

	MEETING	Yachting Australia Federal Assembly	
	DATE	Sunday 30 April 2006	
	TIME	0905 - 1455	
	VENUE	Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Peel Street, Kirribilli	
	AGENDA	MINUTES	ACTIONS
A	Attendance & Apologies		
	<p>Attendance: <i>Yachting Australia Board</i> Andrew Plympton - President Fred Bevis David Kellett Wally Rantanen Tom King Rupert Leslie John Flower</p> <p><i>Yachting Australia Staff</i> Phil Jones – CEO Alastair Snell – Admin Manager Tracey Johnstone – SS Manager Fiona Medwin – Nat Training Mgr Glen Stanaway – SS Coord Technical</p> <p><i>MYA Delegates & Observers</i> Lyndsay Brown YNSW Delegate Stephen Leahy YNSW Observer Brain Tyquin YNSW Observer Roger Hickman YNSW Observer Dayle Smith YQ Delegate Odile Anderson YQ Observer Peter Russell YACT Delegate David Kent YACT Observer John Burgess YV Delegate Ross Kilborn YV Observer Nick Hutton YT Delegate Bob Silberberg YT Observer Allen Walters YSA Delegate John Woollatt YSA Observer Bob Heywood YSA Observer John Johnston YSA Observer Gary Martin YNT Delegate Alan Tough YWA Delegate Tony Claydon YWA Observer</p> <p>Apologies: Adrienne Cahalan David Tillett</p>	<p>The President welcomed delegates, observers and the Yachting Australia staff to the meeting and thanked everyone for their very positive contribution to the National Committee Meetings held over the last two days. In particular the President welcomed Lyndsay Brown, Dayle Smith and Peter Russell as newly elected MYA Presidents since the August 2005 meeting and to Stephen Leahy as YNSW's new General Manager.</p> <p>In opening the meeting the President commented that significant progress had been made since the last Federal Assembly meeting in August 2005 and paid tribute to the work of the Yachting Australia Board and staff and also thanked the MYAs for their input and support. It was noted that at a time when some other Olympic sports in Australia were struggling yachting was being viewed very positively by the Federal Government and all those in attendance should be congratulated for helping to maintain such high corporate governance practices.</p> <p>In the period since the last Federal Assembly meeting the Board has been very focused on achieving positive outcomes for the organisation with particular emphasis placed on the Olympic Program and in Training. The President commented on the recent Australian Sailing Team function and launch of the Patrons Club, the appointment of Rob Brown as the Olympic Sailing Program Manager and Michael Jones as the Olympic Sailing Program Director and the intensive efforts being made to generate over \$1m of additional revenue for the Program.</p> <p>The President noted the positive progress made in Training and thanked the MYAs for their collective support to advance. The progress was also being made within budget and the current financials confirming Yachting Australia was on track to achieve its budget projection.</p> <p>The meeting noted that the 2006 Australian Yachting Awards were being held in association with the arrival in Sydney of the Gipsy Moth. The July 12 Gala Dinner would be attended by HRH The Princess Royal and all MYAs were encouraged to be in attendance.</p>	

B. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING			
		To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 7 August 2005	The minutes of the meeting held on 7 August 2005 were accepted as a true record with two minor amendments noted. The amendments noted being under 4(c) \$100m not \$100,000 million and Tony Claydon was not present.
C. MATTERS ARISING			
		To consider any matters arising not otherwise dealt with in the agenda	<p>Scheduling of National Meetings and Federal Assembly – The meeting noted that advice had been circulated to all MYAs with proposed dates for Federal Assembly Meetings following the Federal Assembly Meeting in August 2005.</p> <p>Closed Meetings – The President noted that all National Committee Meetings had been successfully held as open meeting over the weekend following the adoption of the new National Committees Policy.</p> <p>National Officiating Program Review – It was noted that an Independent Panel had been formed with Peter Rattray QC as Chair and a workshop program of consultation session scheduled for the coming period. The President emphasised that the Review was a very positive initiative for the sport and encouraged all MYA personnel to contribute.</p> <p>Payroll Tax Exemption – It was noted that the NSW Office of State Revenue had been presented details on the amount to be returned to Yachting Australia as a result of the successful appeal to the Administrative Decisions Tribunal.</p>
1. Membership			
		To receive a presentation and workshop a possible membership model developed by the Board, following the direction of the Membership Working Group	<p>The President introduced the Membership presentation by providing background on the issue. It was noted that the issue first arose following an approach from Yachting Queensland and to date the debate has been advanced by the Membership Working Group chaired by Tom King.</p> <p>The President highlighted the pressures that the Silver Card scheme was under given the changing nature of the operation of yacht clubs and the sporting market. He commented that ISAF viewed Yachting Australia's membership program as being very sound and that the racing sailors had become very used to its operation and benefits. However, increasingly the scheme was returning less and less revenue to Yachting Australia and the MYAs and pressure remained both from powerboat groups and social members for the sport to provide greater services. It was also noted that the Federal Government's investment in yachting was not guaranteed long term and the organisation needed to reduce its reliance of those funds for its non-high performance activities.</p> <p>Tom King reminded the Meeting on the discussions held at the last Federal Assembly meeting and the progress since. Those discussions involved the desire for a consistent model using some form of demographic, retention of the Silver Card system and the need for transitional arrangements. The meeting noted that Yachting Australia had been asked to develop a proposal for consideration but in doing so various issues of fairness and enforcement had emerged, which prompted the Board to consider an alternative model.</p>

