



MINUTES

Board Meeting

Tuesday 9 July 2013 at 8PM
At 6 Wald Avenue Semaphore South

1 OPEN MEETING – 8:15PM

2 PRESENT: Rick French, John Holland, Chris Wood, Jennifer Bould, Steve Clinch and Pat Doogue

3 APOLOGIES: Julie Clinch

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 12 JUNE 2013 ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.

Moved: Chris Wood

Seconded: Pat Doogue

Carried

5 ACTION ITEMS/BUSINESS ARISING

ACTION ITEMS – PREVIOUS MEETING	
260	Actioned. Entire coach positions were circulated and are to be re-circulated to Clubs. Action: John (#273)
261	Ongoing. Liaise with Waikerie contact to coordinate event for Sun 29-Sep.
262	Ongoing. Issue credit note to RM Williams for outstanding Corporate paddle fee and reimburse Brad Cunningham as he paid out of his own pocket. Action: Jen (#274)
263	Actioned. Revisit course at 2000m start line to check options to hold event at the same time as Triathlon SA. Consensus is there should be no issue however paddlers to be reminded to be aware of runners.
264	Actioned. Details provided for those requiring reimbursement for volunteers during the recent 5-week Life be In It course @ \$25 per person per day.
265	Ongoing. Details of the proposed mini workshops on the various Volunteer position activities as a trial to attract participants without any race day pressure to be sent out prior to Chris heading overseas.
266	Ongoing. Awaiting advice from AusDBF as to when the Officials Course can be offered in SA. Will need to be offered by someone holding a Cert IV in TA&E.
267	Ongoing. Offer team that lost their cox mate speakers some spare DBA speakers.
268	Ongoing. Clearance application received from Beth Dunchue to ASD. The draft response to Adelaide Phoenix was reviewed and endorsed. Matt to be advised by Rick that he will need to pay DBSA registration and if he can prove that he has registered interstate then he will not need to pay the AusDBF fee.
269	Actioned. Next website sub-committee meeting is scheduled for 18 July.
270	Actioned. Process clearance of Robyn Whan from ASA to Waiwilta.
271	Actioned. Advise WWs that the Early-Bird extension request for 7 th September for Warriors Abreast paddlers was approved for the last time as in future it will be set for all Clubs at 1 st July
272	Actioned. Post amended policies #005-009 to website.

ACTION ITEMS – CARRIED OVER	
NO.	ACTION
169	Ongoing. Arrange for DBSA signage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sailing Club/Trailer (plaque)/container/Port Road John advised of quote received for \$4800 to paint the trailer plus 2 x filing cabinets so further quotes required.
181	Actioned. Successful volunteers 'thank you' lunch organised.
203	Ongoing. Submit form to Council for sign to be up on Port Road to promote Corporate Challenge event. Banner is being designed.
221	Ongoing. Follow up with Karen Graetz for contact details at Pulteney and Woodville High.
227	Actioned. Post Incident Report form to website.
234	Ongoing. Quote obtained for replacement trolleys at \$1300 each which is considered a bit expensive so further quotes to be obtained.
238	Actioned. John Harris has offered to coordinate the opening ceremony for the 2013/14 season.
244	Ongoing. Follow up corporate payments from Flight Training and CSR.
252	Ongoing. Arrange for purchase of container (x20ft).
255	Actioned. Photos and report obtained on the Corporate Event held in Port Lincoln and subsequently published in DragonsBreath.
257	Ongoing. Advertising costs at Semaphore Odeon are \$50 per week for a 15 second ad which screens at every session of every movie. Longer ads will be an additional \$50. Cost of \$300 for preparing of ads. Agreed to proceed.

John Holland advised that any faulty locks to the Boatshed need to be given to Canoe SA for repair instead of the Council. Replacement keys also to be sourced from Canoe SA.

