

**NSWRA BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 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, Norma Perry, Steve Handley, Joe Zammit, Greg James QC, David Evans, Colin Smith and Georgie Lee</p> <p>Apologies: Mark Williams SC, Owen Nix and Tim Clare</p> <p>Mr Rowley introduced Mr Colin Smith, Director of Rowing Australia and Chairman of High Performance to the Board. Mr Smith thanked the Board for inviting him and firstly updated the Board on the current situation of High Performance.</p> <p>Mr Smith explained to the Board that the appointment of the new High Performance Director Mr Andrew Matheson has been a huge success thus far and the High Performance Program has seen the biggest changes for 15 years. One of the key changes has been that there are no longer competing structures between Rowing Australia and the Australian Institute of Sport; it is one program. This program is run out of the National Rowing Centre of Excellence (NRCE) which Mr Smith co-chairs.</p> <p>The NRCE run High Performance across Australia, rather than focused on Canberra. The two appointed Head Coaches are Noel Donaldson and Lyall McCarthy and their time is to be split between the States and Canberra. There are also two scholarship coaches within the program who coach the scholarship athletes. Thus far, Mr Smith is very happy with how the program is going and the AIS have been great to work with. Having this arrangement includes access to boats and sport science.</p> <p>The Head and Second Head Coach in each State Institute are changing; Victoria and Queensland have already been appointed. South Australia and Tasmania are considering making offers, Western Australia has yet to advertise and of course the two appointments in New South Wales which is very important to the NRCE are being reviewed.</p> <p>New South Wales rowing success is critical for rowing in Australia. Issues need to be addressed to reinvigorate in NSW and to build 'home grown' crew talent rather than rely on individual stars.</p> <p>The aim of the High Performance Program is 3 Gold Medals in the 2012 London Olympic Games which means at least 7 boats in medal winning categories. The Selection Trials are improved and are more highly organised than what have been run before.</p> <p>The second item Mr Smith briefed the Board on was his declaration of interest in running for the President of Rowing Australia as Mr Patrick McNamara; current President of Rowing Australia has declared he will step down at the December Annual General Meeting. Mr Smith has been a Director of Rowing Australia for nine years and at the December AGM will stand for President though not re-elect for Director.</p> <p>Mr Smith explained to the Board that he is qualified to stand as President. He has been instrumental to the restructure of High Performance and as a result has saved money and de-</p>

