



**BOARD MEETING**  
**Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Kirribilli**  
*Wednesday 20 October 2010 at 6.45pm*

**MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Norma Perry (President), Bronwen Watson, Chris Noel, Joe Zammit, Bryan Weir, Stephen Handley, Greg James QC, and Christian Renford (CEO)

**Visitors:** Andrew Matheson (National High Performance Director), Andrew Rowley (RNSW Councillor) Marty Rabjohns (NSWIS Rowing Manager) and Curtis Jordan (NSWIS Head Coach)

**Apologies:** Tim Clare

**1. Welcome**

N Perry welcomed all to the meeting.

**2. Board Discussions**

2.1 RA High Performance Matters

A Matheson provided a verbal overview of current activities and strategic direction of the National Rowing Centre of Excellence (NRCE).

**3. Previous Meetings Minutes**

Motion: To accept the minutes of the 15 September Board Meeting as true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: G James                      Seconded: J Zammit

Motion Carried

**4. Business Arising**

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

Additional advice was provided on the following:

- B Weir provided a verbal update on the status of Drummoyne Rowing Club, and meeting with the appointed receivers.
- The CEO noted that the action required from the September meeting (The Laws of Boat Racing) is still to be actioned. The meeting confirmed that although a full review of the Laws of Boat Racing will not occur for the coming season, 'minor' changes to the RNSW Laws of Boat Racing are still warranted in the interim period. Any such recommended

amendments should be considered by the membership at the February General Meeting.

*Action 1 – BRO Commission prioritise recommended alterations the RNSW Laws of Boat Racing.*

*Action 2 – CEO to provide update to the membership on the status of activities surrounding the RNSW Laws of Boat Racing, and the Constitution.*

## **5. Items For Information**

### **5.1 CEO Report**

The CEO tabled the reformatted CEO report. This report summarises the activities and comments from the period 9 September to 14 October 2010.

The CEO noted that the Sydney University Faculty of Economics and Business have committed in principle to renewing their sponsorship of RNSW for another year.

S Handley expressed concern and sought further detail surrounding the NTID component of the sponsorship proposal.

Motion: To accept the CEO Report as presented.

Moved: B Weir                      Seconded: G James

Motion Carried

### **5.2 Supplementary Operational Reports**

The CEO tabled the following supplementary operational reports:

- 5.2.1 2010/11 Membership statistics as at 14 October (5 year historical analysis)
- 5.2.2 Regatta Statistics and Regatta Entry Comparison –September to August 2010

## **6. Items For Resolution**

### **6.1 Finance Reports**

The CEO presented a detailed report on the management accounts to 30 September 2010 and highlighted the following items within each business unit:

- i. Administration – income ahead of budget forecast resultant from moving grants received in advance from the 2009/10 financial year from the Balance Sheet to the P&L
- ii. Operations – income derived from memberships behind budget forecast due to slightly delayed renewals. Forecasts based on 2000/10 figures that were skewed by the early uptake of memberships for the 2009 SWMG. Expected to see increase in October.
- iii. Development – cancelation of planned coaching courses (L1 and L2) has decreased both income and expenditure forecasts. No significant financial activity for Development in September.

The CEO noted that the ongoing management of the associations aged receivables has been exceptionally successful. Most school and clubs are adjusting well to the

implementation of the debtors policy. A common sense approach is being taken here with further payment options for clubs and schools. All seat fees for the first 5 regattas of the season have been paid in advance of all regattas as per the Association rules.

The CEO further noted that the Administrators of the DRC have confirmed verbally and will provide in writing next week that they will recommence the payment of outstanding monthly levy charges due for Drummoyne Rowing Club.

Motion: To accept the financial statements as presented.

Moved: S Handley                      Seconded: B Weir

Motion carried

## 6.2 Board Casual Vacancy – Director of Finance

Rowing NSW received the following nominations for the casual vacancy for the Director of Finance of Rowing New South Wales outlined below:

- i. Ivan Adlam– Endeavour Rowing Club / CDRA
- ii. Fiona Toose – Penrith Rowing Club

In accordance with the Rules, the Board elected Ivan Adlam to the position of Director of Finance. The CEO noted that the term of this position is due for re-election at the 2011 Annual General Meeting.

Motion: To elect Ivan Adlam to the position of Director of Finance of Rowing New South Wales.

Moved: B Weir                      Seconded: S Handley

Motion carried

Note – J Zammit abstained from voting in the election of the Director of Finance.

*Action – N Perry to confirm appointment with I Adlam and F Toose.*

## 6.3 New and Emerging Club Status

The CEO noted that RNSW is meeting with all New and Emerging (N&E) clubs individually to review their circumstances and ongoing viability. Throughout this review process it has become apparent that the N&E criteria should be reviewed, to allow greater flexibility to change a clubs progression from N&E status to full constituent member.

The CEO recommended an amendment to the New and Emerging Status to allow clubs to be reintroduced to full constituent member status over a five year period:

Years 1-3	Status Quo for subsidised rates of affiliation
Year 4	66% discount to monthly levies
Year 5	33% discount to monthly levies
Year 6	full monthly levies

The CEO noted that the above recommendation takes into account that all current N&E clubs have been afforded the current financial leniency for three years previously.