			<p>This model involved possible use of a club demographic and continued use of the Silver Card. Rupert Leslie then presented details on the model and its characteristics. It was agreed that the MYAs should manage all dialogue with clubs on the model.</p> <p>YNSW commented that its small clubs were the most compliant and commented that the sport can't rely on corporate goodwill. Each MYA must have in place the constitutional authority to enforce the rules with the ability to apply sanctions if necessary.</p> <p>YV commented that they had recently been considered various models with input from its yacht clubs. YV emphasised the need to communicate the value of the membership proposition rather than focusing on the price.</p> <p>YWA commented that it had no constitutional authority to charge individuals but that it had enhanced the clubs understanding of the value of services provided. YWA reinforced the fact that the sport can't rest on constitutional rules alone and encouraged Yachting Australia to consider developing an all encompassing license type agreement for the MYAs to operate under.</p> <p>YSA commented that funding from their clubs currently was very low and that they were about to increase fees by 13%. This had placed significant financial pressures on YSA's cashflow. YWA offered their assistance to help other MYAs financially should they experience cashflow or other difficulties</p> <p>YQ commented that the it was developing a new constitution which would address their current lack of enforcement and that it was currently modeling various options for consideration by its clubs. The YQ President commented that the Yachting Australia constitution was a poor document and needed updating. YQ expressed their lack of support for the continuation of the personal accident insurance policy and the Silver Card system but positively commented on their support for the differentiation between a club fee and a capitation fee.</p> <p>YT commented that they saw problems with the proposed approach and that they wanted to retain the flexibility to determine their own method of collection for membership income. YT's view was that Yachting Australia should set the fee and let YT work out how it collected.</p> <p>YACT indicated they could work with the proposed approach and requested continuation of the membership program assistance currently provided by Yachting Australia.</p> <p>YNT commented that they were very keen to see the value proposition of the scheme improved and reminded the meeting of a capitation model they had proposed some years ago.</p> <p>Discussion was held on the possibility of developing a value agreement between Yachting Australia and each MYA which details the services provided and licensed each MYA to delivery Yachting Australia services in their respective jurisdiction. The merits of such an approach were positively received and the meeting asked that early consideration be given to the development of such a document.</p>	
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			<p>RESOLVED THAT:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Federal Assembly note the model as presented. 2. Yachting Australia circulate the model to the MYAs for consideration and comment. 3. Yachting Australia draft a preliminary services focused value agreement for discussion. 4. The Federal Assembly meet again on 12 July to discuss the membership model and draft value agreement with a view to adopting the proposals for implementation in the 2007-08 year. <p>It was noted that YQ abstained from the vote but confirmed its desire to work with Yachting Australia to find a workable national solution.</p>	<p>AM</p> <p>CEO</p> <p>CEO</p>
2. Strategic Plan				
	(a)	To review the status of the 2005-2006 outcomes contained in the 2005-09 Strategic Plan	The CEO recapped on the background to the 2005-09 Strategic Plan and the commented on the subsequent development of the 2005-06 Operations Plan and quarterly progress reports. In reviewing the progress made to date the CEO highlighted various achievements and the challenges which have arisen in each of the 7 KRAs of the plan. It was noted that some excellent progress was being made in Training, Youth Development, the Olympic program, licensing and IT services. However, it was noted that underpinning further progress was the non-availability of discretionary resources to provide an increased level of services and advance the communications and marketing objectives of the organisation.	
	(b)	To review the content of the Strategic Plan as required by the Plan itself and as agreed at the last meeting.	<p>The CEO highlighted that the Federal Assembly had agreed that the plan would be a rolling Strategic Plan and it was anticipated that priorities for the 2009-10 year would be identified at a later date. In the presentation the CEO re-emphasised the previously agreed SWOT analysis and 2006-07 strategic priorities and sought feedback from the MYAs. It was agreed that whilst considerable progress had been made the same strengths and weaknesses exist.</p> <p>Discussion was held on the need for Yachting Australia to advance work on determining what services should be offered to support powerboat and social members. It was agreed that Yachting Australia would look to initiate a process to establish expectations and demands of the non-sailing community as a strategic priority for the 2006-07 year.</p>	CEO
4. Junior Sailing				
		To receive a paper recommending the development of a Strategy for Junior Sailing.	<p>The CEO presented a paper on the development of a Junior Sailing Plan. The paper noted the need for Yachting Australia to provide leadership and promotional opportunities to assist MYAs and Clubs to grow Junior and Youth participation and noted the discussion held previously with the Newport Foundation. It was also noted that the Australian Sports Commission was advocating the development of such a strategy.</p> <p>Nick Hutton commented that the National Youth Committee had discussed the issue at their meeting and was supportive of Yachting Australia advancing the first 3 phases of the proposed development process.</p> <p>Following discussion it was resolved that:</p>	

