

**NSWRA BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009  
Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron**

Item	Description
1	<p><b>WELCOME</b> Andrew Rowley called the meeting to order and welcomed all present at 6.30pm. Present: Andrew Rowley, Charles Bartlett, Owen Nix, Tim Clare, Steve Handley, Joe Zammit, Greg James QC, David Evans and Georgie Lee</p> <p>Apologies: Norma Perry, Mark Williams SC</p>
2	<p><b>CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES</b> That the minutes of the meeting 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009 be accepted</p> <p><i>Moved: Charles Bartlett</i> <i>Seconded: Joe Zammit</i> <i>Carried: 16/2009</i></p>
3	<p><b>CEO &amp; FINANCE REPORTS</b> The CEO explained to the Board that the Association is in a good financial position with cash in the bank and Term Deposits.</p> <p>Memberships as at the end of February were 4003 as opposed to 3506 in 2008 and on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009 memberships stood at 4111 which is an all time record. These memberships are across all categories. Typically some master rowers register late which may bring in up to 100 more members by the end of the season. This rise is above projected budget and it was not expected to rise this much in a year.</p> <p>This membership rise also reflects into seat fees indicating a good regatta calendar for which the Regatta Commission can take credit for. It is also due to NSW clubs and schools that the Association rely upon are providing great programs for their rowers.</p> <p>Going forward, the Association's Term Deposits need to be looked at by the Audit and Governance Commission, chaired by Director of Finance Mrs Norma Perry. It is proposed that a 'sweep' account is created so that the Term Deposits have a cap at \$60,000 and all monies above that amount is put into the 'sweep' account with minimum 4% interest.</p> <p>That the Finance Reports are accepted <i>Moved: Greg James QC</i> <i>Seconded: Joe Zammit</i> <i>Carried: 17/2009</i></p> <p>The CEO Report was circulated and Mr Evans indicated that the Australian Rowing Championships and the Rowing Australia Selection Regatta will be covered in later agenda items.</p> <p>Other events include the Kings/PLC/NSWRA Regatta held at SIRC on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2009 which in general went very well. There was a small communication issue in regards to volunteers and equipment for the regatta but was fixed quickly with no major repercussions.</p>

The NSW Schoolboy Head of the River to be held at SIRC on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2009 for which the Regatta Secretary, Paul Coates is taking a lead role. The key issue for the day is going to be the management of traffic and ensuring our volunteers, competitors and spectators know when and where to arrive. The AAGPS Convenor, Greg Pike has been cooperative and very good to work with.

Joe Zammit will detail the Sydney World Masters Games further in his Chairman's report but Mr Evans explained to the Board that the budget has moved forward in terms of items the NSWRA are to be in control of. Both Margaret Mackenzie and Phillip Titterton's involvement has been great with both doing a lot of work together and independently. The only difficulty has been SIRC regarding some pontoon issues which has also been noted by the Sydney World Masters Games Organising Committee.

Mr Evans explained that the NSWRA is continually under pressure from Rowing Australia to adopt ROMS as the National System. At the ROMS Meeting held during the Australian Rowing Championships closing remarks made by the CEO of Rowing Australia Mr Andrew Dee were that he 'does not know when ROMS will be completed', 'frustrated at ongoing and new problems', 'no deadline on when items would be fixed or how to motivate the developer to fix them as money doesn't seem to be a motivator'.

The NSWRA continue to receive considerable criticism for not adopting the National System when in fact it isn't a National System at all i.e. Victoria is the only state that uses it for every regatta on its calendar. Tasmania only use it for 6 regattas, Queensland do not use ROMS for its school regattas, NSW and ACT don't use it at all.

That the NSWRA contract Stephen Croot Computing to provide Rowing Manager for a further 12 months

*Moved: Charles Bartlett*

*Seconded: Joe Zammit*

*Carried: 18/2009*

Mr Evans explained to the Board that a performance and salary review was conducted for the Operations Manager during the reporting period. The review was discussed with Mr Rowley and with the Finance Controller, Mr Richard Roach and a formal recommendation is provided to the Board for endorsement.

*Moved: Charles Bartlett*

*Seconded: Greg James QC*

*Carried: 19/2009*

The 3 month review on the Regatta Secretary will be done on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2009 and Mr Evans will be recommending that Paul be appointed full time. The reporting requirements for the Regatta Secretary to the CEO taking into account the external commitments of the role are currently working well.

