



ROYAL BRIGHTON YACHT CLUB INCORPORATED A0018674M
253 ESPLANADE, MIDDLE BRIGHTON. VIC. 3186
HALF YEARLY GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS
TUESDAY 22nd MARCH 2022 at 7:00PM

MINUTES

1. NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Rule 32 & Rule 36, the Half Yearly General Meeting of Members will be held via Zoom on Tuesday 22nd March 2022 at 7.00 p.m.

Attendees Via Zoom

Commodore Peter Strain, Vice Commodore John Mooney, Rear Commodore Paul Jenkins, Club Captain Brett Heath, Honorary Treasurer Peter Demura, Peter Austin, Greg Barclay, David Bingham, Christian Boillot, Ron Clarke, Gary Cook, Murray Cowdell, Grant Dunoon, Campbell Ewart, Glenn & Jan Ferguson, Peter Forbes, Richard Fullarton, Ramon Quintela, Peter Gebhardt, Jack Hawkins, Niesje Hees, James Heywood, Ashley Horne, Chad Humphrey, Catherine Hurley, Marnie & Lou Irving, Jim Leckey, Wendy & Kim Luck, Jock MacAdie, Andrew McBriar, Rodney Mckenna, Andrew Merrett, Marg Neeson, Paul Pascoe, Jennifer Pascoe, Andrew Perkins, Patrick Purcell, Kalpana Raghunathan, Peter Robson, Robina & Brenton Smith, Cameron Spence, John Spencer, Susie Strain, Simon Tedstone, Mary-Alice Tedstone, Vanessa Twigg

A quorum of more than 20 Senior Members was declared. Meeting was opened at 7:05pm.

Proxies were declared as follows: Peter Strain (2), Murray Cowdell (3), Peter Demura (3), David Bingham (1), Niesje Hees (2)

2. APOLOGIES

John Wertheimer, Anne Frankl, Sue Leaper, Ross Fisher, Peter Coleman

3. OBITUARIES

John Bryson AM
Andrew Coltman
Ian Cummin
Steve Hickford
John Kingston
Bryan Linacre
Warren Parker
James Uglow
Douglas Weir
Brian Witty

A minute's silence was observed.

4. MINUTES

That the previous minutes be accepted.

MOVED: Peter Strain **SECONDED:** Paul Jenkins **CARRIED**

5. COMMODORE'S REPORT – taken as read, attached.

- New Sub Committees include Cleaner Sailing Committee, Social Committee, Assets Committee, Marina & Attenuator Working Group.
- Seabed Lease negotiations with Parks Vic are progressing.
- Documented Risk Register progressing
- Thankyou to Phil & Staff and General Committee

MOVED: Peter Strain **SECONDED:** John Mooney **CARRIED**

6. FINANCE REPORT – taken as read, attached.

- Report outlines the operations of the club with significant challenges with covid.
- Government assistance was welcomed; cash balance is healthy.
- Maintenance works around the club continued.
- Undertaken dredging of the Eastern Channel.
- We have recommenced payments on our loans.
- Satisfactory results for the six months.
- Thank you to members for their continued support of the club.
- Thank you to the Finance Sub-Committee.

Commodore Peter Strain commended the Finance Sub Committee and Treasurer for their work.

MOVED: Peter Demura **SECONDED:** Chad Humphrey **CARRIED**

QUESTION: Jim Leckey – Commend the segmentation report of the club. I note that we do not allocate any overheads to catering and find this strange as Catering occupies ¾ of the clubhouse and a significant portion of its revenue coming from non-members of the club. No maintenance, interest, amortisation, or depreciation as shown against catering, this is inconsistent with the other departments. What accounting standard do we follow in these allocations?

RESPONSE: Peter Demura – FSC work closely with Accountants & Auditors. We are assured that the club reports meet the required accounting standards. The items highlighted are treated as a whole of venue item across the business. We have been working on these reports and we may allocate maintenance differently in the future. The reports are what has been recommended to the committee by the accountants & auditors. Peter Strain – we have been guided by professionals but are happy to look at your points.

7. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

SAILING REPORT – taken as read

- Biggest change this season is the development of Div. 1, Div. 2 and Ingenue groups. This has provided some great racing. Range Series adjusted down to 3 days.
- Massive thanks to sailing office, sailing committee and race committee.
- Growth in clubs' in One Design fleet of VX-Ones

MOVED: Brett Heath **SECONDED:** Marnie Irving **CARRIED**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – taken as read

- Growth in membership which is a positive story. Benefitted from people looking for recreation closer to home.
- People feel safe coming to the club, particularly in outdoor activity.
- Thank you to the General Committee members who have taken part in interviewing new members.
- Categories: Intermediate, Aquatic & Social have had small increases.
- Question from Annual General Meeting regarding Membership demographics. Reports show that we do have an ageing population however some inroads have been made particularly with young membership categories.
- Crew matching system has been improved.

QUESTION: Andrew Merrett – is there any vetting of new members ie police checks or are references the only consideration taken into account.

RESPONSE: Cath Hurley – references and interviews are considered.

QUESTION: Simon Tedstone. Numbers in racing depict demographics of the club. Which is a real concern. Is this on the radar of the General Committee?

RESPONSE: Programs, generally speaking, have been disrupted by Covid. Yes, membership is on the agenda. Any ideas that support sailing are supported by the General Committee.

MOVED: Cath Hurley **SECONDED:** Paul Jenkins **CARRIED**

ASSETS REPORT - taken as read

- Integrated asset management system established and reviewed by members and to be populated with the help of Past Treasurer Malcolm Mitchell. .
- This has identified what the assets are, what are the maintenance requirements.

MOVED: Niesje Hees **SECONDED:** Cath Hurley **CARRIED**

CRUISING GROUP REPORT – taken as read

- Number of events have had to be cancelled.
- Summary of events held/postponed
- Titanic Night scheduled for 20th May 2022

MOVED: Paul Jenkins **SECONDED:** Peter Strain **CARRIED**

ICEBERGER REPORT – taken as read

- Highlights – significant increase in Aquatic membership which has brought a vibrancy to the group.

MOVED: Jack Hawkins **SECONDED:** Peter Strain **CARRIED**

CLEANER SAILING REPORT – taken as read

- The subcommittee represents the increase importance of environmental stewardship. The club needs to be seen as a leader in this field.
- Two groups that we may join, Sailors for the Sea (regatta based), Marina Industry Association (Clean Marina Program).
- This may also improve our standing in the community.

MOVED: Andrew Merrett **SECONDED:** Simon Tedstone **CARRIED**

IDAG REPORT – taken as read

- The focus for this group has been the Notice of Motion that is following in this meeting. We know that we need to invigorate the club and potentially reduce the average age. The general committee debated this at length and decided to leave the Flag Officers as they are but potentially open the other positions to newer members of the club.
- Inclusion is a primary purpose of this subcommittee. We intend to conduct workshops to get ideas about practical solutions that make all people welcome to the club.

QUESTION: Chad Humphrey – Sailing Office offers a sense of belonging to people who are interested in our community and enjoying the environment.

RESPONSE: Peter Strain - Comment Noted

MOVED: Niesje Hees **SECONDED:** Cath Hurley **CARRIED**

SOCIAL REPORT – taken as read

- Social sub committee well organised and enthusiastic.
- Thank you to those who have participated in the social events to date.
- Terms of Reference still a work in progress.
- Summary of Events – Sailing Lifts your Spirits commended.

QUESTION: Patrick Purcell – Complemented Social subcommittee on the St Patricks Day event.

RESPONSE: Peter Strain - Noted Flag of Dublin displayed at RBYC

QUESTION: Jennifer Pascoe, what other groups are the club supporting at the moment.

RESPONSE: Cath Hurley – we will incorporate into the reports other groups that we support. Peter Strain other groups include Rotary, Monash University, Beyond Blue, Property Industry Foundation.

MOVED: Cath Hurley **SECONDED:** Kalpana Raghunathan **CARRIED**

8. Business on Notice

Honorary Treasurer Peter Demura - That the Club appoints Auditors, Ashfords Pty Ltd, for the 2021-22 financial year.

MOVED: Peter Demura **SECONDED:** Peter Strain **CARRIED**

9. RECEIVE ANY NOTICE OF MOTION

49. Who is eligible to be a Committee Member

1) No Member shall be eligible for election to the Committee unless they are and have been a Senior Member of the Club for at least three consecutive years immediately prior to nomination.