6 FINANCIAL REPORT – JUNE 2013

ID#	Date	Memo/Payee	Deposit	Withdrawal
Cheque Account:	1-1110	ACCOUNT 1		
Date of Bank Statement:	30/06/2013			
Reconciled Cheques				
142263	15/05/2013	Subsonix DB Club (Supplier) - race day prizes		\$72.00
142266	17/05/2013	CSA Group - security @ state titles		\$618.75
142267	28/05/2013	C Watson		\$623.11
142268	6/06/2013	Adelaide Sea Dragons - insurance claim		\$300.00
eft	6/06/2013	Marathon Canoe Club of SA		\$1,355.00
eft	6/06/2013	Golden Roast - deposit for luncheon		\$100.00
eft	6/06/2013	Admin Focus - inv 886		\$1,133.00
eft	22/06/2013	Optus - internet service		\$77.15
TR000048	22/06/2013	Transfer of funds		\$6,576.90
142269	23/06/2013	Golden Roast - volunteer luncheon 23/6		\$1,277.00
142270	23/06/2013	R French - volunteer luncheon lanterns & batteries		\$38.98
Total:			\$0.00	\$12,171.89
Reconciled Deposits				
TR000047	6/06/2013	Transfer of funds	\$1,355.00	
2522	6/06/2013	Life Be In It dragonboat challenge	\$2,880.00	
2523	6/06/2013	Dragon Abreast Ballarat Inc - Murray Marathon	\$1,355.00	
2524	6/06/2013	Associated Marine - ASD insurance claim	\$300.00	
2525	12/06/2013	Adelaide Sea Dragons - F6, Tr2, C3	\$1,494.00	
2526	13/06/2013	Dragons Abreast Pt Lincoln	\$597.00	
2527	14/06/2013	Payment; RM Williams	\$90.00	
2528	19/06/2013	Adelaide Sea Dragons - F5, C3, Trm 2, Tr 1	\$1,426.00	
2529	20/06/2013	SADA - 9F	\$1,395.00	
2530	20/06/2013	Adelaide Sea Dragons - F4,1Trm	\$749.00	
2531	24/06/2013	SADA - F6	\$990.00	
2532	24/06/2013	Adelaide Sea Dragons - F5, C3, Trm 3	\$1,468.00	
2533	25/06/2013	Waiwilta Paddling Club Inc - F 13, Tr 1	\$2,144.00	
2534	26/06/2013	Dragons Abreast Pt Lincoln- C11, Cr 7	\$1,731.00	
2535	26/06/2013	Adelaide Sea Dragons - F7, C2, 1Jm 2	\$1,644.00	
2536	26/06/2013	Black Dragons Dragon Boat Club - F16	\$2,480.00	
2537	27/06/2013	Water Warriors DB Club - F39, Trm 1	\$6,174.00	
2538	28/06/2013	Waiwilta Paddling Club Inc- F6	\$930.00	
2539	28/06/2013	Adelaide Sea Dragons - F5,C2, Trm 2	\$1,237.00	
2540	28/06/2013	SADA - F8 Trm 1	\$1,369.00	
Total:			\$31,808.00	\$0.00

142160	11/03/2012	Adelaide Phoenix		\$22.50
142179	27/05/2012	Alison Burgess - state prem accomodation		\$82.20
142182	27/05/2012	Chelle Hosking - state prem accomodation		\$82.20
142255	30/03/2013	Precision Plate Aluminium Boat Builders		\$1,200.00
142259	12/04/2013	Jack Salagaras - Nats subsidy		\$293.40
142271	29/06/2013	Adelaide Sea Dragons		\$50.00
		Total:		\$0.00
Reconciliation				\$1,730.30
			MYOB Balance on 30/06/2013:	\$21,737.31
			Add: Outstanding Cheques:	\$1,730.30
			Subtotal:	\$23,467.61
			Deduct: Outstanding Deposits:	\$0.00
			Expected Balance on Statement:	\$23,467.61
Cheque Account:	1-1130	ACCOUNT 3		
Date of Bank Statement:	30/06/2013			
Reconciled Cheques				
TR000047	6/06/2013	Transfer of funds		\$1,355.00
		Total:		\$0.00
Reconciled Deposits				
TR000048	22/06/2013	Transfer of funds	\$6,576.90	
int	29/06/2013	Bank SA	\$9.49	
		Total:	\$6,586.39	\$0.00
Reconciliation				
			MYOB Balance on 30/06/2013:	\$9,009.49
			Add: Outstanding Cheques:	\$0.00
			Subtotal:	\$9,009.49
			Deduct: Outstanding Deposits:	\$0.00
			Expected Balance on Statement:	\$9,009.49
Cheque Account:	1-1165	Investment account 2060		
Date of Bank Statement:	30/06/2013			
Reconciled Deposits				
int	8/06/2013	Bank SA	\$654.44	
		Total:	\$654.44	\$0.00
Reconciliation				
			MYOB Balance on 30/06/2013:	\$57,528.26
			Add: Outstanding Cheques:	\$0.00
			Subtotal:	\$57,528.26
			Deduct: Outstanding Deposits:	\$0.00
			Expected Balance on Statement:	\$57,528.26

