

**Australian Dragon Boat Federation
Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

Date: Thursday, 13 April 2006
Venue: Nagambie Rowing Centre
Present:

QLD	Janine Lette Janelle Gamble Loretta Lewis Steve Bone
NSW	Melanie Cantwell Christopher Alexandrou Tanya White (proxy held by Melanie) Peter Klok (proxy held by Christopher)
ACT	Jon Taylor Bruce Brown Les Williams Robyne Kellett
VIC	Neil Crosthwaite Trevor Huggard Roy Farrance
SA	Steve Clinch Chris Wood John Holland Julie Clinch
WA	Vic Gordon Waycott Heidi Best Vivienne Wigg
NT	Darryl ??? Ken Dwyer Nick Heastran Phil Reeder Jan Flis
TAS	Not present
DAA	Michelle Hanton
Interested parties	Kylie Bade – president, Gold Coast Dragons Scott Clinch – paddler, Powerblades

(28 delegates – quorum met)
Apologies:

Proxies: NSW x 2; ACT x 1
Opened: 5.30pm

Australia Dragon Boat Federation
Minutes of Annual General Meeting – 13 April 2006

Signed:

..... (President)
Jon Taylor

.....(Secretary)
Janine Lette

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM MINUTES

MOTION (proposed): John Holland

Seconded: Loretta Lewis

All in favour (28)

2. BRIEF BOARD REPORTS & PRESENTATION OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS

President's Report – Jon Taylor

Jon Taylor ('JT') advised that there had been a number of highlights since our last AGM meeting, as well as a couple of lowlights. Immediately after the AGM, JT said that focus was on the sending of a competitive team to Berlin. He said that on the water the team was a little disappointing however, off the water they certainly held themselves in high esteem. Going into the Worlds, Australia's overall ranking was 5 but after Worlds it had slipped to 7. JT said that this was due to a team that not as strong as previous years but also that paddling around the world had increased. In particular, Russia had come through very strongly knocking Canada off for the Nations Cup. JT said that if we do not do something to increase our paddling, we will find that we slip even further down the ladder.

AusDBF had continued recognition by the Australian Sports Commission ('ASC') for the sport. This was after a rather in depth review of the sporting recognition process by the ASC, which in fact saw some sports dropped.

There was continuing success of the Level 1 Coaching Accreditation, which had only received positive feedback due largely to the way Gavin Godfrey conducted the course. The next step needed to now be taken in regards to the States taking control of the conducting of the course and having a designated trainer so that Gavin could take a step back.

Towards the end of 2005 and in to this year (2006), the Board reviewed the Champion boats that had come on the scene. The boats themselves were made to the IDBF spec/standard and they were very competitively priced. As such, after being approached by Champion, the Board saw the potential to bring the boats in to Australia at a competitive price and if this partnership was successful, it would bring significant financial benefits to the clubs as the cost was less. It also encouraged all states to commence purchasing IDBF spec boats thus allowing for each State to have their own fleet of boats for Nationals.

It was also good to see the continuation and development of the Sweep Accreditation, which strengthened the safety aspect of our sport. The Officials Accreditation was also about to get up and running but Melanie Cantwell (Technical Director) would report about this in her report.

The big future movement of AusDBF was the hosting of the IDBF World Nations Titles in September 2007. This was well under way and the feedback from the IDBF inspection committee in August 2005 was that our presentation was the best that they had seen this far out from an event. There were a lot of plans in place and ground work completed. However, a lot of money needed to be gotten in to fund these plans and events. The first of these is an application before NSW Sport and Rec to fund activities leading up to the event. JT said that he was feeling positive for the outcome.

JT said that there had been a couple of lowlights:

- The loss of the Xanadu sponsorship however, the corporate world being what it was, Xanadu was taken over and the new company did not wish to complete the sponsorship deal.
- The quality assurance issues with the RACE 1 boats – there were a number of problems and it seemed that at this stage, the builder had wiped his hands and would not complete remedial work on those boats. At this stage, there were probably only the pressure we could do was to take the mould from RACE 1 and place it with a new boat builder who could give us the service that was required. This would be discussed in general business later tonight.
- Communication to our Members not as sufficient as it should be but the website was a priority in redeveloping this.

As bad as the above negatives were, the positives that happened over the 12 months certainly overshadowed these.

