of last years attendees

- RNSW encouraged and facilitated the entry of the Hanoi Rowing Club in the regatta. The Regatta Secretary designed and introduced a 200m 'invitational sprint race' to introduce the international visitors to the spectators and showcase the sport. This was very well received by all attendees and will be conducted again at nominated regattas in 2011/12. The meeting congratulated the H McLeod on this initiative.

D. Membership

- February memberships are slightly behind of recent trends; 18 less members than in March 2010. This however is statistically insignificant, indicating that the take-up of RNSW membership has reached a plateau.
- Initiatives are planned for the 2011/12 season to promote the new membership structure, what members “get” for their membership, and to encourage present rowers who are non-members to join
- Greater functionality has been implemented within RowingManager to allow basic comparisons between membership seasons. Preliminary analysis indicates that:
 - Variance between the 2009/10 and 2010/11 seasons is a turnover of 1,400 new people (combination of new people entered and existing people not renewing)
 - i. approx 1,000 of these are of school age <19 years old (school rowers)
 - ii. approx 400 of these are > 19 years old (club based rowers)

Further statistical analysis of membership trends and current strategies are being undertaken by the Finance and Audit Committee

E. Office Matters

- From 4-15 April, RNSW hosted two work experience students from Cranbrook. This has been a positive experience. The Finance Officer is presently investigating eligible funding schemes from the Australian Training Agency that will support further basic administrative duties
- Gavin Ellis last day at RNSW was on 1 April 2011. Gavin will continue to conduct all NTID testing requirements in NSW until the employment of the Elite Development Officer

Motion: To accept the CEO Report as presented.

Moved: J Zammit Seconded: N Perry

Motion Carried

3.2 Finance Report

The CEO presented a detailed report on the management of accounts to 31 March 2011 and highlighted the following items within each business unit:

- i. Administration – There has been limited activity in the administration accounts for March. Year to date income and expenditure is within line with the budget, however March has seen an increase in forecasted expenditure with three pay cycles within this period.
- ii. Operations – Regatta income and expenditure YTD is down against budget forecast. Analysis of the Regatta module has shown budget variances due to dates of regattas being changed after forecasting model finalised. February has a large number of regattas for clubs and schools and Australian Championships where RNSW pays in advance for all clubs and schools seats fees and recoups after the event (in conflict with the debtors policy). Membership numbers are in line excluding Metropolitan Juniors which are slightly down on last year, however there is an increased number of school memberships.

- iii. Development – YTD Development expenses down due to outstanding expenditure from the state team still to be received.

Motion: To accept the financial statements as presented.

Moved: I Adlam Seconded: B Weir

Motion carried

4 Board Matters

4.1 Councillors Update

The CEO tabled a presentation provided to the State at the Australian Rowing Championships: On line Systems –A Growth Strategy for Rowing. The CEO also tabled correspondence from Rowing Australia relating to the ROMS review and status of any future pricing models.

A Rowley congratulated Rowing South Australia on the very successful conduct of the 2011 Australian Rowing Championships.

A Rowley provided a verbal overview of RA Council activity at the ARC and spoke to the status of the ROMS review.

4.2 Finance and Audit Committee update

The RNSW Finance and Audit Commission met on Wednesday 20 April to discuss the range of fees and charges that are set by the Association. The objective was to look at the fee structure deliver a revenue schedule of charges that is equitable to all.

- A. Affiliation fees and levies of constituent members
- B. Subscription Levies (State membership)
- C. Regatta Seat Fees

I Adlam provided an overview of the meeting outcomes. I Adlam noted that Section 11 of the draft constitution to be presented to the membership for adoption at the 2011 June General Meeting, proposes several amendments to the Categories of Registered Members. The amendment to the registered categories has been incorporated into the 2011/12 Fees and charges schedule. Subsequently, the following categories of registered members have been deleted:

- School Members; All 2010/11 school members will be transferred to either the Metropolitan Junior or Regional Junior membership categories for the 2011/12 season onwards
- Patron Members;

Action: CEO to forward draft 2011/12 budget and recommended schedule of fees and charges to the Board

I Adlam foreshadowed the need to review the constituent member fees and monthly levies. This issue was raised at the April General Meeting, where it was noted that existing constituent member fees and monthly levies has been aligned to a clubs corresponding voting entitlements.

Action: I Adlam and CEO to provide update at the May Treasurers Meeting

4.3 Youth Survey

The CEO tabled the summary results of the Youth Survey. There were 247 respondents which is a reasonable sample of the rowing community, therefore conclusions we may reached should be considered statistically valid.