Mr Evans explained that NSWRA's Honorary Solicitor Mr Torquil Murray has been working on a some key issues:

- Report on cost and detail for a Supreme Court Injunction and what happens in you lose in regards to the Iron Cove issues currently faced with
- Contractual arrangements with the Sydney World Masters Games

There has also been an issue raised where a club has refused to take on a rower with epilepsy despite their Doctor providing a letter stating the child would be perfectly capable of rowing. Advice has been sought from Dr Phillip Sharp and in discussions with Mr Greg James QC a document needs to be prepared to give to clubs on their position in ensuring that they cannot be exposed or by delegated authority expose the NSWRA to any issues.

Mr James QC explained that if there is active discrimination in accordance to the Act on the grounds of disability where one is not making provision because of some specific necessity or requirement then one can be found to be in breach of the Act and be liable. Mr James QC will go

	to the Commissioner for appropriate wording of document to protect both the NSWRA and NSW clubs from litigation.															
4	<p><b>ROWING AUSTRALIA</b> The NSWRA Councillor Mr Wade Hewett's report from the Australian Rowing Championships was tabled.</p> <p>There is a push from Rowing Victoria that after Pat McNamara has stood down at the end of 2009 that an interim President is appointed rather than an election. It seems at this stage David Deeble or Colin Smith are the likely candidates. Mr James QC suggested that the Board need to plan a strategy rather than commit to a particular direction at this stage.</p> <p>That the Councillors report be accepted with notation that Mr Handley was in attendance for the duration of the Australian Rowing Championships <i>Moved: Charles Bartlett</i> <i>Seconded: Greg James QC</i> <i>Carried: 20/2009</i></p> <p>Mr Bartlett advised the Board that he had received a phone call from Rowing Australia Director Mr Michael Sparkesman regarding Andrew Matheson's four year High Performance Plan. The Rowing Australia Board of Directors were asked to approve the plan in 3 days. It has since been approved for one year and be up for review until September 2009 for approval for the next three years. Mr Sparkesmann and Mr Bartlett suggested we get feedback from the stakeholders i.e. athletes, coaches and SSO before any recommendation is made to the NSWRA Board and therefore the RA Board.</p>															
5	<p><b>NSWIS</b> It is confirmed that as of the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009 Andrew Randell's contractual employment with the NSW Rowing Association will cease. The NSWIS position is due to start in July 2009. It is noted that NSWIS have not attended any AIS forums nor cooperated in formulating NSW High Performance Plan and as such NSW will be without High Performance and Rowing Australia funding for at least 2 months. The job description and High Performance Plan for the NSWIS is to be agreed upon by Rowing Australia, NSWIS and NSWRA. Mr Bartlett asked that the job description and program be viewed and approved by the NSWRA Board before advertised and implemented and to ensure that no individual is levered into any position without communication with the other stakeholders or advertising.</p>															
6	<p><b>NOTIFICATION OF TRANSFERS</b></p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>FROM</th> <th>TO</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Madeleine van Ewyk</td> <td>Leichhardt Rowing Club</td> <td>Newcastle University Boat Club</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Claudia Janice Wherry</td> <td>Sydney Women's MLC</td> <td>Sydney Rowing Club</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Karen Law</td> <td>Glebe Rowing Club</td> <td>Hunter Rowing Club</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nicholas Sandford</td> <td>Sydney University Boat Club</td> <td>Glebe Rowing Club</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The above transfers were noted and accepted</p>	Name	FROM	TO	Madeleine van Ewyk	Leichhardt Rowing Club	Newcastle University Boat Club	Claudia Janice Wherry	Sydney Women's MLC	Sydney Rowing Club	Karen Law	Glebe Rowing Club	Hunter Rowing Club	Nicholas Sandford	Sydney University Boat Club	Glebe Rowing Club
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7	<p><b>DEPARTMENT OF SPORT &amp; RECREATION/SIRC</b></p> <p>In reference to the Sydney World Masters Games and the difficulty with SIRC and the start pontoon, Mr Bartlett noted that SIRC should have a program repair and maintenance budget. At a VMAC meeting over 12 months ago a venue budget was to be distributed but to date has not been. None of the things that were meant to have been done has been done i.e. repairing pontoon and walkway so the condition of SIRC is failing. Mr Bartlett stressed that as a Board, we need to be clear on what we want SIRC to spend money on if there is money available. Getting a recommendation from NSWRA representatives on VMAC to make sure the NSWRA agree with the priorities for the way money is to be spent at SIRC otherwise we will continue to see the asset run down.</p> <p>The President, Mr Andrew Rowley noted that Mr Tony Brown has submitted a VMAC Report and it seems SIRC are focused on purchasing and building new items rather than repair and</p>															

