

MINUTES

NSWRA GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY 28th June 2011
7.00PM

KEN BROWN ROOM #1, SPORTS HOUSE,
6A FIGTREE DRIVE
SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK

Present:

Janet Pendleton (Drummoyne), Paul Coates (Sydney), Phillip Coates (Sydney), Stephen Handley (Sydney), Neil Holmes (Nepean), Nigel Waddell (Nepean), Michael Wiseman (SUBC), Andrew Gannon (SUBC), Owen Nix (CDRA), Andrew Black (UTS), John James (North Shore), Kate Holden (UNSW), Alexander Weilmann (Balmain), Ono Van Ewyk (Leichhardt), Andrew McCallum (Leichhardt), Charles Bartlett (Leichhardt), Alex Rybak (St Ignatius), Simon Glasscott (Old Ignations), Tim Wainman (BRO) and Christian Renford (RNSW)

RNSW Vice Presidents: Barry Moynahan, Keith Jameson, and Phillip Sharp

RNSW Board Members: Norma Perry (President), Chris Noel, Greg James, Ivan Adlam, and Joseph Zammit

Apologies:

John Coates (Life Member), Doug Donoghue (Vice President) Murray Clarke (UNSW), Jane Spring (Sydney University Women's), Fiona Toose (Penrith), Ian McCrae (Penrith), Andrew Rowley (Councilor), Bronwen Watson (RNSW Director), Michael Daffy (Sydney), Georgia Koutts (UTS), Mark Williams (Mosman)

1. Welcome

N Perry welcomed all to the June General Meeting.

N Perry updated the meeting on the following activities within the Association since the last General Meeting:

Director Resignation – T Clare

N Perry noted the resignation of T Clare from the Board and congratulated him on his outstanding contribution to the Board since 2003, and coupled with his leadership of Leichhardt Rowing Club has shown the passion to develop and improve the sport of rowing in NSW. The successful introduction of the Grade Regattas stands as a lasting tribute.

Board Casual Vacancy

N Perry confirmed that the casual vacancy process has been completed in accordance with the rules and announced the Board approved the appointment of Andrew Gannon (SUBC) to fill the above casual vacancy, to be formalized at the next Board meeting.

Regatta Commission

N Perry noted the Boards resolution to change the structure of the Regatta Commission to make it a smaller and more dynamic Commission with an extended charter from the Board. The new position of Regatta Operations Manager will provide the Commission with greater support. The Regatta Commission is to have a “whole of sport” vision that will support the key objectives of growth in membership and the development of higher quality rowing and competition in New South Wales. Specifically the Commission will:

- a) Review Regatta program scheduling.
- b) Analyze regatta and membership statistics with a view to developing business models to achieve priorities and objectives of Rowing NSW.
- c) Review competitive categories, practices and systems and make recommendations as required from time to time.
- d) Review of Laws of Boat Racing.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes

Motion: To accept the minutes of the April 2011 General Meeting as true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: K. Jameson Seconded: J James

Motion Carried

3. To consider business of which notice has been given.

Voting

In accordance with NSWRA Rule 7(vii)(a) the CEO noted there were 66 eligible votes present at the meeting. N Perry confirmed that in accordance with NSWRA Rule 12(iii) 50 votes will be required to pass the relevant notices of motion.

The meeting noted that in accordance with Rule 7(xii)(b) that voting shall be decided on by a show of hands as per voting entitlement unless a secret ballot be demanded.

Motion: That voting shall be decided on by a show of hands as per voting entitlement.

Moved: B Moynahan Seconded: K. Jameson

Motion Carried

3.1 Amendment to the RNSW Laws of Boat Racing – Sydney Rowing Club

S Handley tabled a revised Proposal for Amendments to the Laws of Boat Racing, withdrawing the proposed Notice of Motion #4. S Handley provided an overview of the proposal as tabled, reiterating that the intent of the amendments as originally proposed have not changed and any variations have been simplified based on recent consultation with the current and former RNSW Regatta Secretaries.

Motion: To consider the four amended notices of motion as tabled by Sydney Rowing Club to the Laws of Boat Racing separately.

Moved: K. Jameson Seconded: B Weir

Motion Carried

C Bartlett sought clarification on the Boards prior consideration of the SRC proposal, and its subsequent recommendation to the membership.

K Jameson noted that the association rules are silent as what should be done if a notice of motion is not considered prior by the Board, and did not believe the meeting would be in breach of the rules should the SRC proposal be heard.

N Perry stated that the meeting had received sufficient notice from SRC to allow discussion to continue on this matter. N Perry as Chair resolved that the meeting shall discuss the Revised Proposal for Amendments to the Laws of Boat Racing as tabled by Sydney Rowing Club.

