

**NSWRA BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday 18th February 2009
Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron**

Item	Description
1	<p>WELCOME Andrew Rowley apologised for not attending January's Board Meeting, called the meeting to order and welcomed all present at 6.30pm. Present: Andrew Rowley, Charles Bartlett, Norma Perry, Owen Nix, Tim Clare, Mark Williams, Steve Handley, Joe Zammit, David Evans, Andrew Randell, Wade Hewett and Georgie Lee</p> <p>Apologies: Greg James</p>
2	<p>CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES That the minutes of the meeting 21st January 2009 be accepted <i>Moved: Norma Perry</i> <i>Seconded: Owen Nix</i> <i>Carried: 011/2009</i></p> <p>Business Arising: Mr Rowley asked that the Directors print and read the minutes from the Strategic Review Meeting 20th November 2008 and that Key Performance Indicators are allocated to each division where necessary.</p> <p>The Chief Executive Officer is to contact Christian Renford, Chief Executive Officer Rowing Queensland, Chair ROMS and arrange a ROMS meeting following the National Championships.</p>
3	<p>FINANCE REPORTS The Chief Executive Officer explained to the Board that the Association was in a good position in regards to Cash and Term Deposits which are due to be rolled over and all outstanding items from the 2008 Kings Cup Lunch had been finalised.</p> <p>The Director of Finance, Norma Perry suggested that the New South Wales Rowing Association needs an investment strategy. That a committee be formed underneath the Audit Commission to look at future investment strategies <i>Moved: Norma Perry</i> <i>Seconded: Tim Clare</i> <i>Carried: 012/2009</i></p>
4	<p>ROWING AUSTRALIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affiliated Competitor <p>NSWRA Councillor, Mr Wade Hewett provided the Board with a definition of a Fully Affiliated Member of Rowing Australia as discussed with Norma Perry and David Evans in regards to the 2008 Rowing Australia Annual General Meeting and voting rights. It was seen to have 3 criteria</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Must be over the age of 19 at 31st December 2. Must be a full competitive member of the NSWRA 3. Must normally reside within the borders of the state of NSW <p>This excludes Junior Competitors and School Competitors and would not affect the current voting rights NSWRA holds with Rowing Australia although it would decrease the amount payable to Rowing Australia. All school rowers to be treated the same irrespective of gender.</p>

	<p>The difference between an Affiliated Competitor and a Full Affiliated Competitor is to be determined by the Rowing Australia Councillors. Mr Hewett has circulated this definition to the Councillors and has received no feedback. It is anticipated that Rowing Queensland may object and if that is the case then NSW should insist that any alternate formula for voting rights should be amended and not be capped as it is currently.</p> <p>The Board considered the criteria and provide the following definition for Mr Hewett to pursue a response: ‘A member of a member association who on the 31st December is under the age of 19 is entitled to compete in events conducted by that member association and is normally a resident within the geographical boundaries of that member association’ <i>Moved: Mark Williams</i> <i>Seconded: Charles Bartlett</i> <i>Carried: 013/2009</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Rowing Championships & Rowing Australia Strategy Mr Hewett reinforced the statement by Andrew Randell that the communication lines are improving with structured and regular communication though not on all levels. The three levels of communication include Presidential, Coaching and CEO though at this stage the CEO level has not improved in pace with that of the President and High Performance coaching areas. • National Event Management Committee The acceptance of the National Event Management Committee responsible for organising the Australian Rowing Championships and the Australian Masters Championships is in line with paper submitted to Rowing Australia by the NSWRA Board in May 2007. While it shows that structural changes have been implemented the personnel have not changed which remains a concern. • 2009 Rowing Australia Elections The President of Rowing Australia Mr Patrick McNamara is due to stand down at the end of December and under the RA Constitution the Council is required to vote on his replacement. There will be two vacancies on the Board come the 2009 election; David England (Director of Finance) and Colin Smith (Director of High Performance). In regards to NSWRA pursuing any changes for the 2009 election, it is an entirely different set of circumstance than in 2008. <p>Mr Hewett advised against a challenge of Mr England’s position and due to the improvement of High Performance that Andrew Matheson has implemented at the National Rowing Centre of Excellence (NRCE), if there are no other outstanding alternatives to Colin Smith then he sees no need to challenge that position either.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Rowing Championships Mr Hewett pointed out to the Board that the Rowing Australia Council did not make a decision in relation to the adoption of National Events Rotation; it is a Rowing Australia Board endorsement. Mr Hewett explained that Mr David Pincus has asked that the host be responsible for all financial issues of hosting a national regatta. If the Rowing Australia Board adopt the rotation then it will be unlikely that NSW will be prepared to hold such an event if it continues in the current format. Mr Handley stressed to the Board that the timing of the Australian Rowing Championships continues to be a problem for NSW athletes. A discussion paper is to be produced and deliberated with other states at the Australian Rowing Championships. Mr Andrew Matheson has indicated to the NSW Elite Management Committee that the timing of the Nationals to be held in March makes no difference on the Rowing Australia High Performance program.
5	<p>NSWIS Mr Andrew Randell, NSW Elite Coach/Coordinator advised that the NRCE has been quite active in the last few months and have circulated a number of documents including selection policy & supplements for all National Teams. The centralised leadership is a step forward and the direction is a lot clearer than it has been in the last four years.</p>