	<p>politicised some issues. Mr Smith has led the charge with refunding of rowing, authoring the submission to the Crawford Commission. This submission details changes to athlete funding and Mr Smith has sought 50% monies received go toward development.</p> <p>Mr Smith thinks there needs to be vast improvement between Rowing Australia and the States. There is a great Masters, good Schoolboy and great Schoolgirl program. There needs to be a focus on creating opportunity for development. Looking at New Zealand, the South Island School Rowing Association have a fantastic Schools Championship Regatta that is attended by all schools regardless of sporting association.</p> <p>The entire issue of competition needs to be addressed in Australia, and it needs to be done quickly. Mr Smith suggests that club only (i.e. no composite events) events be introduced into the Australian Rowing Championships or a separate event be created for club only events.</p> <p>Now that the High Performance Program has proper management structures, attention should be focused on how to build rowing for all stakeholders; clubs, athletes, states and Rowing Australia. Three million dollars has been sought for annual funding toward development throughout Australia. Development puts numbers into sport; Masters and school rowers row because they enjoy it. The current economy is totally focused on High Performance and representation and that needs to change. Mr Smith stated that rowing must have websites that can be monetised by two ways; television coverage or significant number of browsers i.e. advertising.</p> <p>Mr Smith believes he can provide stronger leadership to Rowing Australia and its Board as well as his rowing background knowledge of the sport as well as currently chairing three boards qualifying himself as the best candidate. He is happy and proud of his achievements while on the Board of Rowing Australia and while he intends to stand as President, he would also be willing to stand down as a Director and pass the baton on. One thing Mr Smith believes needs addressing urgently is ROMS which he understands still has issues.</p> <p>Mr Charles Bartlett asked Mr Smith what he would bring to Rowing Australia and change within Rowing Australia and its stakeholders given in recent times the lack of transparency, leadership and fixation on high performance at the national level through his proposed Presidency. Mr Smith responded by saying that the Chairman must drive the organisation. Communication has improved with the NRCE but it needs to be at all levels and includes the Rowing Australia website; it should be an all encompassing national website that provides opportunities to make money. Rowing Australia needs to get down to the roots and meet the stakeholders of the organisation and do it more often and rethink school competition – Rowing Australia needs to bring competition into the modern era. The Board of Rowing Australia cannot be answerable to an appointed body as it has in the past.</p> <p>Mr Greg James QC on behalf of the Board thanked Mr Smith for attending the meeting.</p>
2	<p><b>CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES</b> That the minutes of the meeting 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009 be accepted</p> <p><i>Moved: Norma Perry</i> <i>Seconded: Joseph Zammit</i> <i>Carried: 22/2009</i></p> <p>It was noted that minutes and an action list must now be provided one week after the meeting.</p>
3	<p><b>CEO &amp; FINANCE REPORTS</b> Mr David Evans began with the Finance Reports indicating that the Finance Officer, Mr Richard Roach's end of quarter reports were very positive. A budgeted surplus of \$11,000 is now projected at being closer to \$40,000. This is primarily due to an increase of sponsorship, memberships and regatta entries.</p> <p>Mr Evans explained that the financials do not contain anything untoward and the outstanding</p>

debtors are acceptable. Since the end of March a considerable number of invoices been paid bringing the cash up and debtors down. One thing to note is that the timing of the Australian Masters Championships and Presentation Dinner may lead to a rise in debtors but with effort should be appropriately managed.

The Director of Finance, Mrs Norma Perry explained that the coming 2009-2010 reporting period intends to include objectives, be transparent and be more informative for the membership.

That the Finance Reports are accepted

*Moved: Charles Bartlett*  
*Seconded: Norma Perry*  
*Carried: 23/2009*

The Chief Executive Officer's Report indicated that the membership trends are solid, increasing a small amount since last month's report. Mr Evans will look at age groups in more detail in regards to regatta entries as requested by Mr Stephen Handley. Entries into the Edward Trickett NSW Grade Championship regatta were up substantially.

The NSW Masters Championships on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May will be a test event for the new starting structure for the Sydney World Masters Games. NSWRA will begin to ramp up the promotion of the regatta to endeavour to capitalise on the anticipated drop of entries in Rockhampton for the Australian Masters Championships. The Sydney World Masters Games will be discussed later in the agenda with the Chairman of the Organising Committee Mr Joseph Zammit's report.

In regards to the IT environment, the Gap Analysis between ROMS and Rowing Manager on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2009 where the Chairman, Christian Renford and Administrator, Alice Evans of the ROMS Committee, visited NSWRA. The Chairman of the Regatta Commission Mr Tim Clare's report of that meeting clearly indicated that the functionality, usability and cost make ROMS unsuitable for the business of the NSWRA.

Mr Handley posed a question to the Board that we investigate a long term agreement with Stephen Croot Computing and that NSWRA acquire the source code for security purposes. It was suggested that Mr Evans discuss with Stephen Croot that a succession plan be developed. Mrs Perry suggested Mr Clare's report be made available for distribution.

Mr Evans informed the Board that all staff; full, part time and honorary are all working well.

In terms of Branding, that the national logo goes to the April General Meeting for display and then to the June General Meeting for approval with the requested amendment of NSW to New South Wales.

*Moved: Norma Perry*  
*Seconded: Steve Handley*  
*Carried: 24/2009*

Mr Evans informed the Board that the Strategic Business Plan is progressing but Mrs Perry urged that it be done as soon as possible for budgeting purposes.

