



**Minutes of Presidents Forum
8:00pm Wednesday 15th February 2012
at 1 Jenkins Street Port Adelaide**

1 OPEN MEETING

2 PRESENT

Chris Payne	Black Dragons	Rick French	DBSA
Steve Holt	Adelaide Survivors Abreast	Jennifer Bould	DBSA
Paul Mellis	Subsonix	Patrick Doogue	DBSA
Gavin Kohler	Powerblades	John Holland	DBSA
Mary Kohler	Powerblades	Steve Clinch	DBSA
Adele Wood	Adelaide Phoenix	Chris Wood	DBSA/ASD
Julie Clinch	Blade Runners	Helen Macleod	SADA
Debbie Attewell	Water Warriors	Janice Jones	Waiwilta
Colin Attewell	Water Warriors		

3 APOLOGIES

Nil

4 MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes from the previous Presidents Forum meeting held 14 September 2011 were approved as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Steve Clinch **Seconded:** Steve Holt **Carried**

5 BUSINESS ARISING

The question was asked as to why Black Dragons were providing the catering for the DBSA volunteers on a race day and also paying a site fee with the response given that there was no site fee being charged.

The launch of the Sailing Club was successful with approximately \$1,000 raised which will go into the joint account and be used for clubs in lieu of having to pay room hire to use the meeting room.

The Australian Masters Games were successful and raised about \$23,000. The Mildura Masters Games raised about \$7,000 and a letter was received from the organisers seeking participation next time.

The Corporate Pub Challenge event was successful and in 2012 an endeavour will be made to include some university teams.

The Naracoorte Come N Try event went well with about 40 paddlers participating with good publicity in the local newspaper both prior to and after the event. Noted there are many ideal locations in the area.

Reminder to Clubs as part of the DBSA Member Protection Policy of the requirement to ensure that those involved with children undertake a police check and provide names of referees to DBSA.

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Port Pirie Regional Masters Games – Sat 21 April

Clubs were encouraged to participate in these games as they are a worthwhile event. Promotional brochures were tabled and a variety of accommodation was available.

ASD, SADA and Water Warriors expressed interest in participating.

6.2 AusDBF Fees

John Holland gave an update on the situation with AusDBF in regard to recent decisions made without much apparent support from each State member body. Most of these came to light after reading through the recently posted Minutes from 2011 on the AusDBF website with SA members encouraged to take the time to familiarise themselves with them to gain an understanding of the big picture.

AusDBF are seeking to raise \$80,000 from the members which would equate to an approximate additional \$20 a head for membership of AusDBF with an increase to the AusDBF paddler levy also from \$7.70 to \$22.00. This would have a huge impact Australia wide to club membership.

This decision has been reached without the provision of a Business Plan or detailed information in the Minutes as to what the money will be used for. Most of the States are not in agreement with this and are questioning whether the AusDBF Board should remain in place and are seeking justification of the proposed increases or they will not support them.

DBSA is seeking feedback from the SA clubs whether they would support these increased fees or whether it would impact on their membership numbers. John Holland said unless some benefit could be seen such as a great program for junior development, or provision of training DVDs then DBSA could not support it.

As some background information it was noted that about 6 years ago AusDBF made a ruling that unless a state had a recognised rowing course then they would not be able to run the Nationals however this appeared to be ignored by the current committee. The Nationals in Queensland and SA had made a significant profit with 40% returned to AusDBF however the ACT event which was not on a recognised course only made about \$37,000 profit which was remarkable. There was a significant outlay apparently to set up the course (\$40,000) and to source the photographer (\$30,000).

Instead of the AGM occurring at the Nationals as has been traditional it will be held later in the year.

The noted increase by AusDBF to the race fees for the Nationals and including an additional day making it 5 days in total, with categories scheduled days apart was proving to be a strong deterrent for many clubs attending. Especially since it was also being held prior to Easter instead of over that period as had been held previously.

Some DBSA Clubs had already sent in letters to AusDBF through DBSA expressing concern over the increased National fees and the different race program and if any other club is willing to provide a letter they are encouraged to do so ASAP.

AusDBF appear to be placing a focus on the Nationals team to the detriment of focusing on general issues and growing the sport. They were not aware apparently of the new Member Protection requirements which was surprising. Questions would be asked at the General meeting in Melbourne with SA members invited to attend.

An approach had been made by the Australian Coach to the SA Junior Development Officer in an endeavour to establish a 2-year program for potential juniors for the Australian team without first informing DBSA. It was felt that a junior program needed to be put in place first locally which Karen Graetz was developing firstly with the high schools through their zone system and secondly through the student unions which had expressed an interest in participating in the sport.