	<p>Communication is improving with monthly telephone hook ups with the states Head Coaches and Institutes. A new National testing protocol has been introduced which is quite a substantial process but should provide a good profile for all athletes across the country.</p> <p>Within NSW there are a number of returning Olympians training out of Sydney Rowing Club. Sydney University have been dominating the Under 23 events and there is quite a good stock of school talent coming through the ranks.</p> <p>The 2009 NSW State Team has been selected. The Selectors have put a lot of time into the selection process for 2009 including trials and scheduling training days in between the NSW State Championships and the Australian Rowing Championships but those opportunities have not been taken up. The suggestion of selecting the team earlier to enable more training will be discussed for the 2010 team. There is a Kings Cup training program scheduled for Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd February though the AIS won't release those athletes and minor injuries of other athletes means that there will not be as many sessions as planned.</p> <p>Mr Bartlett asked why it has been difficult for the crews to be available to train as required and Mr Randell explained that the athletes enjoy the centralised training; it is more of a coaching issue. The coaches of the State Crews are heavily involved in their club programs.</p> <p>Mr Clare posed a question as to why there is a lack of elite participation throughout the season and asked what can be done to encourage their involvement. It was explained by using Sydney University and Sydney Rowing Club as an example; Sydney University entered several regattas in the 2007-2008 season and as a result performed poorly at the State Championships. Sydney Rowing Club have had a very busy January and February 2009 with camps, regattas, tours of New Zealand and come State Championships most were sick. There is a fine line between a full training program and overloading.</p> <p>Mr Randell explained that the NRCE High Performance draft plan has been developed until 2013 including all major regatta dates and selection trials and believe it is a great step toward for state associations for forward plan their regatta program.</p> <p>As a coaching group, Mr Randell believes that communication is working better than it was four years ago due to regular meetings of the elite coaches in NSW. The biggest hurdle is getting clubs and coaches to think globally in terms of training and preparation as the coaches are paid by and report to their respective clubs, not the Institute or NSW Rowing.</p> <p>The State Championships are club focused and Australian Rowing Championships the clubs and athletes should be thinking globally to prepare for selections. Mr Handley explained to the Board that NSW High Performance talent is spread quite thin, in particular women and we are possibly at the lowest level in years.</p> <p>Mr Rowley then thanked Mr Randell for attending and for his detailed report on elite rowing in NSW.</p>																								
6	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">TRANSFERS</th> </tr> <tr> <th>NAME</th> <th>FROM</th> <th>TO</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ashleigh Adams</td> <td>Port Macquarie Rowing Club</td> <td>Macquarie University Boat Club</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sally Kehoe</td> <td>University of Queensland BC</td> <td>Sydney University Boat Club</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Beatrix Sheldrick</td> <td>Drummoyne Rowing Club</td> <td>Sydney University Women's BC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jason Nissen</td> <td>Newcastle Rowing Club</td> <td>Hunter Rowing Club</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Edward Clarke</td> <td>UTS Rowing Club</td> <td>Sydney University Boat Club</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hally Hames (Chapman)</td> <td>UTS Rowing Club</td> <td>St George Rowing Club</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The above transfers were noted and approved</p>	TRANSFERS			NAME	FROM	TO	Ashleigh Adams	Port Macquarie Rowing Club	Macquarie University Boat Club	Sally Kehoe	University of Queensland BC	Sydney University Boat Club	Beatrix Sheldrick	Drummoyne Rowing Club	Sydney University Women's BC	Jason Nissen	Newcastle Rowing Club	Hunter Rowing Club	Edward Clarke	UTS Rowing Club	Sydney University Boat Club	Hally Hames (Chapman)	UTS Rowing Club	St George Rowing Club
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7	<p>DEPARTMENT OF SPORT & RECREATION/SIRC</p> <p>The CEO explained to the Board that there continues to be problems with regatta dates at the Sydney International Regatta Centre.</p>																								