The 2009 Presentation Dinner will be held at Dede's Restaurant, Sydney Rowing Club on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June. Mr Evans advised the Board that at the next Board Meeting the award recipients will need to be ratified; 5 or which to be nominated by the Selection Panel, 3 to be nominated by the Board. The VIP Invitation List is to be finalised in the next fortnight by the President and CEO.

The Regatta Commission Planning Forum is scheduled for Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April at Leichhardt Rowing Club. An item for discussion is the potential elimination of the NSWRA Sprint

	<p>Championships and the Board needs to be conscious that if this happens the Budget for 2009-2010 would be affected significantly. Potential membership issues were also discussed.</p> <p>The SIRC Capital Budget was distributed to the Board as requested last meeting by Mr Bartlett. Mr Bartlett asked that the NSWRA Representative on the VMAC Committee Mr Tony Brown and Mr Phillip Titterton review the list and recommend items to be included onto the priority list and push to ensure they are carried out.</p>									
4	<p>ROWING AUSTRALIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROMS Review</li> </ul> <p>The ROMS Review was covered in the CEO Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Branding</li> </ul> <p>National Branding was covered in the CEO Report</p> <p>Mr Bartlett reminded the Board of an NSWRA submission to Rowing Australia in regards to the number of lanes used for the Youth Cup; using 8 lanes as opposed to 6 lanes ending up with a 6 lane A Final and a 2 lane B Final. The Board is in full support of a 9 lane format for the Youth Cup.</p>									
5	<p>NSWIS</p> <p>Mr Handley informed the Board that the NSWRA, NSWIS and Rowing Australia have yet to reach an agreement regarding the NSWIS Positions and therefore they cannot be advertised. It is hoped that both positions will be filled by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009.</p>									
6	<p>NOTIFICATION OF TRANSFERS</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>NAME</th> <th>FROM</th> <th>TO</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Elise Martin</td> <td>Nepean Rowing Club</td> <td>St George Rowing Club</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Timothy Stanway</td> <td>Drummoyne Rowing Club</td> <td>Sydney Rowing Club</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The above transfers were noted and accepted</p>	NAME	FROM	TO	Elise Martin	Nepean Rowing Club	St George Rowing Club	Timothy Stanway	Drummoyne Rowing Club	Sydney Rowing Club
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7	<p>DEPARTMENT OF SPORT &amp; RECREATION/SIRC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SIRC Capital Expenditure Priorities</li> </ul> <p>Covered in the CEO Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country Athletes Scheme</li> </ul> <p>Mr Evans advised that 7 athletes have been awarded \$1000 each as a part of the Country Athlete Scheme. These athletes have come from Grafton High School, Maclean High School and Lower Clarence Rowing Club.</p>									
8	<p>COMMISSION REPORTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regatta Commission</li> </ul> <p>Chairman of the Regatta Commission Mr Tim Clare was not in attendance but the Board had received the Commission Report and was advised that the Regatta Forum will be held at Leichhardt Rowing Club on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2009.</p> <p>That the Regatta Commission Report be approved  <i>Moved: Greg James QC</i>  <i>Seconded: Charles Bartlett</i>  <i>Carried: 25/2009</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance &amp; Audit Compliance Commission</li> </ul> <p>The Governance &amp; Audit Commission Report was distributed by the Chairman Mrs Norma Perry and noted that the Commission needed the Business Plan in order to proceed.</p> <p>That the Governance &amp; Audit Compliance Commission Report be approved  <i>Moved: Greg James QC</i>  <i>Seconded: Norma Perry</i>  <i>Carried: 26/2009</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection Panel</li> </ul>									