(2) No Member of the Committee shall be appointed to, or whilst a Member of the Committee, hold any salaried Office or Office of profit in the Club and no remuneration or other benefit in money or monies worth shall be given by the Club to any Member of the Committee except for the repayment of out of pocket expenses, interest on or principal of money lent to the Club under Debenture or otherwise or reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let to the Club

Proposed Replacement

49. Who is eligible to be a Committee Member

(1) A Member shall be eligible for election to any of the Flag Officer positions or the Honorary Treasurer position if they are a Senior Member of the Club and have been a Senior Member of the Club for at least three consecutive years immediately prior to nomination.

(2) A Member shall be eligible for any of the remaining 6 Committee Positions if they are a Senior Member of the Club at the time of their nomination and have have been a Member of the Club for at least three consecutive years immediately prior to nomination.

(3) No Member of the Committee shall be appointed to, or whilst a Member of the Committee, hold any salaried Office or Office of profit in the Club and no remuneration or other benefit in money or monies worth shall be given by the Club to any Member of the Committee except for the repayment of out of pocket expenses, interest on or principal of money lent to the Club under Debenture or otherwise or reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let to the Club

Niesje Hees

- This motion addresses that we have limited Senior Members and people who are eligible for General Committee positions that we broaden the criteria. The Committee positions carry responsibility we need to get the balance right.
- Under the current rules only 17 percent of members eligible for General Committee are under the age of 50 and a similar percentage are women.
- No change to Rule 44 – active sailing members.

Jim Leckey

- Support further diversity. Voting rights for each committee member is equal. Unexpected consequences – member may not have attended AGM. Engaging with the members. Social Members may be able to stand for committee

Paul Jenkins

- I don't think we stop members from attending general meetings.

Andrew Merrett

- Opposed to the motion, three years membership is not too much to ask for a very senior position.

Paul Pascoe

- Comment on historical features of the rules.

Jim Leckey

- Defined Active Sailing Members

Jennifer Pascoe

- What is the definition of an Active Sailing Member – PS read the definition in the rules.

Simon Tedstone

- Support diversity. General Committee need to have experience, risk of this proposal is not worth taking.

Cath Hurley

- In support of motion. A person with specific skills could be encouraged to contribute to the club

Niesje Hees - Response

Scenarios of concerns and others of missed opportunities. There is not a lot of incentive to contribute if active as a crew member. Risk of interest groups taking over is very low as it is limited to 1 or 2 members only. If we wish for an inclusive club the concept of longevity is only part of the story. We are looking for new members and welcoming them they also need to be represented at committee level. This includes different ages, demographics, races & sexual orientation. Some changes need to be made for change to occur.

Peter Strain

- This was debated long and hard in General Committee and was supported by the committee.

The motion was put to the members to vote:

Results of the Poll were announced Wednesday 23rd March 2022

The Special Resolution to amend Rule 49 of the RBYC Rules was voted on at the Half Yearly General Meeting of Members last night, March 22nd, 2022. Life Member Peter Austin acted as scrutineer for this vote.

A total of 49 votes were recorded, the 'YES' vote failed to meet the three-quarter majority required and therefore the motion was defeated.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

Patrick Purcell – Safety Concern during Sail Melbourne with no view of the course. **Chad Humphrey** responded that we had the tower manned. **Vanessa Twigg** – escalation plan for the regatta

Andrew Merrett - suggested a name change from Senior Member to a Full Member

Wendy Luck – would like the AGM in person. Potentially with a Zoom link. Commodore Strain agreed.

Jennifer Pascoe – what future regattas are planned for the club. Is there a team assigned to bid for these events? Brett Heath responded that we are booked for 2 world championship and 3 national championships in the near future.

Wendy Luck – Recruitment of younger volunteers to replace those older members who are due to retire. Potentially social members or volunteering forum. Cath Hurley confirmed that this is happening with new members. Vanessa Twigg expressed that volunteering is an expectation of belonging to a sporting club. Jennifer Pascoe spoke about the responsibilities that come with club membership. Niesje Hees noted that people contribute in different ways. The focus is also on existing members as well as new members. Brett Heath indicated that this is one of the primary focus points of the Sailing Committee.

Andrew Merrett asked if AS sponsors courses in Race Management. Peter Strain will speak with Alistair Murray. RBYC to offer the club as a venue.

Kim Luck – what is the plan for the re-construction of the breakwater. Peter strain responded that this is probably a 10-year timeline. The club is being consulted.

Peter Strain – Thanked the Staff and Committee

By Order of the General Committee – meeting closed 9.10PM