			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Federal Assembly supports the development of the Junior Sailing Plan; and 2. The Federal Assembly requests that the Yachting Australia Board consider allocation of funding within the 2006/07 Budget to facilitate the delivery of phases One to Three of the Junior Sailing Plan with the Plan's activities and outcomes to be reviewed at the first Exit point, as detailed in the proposal. <p>It was noted that the process would not be initiated until July and would take up to 6-months.</p>	
5. Participation				
		<p>Following discussion at the Executive Officers Meeting in November 2005, to consider the development of a National Participation Strategy.</p>	<p>The CEO presented a paper on the development of a national Participation Strategy and also commented on the outcomes of the workshop held with the Executive Officers in November. The meeting also noted the OnBoard research data and the importance of Yachting Australia gaining benchmark data. Discussion was held on the pros and cons of the proposal and the role of Yachting Australia, the MYAs and yacht clubs. It was agreed that the subject requires industry wide coordination and that the issue requires significant clarity before any initiative is embarked upon by Yachting Australia. It was noted that Yachting Australia could usefully assist with research and statistics information but that the issue of participation is a matter best lead by the clubs.</p> <p>Ross Kilborn later emphasised the need for Yachting Australia and the MYAs to embrace the development of an overarching marketing led participation strategy which seeks to take advantage of opportunities in the future such as the Volvo stopover</p>	
6. Member Protection Policy				
		<p>To receive a paper recommending the adoption of a Member Protection Policy.</p>	<p>The Administration Manager presented a paper on the adoption of the Member Protection Policy (MPP) Statements. It was noted that the Australian Sports Commission were increasing emphasis on the need for Yachting Australia to have an appropriate MPP in place. It was also noted that a Project Plan had been developed which had been shared with the MYAs and that over the coming months draft support material would be circulated for comment and, where appropriate, use by MYAs and Clubs.</p> <p>Yachting Queensland highlighted the fact that they were an incorporated public company and adoption of such a policy would require the signed agreement of all individual members. Yachting WA expressed concern that the adoption of the policy binds them to a policy that could not be implemented. It was noted that the MPP Statements were planned to operate like a set of national standards with the key machinery to support the implementation of the policy still being in draft form. Several MYAs expressed their interest in gaining access to the supporting documentation given demands being placed upon them by their State Government agencies.</p> <p>Following discussion it was agreed that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Federal Assembly adopt the Member Protection Policy Statements and in doing so support Yachting Australia to enact them as national standards; 2. Yachting Australia would provide details on the supporting procedures in draft form in the coming 4-6 weeks; and 	

			<p>3. MYAs would individually decide to adopt the Member Protection Policy based on their own State requirements and constitutional authority.</p> <p>YNSW offered the assistance of Stephen Leahy to advance the development of the documentation.</p>	
7. Committee Reports				
		<p>To receive reports and key recommendations from the various National Meetings held on 28/29 April</p>	<p>The President welcomed Bruce Dickson and John Kirkjian to the meeting and thanked them and all the Committee Chairs for their efforts over the weekend and the past year.</p> <p>Training – Wally Rantanen – Very constructive and positive meeting conducted. It was noted that a full timetable of items had been developed which involved completion of a variety of resources. The Chair thanked Fiona Medwin for her preparation for and input to the meeting, which ensured the group stayed focused throughout.</p> <p>Match Racing – John Flower – The Committee held a very positive meeting with key issues discussed being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board consideration of increased funding for the Nations Cup • Board support for removing the 240kg limit for the Women’s Match Racing Championships on a trial basis • Board support for a change in conditions of conduct for the Australian Match Racing Championship to allow flexibility in the number of entries in order to optimise the number of boats available up to a maximum of 12 • Overseas entries for Australian National Championships • The importance of officiating • The lack of Match Racing opportunities in Tasmania and Queensland <p>Sailability – Bruce Dickson – It was noted that there had been rapid growth in the Sailability area in recent years and there was some very positive feedback from MYAs that funding was being made available to support the program. Key issues discussed at the meeting or recently advanced included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recent Classification seminars • The production of a CD Rom from the IFDS Worlds • Development of a brochure and website • Public liability insurance requirements • The appointment of an Australian International Classifier • The availability of 3 national Classifiers • The use of Graeme Adam’s PR skills <p>Safety – John Kirkjian – Discussion had taken place on the several interpretations of ISAF rulings, a national system for accrediting auditors and a common inspection form. It was noted that work was well underway for the development of the next edition of the Racing Rules and that several submissions had already been received.</p>	