	<p>The Chairman of the Selection Panel Mr Stephen Handley advised the Board that that Selection Panel will be meeting early in the week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009 to discuss the Selection Documents for the 2009 Youth Cup.  <i>Moved: Steve Handley</i>  <i>Seconded: Greg James QC</i>  <i>Carried: 27/2009</i></p> <p>Mr Zammit asked the Board to ratify the selection of the New South Wales crews competing at the Australian Masters Championships in Rockhampton. There will be a Women's Eight and Quad and Men's Quad as there were insufficient numbers to boat a Men's Eight. Mr Zammit predicted that the crews are expected to do well.</p> <p>That the New South Wales Masters Crew selections be approved.  <i>Moved: Stephen Handley</i>  <i>Seconded: Joseph Zammit</i>  <i>Carried: 28/2009</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boat Race Officials Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recommendations for RA Licences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>§ Brian Kelleher</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>That Brian Kelleher's Rowing Australia licence be approved  <i>Moved: Norma Perry</i>  <i>Seconded: Charles Bartlett</i>  <i>Carried: Carried 29/2009</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">§ John St Vincent Welch</p> <p>Pending apology in regards to item discussed in Item 9; Code of Conduct Breach</p> <p>Mr Evans to advise Mr Adam Horner from Rowing Australia immediately of the above recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilities &amp; Waterways Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bay Clubs Forum (Iron Cove Alliance)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Mr James QC advised the Board that he and Mr Rowley had met with the Minister for Roads and discussed the Morrisey Proposals which were initially rejected and are now being looking at again. Mr Rowley advised that an article was being filmed for Stateline this morning on the Iron Cove Bridge matter.</p> <p>Mr Rowley informed the Board, that we need to be prepared to go to Court. Mr James QC explained to the Board the process of getting an injunction and that it costs a lot of money.</p> <p>The NSWRA are to receive advice from our Honorary Solicitor on what course of actions we have and what chances do we have? That initial advice can cost up to \$10,000 and there is no point paying anyone less qualified than a Queen's Counsel. Mr James QC suggested that the NSWRA approach the local councils and ask that if they are prepared to fund the injunction and indemnify the NSWRA, agreements must be made now. Mr Rowley noted that the City of Canada Bay Council had agreed to provide \$20,000.</p> <p>Mr Rowley advised the Board that he and Murray Clarke OAM had met with Ms Verity Firth with to discuss both the Iron Cove Bridge and the ANZAC Day Row, both of which she pledged full support for the NSWRA.</p>
9	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tim Wainman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Code of Conduct Breach – John St Vincent Welch</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>A letter is to be sent to John St Vincent Welch detailing allegations made against him and call on</p>

	<p>Mr Welch to apologise. The matter must then be resolved at the April General Meeting.  <i>Moved: Charles Bartlett</i>  <i>Seconded: Norma Perry</i>  <i>Carried: 29/2009</i></p>
10	<p><b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b>  10.1 – Discussion regarding athlete transfer will be deferred to the next Board Meeting with Mr Mark Williams SC is in attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2009 Sydney World Masters Games  The Chairman of the Sydney World Masters Games Mr Joseph Zammit circulated a report. He advised the Board that currently there are no issues and things are moving forward. Entries are slowly coming along. The contract has yet to be signed off pending advice from NSWRA  Honorary Solicitor Mr Torquil Murray.</li> </ul> <p>The Starting Structure is due to be finished for the NSW Masters Championships. The Logo for the event is now in prime position and looks great. On the 13<sup>th</sup> October there will be a function at Penrith Panthers for which an in kind contribution has been allocated toward costs. The Committee will make a formal recommendation to the Board on how that function should be run and the theme. The Board are to decide on a VIP List including Karen Palazano and Penrith City Council. Mrs Perry noted that it was great that Mr Allen Turner has been invited into the Committee and is responsible for Boat Hire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reg Stride's Funeral on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April was noted and the NSWRA expresses their condolences to Reg's family.</li> <li>• Kings Cup Committee  Mrs Perry asked that the relationship between the NSWRA and the Kings Cup Committee needs to be clear.</li> </ul>
11	<p>The meeting closed at 9.25pm  Next meeting on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009</p>
12	<p>APPROVED <span style="float: right;">20/05/2009</span>  Andrew Rowley  PRESIDENT</p>