JT said that AusDBF had grown with close to 5,000 sport paddlers nationally. All this work could not be done without the assistance from the outgoing Board for all their fantastic work that had been done. This time last year, JT had said that they were the best Board ever, and they had only continued to up hold this.

Financial Director – Christopher Alexandrou

Annexure A

Accepted: Loretta Lewis
 Seconded: Trevor Huggard
 All in favour (28).

Christopher Alexandrou said that AusDBF's financials had changed drastically and had become a lot more active. Loretta Lewis (QDBF) queried the balance sheet and Christopher explained that the IDBF spec mould needed to be depreciated but how was that to be depreciated? No answer was forthcoming. Discussion was held as to how to streamline the AusDBF accounts as the Bank of Queensland, in particular, were developing an internet banking package for the business world. Christopher anticipated that this year the accounts were going to be a lot harder to deal with and electronic banking would assist with this.

Loretta thanked Christopher for his wonderful work

MOTION: Christopher proposed that the accounts go electronic with two signatories through the facility that was available through the Bank of Queensland which allowed people to view and/or release payments.

Seconded: Janine Lette
 All in favour (28)

ACTION: Christopher Alexandrou to investigate electronic banking further.

Marketing – Michelle Hanton

Michelle Hanton said that the last 12 months had been a bit of a disastrous year with Xanadu being lost and we, as the AusDBF Board really promoting the RACE 1 boat which turned out to be lemons. These two things had really put a dampner on things and had made things extremely difficult to market between the Board and our paddlers. The image of AusDBF needed to be lifted and the only way to do this was by support from its Members. We had good standing with the ASC and IDBF and we needed to shout this from the roof tops and work on the brand, which had not been happening.

Michelle was feeling disheartened as there had been no support from the Members, in particular, the marketing sub-committee never got up and running as she never received any feedback from the Members after the 2005 AGM.

John Holland asked what would the mould be worth. After discussion, it was established that the mould was not worthless as it was just a matter of moving it to a boat builder who would use it correctly.

Loretta suggested that the money received from the Members by way of the \$5.00 paddler levy should be immediately spent on the Website as this was the front door of the our sport.

ACTION: Website to be redeveloped by 1 July 2006.

ACTION: Tender the boat mould out.

Technical – Melanie Cantwell

Melanie Cantwell advised that certificates had have been produced but everyone who had completed the Coaching Level 1 Accreditation course, would receive one. Melanie acknowledged that these were a little late. Melanie also said that the ASC had passed the official Officials Accreditation course. Melanie asked that everyone got back to her by the end of Nationals so that she could organise when she would be in your state to present the course. This course would be \$100.00 to cover the costs of the manuals etc.

In respect of the Level 1 Coaching Course, a total of 190 people had attended – 44 SA; 10 VIC; 89 NSW; 17 NT; 12 WA; 20 QLD. Out of these 190 people, only 17 had actually handed in their paperwork to be accredited.

Melanie said that the sweep register was held with her and was updated regularly via e-mails from the designated person from the AusDBF Member. She said that this seemed to be working well.

Development Director – Bruce Brown

The Members Protection Policy draft was circulated in February 2006. Bruce said that this was important as it needed to be finalised by the end of June 2006. As yet, he had only received feedback from a couple of Members.

Bruce said that March saw new legislation established regarding the Anti-Doping Policy and the AusDBF policy would need to be updated so that we complied.

Bruce said that the one down sight to him was the lack of junior paddlers. Sports grow on their juniors and no matter where you come from, on a Saturday you would see juniors involved in sport. We needed to get in and think as a group as to how we could develop and have full crews in the junior category at our regattas. This needed to be developed from our clubs up.

ACTION: The Members Protection Policy must be completed by the end of June 2006.

Admin Director – Janine Lette

Janine Lette advised that she agreed that communication had deteriorated between the Board and its Members. However, this was a 2 way street and required Member input. Janine gave the example of an e-mail she sent asking for contributions for a newsletter be forwarded to her by mid-March. Not one response was received.

Having said that, as agreed at the 2005 mid-year meeting, Janine had set up the AusDBF Members Yahoo! Group for ease of communicating between the Board and its Members.

Cultural Director – Ray Leung

No report had been received and Ray Leung was not present.