	<p>Two dates were allocated for the Roseville and North Shore Regattas as the programs have become much too large for one day. SIRC approached the school and club directly after being informed that NSWRA needed both the 21st and 28th November 2009 to deliver the regatta season as planned. Roseville and North Shore ultimately relinquished a NSWRA booked date that would result in the North Shore Regatta clashing with the Head of the Yarra. A triathlon has been booked in preference to the NSWRA date. The CEO will negotiate with the management of SIRC and seek resolution.</p> <p>It was reiterated that the NSW Rowing Association are the only entity entitled to book the seasons regatta dates and do so on behalf of the clubs and schools. All dates must be submitted to SIRC by the 31st May for the following year starting 1st January. Other parties are not entitled to change or add bookings to the NSWRA calendar directly with SIRC management.</p> <p>The board requires that notice be given to clubs and schools that bookings for SIRC are made by NSW Rowing in order to preserve the priority that NSWRA has at SIRC and that any enquiries regarding this matter are to be made to the NSWRA.</p>
8	<p>COMMISSION REPORTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regatta Commission <p>The Chairman of the Regatta Commission Mr Tim Clare distributed the charter of the Regatta Commission to the Board. Mr Clare told the Board that regatta entries continue to be strong in both grade and age regattas and will produce a breakdown of all the entries for the next Board Meeting. The strength of entries in both regattas relies heavily on junior and master competitors with elite clubs being noticeably under-represented.</p> <p>Mr Clare asked the Chairman of Selectors Mr Steve Handley what the elite programs need in order for their participation to increase. Mr Handley has spoken to Andrew Matheson at the National Rowing Centre of Excellence regarding this and notes that there are clubs in NSW that focus only on the national plan as part of the club policy. Mr Matheson will propose that all high performance and elite athletes will be required to do speed work and the place for that is at regattas. Those regattas must be conducted at SIRC rather than on Sydney Harbour.</p> <p>Mr Clare noted that there were discussions about the State Championships and the implementation of contingency plans for cancellation of the regatta i.e. putting cancelled races into later regattas at SIRC or after the AHIGS/IGSSA regatta on the 15th March.</p> <p>The Board considered all options and deemed them to be unsuitable and as such those events cancelled at the 2009 NSW State Championships will be recorded as uncontested. The NSWRA Regatta Secretary will be asked to circulate the Application to Host a Regatta and ask clubs and schools to submit a risk management and safety plan and traffic flow with the application. The traffic flow and safety plan are to be included in all club and school regatta programs.</p> <p>The Regatta Forum is used for addressing issues, receiving feedback and making recommendations regarding the draft regatta calendar. The Director of Finance suggested that this detail should be included in the Regatta Commission Charter.</p> <p>Mr Clare explained to the Board that it is becoming increasingly difficult to find regatta hosts. It was very fortunate that Glebe Rowing Club hosted the Grade Regatta on the 15th February 2009 and they did a very good job.</p> <p>The fully affiliated Sydney metropolitan clubs that did not host a regatta in the 2008-2009 season are Sydney University, University of New South Wales Rowing Club, UTS Rowing Club, Mosman Rowing Club and Sydney Women's MLC Rowing Club. Mr Clare is suggesting that an appropriate levy to be imposed on clubs that do not host a regatta. The amount should be similar to the cost of hosting a regatta.</p>

That an appropriate levy be determined by the Governance and Audit Committee who will then provide a recommendation to be tabled at the June General Meeting.