	<p>maintenance. The development of new infrastructure is important for the venue to receive capital funding. Mr Rowley said that it was important that Mr Brown be invited to a Board Meeting to discuss VMAC matters.</p> <p>Mr Evans advised the Board of the proposed fee structure for use of SIRC namely for people wanting to use the facility for rowing purposes currently pay \$6.60 and will go up to \$7.00 yet for people using the facility for swimming training the fee will go from \$3.30 to \$3.50.</p> <p>Mr Rowley suggested a discussion paper be developed that prioritises matters that affect rowing. Mr Bartlett suggested that these recommendations should come from the NSWRA representatives on VMAC and be put forward to the Board for discussion. Essentially we need to prioritise capital work and maintenance and discuss the fee structure.</p> <p>Mr James QC enquired as to the weed situation and Mr Evans advised that a new weed cutter has been listed as an item for capital; expenditure. With the clarity of the water and the heat has lead to the weed growing far more rapidly.</p> <p>Mr Bartlett brought up a continuing issue in regards to car parking at SIRC during major regattas and the fact that the general public are continuing to park in areas they are not designated .The car park attendants are poorly managed nor doing their job properly as at one stage of the NSW State Championships ¾ of the cars in the car park were not displaying the appropriate pass. Despite numerous communication attempts by NSWRA to rectify the problem it continued to be an issue for the duration of the regatta.</p> <p>In preparation for such regattas it is recommended that trailer parking be managed more closely as there are more trailers being used that existing racking which may be turned around to indicate we don't need the racking and instead build more boat sheds.</p>
8	<p><b>COMMISSION REPORTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regatta Commission</li> </ul> <p>The Chairman of the Regatta Commission, Mr Tim Clare apologised for providing no formal report but advised the Board that the first Commission Meeting was held the week prior to the Board Meeting. The format for the 2009-2010 regatta season will substantially follow the format of the past two seasons in regards to age/grade/distance events.</p> <p>Continuing on from the current season, the removal of some events from the program has successfully reduced the timing for regattas toward the ideal 3.00pm finish. All regattas were compliant with the exception of the January Taree regattas, specifically the Sunday.</p> <p>Mr Clare indicated that there will need to be further discussion on the Taree regattas in regards to events, timing, age vs. grade with both the hosts and Regatta Commission. Probable small boat event cull may require a trade off which will put those culled events i.e. small boats into another regatta at SIRC primarily leading into the NSW State Championships. The format is likely to be age based in a championship format i.e. heats and finals</p> <p>Essentially the Regatta Commission are looking at tidying up the format and promoting the NSWRA Regatta Calendar and providing the membership with iconic regattas.</p> <p>Leading on from discussions between Mr Rowley and President of Rowing Victoria, Mr Andrew Guerin in developing a National Grade Championship, NSWRA would look at promoting the current Edward Trickett NSW Grade Championship Regatta as a national event. The only hurdle with adding a date into the program is time and venue availability.</p> <p>Mr Bartlett suggested that a committee be developed with all of the states to discuss various issues or ideas regarding regattas at a national level and develop a model to promote and hold events such as the Edward Trickett NSW Grade Championships as a National event. This model may include a varied entry fee for competitor location or if profit generated then it be split between the states.</p>

The development of an interstate distance Tri-Series encompassing the Head of the Brisbane, Head of the Yarra and a Head race in NSW. To date NSW do not have an iconic distance race to promote within this series. Mr Clare suggested that looking forward toward this National Tri-Series that an event be run and hosted by NSWRA rather than a club as discussions with Rowing Victoria is that they have no control to build into National event as it is run by a club.

Keeping the spectacle of the Head of the Yarra in mind, with 200 eights continually crossing the finish line for 3 hours and at the finish line is 2000 people milling about; possible venue options would need to provide the opportunity for catering and sufficient space for the number of people and boats. Venue options within Sydney include Iron Cove, Nepean River and Roseville Bridge. Timing of the event would be November, 2-3 weeks prior to the Head of the Yarra.

