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| | MEETING | Yachting Australia Federal Assembly | |
| | DATE | Friday 9 March | |
| | TIME | 0900 | |
| | VENUE | Kirribilli Room - Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron | |
| | AGENDA | MINUTE | ACTIONS |
| A | ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES | | |
| | <p>Attendance: Andrew Plympton President John Flower Nick Hutton David Kellett Tom King Rupert Leslie Wally Rantanen</p> <p>Phil Jones CEO Alastair Snell General Manager Monique Schaefer Executive Assistant</p> <p>Lyndsay Brown YNSW Delegate Stephen Leahy YNSW Observer Roger Hickman YNSW Observer Dayle Smith YQ Delegate Glen Somerville YQ Observer Peter Russell YACT Delegate Matt Owen YACT Observer David Gotze YV Delegate Alastair Douglas YT Delegate Bob Silberberg YT Observer Bob Heywood YSA Delegate John Johnston YSA Observer Gary Martin YNT Delegate Alan Tough YWA Delegate Tony Claydon YWA Observer</p> <p>Apologies: Adrienne Cahalan David Tillett Ross Kilborn YV</p> | <p>Andrew Plympton opened the meeting and welcomed all delegates and observers.</p> | |

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| B. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING | | | |
| | To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2006 | <p>The following amendments were agreed to the minutes from the meeting held 1 September 2006:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 4 - NSW confirmed that they were supportive of the continued use of the Silver Card system and that the insurance scheme should be retained • Item 4 - Queensland do not want the insurance • Item A - Bob Heywood was the SA delegate and Alan Tough was an apology <p>Following brief discussion, the minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2006 as amended were accepted as a true and correct record.</p> | |
| C. MATTERS ARISING | | | |
| | To consider any matters arising not otherwise dealt with in the agenda | The meeting noted that all matters arising from the 1 September 2006 meeting were included in the agenda. | |
| 1. Membership | | | |
| | To further consider the future structure of the National Membership Scheme as per the model developed by the Board at the request of the Federal Assembly – as previously circulated | <p>AP introduced the topic, commenting that the issue had been a major discussion item for the last 18 months and had been advanced by the Board and in particular Rupert Leslie. AP reiterated that there was variation in the approaches of the MYAs. Silver card compliance amongst clubs was variable.</p> <p>The face of the sport was changing. Yacht clubs were now being run by food and beverage managers rather than yachtsmen. In the yacht racing arena some areas were in decline but IRC racing and twilight activity was gaining support. The sport was now attracting significant sponsorship.</p> <p>Rupert Leslie reconfirmed the decisions made to date that included assessing the level of yachting in each state, based on club activity, to determine the percentage of the Yachting Australia fees to be paid by each MYA, the retention of the silver card and the desire for fees to be set on a transparent, national basis. He then invited comment from each MYA on their state of readiness to further advance the proposal and the following was noted:</p> <p>Victoria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In principle support for the scheme and like the idea that MYAs would have discretion on how they raise the fees for Yachting Australia • Current silver card compliance amongst the senior clubs is approximately 80-90% • Have scheduled a forum with member clubs on March 20 that will consider the introduction of a banding system. If accepted the scheme could be introduced for the 2008/2009 year as many clubs will need to make a constitutional change • Some difficulties have been experienced with getting data from the clubs and questions | |

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| | | | <p>have arisen over the relevance of Yachting Victoria and Yachting Australia to the recreational boating community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was important the changes were not seen as a grab for more money as Yachting Australia and the MYAs still needed to demonstrate value for money to their members' • It was noted that there could be need for a 2 tier system with a silver card and another type of card for non-competitive members. In favour of retaining PA insurance. • YV are positioning themselves as an industry body and need to work closely with Yachting Australia in order to engage the clubs more effectively. <p>NSW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW was in favour of the banding method as the current system was not working well with variable compliance across their clubs • Fees for the 2007/2008 year have already had to be set and the basis of the banding proposal was still to be rolled out to clubs. The upcoming Leaders Conference gave NSW an opportunity for a fresh start with their members • Some relief may be required for the clubs in the west of the state as little or no water is available for them to sail • In favour of PA Insurance as previously stated. <p>Northern Territory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have experienced difficulties with their biggest club due to financial losses and various issues with non-affiliated clubs and changes to employment conditions in some of the regional centres. • Banding system might not work because they only have 2 clubs • Fees have already been set for the year <p>WA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong support for the banding system and have built up database of useful information over the seven years since its introduction • System overall has been trouble free • Keen to adopt the Yachting Australia system and also to enter into a licence agreement with Yachting Australia which YWA would then replicate with the clubs. System needs to have a review mechanism in order to reassess club benchmark • Noted that sailing membership was down to 24% of total membership • Seek to have silver cards issued free to all those that want one and see insurance as an optional benefit <p>Tasmania</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently use the silver card system very effectively and with a high level of compliance but do support the introduction of the banding system • There are some double-up issues with the current system that could be overcome with the new system | |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Growing social membership amongst the bigger clubs• The sport does not derive any gaming income in Tasmania <p>Queensland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have recently introduced a banding system with 13 levels• The YQ Board sets the fees but have to have member clubs support. 82% of the clubs have responded to the recent questionnaire from YQ• Want to promote use of the silver card and do not want to differentiate powerboat and other members so would issue cards to all members• Clubs are seeking to pay a one-line bill• Queensland did not want the PA insurance. <p>ACT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support the proposed banding system and would introduce it for the 2007/2008 year• Currently have full compliance and have no constitutional impediments• Membership is currently static and believe it is necessary to have a review mechanism• Support the simplicity of the quarterly fee collection from Yachting Australia and see the system helping YACT to sign up new clubs• In favour of cards being issued to all members and retaining of PA Insurance <p>SA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have not made contact with their clubs yet but YSA do support the introduction of the banding system as it would help achieve an equity position• An annual review of clubs would be beneficial• System could not be introduced till the 2008/2009 year• Keen to retain the insurance component. <p>Following further brief discussion the meeting agreed as follows:</p> <p>That use of the banding system developed by Yachting Australia for the MYAs be adopted subject to transitional arrangements being established and the MYAs completing the verification of their data on club activities</p> <p>MYAs were invited to provide any feedback on the detail of the banding, and in particular if they considered any club to have been placed in the wrong band, within 14 days.</p> <p>Discussion then took place on the issue of Personal Accident insurance. Andrew Plympton declared an interest given his work on behalf of various boat owners and clubs. The Chief Executive outlined the details of recent discussions with OAMPS which indicated that it would be possible to insure members for a block premium. The level of the premium still needed to be assessed based on the additional risk.</p> | |
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| | | | <p>Following further brief discussion MYAs expressed their interest in continuing to provide the PA insurance and felt that it promoted Sailing as a responsible sport. Queensland were not aware of the details of the block insurance arrangements and were therefore unable to support it. It was agreed that the proposal should include personal accident cover for all those taking up a Silver Card and that the banding fee include the insurance premium with any adjustments picked up as part of the scheduled annual review.</p> <p>Yachting Australia undertook to establish some data categories for the MYAs to use and return to Yachting Australia. The President thanked all those concerned for a constructive debate.</p> | |
| 2. YA/MYA Services Agreement | | | | |
| | | To consider the content of the proposed YA/MYA Services Agreement | <p>The Chief Executive provided a background to the document circulated and invited comments from the MYAs. It was noted that Yachting Australia had prepared a draft services agreement but that this could only be completed once feedback had been received on the services and benefits offered. Following brief discussion it was agreed that the MYAs would provide comment on the document within 28 days. The Chief Executive undertook to provide the document in Word format as that comments and suggested changes could easily be provided.</p> | |
| 3. Training | | | | |
| | | To receive a presentation on recent developments in Training | <p>The General Manager gave a brief presentation on recent key activities in the Training area and priorities for the remainder of 2007. The presentation highlighted the recent RYA MOU, the status of the forthcoming Scheme reviews, examiner and instructor training, recently produced publications, the MYA and YATC licence agreements and the RTO application.</p> <p>The meeting noted that Yachting Australia would not be employing a National Training Manager at this time. Program management responsibility would now rest with the General Manager. Specialists would be contracted to develop and manage the different schemes. Upcoming priorities included further examiner training being offered, securing State Maritime Authority recognition of the Yachtmaster qualification, a revised management structure for the program, revision of the business model and product distribution strategies and an exploration of other initiatives of mutual benefit with the RYA.</p> <p>Brief discussion was held on instructor training, various comments being made via the Boating Oz web forum, the need to sell more books at improved profit levels and that the distribution process needing to be streamlined. Lyndsay Brown offered his assistance with marketing and distributing the publications. MYAs were assured their input would be sort on the revised business model for the program.</p> | |