Moved: Mark Williams

Seconded: Tim Clare

Carried: 014/2009

- Governance and Audit Commission

The Board accepted the Governance and Audit Commission Charter. The members of the Commission are Norma Perry as Chairperson and Director of Administration Joe Zammit. Peter Trives will be asked by Mrs Perry then officially invited to join the Commission by Mr Rowley.

- Selection Panel

Chairman of Selectors Mr Steve Handley confirmed that Chris Noel and Terry O'Hanlon have been appointed to the Selection Panel. Mr Handley is to produce a Charter for the Selection Panel that will be given to all existing and new members on that Panel.

- Boat Race Officials Commission

The Chairman of the Boat Race Officials Commission Mr Owen Nix explained a document regarding the number of Boat Race Officials required at each regatta and put forward various scenarios that would accomplish the goal of resourcing the appropriate number of officials required.

The inequities of regatta hosts and clubs that have Boat Race Officials within their membership are apparent and the fairest way to balance this is to be discussed. A few options include each entering club providing an official, officials are supplied by clubs based on entries, officials are supplied by clubs based on seat fees with the responsibility being on the clubs to arrange.

The possibility of enforcing a penalty for failure to supply the agreed number of officials and if the official fails to attend should lead to a further penalty, this was deferred for future debate.

Mr Nix tabled a request from Mr Greg Smith regarding the formation of an Umpire Committee acting as an advisory group to the Boat Race Official Commission. It was determined that the request will require further discussion.

- Facilities & Waterways Commission

The Chairman of the Facilities & Waterways Commission Mr Charles Bartlett spoke in relation to the correspondence from Balmain Rowing Club and the impact of development on 2,000 metre rowing courses in Iron Cove. The Directors discussed this at some length and clarified that the Balmain Course was still in use and the Minutes of the 17th December 2008 Meeting should not have stated that the Balmain Course had been "lost" as the 1,000 metre course is still used regularly although the Balmain Rowing Club considers that the 2,000 metre course has been compromised by the development of the Birkenhead Point Marina.

The Bay Clubs Forum has attempted to source as much information as possible on all known courses on Sydney Harbour. Four have been found on Iron Cove including the Balmain Course although it is likely that NSW Maritime will only approve regattas to be held on the UTS Course on Iron Cove Bay.

The Bay Clubs Forum have launched a political campaign that doesn't involved protest movements and trying to work as an esoteric reaction within the political structure of government to get some level of commitment to amend current plans for the bridge so that the use of Iron Cove and the rowing course is not affected.

Further, Mr Bartlett asked the Board not to endorse NSWRA members involving themselves in protest movements at this stage despite the resolution at the February 10th General Meeting.

Michael Morrissey, architect and engineer submitted plans to the Department of Planning which lead to an opportunity to meet with the Minister for Roads. The Minister asked Mr Morrissey to

