

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ACT ROWING ASSOCIATION HELD AT ACT SPORTS HOUSE ON THURSDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2007 AT 6.15 pm

PRESENT: B. Prout, H. Neil, P. Davoren, S. Tulloh, S. Nermetova, D. Bagnall (Recorder), G Marcks (Head Coach) and M. Ronke (Executive Officer).

MINUTES: Minutes of meeting held on 20 September 2007 were read and confirmed subject to an amendment noting apologies for K. Borger and A. Borger.

MATTERS ARISING: Hon Recorder informed committee of considerable discussion within the Association about the shortcomings of the ROMS2 regatta management software. Several clubs found it so difficult and slow to use that they had resorted to faxing entries to the EO so he could submit them. This resulted in an unacceptable amount of EO time being taken up with regatta entries. These problems are not attributable to lack of expertise as a number of clubs have IT professionals submitting their entries. It was agreed that as ROMS2 is practically unworkable and imposes unacceptable costs on the Association, the ACT should adopt the NSW software. Mr Croot who manages the NSW entry system says that this is feasible and that he has the ROMS membership list. It was resolved that the Hon Recorder advise Rowing NSW that ACT wishes to use its regatta entry system and that the Chairman advise Rowing Australia of this decision and of our intention to revert to a national system as soon as it is functioning effectively (Borger/Warboys).

Regatta Program: The absence of D grade double sculls events was discussed. It was noted that there had previously been little interest in this event but situation may be different following progression of crews from E grade. It was also pointed out that there are no women's pair events. It was agreed that these matters would be considered by the regatta subcommittee. The Hon Recorder pointed out that the priority in program development is to create a relatively short workable program which has no unpredictable event clashes. Inclusion of favoured events could only be justified on the basis of interest in providing entries from the clubs;

Polluted Lake Chairman considered that losses from regatta postponement are significant and that he will raise this matter with Lindsay Evans and Sri from NCA.

Finish Area Facilities It was agreed that the poor standard of facilities at the finish of the course should be pursued with the NCA once Andrew McKenzie's landscape design is completed.

BRO Numbers The meeting noted the severe shortage of BROs and discussed a number of options for augmenting numbers at regattas. H. Neil suggested that each club provides one volunteer for regattas in addition to three from the host club. R. Warboys said it would be helpful to take potential BROs out in officials' boats during regattas so they could see what is involved. EO will consider potential involvement of Volunteers Australia.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer noted the low level of interest we receive from funds with WESTPAC. He also noted the need to complete an assets register including such assets as BRO equipment. Report Accepted (Davoren/Borger)

EO REPORT

Corporate Plan - Brendan Lynch is available to conduct a mid-year review of the plan. Coach Development - Suzanne Goddard has had difficulty in getting SRACT to agree to

arrangements for mentoring by a senior coach as part of her Level 3 accreditation. Head Coach has written a letter of endorsement. EO will approach SRACT to see what is going on.

Level 3 Course - EO will discuss experience in conducting courses with Rowing Victoria to advise on feasibility of conducting a course in the ACT.

HEAD COACHES REPORT

There is currently an extensive changeover of scholarship holders with a number of athletes leaving the program. This transition needs careful management to maximise the chances of departing athletes staying in the sport. EDP is identifying high potential people already in clubs who would benefit from further development through the program. A formal approach to schools is required to identify high potential people not in the sport. James McCartney is organising four camps per year. State Team – there are healthy nominations for the Youth VIIIs but numbers for senior men's and women's crews are too small to form crews without drawing on members of junior crews. Tom Westgarth and Jaime Fernandez had nominated to coach the women's and men's youth crews respectively. The Head Coach recommended some flexibility to accept late nominations.

It was resolved (Borger/Nermutova) that a further call be put out for nominations for the Interstate Regatta crews including lightweights and that the Head Coach prepare an assessment of performance of the best nominees (ergometer and timetrial scores) to determine whether potentially competitive crews could be identified.

Lightweight Selection – HC recommended that selection criteria for 2009 should rule out juniors applying for lightweight selection. Meeting supported this suggestion.

Head Coach advised that several outstanding ACT athletes including Emma Cook and Veronica Tamsitt will be going interstate to study. These rowers will not be eligible to row for another state until they have been resident there for six months. Consistent with previous disregard of state of origin rules he expected that the athletes will be put under pressure to row for their state of residence. The Association should adhere to the rules and insist that the athletes continue to row for the ACT until they qualify to compete for their state of residence.

The Head Coach tabled the proposed ACTAS scholarship recommendations and asked that they be put to the Joint management Committee for endorsement. This was moved and agreed by the meeting (Davoren/Borger) H. Neil abstained. Report Accepted.

GENERAL BUSINESS

A number of draft motions circulated by S. Tulloh were discussed.

ACT Masters Championships

Meeting agreed that this proposal should be further considered by the regatta subcommittee.

Proposed Growth Target

The meeting was not convinced that setting growth targets for the clubs is part of the Association's role. There is ample evidence that most Clubs are intent on growing their numbers and improving the quality of their activities. The Association's role is to facilitate club development by improving the quality of regattas and addressing development constraints such as planning obstacles to new clubs (support of Radford boatshed proposal) and poor facilities (1800 metre course and Tuggeranong buoy line).

Publicity Program

The meeting agreed further publicity is needed for Association activities but considers that one article per week may not be realistic given the competition for coverage between sports.

Motion: That ACTRA commence a publicity programme in consultation with AIS Rowing to provide one article per week to the Canberra Times with images to promote rowing in the ACT. Motion FAILED through lack of a seconder.

Amended motion was put to the meeting: That ACTRA commence a publicity programme in consultation with AIS Rowing to provide articles to all Canberra media to promote rowing in the ACT (Borger/Nermutova) CARRIED (S.Tulloh abstained)

Promotion of Use of Lake Burley Griffin as a Training Venue for Visiting Schools This concept was not supported as current use of the Lake by visiting crews already presents

significant safety issues for ACT club and ACTAS crews.

Expansion of Bridge to Bridge Race This proposal was referred to the regatta subcommittee.

Maintenance Register It was agreed that clubs have extensive maintenance requirements and that it would be a good idea to share knowledge amongst clubs.

Motion: That ACTRA establish an equipment maintenance resource register on the ACTRA

website providing details of service providers and suppliers who can assist clubs and individuals with equipment maintenance. Action Officer – EO By 16 December. The motion was referred to the regatta subcommittee with a suggestion that no product endorsements and links be established.

Adding 500 metre sprint races be added to the regatta programme

Motion was referred to the regatta subcommittee

High interest bank account

Motion: That ACTRA open a savings account with BankWest or ING Direct to maximize the

interest on Association cash balances. Action Officer Simon Tulloh/EO By 20 November.

(Tulloh./Warboys) CARRIED.

The meeting deferred discussion to the next meeting on coaching qualification and risk assessments. A review of Lake Traffic Rules was also requested for the next meeting.

MEETING CLOSED: 8:47PM

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CHAIRMAN

13/12/2007