(1) – Lightweight Grade Events

S Handley spoke to the proposed amendment. The meeting considered the proposed amendment 1(a) to the Law of Boat Racing 8(2)(A)(ix) Grade Categories as follows:

<i>Existing Law</i>	<i>Proposed Amendment</i>
N/A	Law 8(2)(A)(ix): Rowing and sculling races for grade categories A, B and C may from time to time be conducted for lightweight competitors only. In such races lightweight competitors shall be defined in Law 8

Motion: that Law of Boat Racing 8(2)(A) be amended by the addition of Law 8(2)(A)(ix)

Moved: K Jameson Seconded: B Weir

40 votes for. 26 votes against

Motion failed

S Handley withdrew Motion 1(b)

(2) – Separate Elite Competition

S Handley withdrew the original Motion 2 and spoke to the proposed the amendment:

- Remove elite competitors from the Grade Competition and where necessary schedule separate events for elite competitors
- Elite athletes may re-enter the Grade Competition after one season full out of the national team for Senior A and one full season out of the national team for Senior B team members.

The meeting considered the proposed amendment to the Law of Boat Racing 8(2)(A)(ix) Grade Categories as follows:

<i>Existing Law</i>	<i>Proposed Amendment</i>
N/A	Law 8(2)(A)(x): Competitors who are current Australian representatives in Senior A or Under 23 competition or were representatives at these levels in the preceding season shall not compete in Grade races.

Motion: that Law of Boat Racing 8(2)(A) be amended by the addition of Law 8(2)(A)(ix)

17 votes for. 49 votes against

Motion failed

(3) – Rapid Promotion

S Handley withdrew the original Motion 3 and spoke to the proposed amendment. The meeting considered the proposed amendment to the Law of Boat Racing 8(2)(A)(vii) and 8(2)(A)(iv) Grade Categories.

Motion: that this meeting refer to the Board that in exercising its power provided in Law 8(2)(A)(vii) to nominate the regattas at which the results of races may be used to determine or adjust the grade scores of competitors in accordance with Law 8(2)(A)(iv), the Board may consider only the NSW Championship Regatta and the National Championship Regatta

58 votes for. 8 votes against

Motion carried

(4) – Team Boats

S Handley withdrew the original Motion 4

(5) – Masters Grade Scores

S Handley spoke to the proposed the amendment:

- To retain masters competitors in C Grade, a grade score ceiling of 2.25 grade points be applied to non-elite competitors over 40 years of age.

The meeting considered the proposed amendment to the Law of Boat Racing 8(2)(A)(xi) Grade Categories and made the following amendments:

- a) Grade score ceiling be applied to non-elite competitors over 43 years of age

b) Trialled for the 2011/12 season only

<i>Existing Law</i>	<i>Proposed Amendment</i>
N/A	Law 8(2)(A)(xi): Except for competitors who are current Australian representatives in Senior A competition or were representatives in the preceding season, competitors who are over 43 years of age shall have a minimum grade score of 2.25

Motion: that Law of Boat Racing 8(2)(A) be amended by the addition of Law 8(2)(A)(xi) for the 2011/12 season only.

55 votes for. 11 votes against

Motion carried

3.2 Amendment to the RNSW Laws of Boat Racing – Transfers Working Group

Motion: To consider the motions from the April Transfers Working Group.

Moved: C Noel Seconded: A Black

Motion Carried

C Bartlett provided an overview of the proposal as tabled.

C Bartlett spoke to Recommendation 2 – Special Rules Relating to Transfers of Year 12 School Leavers, first. The intent of this notice of motion was that the NSWRA Laws of Boat Racing Law 8 (8) Transfers be amended to include a new law that removes the right of rowers to transfer from a club during the period commencing 1st January of their year 12 schooling until the National regatta in the following year, if they have or are participating in that clubs recognised year 12 recruiting programme.

Motion: That the NSWRA Laws of Boat Racing be amended as follows:

1. For clarity and correctness amend Law 8 (8) a) – d) by:
 - i. Substituting names and terms with the correct defined names and terms found within the Rules, By Laws and or Laws of Boat Racing
 - ii. Capitalising defined names and terms found within the Rules, By Laws and or Laws of Boat Racing
 - iii. use of plain language
2. Amend Law 8 (8) b) to add proviso iii
3. Add new Law 8 (9)
4. Add new Form to Section 3 – NSWRA Forms & Schedules

35 votes for. 27 votes against. 4 votes abstained

Motion failed

C Bartlett spoke to Recommendation 1 - Protocol for Ethical Transfer and Recruiting Practices. C Bartlett expressed concerns about the validity of the Protocol in reference to the Associations

Rules, By-Laws and Laws of Boat Racing, requesting that the Board review the clubs obligation to adhere to the Protocol.

It was noted that the April Transfers Working Group recommended to the Board amendments to the Protocol for Ethical Transfer and Recruiting Practices, which the Board adopted at its May meeting.