Motion to accept financial reports and pay accounts on Account 1.

Moved: Jennifer Bould

Seconded: Steve Clinch

Carried

Agreed to purchase a replacement laptop for Jennifer Bould given the current one is being problematic.
Action: Pat (#274)

Clubs are all covered for Public Liability to the amount of \$20 million up from \$10 million.

Jennifer Bould advised that the 2012/13 books are currently with the Auditor.

Agreed that should John Holland be successful in attaining his Cert IV in TA&E that he would be reimbursed 50% of the enrolment fee as he would then be in a position to deliver the Coaches course which requires this qualification to be held by the presenter.

7 STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

The following section from the Strategic Plan was reviewed:

4. Participation

4.1 Establish a Boat Storage facility at Mawson Lakes

- Seek information about potential facility storage opportunities

Current liaison has proved fruitless. Powerblades are now following this up.

4.2 DBSA Members are all Star Clubs

- Actively promote accreditation to the Star Club program to all of the DBSA member clubs

There are currently 5 x clubs, Subsonix, SADA, PBs have all registered with Waiwilta and ASD achieving it. Still need to promote it to the rest.

4.3 Assist the establishment of new Member Clubs

- Provide relevant information including Manual for Clubs Ongoing. Victor Dragons in process of forming.

4.4 Mildura Masters Dragon Boat event

- Work with Mildura Council to ensure that Dragon Boating is included in Mildura Masters Games every 2 years
Participation is planned for the next event in 2015.

4.5 Participate in the South Australian Masters Games

- Ensure that Dragon Boating is included all Masters Games in South Australia
Participation is planned for the Naracoorte event and also Port Pirie if they are successful.

4.6 DBSA paddlers remain competitive both Nationally and Internationally

- Provide quality up to date equipment and training aids
Request received from Brian Buttery to purchase a 10s boat for training purposes which will be considered.
Intention is if successful with the bid to host the WCCs in 2016 to purchase some more 20s boats so that we can replace the whole fleet with the old boats to be sold.
Noted a paddle adaptor could be purchased for use on Rowing SA's concept machines if demand arises.

4.7 Race Day Broadcasting

- Provide a broadcast on race days recognising sponsors and provide information
Email to be sent to Clubs seeking volunteer to be the Race Day broadcaster.
Action: Rick (#275)

4.8 Annual Social Function

- A function in May of each year where season's achievements will be recognised
Agreed to reinstate event.
Action: Chris (#276)

8 JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Request received from Subsonix for financial assistance for two junior paddlers to undertake the Coaches course. Agreed to offer a 2 for 1 arrangement and this would be made available for any other Club with juniors wishing to do this course.

Action: John (#277)

9 AusDBF REPORT

The following was noted from the recent AusDBF meeting held in Brisbane on 29&30 June.

- NSW and Qld have each established a combined Junior team called Torpedoes and Sonix respectively in endeavour to have a Junior team for the Nationals.
- Program being considered on governability whereby all Board Minutes can be stored in the Cloud.
- Discussion held on future of 10s racing at Nationals.
- President is looking at coming over to an SA event and will probably be the Around the Island event.
- New style catalogue is out for uniforms which incorporate the various logos.
- Much interest in the 360 degree survey undertaken by DBSA and the results.

