

NSW 16FT SKIFF ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 14/7/10  
AT MANLY 16FT SKIFF SAILING CLUB

Meeting opened at 7.45pm.

PRESENT: Riv Robson (Chair), Michael McMahon, John Andrew, Ed Darmanin, Ian Heritage, Alexandra Deakin, Paul Linnett, Roger Steel, Rolf Cohen, Clint Bowen and Mark Graham.

APOLOGIES: Lloyd Mulholland, Chris Mulholland and Belinda Sherry.

CLUBS REPRESENTED: Manly, Georges River, Belmont, Illawarra, St George, Drummoyne and Middle Harbour.

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

*Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> May 2010.*

1. Mainsails (shape and measuring) - NSW interpretation and measuring instruction is still to be issued. Clint Bowen is still preparing a draft document, however, he advised that it would be available by the next meeting.
2. Constitution for 13's - Further discussions still to take place.
3. 13ft skiff sail measuring - still awaiting procurement of a new set of templates for NSW.
4. Notice of Motion (Club racing during States) - sent to clubs for voting. To be voted on the meeting on 7 August.
4. Australian Steering Committee - the committee's report has just been published and circulated to clubs with a Notice of Motion which effectively seeks to adopt carbon spars. The NoM's have been moved by the Australian Executive by a 3-2 majority.
5. 2011/12 Australian Championship - a formal submission for voting has now been sent to clubs from the Australian Association.
6. St George – outstanding debt - affiliation fee and skiff registration fees and regatta entries is still outstanding. The Club is still under external administration. Paul Donovan has paid the \$140 affiliation fee from funds that he has access to.
7. 13ft skiff mould - has been transported to Brisbane and is under the care of the Queensland 16ft Skiff Association.

It was moved Paul Linnett and seconded Alex Deakin that these minutes be received and adopted. CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

1. Georges River - nomination of officials for AGM.
2. Drummoyne - nomination of officials for AGM.

3. Russell Corporate Advisory - update on external administration of the St George Club. Advice that the Association should be paid outstanding debt after a Deed Fund is created. Administrator still talking to at least one interested investor.
4. Greg Morrison / Ian Kennedy (on behalf of 13's in Qld) - recommendation about changing age limit rule for 13ft skiff class.

OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE:

1. To all clubs - circular advising of tonight's meeting.

Moved Mark Graham and seconded John Andrew that the correspondence be received and adopted. CARRIED.

TREASURER:

1. Bank balance (cheque account) - \$22,955.47cr.
2. The following accounts for payment were submitted:-
  - i) Michael McMahon – reimbursement for new Association laptop (Lenovo G550 Notebook S/No CBE1974381 CB00021546) purchased from Pier Computers at Brookvale – **(\$1,049)**.
  - ii) Musto Australasia Pty Ltd – ten jackets for winning crews of State Championships and scratch and handicap point scores - **(\$1,754)**.

Moved Ian Heritage and seconded Paul Linnett that the Treasurer's Report be adopted and accounts for payment be approved. CARRIED.

SECRETARY:

1. Belmont - has advised that races 1 and 2 of the State Championships, scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> October, and due to be hosted by their Club, will now be held at Salamander Bay (Port Stephens) using the Corlette Bay Sailing Club as the base. At this stage, unless a sponsor can be organised, there will be no prizemoney for the races.
2. Orange Flag - the Secretary advised that Yachting Australia was adopting the orange flag as a further warning signal that a race was about to commence. It will be raised at least four minutes before the current first preparatory signal (being the Class Flag) for the first race of the day. It would also be used after a long postponement (ie. more than 10 minutes). It is a "recommended practise" at this stage, not compulsory. It was used in the Sydney Olympic Games and by some classes since then. After some discussion, it was agreed that we not adopt it, at this stage, however, it's possible use could be considered again in the future. In effect, it would be similar to the ten minute sequence that the skiffs used for many years prior to adopting the RRS in the mid-1990's. However, whilst it did provide some additional warning that a race was to start, the five minute system that we currently use seems to be working okay.
3. 2010/11 Race Program - at this stage, the only interclub events will be the State Championship races (Belmont, Middle Harbour and Drummoyne) and Port Hunter (16<sup>th</sup> October). The Belmont Sprints and Belmont Bay Championship will be approved events, but not count towards any Association point scores. Illawarra, Manly and Georges River will not be hosting events. St George has yet to advise their intentions.