3.3 Regatta Calendar and Order of Events

Motion: to consider the 2011/12 Regatta Calendar and Order of Events as tabled separately

Moved: G James Seconded: P Sharp

(A) 2011/12 Regatta Calendar

K Jameson tabled the 2011/12 Regatta Calendar as recommended by the Regatta Commission and endorsed by the Board. K Jameson provided an overview of the consultation process and rationale in the construction of the annual regatta calendar, and highlighted the several changes resultant from issues arising from reduced availability of SIRC due to RA's Olympic Selection trials as well as those of Australian Canoeing. Constraints have resulted in key date changes from previous seasons including:

- AAGPS HOR on 10 March 2012 – same date as the Australian Rowing Championships in WA
- SBHOR and the SGHOR are unable to be accommodated on the same weekend
- Riverview Gold Cup on 3 December 2011
- St George RC and Nepean RC no longer share a weekend regatta format, and have been allocated a separate dates, both coinciding with NSWIS Time Trials
- NSW Sprint Championships rescheduled to a Sunday following the December RNSW Premiership Regatta
- NSW Masters Championships one week earlier to avoid Mothers Day

The meeting agreed upon the following amendments to the 2011/12 Calendar as presented:

- Reschedule the Drummoyne Regatta from 19 February to 18 March 2012
- Inclusion of an AAGPS Junior Time Trial on 3 March 2012

A McCallum queried the decision to conduct the NSW Masters Championships at SIRC and not to rotate to a regional venue that has been the practice in recent years. The CEO highlighted that the decision to host the regatta at SIRC is consistent with the Law of Boat Racing 2.(iii) (b) All State Championships shall be rowed at the Sydney International Regatta Centre unless the Board shall determine that it is impracticable to do so.

Motion: To accept the regatta calendar be accepted as tabled including the agreed amendments.

Moved: G James Seconded: P Sharp

Motion Carried

It was noted that despite the rigorous consultation process, several late changes to the calendar and order of events have again created challenges in the later stages documents finalisation.

(B) Order of Events

K Jameson tabled the 2011/12 Order of Events as recommended by the Regatta Commission and endorsed by the Board, and provided an overview of the consultation process and rationale in the construction creation of the document.

The meeting discussed and agreed upon the following changes to the 2011/12 Order of Events as presented:

- Delete events 1-14 from the Riverview Gold Cup Regatta
- Introduce a MM 8+ and SB1 8+ into the Riverview Gold Cup Regatta

J James requested that the Regatta Commission give further consideration in developing the order of events to allow for more practical rotation of boats in particular 4- and 4x. B Weir further noted the possible clashes with some 4- and 4x events in the following regattas

- Sprint Championships events 22-24
- Taree Regatta events 40-41
- Trickett Regatta events 32-33

Motion: To accept the order of events be accepted as tabled including the agreed amendments subject to the Regatta Secretary reviewing the order of events in the regattas listed above

Moved: G James Seconded: P Sharp

Motion Carried

Action 1 – Regatta Secretary to amend the calendar and publish on the RNSW website

Action 2 – Regatta Secretary to amend the order of events and publish on the RNSW website

Action 3 - Regatta Secretary to review order of events in the regattas listed above to eliminate or minimise likely event clashes

Action 4 – CEO to commence negotiations with Rowing Australia and Australian Canoeing about their likely use of SIRC in 2016

K Jameson expressed his appreciation to the members of the Regatta Commission for the efforts in developing the 2011/12 Regatta Calendar and Order of Events

3.4 Schedule of Fees and Charges

The CEO tabled the proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2011/12 as endorsed by the May Treasurers meeting and the Board.

1. Provision of affiliation fees and levies of constituent members
2. Member subscription levels
3. Allocation of regatta seat fees

The meeting discussed the Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2011/12. The CEO provided an overview of the consultation process with the club treasurers and rationale Schedule of Fees and Charges as presented. The CEO highlighted the amendments the categories of registered members. Specifically:

- Introduction of Recreational Members (12 month and 3 month)
- Removal of school membership category
- Removal of the patron membership category.

The CEO reiterated that any obligation or liability with respect to the payment of membership fees of existing patron members will be honoured by the Association.

Motion: To accept the 2011/12 Schedule of Fees and charges as presented

Moved: C Noel Seconded: P Sharp

Motion Carried

3.5 Association Budget

The CEO tabled the proposed 2011/12 Budget for Rowing New South Wales as endorsed by the May Treasurers meeting and the Board.

The meeting discussed the 2011/12 budget The CEO provided an overview of the assumptions and rationale surrounding the creation of the budget, specifically the delineation of the three key organizational business units of the Association; Administration, Operations and Development.

Motion: To accept the 2011/12 Budget as presented

Moved: I Adlam Seconded: K Jameson

Motion Carried

4. General Business

N/A

Meeting Closed – 10:20pm