Notable insights into the thoughts and aspirations of young rowers have been highlighted as a result of the youth survey. Initial conclusions of this survey are twofold:

1. RNSW needs to look at the opportunities that are presently be afforded via the competition program and see if they are still valid or need adjusting for example the competition program, communication channels. Particularly those rowers who wish to continue to compete at a reasonable standard without making a commitment to elite training
2. Clubs need to revisit how they presently recruit school leavers (whilst they are at school and post school), communication strategy and variety of programs that they are offering to school leavers.

The CEO noted that further detailed analysis of the survey is now required. This forms the basis of the Sports Development Officers job description and additional to ongoing tasks involving BRO and Coach Education is the first key project that the SDO will undertake.

Action: Sport Development Officer to:

- *Disseminate a summary of the results from the youth survey to the membership*
- *Identify the status of existing school, club and state based programs (elite and non-elite) that are available for young rowers*
- *Develop a strategy proposal to progress this project. Identification of likely options and strategies for how the Board, clubs and schools can best cater to the needs of its younger athletes, transitioning from school to club rowing programs.*
- *present a the draft strategy proposal at the May Board meeting*

4.4 Response to NSW Maritime – Burroway Rd Proposal

The CEO reiterated correspondence received from NSW Maritime indicating its support for the Burroway Road project. The correspondence indicated that several conditions must be met, specifically:

“Agreement by Rowing NSW that rowing activity would be confined to the area between Burroway Rd and the end of Homebush bay to avoid significant increases in impact on other traffic, especially ferries, in their narrow part of the Parramatta River”

The meeting expressed concern about the requirement as stated, highlighting that rowing needs to be proactive and re-establish our right to use the Parramatta River or it could be eroded very quickly

Action – Facilities Development Commission to respond to NSW Maritime

4.5 2012 NSW Masters Championships and Beyond

The CEO tabled a paper from the State Event Management Committee regarding the practice to alternate the NSW Masters Rowing Championships between a metropolitan venue and a regional venue, the regional venues being Grafton and Taree.

It was noted that RNSW Laws of Boat Racing 2.(iii) (b) indicates that All State Championships shall be rowed at the Sydney International Regatta Centre unless the Board shall determine that it is impracticable to do so.

The Board acknowledged the LBR as stated and reconfirmed to conduct all State Championship regattas at the Sydney International Regatta Centre. Specifically, the 2012 NSW Masters Championships and beyond will be held at SIRC.

The meeting further resolved to allocate a percentage of the net proceeds of the NSW Masters Championships, in every year, to regional junior development. This means, and includes, Northern Rivers, Central Districts, the Western Region (west of Blue Mountains) and Southern Region (Illawarra and south).

Action 1: Finance Officer and Sport Development Officer

Action 2: Regatta Secretary to classify the Grafton Rowing Club regattas as a "RNSW" calendar regatta, thus creating a second regional two day regatta attracting double points (by combining it with the Head of the Clarence) and sharing income

4.6 SIRC Regatta Passes, Access and Operations

The CEO tabbed a use of Bicycles Policy as recommended by the State Event Management Committee.

The meeting supported the principles surrounding the SEMC's recommendation, however resolved not to support the policy document as proposed. The Meeting noted that the information would be more effectively communicated to the membership at each regatta via the competitor's instructions and inclusion in the regatta program, and enforced by the Boat Race Officials and Regatta Organisers.

Action – Sport Development Officer and Regatta Secretary

4.7 Regatta Calendar Conflicts

The CEO noted correspondence to Rowing Australia highlighting the challenges that the Regatta Commission faces to work out the 2011/12 competition program that best suits the needs of each of our key stakeholders to meet the objectives to support sport development in New South Wales.

CEO note – The Olympic booking legacy at the Sydney International Regatta Centre (SIRC) prioritises international and national bookings over state based regatta and event bookings. Coupled with 2012 being an Olympic year, both Rowing Australia (RA) and Australian Canoeing (AC) have key national and international events planned in the March period that has resulted in a crowded calendar with several key NSW regattas competing for a limited number of available dates.

In summary the following RA and CA exclusive venue booking at SIRC will be prioritised over key RNSW regattas:

<i>RA – Olympic Selection Trials *</i>	<i>19-30 March 2012</i>
<i>AC – Olympic Qualifier</i>	<i>2-4 March 2012</i>
<i>AC – National Sprint Championships</i>	<i>14-18 March 2012</i>

The CEO noted that the T Clare has indicated that due to increasing work commitments is unable to continue at the chairman of the Regatta Commission for the remainder of the season. The Regatta Commission at its April meeting elected K Jameson as Chairman.

