

MINUTES

NSWRA GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 12 April 2011
7.00pm

Leichhardt Rowing Club
Foot of Glover Street
Leichhardt NSW 2040

Present:

Janet Pendleton (Drummoyne), Michael Daffy (Sydney), Petra Macaskill (Sydney Women's MLC), Owen Nix (CDRA), Tom McCann (SUBC), Wade Hewett (Leichhardt), Andrew McCallum (Leichhardt), Charles Bartlett (Leichhardt), Deanna Fekete, Leichhardt) and Christian Renford (RNSW) and Peter Crawford (Hon Auditor)

NSWRA Vice Presidents: Doug Donoghue, Barry Moynahan, Keith Jameson, Murray Clarke

NSWRA Board Members: Norma Perry, Ivan Adlam, Tim Clare, Bryan Weir

Apologies:

John Coates (Life Member), Andrew Rowley (Councilor), Bronwen Watson (Director), Joe Zammit (Director), Chris Noel (Director), Alexander Weilsmann (Balmain), Greg James (Director), and Phillip Sharp (Vice President)

1. WELCOME

N Perry welcomed all to the April General Meeting.

2. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

C Bartlett expressed concern that the contrary to the Minutes from the February General Meeting seeking to defer the first Transfer Working Groups recommendation relating to the two part transfer, the Board endorsed part one; Protocol for Ethical Recruitment at its February meeting.

N Perry confirmed that the Board debated part one of the document and noted that there was adequate discussion at the February General Meeting for views to be aired, and that nothing precluded the Board to endorse part one of the document; Protocol for Ethical Recruiting. N Perry further clarified that part two; Transfer Practices - Special Rules relating to the transfer of Year 12 school leavers was to be discussed revisited by the secondary Transfers Working Group

C Bartlett sought clarification that the secondary Transfers Working Group should be free to investigate both the Protocol for Ethical Recruitment and the Special Rules Relating to the Transfer of Year 12 School Leavers

B Weir noted that as a member of the secondary Transfers Working Group, should this group via its consultation process recommend amendments to the Protocol for Ethical Recruitment, the Board would reconsider any recommendations at its next meeting.

K Jameson sought clarification to the third paragraph of Section 3.2(b) of the Minutes of the February 2011 General Meeting concerning to the Transfer Practices - Special Rules relating to the transfer of Year 12 school leavers

Existing Minute	Proposed Amendment
The Transfer Practices - Special Rules relating to the transfer of Year 12 school leavers as presented by the Transfers Working Group was not supported by the meeting.	The Transfer Practices - Special Rules relating to the transfer of Year 12 school leavers as presented by the Transfers Working Group was discussed.

Motion 1: To amend the third paragraph of Section 3.2(b) of the Minutes of the February 2011 General Meeting as proposed.

Moved: K Jameson Seconded: D Donoghue

Motion Carried

Action – CEO to update Minutes of the February 2011 General Meeting and publish on the RNSW website

Motion 2: Subject to the amendment to Section 3.2(b) to accept the minutes of the February 2011 General Meeting as true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: K. Jameson Seconded: D Donoghue

Motion Carried

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 Update from the Secondary Transfers Group

The Secondary Transfers Working Group consists of the following members:

- Charles Bartlett (Chairman)
- Keith Jameson
- Chris Noel
- Bryan Weir
- Joe Zammit
- Christian Renford

C Bartlett provided an update on the actions to date from the Secondary Transfers Working Group. C Bartlett confirmed that the STWG met on Thursday 7 April 2011 and determined the following schedule:

- Call a meeting of club representatives on Thursday 5 May 2011, 6:30pm at Leichhardt Rowing Club.
- Submissions will be called for by COB Friday 29 April and distributed to clubs by no later than 2 May 2011
- The number of invited representatives per club will be limited to one member

- Recommendations from the STRWG relating to the Protocol for Ethical Recruitment and the Transfer Practices - Special Rules Relating to the Transfer of Year 12 School Leavers is expected to be tabled to the Board in time for its May meeting and subsequent presentation to the members at the June General Meeting.

4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

4.1 Kings Cup and Interstate Luncheon

- Friday 25 February 2010 at the Four Seasons Hotel, The Rocks
- 204 attendees up from about 180 last year. 2008 was RNSW's most successful event with about 275 attendees. Organisers hope to be able to replicate that next year
- Encouraging that clubs are starting to embrace the event, with the larger metropolitan clubs taking a table to support their athletes and all other NSW Team members.
- All State Team Athletes attended free of charge. Athlete's ticket prices were subsidised 50% by the Kings Cup Committee and 50% by their club.
- This event makes a nominal profit that is directed to the State Team program
- We have planned our 2012 Lunch - The King's and Queen's Cup Lunch for Friday 24th February 2012.
- Congratulations were extended to the Kings Cup Committee, in particular to Chris Noel as the driving force behind the luncheon

4.2 2011 State Championships

- With the formation of a State Event Management Committee, has seen the energy and enthusiasm that is demonstrated when NSW conducts major regattas harnessed and utilised in three annual regattas – State Champs, Edward Trickett, and Masters Championships
- Several new initiatives were introduced at the championships this season.
 - Heats of the 1x on the Friday afternoon;
 - relocated VIP area,
 - sponsors flags and association signage,
 - event specific website,
 - SMS contingency alerts.
- WCSN DVD production quality is expected to be low due to the weather conditions particularly the rain on the Saturday.
- The State Event Management Committee and Regatta Commission will review this event in due course.

