

**Masters Commission Meeting
Minutes
13 November 2017**

1. Attendees: Alan Nicoll, Murray Stewart, Rob Prescott, Mark Mussared, Andrew Streeter, Phil Titterton, Chris Grummitt, Greg Smith (Agenda Item 4), Alice Evans.
2. Apologies: Karen Clay, Nikki McAllen, Susan Linacre.
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting
 - a. Approved, with amendments to minutes previously circulated
4. Starting Calls for Handicapped Races - Alice and Greg Smith (Chair, RA Umpires Committee)
 - a. PT provided some background to the theory around counting down prior to beginning the official count for the handicap.
 - b. Umpires Committee have discussed this matter.
 - c. Alice to circulate the written response from GS.
 - d. UC feel that the start procedure is consistent between RA and FISA – creating a new process would create inconsistency.
 - e. Notice for the start crew is the same for all races: i.e. attention, go.
 - f. No evidence in results that a slightly small margin would make a difference to any existing results.
 - g. Umpires Committee will communicate back to the umpires and states that, at state level especially, the counts should be tightened up for consistency.
 - h. Chris Grummitt is looking to having a computer generated count that can be used.
5. Indicative Race Schedule / Order of Events – Chris Grummitt
 - a. Priority was to make only minor changes to address issues that we currently have (mainly on Sunday)
 - b. Shorter daylight hours in Tasmania puts extra pressure on the program
 - c. Very little change in first 3 days, other than a slight change to potentially use eight lane progression system
 - d. Chris spoke through the theory around the structure and progression system.
 - e. 17-24 crew events to run 3 heats where the first 2 progress, and then take the next 2 fastest crews; which can be fairer.
 - f. E2x/D8+, C4x/D8+ clash (avoiding CDE on Saturday afternoon because of interstate races)
 - g. 4+/4- event clash – has been an issue but there may be scope to split them for the older age groups only (H, K)
 - h. Consider to have the interstate races first thing on Saturday morning.
 - i. Consider options for the Champion of Champions.
 - j. Look to forward comments to Chris before 24/11 and we can approve the IRS at the December meeting.
6. 2018 AMR Championships, Tasmania – Rob Prescott, Andrew Streeter
 - a. Slightly disappointing entries at the AMRC.
 - b. Combined some flat water kayaking into the events and had a great week at Barrington with other sports.
 - c. Technology up and running at Barrington with the NBN having been connected..
 - d. Organizing Committee has been finalized.
 - e. Negotiating with sponsors.
 - f. Ordering in infrastructure that is required.
7. John Whiting Trophy – Mark Mussared
 - a. Andrew Foreman – left a message to see how it is going.
 - b. Words for the plaque is still in progress.
8. Matters Pending – Alternative Events
 - a. Tour de Scull – Nikki
 - b. FISA Rowing for All, and Coastal Rowing – Alan
9. Other Business
 - a. Phil – speaking with SA about handicapping on prognostics, which is the technically preferred option.
 - i. Consider extrapolating out current handicap multiplied by the distance and adding a small amount.

Masters Reply re Handicaps

I collected the results for the last 3 Masters Championships and I could find no races that were handicapped where the margin for a place was of the order that the crew that started on go would have been disadvantaged in a way that would have impacted the results.

The feeling was that for the sake of consistency from state to international levels, there was no compelling reason to change the current method of starting handicapped races at any regatta. While all committee members understood the predicament described, nobody on the umpires committee saw a reason based on any evidence or experience to change a well-established worldwide approach to starting races.

Evidence shows that it actually includes very few races at a national championships at the start and probably impacts no races at the finish. Chris Grummitt also indicated that the number of races requiring handicapped starts is reducing over time due to the structure of the draw and this is likely to continue further in future regattas.

I am more than happy to elaborate at the next meeting if necessary.

Greg Smith
Chair, RA Umpires Committee