

RA Masters Commission – Minutes

Monday 29th June 2015, 6.00pm AEST

Attendees: Alan Nicoll, John Allen, Phil Titterton, Nikki McAllen, Sue Hagley, Cameron Allen

Apologies: Susan Linacre, Fenton Jones, Mark Mussared

1. Alan welcomed all to the meeting.
 - a. Alan announced that Mark has stood down from his post as Masters Commission to the Rowing SA Board, and as such would no longer be the SA representative on the Masters Commission. Rowing SA CEO Sue Hagley will represent SA until another Commissioner is found. In his absence Alan thanked Mark for his excellent contribution to the Commission over the past two years in particular the driving of the 2013 revision of the RA Masters handicaps, and recommended that Mark be invited to be involved in any future revising of the Handicaps.
2. **2015 Australian Masters Rowing Championships – Geoff Wannan proposal**
 - a. The proposals set forth by Geoff Wannan regarding composite crews at the AMRC were tabled including:
 - i. Reversing current medal policy and award gold, silver and bronze medals to single club crews and a single medal for composite crews.
 - ii. Add a handicap to composite crews to incentivise single club crews
 - iii. Adjust the medal tally to show a fraction of medals for composite crews rather than a full medal for each member of a composite crew.
 - b. Sue noted that there is a lot of support in SA for restricting composite crews, with a current proposal to limit crews to only 25% of the crew being able to be from another club in A to E categories. Phil commented that with competitor numbers in mens being higher this could probably be increased to F or G.
 - c. In directly address the proposals, it was felt that changing medal policies and adding an additional handicap system would be logistically challenging and not appropriate at a National Championship level. The medal tally is addressed below.
 - d. A response to Geoff will be drafted noting the above, and noting the Commissions desire to continue to incentivise single club crews in appropriate ways.
 - e. The success of the inaugural Champion Club Eights were discussed, and it was felt that the addition of a smaller boat such as a quad could continue to encourage smaller clubs to field single club crews. Cam noted that available daylight hours in an already full program would be the main challenge.

3. Trial AMRC Club Pointscore

- a. Cam presented the trial club pointscore based on 2015 results. John commented that it is good to supplement the medal tally with a pointscore rather than amending the medal tally. It was commented that additional points for the single club crew medal winners should be included to reflect regatta results and ensure that such crews were recognised. Cam will look to revise accordingly and resend.
- b. It was agreed that once a favoured format was settled on it would be sent to the State CEOs for information and comment.

4. AMRC Event Manual

- a. Cam asked for comment on the AMRC Event Manual as previously distributed.
 - i. Phil asked for the addition of 250m markers and different coloured buoy lines as standard.
 - ii. Phil noted that the current practise of the draw being made on the day prior to racing starting was unpopular as clubs want to use the draw for boat allocations, and it was done earlier at all other state and club level regattas. Cam will raise it with the RA Technical Delegate for discussion.
 - iii. Nikki queried whether the words around the race cancellation for weather affected races agreed on in 2014 should be included. Cam to send around again for reference.

5. 2016 AMRC

- a. Cam noted that he had had a teleconference with Rowing QLD on 25 June and that it was noted then that the provision of a held start was likely to be the first major challenge in the regatta organisation. Rowing QLD to advise who the AMRC OC rep to the Masters Commission will be.

6. 2017 AMRC Clash with World Masters Games in New Zealand

- a. Alan raised the issue of the World Masters Games regatta schedule to be held in New Zealand a month prior to the AMRC schedule to be held in WA in 2017, which would make running the AMRC in WA untenable. Initial discussions with Rowing WA had raised the potential of swapping the 2017 AMRC with the 2019 AMRC scheduled to be held in Victoria, for the following reasons:
 - i. An East Coast regatta would be more likely to be successfully run in conjunction with the WMG
 - ii. A straight regatta swap would have minimal impact on other states hosting rights

This would be dependent on Rowing Victoria being willing to take it on, and would mean that 2017 AMRC would be in Victoria and 2019 being in Perth. This was seen to be the preferred option of the Commission, and Cam will relay this to RA CEO Michael Scott and Rowing WA.

7. Proposal for Four Year Rotation of AMRC

- a. The response letter following the meeting of the RA Board regarding the proposal of rotating was tabled, noting that it would be going to the RA Council meeting on 7 November. Commissioners were requested to continue to discuss the matter with the State CEOs and Councillors; Sue commented that the RSA Board has expressed concern around the potential financial impact that the proposal would have on states who would have their hosting years pushed out. Cam to forward around the results of the 2014 survey noting the public support of the proposal. Supporting documents to be discussed at the September meeting prior to going to the RA Council.

8. Other Business

- a. Alan tabled Susan's comments around whether the Masters Commission should push for higher Masters representation in the new National Participation Framework process announced by RA. Phil noted that there was data from NSW that showed the high proportion of the rowing community that was made up by masters rowers; Phil to distribute that data. Alan and Cam to work on communication to RA to ensure that Masters rowing is suitably represented.

9. Next meeting – 20 July 2015, 6.00pm AEST

10. Close of meeting – 6.54pm