



**NSW ROWING ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING  
TUESDAY 9th JUNE 2009  
KEN BROWN ROOMS, SPORTS HOUSE  
SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK**

**PRESENT**

Andrew Rowley (President), Barry Moynahan (Vice President/Leichhardt), Keith Jameson (Vice President/Life Member/Sydney Rowing Club), Doug Donoghue (Vice President), Norma Perry (Director of Finance), Owen Nix (Director), Greg James QC (Director), Wade Hewett (Rowing NSW Councillor to Rowing Australia/Leichhardt Rowing Club) Neil Holmes (Nepean Rowing Club), Michael Daffy (Sydney Rowing Club), Tim Wainman (Northern Rivers Rowing Association Delegate/Union of Boat Race Officials), Pamela Hubert (The Lakes Rowers), Susie Philpot (Leichhardt Rowing Club), Peter McLaren (St George Rowing Club), Stephen Taite (Penrith Rowing Club), Alexander Weilsmann (Balmain Rowing Club), Petra Macaskill (Sydney Women's MLC Rowing Club), Paul Coates (Regatta Secretary) and Georgie Lee (Operations Manager)

**ALSO PRESENT**

Tim Rose (Murwillumbah Rowing Club), Yasmin L'Estrange (Sydney University), Chris Noel (Sydney University), Lee Wright (Penrith Rowing Club), Alison Taite (Penrith Rowing Club)

**APOLOGIES**

Ray Green OAM (Lake Wallace Rowing Club), John James (North Shore Rowing Club), Jane Spring (Vice President/Sydney University), Murray Clarke OAM (University of NSW Rowing Club), Charles Bartlett (Deputy President), Stephen Handley (Director), Joseph Zammit (Director of Administration), Mark Williams SC (Director), Tim Clare (Director)

**PROXIES**

Nil.

**WELCOME**

In respect of the recent passing of Angus Playfair from Sydney Rowing Club and Shore Rowing Program, The President asked the meeting for one minute silence in Angus' honour. Mr. Rowley then called the meeting to order and opened the meeting.

**THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL GENERAL MEETING**

That the minutes of the General Meeting of the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2009 be adopted as a true and correct record.

*MOVED: Mick Daffy*

*SECONDED: Barry Moynahan*

*CARRIED: Resolution 013/2009*

**MATTERS ARISING**

In respect of the Code of Conduct matter raised at the April General Meeting, Mr. Rowley advised the meeting that Mr. John St Vincent Welch failed to attend the May Board Meeting as requested. The Board has invited him to attend the June Board Meeting and Mr. Welch remains suspended until such time that he retracts or apologises.

**TO CONSIDER BUSINESS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**

- 3.1 2009-2010 NSWRA Regatta Calendar

In the absence of the Chairman of the Regatta Commission, Mr. Tim Clare, the NSWRA Regatta Secretary Mr. Paul Coates attended the meeting to answer any questions the membership might have.

Mrs. Petra Macaskill from Sydney Women's MLC Rowing Club queried the dates given for the Sydney Women's Centenary Regatta on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2010. Mr. Coates confirmed that that date was one of the dates requested.

Mr. Barry Moynahan confirmed that the 2010 AAGPS Schoolboy Head of the River and the NSW Schoolboy Head of the River are on two different days as opposed to 2009 where they were on the same day. In 2010 the NSW Schoolgirl Head of the River will be on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March, followed by the NSW Schoolboy Head of the River on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March with the NSW Combined High Schools Regatta on the Monday and Tuesday following, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March respectively.

Mr. Keith Jameson enquired in regards to the Taree Summer Regatta on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> January 2010, whether the entire event was operationally combined, or whether Friday 15<sup>th</sup> was combined, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> was Port Macquarie and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> was Manning River operated. This issue is to be checked with the Regatta Commission and Regatta Hosts.

Mr. Chris Noel enquired regarding the Small Boats Regatta on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2010. Mr. Coates confirmed that it will contain singles, doubles and pairs in all age categories.

That the 2009-2010 Regatta Calendar, 2009-2010 Event Lists and 2009-2010 Order of Events as tabled be approved

*MOVED: Keith Jameson*

*SECONDED: Barry Moynahan*

*CARRIED: Resolution 014/2009*

- 3.2 Grade Score Proposal

NSWRA Regatta Secretary, Mr. Paul Coates provided the meeting with a proposal as a result of a recommendation from the Regatta Forum held on the 19<sup>th</sup> April. The amended to the Grade Scores is aimed at tightening up the laws and cleaning up and integrating our competition to allow competitors' to enter different streams of racing more easily including school competition. The second part of the proposal is to simplify the system, to do away with the complex calculations of the grade scores.