AusDBF had asked states to change their logo to the AusDBF logo with only the state colours applied to the logo to distinguish each state. This had been declined by DSBA at a previous AusDBF meeting. It was agreed however to include the AusDBF logo on the state team shirts but the artwork has yet to be provided.

AusDBF had also changed their rules re qualifying for the World Club Crew Championships

The various issues would be raised by DBSA at the General Meeting at the Nationals with clubs encouraged to send through their thoughts on the above and the Minutes on the website.

6.3 DBSA Race Days

6.3.1 Club volunteers

Clubs reminded of the requirement to include their volunteer on the race sheet.

6.3.2 Payment of race day fees

Clubs reminded to pay their race fees by the deadline and that they should not be outstanding after a race day. Payment is now accepted by cheque on race day.

6.4 State Flag Bearer

Alison Burgess (Black Dragons) has been chosen to carry the State flag at the Nationals with Eva Quinn (Water Warriors) as back up.

6.5 Hire of Sailing Club

Noted DBSA is paying the nominal \$20 room hire fee for clubs and in return requests that clubs make a concerted effort to clean up the meeting room after use with a vacuum cleaner being available under the bar.

An application for a liquor licence has been submitted.

6.6 What costs will subsidized for those going to the Nationals in the State team?

Adelaide Phoenix had asked the question as to what was the subsidy for those competing in the State team. The response given was that the entry fee would be covered and the state top provided. Any further subsidy had yet to be determined and would be advised once final costs were known.

Noted that there had been a race cancellation which mean the \$2.50 levy per participant for one race day would not be collected into this fund for the Premier team.

The race fees paid for the cancelled event would carry over to the next race day.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

✚ John Holland gave the background into the discussion at an earlier Board meeting whereby he put the proposal forward for Board consideration that he be partly remunerated for undertaking the work that he currently did at no cost. This was in order to set up the Executive Officer position in preparation for someone else to take on the role in a paid capacity as outlined in the Strategic Plan. He noted that that was averaging about 40 hours a week in this role and was at an age and time in his life where he was looking forward to retirement and stepping back from the Board after over 11 years of service.

He further stated that the Board had not yet made a decision on this and the position description had not yet been written as it was quite involved. Unfortunately some clubs had taken the minutes out of context and assumed that this had been approved without discussion with them which was not correct and had subsequently written expressing their concerns. It was emphasised that the Board rarely made any decisions without consulting the members.

A potential material conflict of interest had been noted by one club and the question was then put to back to them to clarify this further as this was not considered possible when there was no actual material gain which was the case.

The status is that the Board has not discussed this further and the members would be consulted if and when this occurred.

✚ A reminder that the Wallaroo event scheduled for 6&7 October 2012 was an agreed round of racing on the calendar and Clubs should start planning for it. 200m races would commence at 10am on the Saturday and on the Sunday there would be turn races.

The organisers were scheduling an evening dinner/entertainment in the large marquee on the Saturday evening. A myriad of accommodation was available in the area with details to be sent out by DSBA in the next few weeks.

- ✚ A discussion was held on the Early-Bird discount set each year with some clubs advising that they would not be commencing paddling on 1st July and instead would be doing so in about September and October and asked if the discount period could be extended to cover their members.

It was agreed that Clubs had to notify the DBSA Secretary in June when their race season would commence and book their boats for training. An Early-Bird discount would apply to any of their participants prior to this date.

The registration forms for the 2012/13 season would be sent out to Clubs on 1st June to allow them time to circulate to their members and for fees to be collected prior to the season commencing on 1st July.

- ✚ Approval was given to SADA to borrow their boat named "Carlene" on the weekend. Noted that it would likely be relocated to Mawson Lakes once a program had been established there.

SADA were asked to place the boat upside down on the concrete pad upon its return.

- ✚ In regard to clubs maintaining sweeps accreditation despite there been a reduced number of races this year due to inclement weather it was noted that if they could not sweep the required 8 x races for any given reason that they would need to write to DBSA seeking dispensation.

- ✚ Subsonix to bring the champagne and wine not presented at the previous cancelled race day to the next race day and to seek reimbursement from the Treasurer.

- ✚ DBSA will be discussing at the next Board meeting the priority placed on training for the State paddlers in order to review as it was causing some controversy and inconveniencing some clubs.

8 NEXT MEETING

The date for the next Presidents Forum meeting is to be advised.

The meeting closed at 10:00 pm.