

**Masters Commission Meeting  
Minutes  
16 October 2017**

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Present: Alan Nicoll, Karen Clay, Andrew Streeter, Mark Mussared, Murray Stewart, Philip Titterton, Susan Linacre, Nikki McAllen,

Apologies: Rob Prescott

1. Handicap Calls
  - a. The issue is the perceived unfairness to those crews off "Go" compared to those that can anticipate the start
  - b. If the starter is using a stopwatch or mobile phone there shouldn't be an issue except with A and B grades where the handicaps are only 1 or 2 seconds.
  - c. Issue is around where "Go" expectation is not clear.
  - d. AE to ask Greg Smith to dial in next meeting.
  
2. L handicaps
  - a. No L scullers at AMG this year.
  - b. Tone Pahle met with Alan and Mark in Bled
  - c. FISA master's committee are often asked about handicapping and they are interested in using what we have.
  - d. Phil's concern with narrowness of the curve – do we make the older age brackets smaller.
  - e. Club medal was introduced at Bled and was very positively received.
  - f. Question raised about master's handicaps over long distance racing. Best way to deal with it is to work with prognostic speeds for the 1000m, and calculate crews' average speeds as a percentage of the prognostic – highest percentage wins. Expected percentage depends on length of the race. As an example, winning HoY crews (8.6km typically do 85-87%. This method can be used to compare any two boats regardless of boat type, age grade or gender.
  
3. Indicative Race Schedule
  - a. Defer to next meeting.
  - b. Champion of Champions- movement of race to the end of regatta may reduce competitors.
  
4. Rowing Tasmania
  - a. AMG this weekend, ok entries.
  - b. Have now a landing page on the Rowing Tasmania website for the AMRC.
  - c. Welcome to the Commission to Andrew Streeter
  
5. John Whiting Trophy
  - a. Publicity around the trophy
  - b. Include information in the summary of what the Masters Commission have been up to 2017 with a link to a picture of the trophy.
  - c. Include details on the masters' commission webpage.
  - d. AE to contact Andrew Guerin to include on his history page.
  
6. World Rowing Masters Regatta – Bled
  - a. Great regatta, very well organized
  - b. International crews (identified by yellow tops) were a bit of an issue making it difficult for others to win in some categories.
  - c. Club medals were great.
  - d. Bag drop was a great service in Bled.
  - e. Record entries, races every 3 minutes.
  - f. Weather was mostly good and calm. Slight wind on Saturday. This will assist with statistics for handicapping analysis.
  - g. Australia had the 5<sup>th</sup> largest contingent.
  
7. Matters Outstanding
  - a. Tour de Scull – followed up with Victorian Sculling Association committee and waiting to hear back.

- i. Possibly the Scullers Head of the River.
  - b. Touring
    - i. Alan to follow up with Warwick Marler.
- 8. Any other business
  - a. Masters Rower of the Year (how do other states do it)
    - i. Tasmania do it on a nomination basis (nominated to Rowing Tasmania by Clubs)
    - ii. Rowing Victoria do it based on points for competing (points for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>)
    - iii. Rowing SA – more encompassing of other commitments to the sport such as coaching, club administration, officiating.
    - iv. Rowing NSW – awarded by the union of oarsmen, more about how they contribute to the sport. One person (not a male and female)
  - b. Venue hosting model and option for SIRC twice yearly

**Next meeting:** Monday November 7th