	<p>design a better bridge and provide your results, which he did. The Plans were put in front of the RTA and their response indicated that the NSWRA would not approve of the drawings. At this stage the NSWRA had not been consulted and had not seen the plans prepared by Mr Morrissey. It was agreed that the NSWRA send letters to all Ministers previously contracted on this issue commenting on the letter sent to Mr Morrissey by the RTA and stating that the NSWRA does in fact approve of the alternate plans. Mr Rowley suggested the Board contact Murray Clarke OAM, reassess the strategy and establish the passive users group.</p> <p>Mr Bartlett advised the Board that Mr Greg James is establishing a rowing club for Indigenous Australians initially to be located on Callan Park and more recently in Homebush Bay. Mr Bartlett suggested that Mr James bring the plan to the Facilities Development Group.</p>
9	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>Alexander Weilsmann (Balmain Rowing Club) 05/02/2009 David Longhurst (Balmain Rowing Club) 08/02/2009</p> <p>The correspondence received from Mr Alexander Weilsmann and Mr David Longhurst was discussed and resolved at Agenda Item 8. COMMISSION REPORTS – Facilities Development Commission and the wording of the December Minutes amended to reflect the perspective of the Balmain Rowing Club:</p> <p>Following discussion with the Captain of Balmain Rowing Club and since the Club's President is at present overseas, I have been requested to ask the NSWRA to note and inform the Board the following.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Balmain Rowing 2000 M course has been compromised by the Birkenhead Point Marina, however, the 1000 M course is still used 2. Balmain Rowing course is used for the JB Sharpe Regatta Series and has been used continuously for the past 84 years and will continue to do so 3. Balmain Rowing course is used for unofficial regattas (friendly regattas). <p>Ray Green OAM (Sydney Rowing Club) 08/02/2008 Mr Green sent a thank you card and letter of thanks to the NSWRA Board and the rowing community in general on the occasion of being awarded an OAM in recognition for contributions to the sport. The Board acknowledged the contribution of Mr Green and will ensure he is acknowledged at a forthcoming General or Annual General Meeting.</p>
10	<p>CEO REPORT</p> <p>The CEO tabled the monthly report and highlighted a number of key points to the Board. It was noted that membership numbers remain positive and are well up in comparison to the same time last year; 3797 compared with 3424. The Association is also meeting its objectives with most regattas taking fewer hours to host but are still recording healthy entry levels and seat fees. The Port Macquarie and Manning River regattas were shown as an example of this.</p> <p>It has been commonly accepted that heat issues facing the State Championships was very well managed by the Fairness Committee. As a result of the heat many additional expenses were incurred and several income items such as program sales were down, however, the event attracted solid entry levels and good levels of sponsorship, particularly through the University of Sydney Faculty of Economics and Business. As a result the regatta will deliver a healthy surplus. The CEO will follow up with the University of Sydney Faculty of Economics and Business to discuss the potential of continuing or further developing the sponsorship.</p> <p>The Kings Cup Committee Lunch on Friday 13th February 2009 was well attended though down on seats compared to 2008 (179 compared to 260). This will be reflected in the overall financial outcome for the event. The venue was presented very professionally and it was important that the event maintains momentum. The recognition of the NSW athletes and making solid relationships with corporate society was very positive and augurs well for the future.</p> <p>It was noted that the entry levels for the 2009 Australian Rowing Championships were looking good for Tasmania with entries dropping only a small level from the record achieved at SIRC in 2008 and showing a dip of only 200 entries.</p>

11	<p>GENERAL BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sydney World Masters Games <p>As at the 19th December 10 countries have expressed interest and this represents up to 225 boats. To date Boat Hire has been a significant concern for the Organising Committee but positive responses have been promptly received from a number of schools in respect to a notice prepared by the Regatta Manager. The Start Pontoon currently being investigated is the design of Mr Phillip Titterton using Styrofoam blocks projecting an expected cost of \$25,000. \$12,500 (50% of total cost to a maximum total of \$25,000) has been secured from SWMGOC, \$10,000 from SIRC and the remainder from NSWRA; \$2500 - \$3000.</p> <p>The Chairman of the NSW Sydney World Masters Games Mr Joseph Zammit asked the Board to approve providing a shortfall up to a maximum of \$3000 for building the start structure at SIRC as proposed by Mr Titterton.</p> <p><i>Moved: Joe Zammit</i> <i>Seconded: Steve Handley</i> <i>Carried: 015/2009</i></p> <p>At a meeting with Mr Nick Jordan (SWMG), Mr Zammit, Mr Evans and Mr Paul Coates it was agreed that SWMG would provide NSWRA with 95% of hosting fee upfront instead of 75%. The NSWRA accommodation requirements for the regatta were agreed to by the SWMG subject to a review of the number of beds required. It was also agreed in principle, that the NSWRA will retain income from merchandisers. The SWMG agreed to further review of the contract to provide for remedy in favour of the NSWRA in the event 2009 SWMGOC do not deliver on areas of their responsibility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kinross Wolaroi <p>Kinross Wolaroi was registered with the NSWRA as a school but has since been accepted as an affiliated club. Kinross Wolaroi appealed to a protest made at the 2009 Manning River Regatta regarding a disqualification of a rower. Since the school at the time of the regatta was not affiliated with the NSWRA as a club the disqualification stands.</p> <p>The Board thanks Kinross Wolaroi for making their submission for becoming an affiliated club with the NSWRA and subsequent approval at the February General Meeting and wishes them well.</p>
13	<p>The meeting closed at 10.00pm Next meeting Wednesday 18th March 2009</p>
14	<p>APPROVED 18/03/2009</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Andrew Rowley PRESIDENT</p>