Additional to the above the meeting resolved to removal the current stipulation that:

*“applicants will be offered subsidized rates of Affiliation for 3 years or until they have 30 competitive members, whichever sooner.”*

Motion: To accept the recommendation as presented by the CEO.

Moved: C Noel

Seconded: G James

Motion carried

*Action – CEO to confirm new definition and fee structure to all N&E Clubs*

#### 6.4 Appointment of Selectors

The CEO noted the circulation via e-mail on 12 October 2010, seeking the Board endorsement of the following appointments as Selectors for the 2010/11 and 2011/12 seasons as recommended by the Competition Commission.

- Marty Rabjohns (chairman)
- Terry O’Hanlon
- Michael Smith

The Competition Commission further recommended that Nick Baxter be asked to join the High Performance Committee. Consensus is that it would provide N Baxter an opportunity to gain experience in the NSW HP program (with the view to his possible future appointment as a selector)

Motion - To confirm the appointment of the Selectors for the 2010/11 and 2011/12 season as presented by the Competition Commission.

Motion carried unanimously

*Action – CEO, B Watson and M Rabjohns to confirm appointment of N Baxter to the High Performance Commission.*

## 7. **Items For Discussion**

### 7.1 ROMS Review – RNSW Position Statement

The CEO tabled a report to clarify RNSW's position with respect to the ongoing ROMS Review project.

It was agreed that a position paper be developed based on the report. The purpose of this response should not be a critique or comparison of currently available systems, but rather to highlight the priorities for RNSW and note our desire to be actively involved in finding solutions to any changes made to the national system going forward.

*Action – CEO, T Clare and C Noel*

### 7.2 Constitutional Review

The CEO tabled the latest draft constitution from the Constitutional Review Committee.

The meeting confirmed the following action:

- Send draft constitution to the membership for comment. All comments should be submitted to RNSW in writing by the end of December 2010.
- RNSW to collate and summarise club responses.
- Board to debate club responses and amend the constitution appropriately.
- Circulate revised draft constitution to the membership
- Presentation at February 2011 General Meeting.

The CEO noted that in reviewing the status of new and emerging status clubs, a summary of the affiliation fees and levies paid by Metropolitan Clubs, New and Emerging Clubs, Affiliated Associations, Independently Affiliated Clubs and Kindred Associations was developed.

The meeting resolved that an evaluation of the affiliation fees and monthly levies is warranted to address the apparent inconsistencies between the financial contribution to the association paid by Affiliated Associations, Independently Affiliated Clubs and Kindred Associations.

*Action - CEO, Director of Finance and Director of Administration to review the Association's affiliation fees and monthly levies, and report recommendations to the Constitutional Review Committee for likely impact on the draft constitution as presented.*

### 7.3 Code of Conduct – Member Transfers

At the 2010 Annual General Meeting the Board was requested to investigate the issue of athlete recruitment / member transfers between rowing clubs.

The meeting confirmed the following appointments to a Board sub-committee to debate this issue in more detail and provide a recommended course of action:

- i. Norma Perry
- ii. Stephen Handley
- iii. Bryan Weir
- iv. Bronwen Watson
- v. Tim Clare

It was also noted that an appropriate facilitator should be appointed.

The sub-committee should aim to provide an update to the Board at the November meeting and develop a draft recommendation for further debate by the membership at the February 2011 General Meeting.

### 7.4 Australia Day Regatta

N Perry noted that RNSW was approached by the organisers of The Australia Day Regatta about the prospect of rowing making a re-appearance at future Australia Day Regattas.

The Board was supportive of the concept and rowings reintroduction. The meeting expressed apprehension about committing to the 2011 regattas formally within the required timeframe without more specific details surrounding the rowing component of the event; location, format, entry fee, costs, entry fee, likely attendees, logistics etc. It was also noted that the seasons regatta calendar has been finalised and a late inclusion now may receive limited support to existing

commitments from clubs / school on what would be a very busy day of the year for all concerned.

*Action – CEO and President to continue discussions with the organisers of The Australia Day Regatta for the 2012*

#### 7.5 Maritime Matters – Working Group

S Handley provided a verbal overview of the actions to date of the working group to look at the central issues affecting all passive water craft using the Parramatta River and Sydney Harbour being the cumulative impact of noise, wash, safety and speed.

The working has commenced the formation of a representative body, registration of domain name. Identification of key issues such as the organisational charter and key objectives are being still being finalised, and will be circulated to the Board for comment in the coming weeks.

### **8. General Business**

#### 8.1 Sponsorship

B Weir requested the Board review the current sponsorship guidelines on rowing boats and club uniforms in the RA Rules and RNSW B-Laws for the November Board meeting.

#### 8.2 Member Transfers

The CEO confirmed that all transfers are administered by the office staff in accordance with the Laws of Boat Racing 8 (8)

*Action – CEO to forward summary of member transfers to the Board for the current and past seasons for reference.*

Meeting closed – 9:55pm

Next Meeting – 17 November 2010 @ 6:30pm  
Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Kirribilli