

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE ACT ROWING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED HELD AT SPORTS HOUSE ON THURSDAY 20 JULY 2006 AT 6.00 PM.

PRESENT: Nick Hunter (Chair), Gordon Marcks, Taryn Langdon, Kate Borger, Camilla Hayman, Pat Davoren, David Bagnall.

APOLOGIES: Brendon Prout, Alan Borger, Mark Partridge..

MINUTES: Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2006 were read and confirmed (Bagnall/Langdon)

TREASURER'S REPORT: Report emphasised the need to reduce current annual operating deficit of \$10,000. Committee agreed in principle to Treasurer's proposal to change the basis of the affiliation fee from a flat fee to one based on number of members of affiliated clubs. Committee agreed that basis for the change must be carefully explained to Clubs in a letter from the Chairman. Proposal by Treasurer at Attachment A.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT: EO has written to Andrew Dee of Rowing Australia concerning N. Hunter's appointment as acting Chairman in the absence of Brendon Prout and the state of origin and state of domicile rule.

In discussion of the "state of origin" rule it was agreed that, as administered the rule was ineffective as far as ACT origin athletes was concerned. It was agreed that Rowing Australia's minimal administration of the "rule" put ACT in the invidious situation of insisting on its application and that the EO should follow up on the letter to RA. The Head Coach said that failure to enforce the rule acted against ACT interests with respect to allocation of funds under the Elite Development Program which is based on ACT performance in the Youth Cup.

Review of sports grants in the context of ACT expenditure review required Association to indicate the relative importance of grant categories. It was agreed that priority is:

- triennium grant;
- grant bonus;
- capital grant;
- sports development;
- women's grant;
- individual travel;
- annual assistance.

EO met Grant Voisey of SRACT to discuss grants. He indicated that 70% of objectives on Key Results Schedule had to be achieved for continued funding. He indicated that progression to a category A sport would be extremely difficult in the current budgetary environment.

Executive Officer had attended a drugs testing workshop (ASDA) and reported that there is a new Rowing Australia anti-doping policy that ACTRA should adopt. It was agreed that we should adopt RA policies across the board. Executive Officer will hold

discussions with the Australian Sports Commission and RA on policy templates and examine best practice guidance through the Club Development Network.

Lake Users' Group Meeting: New safety buoys placed in Tarcoola Reach caused some concern with the National Capital Authority until NCA realised buoys replaced earlier approved buoys that had been removed/destroyed. Proposal for immigration memorial footbridge near the National Museum has implications for rowing that have not been discussed with the sport. The project was likely to falter on the issue of funding (cost around \$30 million).

Key Results Schedule: Updated version need to be lodged with SRACT. EO will circulate in track change mode for comments.

Disher Cup: ADFA, RMC and ANUBC have agreed that the Disher Cup should be an ACTRA controlled event. Matters for resolution include insurance arrangements and the rules for the event which will need to specify rules for passing and corners etc.. D. Bagnall agreed to examine history of the event to see what arrangements have been agreed in the past. Agreed that the Association will conduct the event which will be held at a time close to the intervarsity regatta (K.Borger/Langdon).

Newsletter: Executive Officer will put a newsletter emphasising Lake safety. D. Bagnall will contribute an article and historical rowing photos will be sought.

Indoor Rowing Championship: Executive Officer has selected students from the University of Canberra to conduct this event which will be based on the Concept 2 indoor regatta package. Racing will be over 500 and 1000 metres and will include a team event. K. Borger to investigate use of a venue at Canberra Grammar School.

Executive Officer was congratulated on the quality of her report.

HEAD COACH'S REPORT: Two athletes will be leaving the ACTAS squad and four new talent identification rowers will be joining the program. Scholarship criteria for 06-07 have been agreed by the Joint Management Committee.

In discussion of ACTAS coaching arrangements the Head Coach mentioned that Academy is not at full capacity so he can manage for the moment. Over the long term ACTAS has an average of two coaches per year and this arrangement is expected to continue. N. Hunter emphasised the need to identify new coaches and the important role of ACTAS in providing experience to local coaches.

Funding pressures will have a major impact on talent identification activities. In the face of funding cuts to the ACTAS budget the first priority will be to protect the scholarship program and this will come at the cost of talent identification. This will place a responsibility on clubs to find ways to reduce the costs of the talent identification program for the athletes they host, including through finding ways to access gym facilities.

JMC has endorsed five athletes for the elite development program. There has been good feedback from crews preparing for the Youth Cup coached by Dafydd Gwynne-Jones and Paul Cowan. Crews are getting good preparation for racing with regular races on Fridays

with up to six crews. Detailed report at attachment B. Report accepted (Bagnall/K.Borger).

RECORDER'S REPORT: Draft program was circulated. ISRA committee meeting supported a schoolboy event in Canberra for independent schools. It was agreed that this should be held on 31 March 2007 and promoted as the Federal Head of the Lake. Radford College is expected to be interested in hosting such a regatta. The Greg Welsh regatta would be moved to the end of the season. Proposed regatta dates were adopted subject to this amendment. Point score for 2005-06 was adopted (Bagnall/Davoren).

GENERAL BUSINESS

Storage of umpires' boats - there is a possibility of getting covered secure storage these boats at former works depots in Lyons and Hughes.

Sports Industry Forum - Cuts to sports funding will be discussed at a meeting on 26 July which will be attended by the ACT Minister for Sport. Some signs that decisions may already have been made.

Rowing Australia Council Meeting – Workshop will examine consultants report on governance issues including transfer of powers from Council to the Board. ROMS4 will be operating by the end of September.

Workshop will be conducted by Executive Officer to support role of parents and coaches in rowing.

MEETING CLOSED at 9.07 pm.

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Chairman
21 September 2006