| 4. Junior Sailing Plan | | | | |
| | | To consider proposals to advance the development of a Junior Sailing Plan for Yachting Australia | <p>The meeting noted that the Federal Assembly had supported the Junior Sailing Project at its meeting in April 2006, asking Yachting Australia to complete first three of the seven stages of the process. Following a workshop in the spring, a report and supporting papers had been circulated to the MYAs for comment. The CEO thanked NSW and Victoria for their responses.</p> | |

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| | | <p>Comment was sort from the meeting. All MYAs confirmed their support for Yachting Australia to advance a Junior Sailing Plan for the sport. The direction from the meeting was not clear. Some felt that junior development was entirely a matter for the clubs. There was a suggestion that the focus for the program should be on resource development rather policy, with guidelines, useful ideas and simple templates.</p> <p>It was noted that input was expected from the Youth Committee in May and that further work would be advanced as resources permit in the 2007/2008 financial year.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 2.25pm for the Special General Meeting.</p> | |
| 5. National Officiating program | | | |
| | <p>To receive a brief update on the progress made with the implementation of the recommendations from the National Officiating Program Review</p> | <p>The Federal Assembly noted the progress made to date with the implementation of the recommendations from the National Officiating Program review. It was also noted that a copy of the report was available on the Yachting Australia website.</p> <p>The meeting was advised that the recommendations would be advanced as resources permit in the 2007/2008 financial year.</p> | |
| 6. Delivery of Sailing in Australia | | | |
| | <p>To receive a briefing from the President on the proposed "Review of Opportunities to Strengthen the Delivery of Sailing in Australia" which is being supported by the Australian Sports Commission.</p> | <p>The President outlined that the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) had identified sailing as a well operated sport and that they were keen to work with Yachting Australia to see how the sport could be delivered even more effectively. He advised that the Board had accepted the offer from the ASC, a project plan had been drafted and a consultant would be appointed by mid March.</p> <p>It was noted that all stakeholders would be invited to take part in the consultation process. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Associations, clubs, classes and individual members, especially coaches and athletes; • ASC, AIS, AOC, APC; ISAF • SIS/SAS; State Departments of Sport and Recreation. • Sponsors and suppliers; Mentors attached to the Australian Sailing Team. <p>The meeting was advised that the project would be overseen by a Reference Group consisting of three ASC personnel and the Yachting Australia President and Chief Executive. The project was being entirely funded by the ASC. The detailed Project Plan would be circulated to MYAs once finalised.</p> | |

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| 7. Other Business | | |
| | | <p>ISAF initiatives - David Kellett gave an update to the meeting on activities at ISAF. 2007 is ISAFs 100th anniversary and efforts were being made to promote the concept of all clubs holding events on 1-2 September 2007 to celebrate the anniversary. DK also noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the objective of securing the ISAF World Sailing Championship for Perth in 2011 ▪ the confirmation of the 2009 ISAF World Team Racing Championship for Perth ▪ plans for the World Cup Series with Sail Melbourne being on of 6 constituent events <p>Australian Sailing Team - Andrew Plympton advised the launch of 2007 Australian Sailing Team had been a very successful and enjoyable event. Tom King gave an overview of the current situation with the Olympic Program. He commented that a comprehensive plan was in place after the lack of success at Athens and he acknowledged the hard work put in over the last 12 months by the Yachting Australia team of Phil Jones, Michael Jones and Rob Brown. It was explained to the meeting that there is now a strong group of coaches in place and that added funding from the ASC and AIS had enabled athletes to prepare almost full-time.</p> <p>Member Protection Policy – Discussion was held on the training opportunities available to assist MYAs with the MPP expectations. It was noted that most State Departments of Sport and Recreation offer generic training sessions and most MYAs were taking advantage of those opportunities. Queensland requested a copy of the full policy documentation.</p> <p>Australian International Optimist Dinghy Association - The Chief Executive briefed the meeting about the current legal challenge involving the Australian International Optimist Dinghy Association.</p> <p>2007NSW Leaders Conference - YNSW tabled a brochure for their upcoming leaders conference.</p> |
| 8. Future Meetings | | |
| | The next meeting of the Federal Assembly is scheduled for Friday 25 May 2007 in Sydney as part of the National Committee meeting weekend | The meeting was advised that the next Federal Assembly meeting may potentially change to Sunday 27 May 2007 instead of the currently scheduled May 25 th date. |
| 9. Close of Meeting | | |
| | | With no further business the meeting closed at 1540 |