Mr Handley indicated that development of such an event would not be in conflict with Sydney Rowing Club and the Head of the Parramatta depending on dates.

Mr Clare has asked and received the Board's support the concept of looking toward a National distance event in relation to the development of a Tri-Series.

- Governance & Audit Compliance Commission

Chairman of the Governance and Audit Compliance Commission and Director of Finance Mrs Norma Perry was not in attendance, this item was deferred until the next Board Meeting.

- Selection Panel

The Chairman of the Selection Panel Mr Stephen Handley explained to the Board that the Selection Panel will meet after the School Head of the River regattas to map out selections for the coming year. Ideally selections for the 2010 State Team will be around September/October with crew training sessions from then.

Mr Handley added that for the 2009 Interstate Crews, Dr Andrew Randell's involvement and contribution was fantastic. His ability to coordinate athletes and coaches to centralised training sessions proved beneficial for the Kings Cup though other crews faced problems where coaches didn't place as much of a priority and as such no training was done. Much of the credit from the success of the Kings Cup in the last two years must be directed toward Dr Randell.

Mr Handley explained to the Board that the format for change requires cooperation at all levels; NSWRA, NSWIS, Club Coaches, Club Administrators and athletes. The Club Administrators must dictate to the coaches to encourage their athletes to vie for State Selection. State Selection must be made a priority.

The lack of heavyweight women rowing in NSW is at an all time low. Development through the ranks must be made a priority for clubs and the new NSWIS personnel. Lightweights have a good base for development and it is predicted that the crew's competitiveness in future State Teams will be sound. The Youth Eights were predicted to be competitive but failed to live up to expectations. If the same effort that was expended toward the Kings Cup in regards to all crews, results would have been drastically different.

Mr Handley advised the Board that the 2010 Selection Policy will be published in May.

Mr Bartlett stated that recruitment for female rowers needs to be improved, starting at the school level. Mr Bartlett suggested that school rowing is very crew focused based on participation. Rowing in a club based elite program is based on sculling and isn't attractive. The lack of youth development of recent months provides a large hole and NSW needs a development coordinator. The new NSWIS position is working on the national program, the second program must perform the same function for NSW.

Mr Rowley suggested that if the National Plan put priority on the Interstate Regatta it would change the perception of coaches and athletes.

Mr Zammit explained to the Board that in regards to the 2009 State Masters crews, at the time of nominations closing there had been insufficient nominations therefore will be unable to boat the full 4 crews. A 2 week grace period is to be put in place to allow the selectors to target specific rowers to nominate. If at the end of that grace period that there are still insufficient nominations, NSW may not boat the full 4 crews. Mr Bartlett suggested that one of the main reasons why there are fewer clubs attending the Australian Masters Championships is because it is in Rockhampton; second time in two years is a ridiculous decision by Rowing Australia.

- Boat Race Officials Commission

Chairman of the Boat Race Officials Commission Mr Owen Nix explained to the Board that he is still working on the roster recruitment and then will run it by the Assessor Panel for their thoughts.

Course maps are being collated to be added to the NSWRA website and included into all regatta programs.

Mr Nix asked the Board that if the budget allows that an additional \$1000 be paid to Mr Greg Smith in pursuit of his FISA licence. This would be reviewed after consideration of the end of March quarter financial reports.

Mr Ron Beattie has offered to sell his speed boat to the NSWRA as he is relocating from Grafton. Mr Beattie's boat was used that the 2008 Australian Rowing Championships and meets all of the requirements of an umpire's boat. Pending discussions with the Director of Finance and the Financial Controller the boat shall be purchased by the NSWRA.

Mr James QC informed the Board that Mr Ernest Chapman OAM has requisitioned a meeting of the Union of Boat Race Officials to be held at Sydney RC on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March and requested representation of the Board.

Mr James QC also briefed the Board that Mr John St Vincent Welch had recently passed the Rowing Australia Boat Race Official examinations.

- Facilities & Waterways Commission
  - Bay Clubs Forum

Mr Rowley told the Board that he was meeting with the Minister for Roads on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March to discuss the Iron Cove Bridge development and advise that the newspapers will be lobbied to provide coverage and awareness. The VRCC protest march has been arranged for Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2009. The Ministers have been misinformed by the RTA that adjustments have been made to the bridge plans and approved by the NSWRA.