Regatta	Seats 10-11	Seats 09-10	Competitors 10-11	Competitors 09-10
RNSW State Championships	2632	2496	1448	1311

4.3 2011 Australian Rowing Championships

- The revised RNSW selection system has seen an improvement in New South Wales' performance in the interstate regatta to reach third place and 37 points with one gold, one silver and one bronze medal at the 2011 Interstate Regatta.
- This is up from 4th place and 30 Points with one gold and bronze in 2010 and 4th place and 32 Points with one gold in 2009

- In particular the Competition Commission should be congratulated for the work that they have done in the management of the state team program, and the implementation from NSWIS and senior coaches
- The King's Cup Eight achieved their fourth consecutive victory in a new King's Cup record of 5 mins 22.08 seconds.
- In other events NSW achieved a silver medal in the Men's Youth Eight and a bronze medal in the Men's President's Cup single scull.
- The Women's Eight and Women's Youth Eight were much improved on 2010 and are only one place away from the medals.
- RNSW has commenced already planning the 2012 interstate campaign, with the ongoing focus being the Overall Pointscore or Rowing Australia Cup.

4.4 Youth Survey objective and outcome

- A youth survey was launched at 2011 State Championships with one student winning an Apple iPad
- Promoted via the website and online via facebook
- The survey was targeted to rowers between 15 and 18 years of age and was designed to discover how the sport can best cater to the needs of its younger athletes, and continue their rowing for many years to come
- 247 respondents which is a reasonable sample of the community. Accordingly the conclusions we may reach could be considered statistically valid
- Preliminary conclusions of this survey are two fold:
 1. RNSW needs to look at the opportunities that are presently be afforded via the competition program and see if they are still valid or need adjusting. Particularly those rowers who wish to continue to compete at a reasonable standard without making a commitment to elite training.
 2. Clubs should review how they presently recruit school leavers (whilst they are at school and post school) and the variety of programs that they are offering to school leavers.
- The Board will be discussing this in more detail at its April meeting, however this is specifically what the Sport Development Officer has been tasked with, and she will be communicating to all members about this survey and likely outcomes in the coming months.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 Maritime Matters

M Clarke noted that NSW Maritime is conducting a review of speed limits on the Parramatta River and Sydney Harbour. M Clarke and C Renford were interviewed by consultant appointed to head up this project. This project relates to solely to speed, however the opportunity was taken to reinforce the position that speed should not be considered in isolation, with other notable factors to be considered simultaneously; such as safety, rower demographics (eg % of school rowers), wash, times of day for likely incidents etc

M Clarke reiterated that there is no coordinated plan or vision of the harbour as a whole and how the growth in water use and associated use conflicts will be handled – at the moment passive boating is being 'shoved out' of traditional areas and this appears to have no end point as more and more marinas/improved boat ramps are constructed. This leads

to the Parramatta being more like a high-speed highway which effectively precludes fair access to passive boaters.

M Clarke further noted:

- Sydney Ferries have an open invitation for clubs and schools to ride in either Rivercats or Ferries to gain a greater appreciation of the maneuverability and visibility from the vessels
- Reminder that all coaching boats should use bio-fuels in marine environments.
- Rozelle and Blackwattle Bay rowing guide has been finalised by NSW Maritime

Action – M Clarke to forward Rozelle and Blackwattle Bay rowing guide to RNSW for publication on the website.

5.2 The NSW Grade Score and Grade Regattas

K Jameson provided an overview of proposed amendments to the Laws of Boat Racing outlined in a Sydney Rowing Club proposal presented to the Regatta Commission for consideration. The proposal relates to the grade competition and desire to create more opportunities for young people to engage with competitive rowing without being pressed into elite competition.

Specifically SRC proposal to amend the grade system include:

1. Lightweight Grade Events
2. Separate Elite Competition
3. Rapid Promotion
4. Team Boats
5. Masters Grade Scores

The Regatta Commission will review the SRC recommendation with a view for further discussion at the June General Meeting

Meeting Closed – 8:10pm

Note – at the conclusion of the April General Meeting, all attendees and other members of Rowing New South Wales were invited to attend an informal meeting to review and discuss the attached draft Constitution (Circulation Draft 28 Feb 11) of Rowing New South Wales. This meeting was chaired by RNSW Deputy President, Bryan Weir, who has been responsible for drafting the document. This informal meeting closed at 9:50pm