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Athletes – Tom King – It was noted that Andrew Palfrey had been elected as a representative of the International & Recognised Classes. Key issues discussed at the meeting or advanced included:

- The election of Andrew Palfrey as representative of the International & Recognised Classes
- The development of Team agreements to include level 1 coaching requirements
- The development of the Olympic Team selection criteria
- The need to increase the profile of the athletes
- Support for the Youth Worlds Team
- The possible development of the Ranking systems

Youth – Nick Hutton – Considerable progress had been made in the last 12 months with the following items discussed or advanced at the meeting:

- The review of a very successful 2006 Youth Championships
- Inclusion of Sailing in the 2007 Youth Olympic Festival
- Go for Gold being moved to December
- The addition of Appendix B and the proper application of Rule 42 to the event rules
- The consideration of a submission from the 29er Association
- The development of the 2007 ISAF Youth selection policy
- The possible inclusion of the Laser Radial class in future ISAF Youth Worlds and the need to assess the advantages and disadvantages.

OKPC – David Kellett – It was noted that IRC statistics were improving and that some very positive initiatives were being considered. The following items were discussed or advanced at the meeting:

- Possible national agreement for boat weighing
- National education and accreditation of sail measurers
- Australian Offshore Championships format with moves to host an event in Melbourne in January 2007 and then in Sydney in December 2007 and in Queensland in March 2008
- SSSC wet drill revalidation and need to seek clarification from ISAF on requirements in Australia. It was noted that the OKPC did not want to reduce requirements in any way and were seeking to ensure Australia was properly aligned to the ISAF regulations

The Chair thanked his Committee members and in particular the added efforts of Tony Mooney and David Lyons.

Trailable & SportsBoat – Rupert Leslie – Good inaugural meeting that highlighted that the trialable and sportsboat area was a bit disorganised nationally. The terms of reference were adopted with minor amendment and it was agreed to develop a national framework. The Committee thanked the Yachting Australia Board for the support in having the Committee established.

Events Coordination – Phil Jones – It was noted that the meeting was convened to assist the coordination

		of key infrastructure arrangements for the upcoming class association world championships and key events in 2007 and 2008. Issues discussed included development of combined marketing collateral, a web portal with access to key information and services, sharing of International Jury members and shipping.	
8.	Other Business		
		<p>Finance – The Treasurer noted that the monthly reports were being shared with the MYAs and the last report projected Yachting Australia would achieve it budget surplus despite some reduction in income.</p> <p>Arafura Games – YNT highlighted that sailing was programmed for the next Arafura Games in May 2007.</p> <p>Marine Insurance – The YQ President raised the issue of the need for Yachting Australia to lobby the Federal Government to have the Marine Insurance Act changed to enable boating accidents to be covered by the Insurance Act.</p> <p>06/07 Budget – The CEO advised that a draft budget would be circulated in June for adoption at the 12 July meeting.</p> <p>Access to Papers – Discussion was held on recent comments by non-registered observers regarding the restricted access to Committee papers and submissions. It was noted that Yachting Australia had no objection to making the material available and perhaps the MYAs may wish to follow suit. It was agreed that the issue would be discussion a subsequent meeting.</p> <p>The President thanked the Federal Assembly for the attendance, input and constructive debate.</p> <p>In particular the President thanked Allen Walters who was attending his last Federal Assembly meeting and on behalf of the Board and the MYAs wished him well in his retirement.</p>	
9.	Date of Next Meeting		
		<p>It was noted that the next meeting would be held in conjunction with the Gipsy Moth Royal Gala Dinner and Australian Yachting Awards in Sydney on 12 July.</p> <p>The meeting concluded at 2.55pm</p>	