That the suggested amendments Status Rule 8 (2) Categories be amended to what is shown in the agenda papers be approved

*MOVED: Keith Jameson*

*SECONDED: Norma Perry*

*CARRIED: Resolution 015/2009*

Mr. Neil Holmes from Nepean Rowing Club asked whether there intended to be seeding within the 4 bandwidths to provide appropriate racing as opposed to random draws. Mr. Holmes said that from a development point of view, that the current grade score format is not user friendly.

Mr. Coates confirmed that with the recently approved amendments to Status Rule 8 (2) it will allow for more accurately graded rowers, in particular the younger rowers.

Mr. Holmes agreed that Nepean Rowing Club would be comfortable with this matter being raised with the Regatta Commission and that Mr. Holmes be in regular contact with the Regatta Secretary throughout the season at the point of draw generation to ensure Nepean Rowing Club's transition into Grade Regattas is as smooth as possible.

- 3.3 2009-2010 Schedule of Fees and Charges

The Director of Finance Mrs. Norma Perry explained a few notes with the proposed budget to the meeting, the initial budget that was submitted by David Evans and Finance Controller Mr. Richard Roach was accepted with a few minor changes.

Mrs. Perry advised that the affiliation fees, levies and all fees and charges are to remain the same for the 2009-2010 financial year, particularly in light of the current economic circumstances.

Mr. Stephen Taite from Penrith Rowing Club confirmed with Mrs. Perry that Penrith Rowing Club should be changed from Metropolitan Club to New & Emerging Club.

A levy may be imposed on constitution members who do not contribute to regatta program by way of hosting a regatta or providing volunteers but an amount is yet to be determined and would be conducted on a needs basis. Mr. Rowley explained that while no details had been confirmed, that the Board would like to put the membership on notice that a levy imposition may be implemented.

Mr. Jameson asked that the comment in regards to the levy imposition be refined in regards to volunteers. Mr. Rowley explained that this included Boat Race Officials.

Mr. Michael Daffy expressed his reservations on imposing penalties as opposed to looking at incentive programs. Mr. Rowley explained that while our sport is growing, our regatta calendar and participation is growing, our volunteer and

official base is not growing. The NSWRA Board needs to address this matter to ensure we provide appropriate service to the membership.

That the 2009-2010 Schedule of Fees and Charges be approved

*MOVED: Stephen Taite*

*SECONDED: Tim Wainman*

*CARRIED: Resolution 016/2009*

- 3.4 2009-2010 NSWRA Budget

Mrs. Norma Perry explained that the proposed budget is based on historical trends and allows for expenses in the new financial year. The budget acknowledges increases in salary to the new Chief Executive Officer. Mrs. Perry explained that in the last 3 years the Association built its cash reserve to enable it to take risks such as this salary increase. The budget is an indication of the worst case scenario.

That the 2009-2010 NSWRA Budget be approved

*MOVED: Greg James QC*

*SECONDED: Keith Jameson*

*CARRIED: Resolution 017/2009*

- 3.5 Constitutional Reform

Mr. Greg James QC explained to the meeting that he was invited to consider performing a constitutional review of the New South Wales Rowing Association. For the best part of two years, Mr. James QC has enquired on rowing legal minds associated with rowing including club members and officers as to what they say are the particular problems with a constitution which has never properly been registered with the ACT Associations Incorporations Register. The ACT Associations Incorporations Register version of the constitution differs from our current Laws of Boat Racing, By-Laws and Rules.

Mr. James QC has recommended to the Board that the appropriate course to take would be to put in place a Committee to produce a proposal for the Annual General Meeting of the Association on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2009 for a movement to a constitution by way of a company limited by guarantee.

The persons nominated to be asked to be on the committee include Wade Hewett, Greg James QC, Keith Jameson, Mark Williams SC, Lionel Robberds QC, Simon Blascock, Dominic Toomey, Alexander Weilsmann, Barry Moynahan, President of the Union of Boat Race Officials and the new CEO but it is open to people volunteering to be on the committee. Mr. Rowley nominated Mr. James QC to chair the committee.

Mr. Wade Hewett agrees that we need to modernise our structure and suggests that a proposal be circulated and have an informed debate.

