

RA Masters Commission – Minutes

Monday 26th August 2013, 6.00pm

Attendees: John Whiting, Alan Nicol, Fenton Jones, Susan Linacre, Charles Lloyd-Jones, Nikki McAllen, Cameron Allen

Apologies: David Eichler, Mark Mussared

N/A: Phil O'Dwyer

1. John Whiting welcomed all to the meeting

2. Sub-committees Reports

a. Handicaps Sub-committee

i. Susan commented on the report in Marks absence, stating that fastest times appear to be highly variable based on competitors and weather conditions, and that there was a need to keep gathering times in all conditions. Susan has done a slightly different study but quite similar results, still work to be done though. John congratulated sub-committee members for their great efforts to this stage.

b. Alternative Events Sub-committee

i. Nikki provided an update on the discussed potential alternate events from last meeting:

1. Coastal Rowing – we are waiting to hear on potential costs involved in the construction of a suitable trailer
2. National Head Race – The Melbourne Head has been discussed as a potential trial event for a National Head Race, with a proposal to go to Rowing Australia.
3. Multi-distance event: Susan has referred to Rowing ACT who has referred to their Regatta Commission, Canberra is still seen a good location, Rowing ACT suggests Easter timing.
4. Rowing Triathlon – Nikki has started talking to people on the Yarra as to their thoughts of a rowing triathlon, with the swim being replaced by a row.

c. Australian Masters Sub-committee

i. Further to David's report, John brought up the Coopers sponsorship proposal which is being sought. Cameron to distribute the information which has been sent through for the Commission's comments. It was additionally proposed that the Commission should set standard recommendations as to what is considered partnership/sponsorships for Australian Masters rowing events.

d. Privacy Sub-committee

- i. Susan confirmed that she is in the process of putting together the RA proposal regarding the retrieving/removal of Masters rowers dates of birth in favour of a year of birth. All Commission members present supported the idea of a 'masters rowers' birthday of 1st January.
- ii. John confirmed FISA's point of view from March meeting that they require electronic scans for all FISA competitions as the passport becomes the 'bible' when working across different countries and languages. John will take the view from the RA Masters Commission to the Varese meeting in September that this is unnecessary and shouldn't be required for Masters Competition. It was commented that in previous years a sighting at competition registration was sufficient and that this should continue to occur.

3. 2014 World Rowing Masters Regatta

- a. John confirmed that the new Project Board was in place and had their first meeting in August. The order of events for Ballarat will be discussed in Varese, and interviews for a part-time project manager were occurring this week.

4. Cardiac Screening

- a. The Masters Commission expressed their strong opposition to this requirement, stating a clogging up of medical facilities for unnecessary tests and the requirement being a strong deterrent for many Masters in attending competition. This view will be taken to the Varese FISA meeting.

5. Topics for FISA Varese Meeting

- a. As discussed in previous items.

6. Other Business

- a. John brought up the topic of Masters regatta entry fees, and thought it would be a good idea to start a project compiling a pro forma profit and loss for Masters regattas. This was supported and there were several comments that it is a general feeling in the Masters communities that Masters regattas are over-priced and are used to subsidise other competitions. John confirmed he will start information collation on his return, but in the meantime if everyone could start data collection of Masters regatta costs from their own states that would be good.

7. Next meeting – 23rd September 2013

8. Close of meeting – 6.49pm