COMMODORE:

Nil.

REGISTRAR:

Nil.

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION REPORT:

Nil.

13ft SKIFFS:

1. 13ft skiff age limit - there was discussion on the Queensland recommendation that the age limit be altered again for the 13 ft skiffs. They believe that their suggestion would make the class more popular and this would eventually flow through to the 16's. They suggest that:
  - No maximum age for female skipper if crew is less than 23 or no maximum age for female crew if skipper is less than 23;
  - No maximum age for male skipper (but minimum age of 40) if crew is less than 20 or no maximum age for male crew (but minimum age of 40) if skipper is less than 20. Boat still not eligible to win State or Australian Championship, but may race and be recorded as placgetter in each race.

Current rule provides overall maximum age for males is 23 and females is 26. Parent may sail with their child as skipper, providing child is under 23 (male) and 26 (female), however, not eligible to be winner or placegetter in a State or Australian Championship.

Consensus of the meeting was that the rule had been changed several times over the last few years and that, the last time it was changed prior to last season, a caveat as part of adopting the rule change was that the rule should stay in place for at least five seasons (to 2013/14). It was agreed that, at this stage, we should stay with that decision.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Use of radios and mobile phones - Ian Heritage reported that some other classes had adopted a rule in their SI's to ban the use of radios and mobile phones by crews during races. Ian is to follow this up, however, it was noted that the RRS 41 already seems to cover such a situation.
2. St George Club - Rolf Cohen, President of the Manly Club, advised the meeting that the Manly Club was again in discussion the Administrator for the St George Club. Manly had originally said no, as the amount required was more than Manly could afford. After a further approach by the Administrator, they held talks with other investors and have lodged another expression of interest. The proposal is that the top floor would be devoted to a catering business and the bottom floor split for use as a club and boatshed. The whole amalgamation process, if it is to take place, is still subject to acceptance by the members of both clubs.
3. Manly Club – Sailing Business Plan - Rolf Cohen also briefed the meeting on a draft Sailing Plan that the Club was pursuing. Rolf indicated that, once developed, the Club would be more than happy to share it with other skiff clubs. It basically consists of three modules:
  - (i) *Skiff Club Supply Centre* –
    - proposal is to set up a factory to supply everything needed to set up a skiff, except sails, at cost price;

- Aim is to get the price of a skiff down to \$35,000 (including sails);
  - To also supply trailers (they propose to import from China);
  - Aim is to eventually supply for 16s, 13s, F11s and MJs (these are the classes sailed from the Manly Club);
  - Fittings, parts, etc.. will be available to also buy off the shelf;
  - Open to any club sailing these classes;
  - The savings are to be achieved through volume buying, efficiencies and ease of supply.
- (ii) *Marketing* – demographics and opportunities - Clint Bowen briefed the meeting on this aspect of the Plan. The aim is to publish a document that could benefit not only Manly, but all clubs. The purpose of it is to make 16s more accessible and take the class to a more professional base. It is anticipated that it will take up to a year to develop. The Plan is budgeted to cost \$8,000 and the Manly Club is seeking the support of the Association for half that cost.
- (iii) *Attracting and Retaining people* - Purpose of this aspect of the Plan is to study the psychology of how to attract people, when and how to retain them. In addition, it will consider how the Plan can be adapted to different circumstances within each club. Initially, it will look at understanding where we are at now (surveys, etc...) and then how to move forward and be adaptive to the changing dynamics.
4. Middle Harbour Club - Alex Deakin advised that work had finally commenced on the extensive renovations at the Club and should, hopefully, be finished by November this year.

Meeting closed 9.55pm

NEXT MEETING - **Belmont Club** on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2010 commencing at 2.00pm.