3. ELECTION OF BOARD

President – Janine Lette advised that no nominations had been received and therefore, she called for nominations from the floor. The following nominations were received:

Jon Taylor - nominated by Julie Clinch and accepted his nomination
 Trevor Huggard – nominated by ????. Trevor declined his nomination
 Kylie Bade – nominated by Loretta Lewis. Kylie declined her nomination

No further nominations were received and Jon Taylor was re-elected as President unopposed. Jon Taylor advised that he would not be standing at the 2008 AGM.

Admin Director – The following nominations were received:

Janine Lette – nominated by Christopher Alexandrou. Janine accepted her nomination.

No further nominations were received and Janine Lette was re-elected as Admin Director unopposed.

Financial Director – The following nominations were received:

Christopher Alexandrou – nominated by Janine Lette. Christopher accepted his nomination.

Loretta Lewis – nominated by Kylie Bade. Loretta declined her nomination.

No further nominations were received and Christopher Alexandrou was re-elected as Financial Director unopposed.

Marketing Director – The following nominations were received:

Michelle Hanton – nominated by Darryl ????. Michelle accepted her nomination.

No further nominations were received and Michelle Hanton was re-elected as Marketing Director unopposed.

Technical Director – The following nominations were received:

Melanie Cantwell – nominated by Kylie Bade. Melanie accepted her nomination.

No further nominations were received and Melanie Cantwell was re-elected Technical Director unopposed.

Development Director – The following nominations were received:

Bruce Brown – nominated by Trevor Huggard

No further nominations were received and Bruce Brown was re-elected Development Director unopposed.

Cultural Director – The following nominations were received:

Austin Chin – nominated by Michelle Hanton but as Austin was not present, discussions with him would be required.

No further nominations were received and this position would be left vacant. However, the Board would speak further with Austin Chin.

[After discussing the position with Austin, Austin accepted the nomination and was elected unopposed].

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

Super Masters category – entries were not jumping out of the woodwork but we had nothing to loose by investigating this further with a category again at 2007 Nationals.

Composite crews – it was suggested that composite crews would not progress to finals but by allowing them, it encouraged participation. It was discussed that the Nationals needed to have a

mechanism to allow developing Members to grow. Kylie Bade raised the issue of not allowing paddlers to change clubs is in fact discrimination. After lengthy discussion, it was decided to be looked at on a case by case basis.

RACE 1 – Janelle Gamble wanted some closure on this issue and recommended that the mould be taken off of RACE 1 and sent else where. Janelle asked what AusDBF could do to assist the clubs who had purchased these ‘lemon’ boats. Janelle saw that the options were returning with refund, repairing the boats and sending RACE 1 the bill or litigation. The problems with the boats were not cosmetic stuff but in fact faulty workmanship.

MOTION: AusDBF to arrange an assessment of all RACE 1 boats in order that a report can be forwarded by 30 May 2006. The cost of this assessment will be borne by AusDBF.

Seconded: Loretta Lewis

All in favour (28)

WCCC (Toronto) deposits – Burleigh Fire Dragons had made 3 x \$500 deposits to attend but could not make the financial commitment to send the 3 crews. Burleigh Fire Dragons felt that there were still time for AusDBF to select replacement crews. JT advised that it was clearly stated in the e-mail sent by the AusDBF that \$500.00 deposits were non-refundable except if there was a technical issue with the course.

ACTION: Should the crews who have withdrawn be replaced after this weekend, their deposit of \$500 would be refunded.

Seconded: Steve Bone

All in favour (28).

DAA full member – John Holland from South Australia said that they (South Australia) opposed DAA being a full Member as they were already covered as individual paddlers in their own States.

Michelle Hanton advised that this was first raised in Western Australia and the motion was prepared for Canberra. This was prepared and appeared in the 2005 minutes.

Motion: The DAA application for full membership as discussed at the 2005 AGM held in Canberra be withdrawn. – John Holland

Seconded: Julie Clinch

However, the motion could not be voted on as Members had left the meeting and a quorum was no longer held.

5. NEXT MEETING

The 2006 mid-year meeting will be held at the Sydney International Regatta Centre (SIRC), Penrith. It was proposed that this meeting would be held on Sunday 26 November 2006 10.00am. Confirmation of date and time will be communicated to the Members in sufficient time to allow flights, accommodation etc can be arranged.

Closed: 7pm

ANNEXURE A

**Australian Dragon Boat Federation
Finance Report 2005**