The meeting discussed the current functions and activities of the Regatta Commission and its relationship with the role of the Regatta Secretary. The meeting confirmed that it is timely to review the charter of the Regatta Commission in line with some task and activities that are presently undertaken by the Regatta Secretary. By the Regatta Secretary assuming some of the administrative tasks performed by the Regatta Commission, it would allow the Regatta Commission to focus on the strategic direction of the regatta calendar and conduct related program reviews as required.

Action – CEO to develop a strategy to present to the May Board meeting

4.8 2011 NSW Masters Team

As recommended by the Masters Selectors, the Board confirmed the endorsement of the 2011 NSW Masters Team to compete at the 2011 Australian Masters Rowing Championships at Lake Barrington, Tasmania from 2–5 June

Women's Eight

Kerrie Bigsworth	Sydney University Women's Rowing Club
Deanna Fekete	Leichhardt Rowing Club
Dianne Williams	Leichhardt Rowing Club
Amanda Andrews	Drummoyne Rowing Club
Jane O'Hanlon	Drummoyne Rowing Club
Angela Conry	Leichhardt Rowing Club
Anne Parbury	Leichhardt Rowing Club
Daniela Bogert	Leichhardt Rowing Club
Cox Robert Wright	Mosman Rowing Club
Coach Steve Sherry	Drummoyne Rowing Club

Women's Quad

Sandy Rourke	Leichhardt Rowing Club
Wendy Zammit	Sydney University Women's Rowing Club
Kim Chilton	Port Macquarie Rowing Club
Tamsin Brew	North Shore Rowing Club
Kathleen Hextell (Reserve)	Drummoyne Rowing Club
Coach Steve Gordon	Mosman Rowing Club

Men's Eight

Simon Glascott	Old Ignations Rowing Club
Philip Quick	North Shore Rowing Club
David Clark	Glebe Rowing Club
Robert Glendenning	Drummoyne Rowing Club

Daniel Backhouse	Drummoyne Rowing Club
Kim Mackney	Glebe Rowing Club
Terry Davis	Glebe Rowing Club
Ken Major	Glebe Rowing Club
Cox Brian Holst	Sydney University Women's Rowing Club
Ken Ambler (Reserve)	Sydney Rowing Club
Coach Milan Parker	Glebe Rowing Club

Men's Quad

Steven Harrison	St George Rowing Club
Peter McLaren	St George Rowing Club
Alan Pollock	St George Rowing Club
Stephen Irons	St George Rowing Club
Coach Bruce Williams	St George Rowing Club

Motion: To endorse the 2011 NSW Masters Team as presented.

Moved: J Zammit

Seconded: S Handley

Motion carried

5 General Business

5.1 Use of the Parramatta River

B Weir noted the need for Rowing to document its use of the Parramatta River to clearly quantify the location of rowing clubs and schools, the location where rowers generally train and the peak times, the number of rowers etc. (Refer minute 4.4)

This will clearly identify rowing's current use of the waterway for local and state government agencies.

Motion: To identify a contractor to document rowing use of the Parramatta River

Moved: J Zammit

Seconded: S Handley

Motion carried

5.2 Under 21 Competitive Opportunities

The meeting discussed the prioritisation of U/21 racing opportunities in nominated regatta programs to more effectively identify with school leavers. The intent is to conduct the U/21 racing opportunities within the regatta program, limiting it to big boats (8+, 4x and the 4+).

Action: Regatta Commission and Regatta Secretary

B Weir provided an overview of the Regatta Commissions 19 April meeting. B Weir noted that U/21 events have been tentatively included in the 2011/12 draft calendar and order of events. It was further noted that the Regatta Commission is recommending the conduct of an additional 2,000m Championship event prior to Christmas.

Action: Regatta Commission and Regatta Secretary to finalise the regatta calendar an order of events for presentation to the membership at the June General Meeting.

5.3 Newington Masters

S Handley raised concerns about the Newington Masters fees payable to the association in its current New and Emerging Status.

I Adlam noted that the intent of any changes to the constituent members fees and levies is to create a more equitable distribution of existing funds collected and not to increase the amount of revenue generated by RNSW. Constituent members fees and levies will be discussed at the May Club Treasurers Meeting

Action: CEO and I Adlam

Meeting closed - 8:45pm

Next Meeting – 18 May 2011 @ 6:30pm - Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Kirribilli