The Chairman of the Facilities & Waterways Commission Mr Charles Bartlett reiterated to the Board the outstanding assistance architect Mike Morrissey has provided to the alternative bridge option and Mr John Bransby has been very helpful and that while the NSWRA are offering alternatives we need to ensure we are addressing all other issues.

Mr Bartlett stressed the need for clubs and schools to make submissions to the RTA rejecting the development of a new Iron Cove Bridge. Mr James QC told the Board that at all costs, the NSWRA must be indemnified against risk and that we must remain in control pending the outcome of the meeting between Mr Rowley and the Minister for Roads.

The NSWRA Board agreed to provide funding \$800 to assist publicising the concern the rowing community has with the RTA proposal and support the retention of Iron Cove as a rowing venue.

*Moved: Stephen Handley*

*Seconded: Charles Bartlett*

*Carried: 21/2009*

- Homebush Bay Facilities

Mr Bartlett asked Mr James QC to explain to the Board his intentions on developing a rowing

	<p>club at Homebush Bay. Mr James QC explained to the Board that Mr Wade Hewett had approached him a few years ago to begin development clubs with Scouts NSW sites. Mr James QC had gone to a lot of trouble to avoid impact on current clubs, NSWIS, NSWRA etc. Sites that had been found within the Sydney Olympic Park Authority area have no impact on other clubs or schools and given there is no practical ability to develop in Ashfield, Homebush Bay is most likely option.</p> <p>It was agreed that NSWRA take a leadership role to develop a site and lease the space to provide revenue.</p>
9	<p><b>CORRESPONDANCE</b> No correspondence tabled</p>
10	<p><b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b> Mr Mark Williams SC submitted an item for discussion in regards to Club Transfers but it was agreed to defer the discussion in light of Mr Williams SC absence from the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sydney World Masters Games <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Start Structure</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Mr Zammit told the Board that issues had been resolved and progress is due to be started on the starting structure for the Sydney World Masters Games. Its development should be complete and ready to be tested at the NSW Masters Championships on the 16<sup>th</sup> &amp; 17<sup>th</sup> May 2009.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Boat Hire</li> </ul> <p>A notice has been sent to all clubs and schools and has so far received a good response. Hiring a boat will be \$40 per seat per hour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Contract</li> </ul> <p>The contract is currently being looked at by NSWRA Honorary Solicitor Mr Torquil Murray and should be signed off soon.</p> <p>Generally, entries are coming in and is predicted to be a very large regatta. Mrs Margaret Mackenzie and Mr Phillip Titterton are doing a great job. Entries close on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROMS</li> </ul> <p>Mr Clare advised the Board that the Chairman of the ROMS Committee Mr Christian Renford is meeting on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March to discuss ROMS and whether it meets NSWRA's needs. Mr Clare explained to the Board that a gap analysis was provided to the ROMS Committee 2 years ago and had received no response.</p> <p>The decision must be made as to whether ROMS meets NSWRA's need both functionally and financially.</p> <p>Mr Rowley informed the Board the Mr David Deeble from Rowing Victoria had invited both himself and ROMS Administrator and Rowing Victoria employee Alice Evans to attend the meeting in addition to Mr Renford.</p> <p>Mr Clare explained a brief history to the Board in regards to ROMS and its development. Initially Stephen Croot Computing was approached to develop the system, but was given no detailed requirements. Rowing Australia then approached James Worrell to develop it in a shorter time frame; 12 months. It has been 5 years since these discussions and it's still not completed. The system still is not complete without the Rp7 program which is a Stephen Croot Computing program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitution</li> </ul> <p>Mr James QC told the Board that the NSWRA Constitution has been found and located at the ACT Office of Regulatory Services and confirms that nothing has been received from the NSWRA since 1999. Mr James QC suggested a meeting be convened to change the</p>

	constitution. A special resolution will need to be agreed upon by 75% of the membership that will move to change NSWRA to a company limited by guarantee. A subcommittee is to provide recommendations to the NSWRA Annual General Meeting and a Special General Meeting is to be called to discuss those recommendations.
11	The meeting closed at 10.15pm Next meeting on Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2009
12	APPROVED Andrew Rowley PRESIDENT 15/04/2009