For the President to form a committee to review the constitution

*MOVED: Greg James QC*

*SECONDED: Norma Perry*

*CARRIED: Resolution 018/2009*

- 3.6 Fairness Committee

In light of 2 recent instances where extreme weather has given cause to cancellation of races at the NSW Rowing Championships in February and the NSW Masters Championships in May, the Board intends to form a fairness committee.

Mr. James QC explained that Laws of Boat Racing 17, 18, 19, 20 differ depending on which version of the document is being looked at; what the Association is currently working with or what is lodged with the ACT Associations Incorporations Register which is why the proposal refers to 'Laws of Boat Racing 17, 18, 19, 20 *where necessary*'. The proposal is to set up a fairness committee which doesn't simply include the Jury, but does include any member of the Board present. It is intended that this committee is for Association Regattas only i.e. Schoolboy Regattas currently are not run under the auspices of the Association and have authority to change, cancel or postpone the race program. It is also intended that any criticism can be directed to the Board rather than the acting Jury on the day.

That the By Laws are amended to provide changes to Laws of Boat Racing 17, 18, 19 and 20 where necessary so that a fairness committee including the referee, an attending NSWRA Director, host Club/School Representative, Honorary Medical Officer or such other person as the President or his alternate may appoint to determine whether regattas should be cancelled or the program changed in adverse conditions should be provided for each regatta.

*MOVED: Alexander Weilsmann*  
*SECONDED: Barry Moynahan*  
*CARRIED: Resolution 019/2009*

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Rowley advised the meeting, that since the April General Meeting it had been quite a hectic period of time for the Association. One is seeking a new Chief Executive Officer and the Board has been charged with the responsibility of vetting the applicants; there were around 48 applications received and 3 will be interviewed. An announcement will be made shortly with the start time in approximately 6 weeks.

Mr. Rowley acknowledges the efforts of the office staff in this busy period; Georgie Lee, Kellie Neville, Paul Coates, Richard Roach and Margaret Mackenzie.

Mr. Rowley announced that there are 33 athletes and 2 coaches selected into the Australian Rowing Teams which is by far the largest contributor state which is an excellent result and the Association wishes all those athletes all the best.

Onto Rowing Australia matters, NSW continues to push forward in open transparent communication amongst the states. Mr. Wade Hewett and Mr. Rowley are going to the Mid Year Meeting in QLD.

The Regatta Commission, Bay Club Forum and the Strategic Alliances are making very good progress in building awareness of rowing in the State. Certainly we have the ear of key Ministers who are taking note as we change the perception of 'us' by the way rowing is not just a group of elite schools.

The Board has made progress with Facilities Development Commission and Mr. Hewett explained that we continue discussion with Sydney Olympic Park Authority and NSW Maritime in regards to sites in Homebush Bay and both seem quite supportive. There are 3 sites available in the Homebush Bay Area, one in which the NSW Institute of Sport is interested in, one that the Association is interested in and another that is targeted for community rowing.

Mr. Hewett advised the meeting that Mr. Paul Coates is going to Bathurst and Lithgow with Mr. Ray Green OAM to discuss possibilities of developing rowing opportunities in the area.

Mr. Doug Donoghue advised the meeting the rowing is continuing to develop good relationships with SIRC at VMAC Meetings, where Mr. Tony Brown is the Rowing NSW representative.

Mr. Rowley informed the meeting that the new logo is present on the website.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

- National Grade Regatta

Mr. Chris Noel asked on the progress with the National Grade Regatta. Mr. Rowley answered that discussions had been made between Victoria and New South Wales to build a national based regatta that would combine with each states grade scores. NSW has identified the Edward Trickett NSW Grade Championships as the pinnacle regatta for the national event to occur. The event would not be run under the Rowing Australia Rules but particular rules relating to grade scores specifically for that event. Victoria has agreed to attend in 2010 and we will invite all other states and over a period of time to build it into a grand event. It is envisaged to be a state based program, not a Rowing Australia program. The new grade score rules adopted will be a good base to vet all competitors, in particular those from interstate and can include accurate prognostics and benchmarks. It is likely there will be teething problems but it is the first step in the right direction. It is hoped that it will help improve our sport and grow the sport financially.

- Leichhardt Rowing Club Pontoon

Mr. Hewett advised the meeting that with the assistance of Mr. Charles Bartlett's three year campaign with NSW Maritime, Leichhardt Rowing Club has been approved for their new pontoon and accepted a new pontoon standard that is suitable for rowing.

Mr. Chris Noel advised the meeting that with thanks to Mr. Craig Lister, there is now available on the Rowing NSW website the full video of the 2009 Kings Cup race.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

Next General Meeting: Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Approved

Chairman / /2009