10 SECRETARY'S REPORT

Correspondence as follows:

- Notification of the \$500 won as part of participation in the 360 degree survey.
- Advice received from the Defribulator supplier that someone will need to be responsible for the unit and Pat Doogue offered to be this person and arrange for attendance from each Club at the forthcoming training session. Paperwork to be completed.
Action: Pat (#278)
- The article circulated by Pat Doogue for inclusion in DragonsBreath to encourage Board nominations would be rewritten.

- The email received from Waiwilta (04 Jul 13) seeking consideration for a possible refund to two overseas paddlers should their visa not be extended was discussed. Agreed that DBSA would be happy to offer a pro rata refund should this occur.
Action: Marie (#279)
- Clearance application from Beth Dunchue from BWRs to ASD for tabling later.
- The aquatic component of the Sport SA Festival of Health planned for 6-8 December has been cancelled this year. DBSA will be able to have a stand as part of the general expo and it was agreed to offer this to Clubs to man over the weekend on a roster basis. To be raised at the next RC meeting.
Action: John (#280)
- Arrangements to be made to have the dragon boats stored at the River Torrens surveyed.
Action: Pat (#281)
- Meeting notice received from AusDBF for AGM scheduled for Sunday 1 December.
- Enquiry received from BWRs if the Sunday fun day will be scheduled for the Wallaroo event. Agreed to raise at RC meeting for feedback.
Action: John (#282)
- Notification of Veteran's Health Week (14^h-20 Oct) Physical Activity Expo & Family Fun Day scheduled at Torrens Parade Ground on Sunday 20 October from 11am-3pm. Interest has been expressed by some Clubs to participate however organisers only want one Club so suggested that it be offered to Powerblades.
- Paperwork submitted to OR&S reconciling \$15,000 funding grant.
- Membership renewal form submitted to Sport SA.
- Agreed to renew Volunteering SA membership.
- Letter of thanks received from Victor Dragons for the support received for their application to the Victor Harbour Council to establish as a Club.
- Advice received from John Harris that the community centre at Coromandel Valley is running a sport fit type day and he suggested that DBSA might wish to participate. This has been offered to John's new club – Phoenix – in the first instance.
- The letter received from Blue Water Raiders (25/06/13) in relation to the recent Corporate Challenge event held in Port Lincoln was discussed. Agreed Steve Clinch should respond.
Action: Steve (#283)
- Arrange for six copies of the Totally Wild DVD forage to be produced. Noted is a good promotional tool for juniors.
Action: Pat (#284)
- Agreed to schedule a junior category in the Corporate Challenge event.

11 SAFETY

Discussion held on the lining up of the mats with the light posts at Aquatic Reserve to encourage sweeps to line up boats to avoid damage to the hulls. To be brought up at RC meeting.

Action: John (#285)

12 NEW BUSINESS

12.1 Website update status

Race results from 202/13 season to be uploaded.

12.2 AGM – Wed 21 Aug 13

Meeting Notice to be sent out for AGM scheduled for Wednesday 21 August 2013 and to be posted to website along with Nomination Form.

Nomination status will be:

- President - renominating
- Vice President Female - renominating
- Treasurer - renominating
- Committee member – Steve Clinch not renominating

Clubs to be advised of this status at the RC meeting and encouraged to nominate.

Action: John (#286)

12.3 HP Portfolio

12.3.1 Report on State Team representation in Penrith

Nil report.

12.3.2 Report from Premier State Coach

Steve Clinch read to the report received from David Brugioni.

Noted that the Board appreciates the time and effort that David has put into dragon boating and this should be relayed to David.

Action: Steve (#287)

Agreed to circulate this report in with the Minutes of this meeting.

Action: Marie (#288)

12.4 Lincoln Corp Regatta

Discussed previously.

12.5 360 Review Survey Industry Forum – Dragonboat SA reports

Discussion held over to next meeting at which time a plan will be put in place. The link to the document is to be placed on the website.

Action: Marie (#289)

12.6 Policy reviews:

The DBSA Policies as listed below were tabled for review and ratification upon the below amendments being made:

- #010 Heat Policy – remove repeated line.
- #011 Starts & Starting Procedure – endorsed
- #012 Protocol for Race Day Disputes:
 - #5 to be re numbered #1
 - Include “shall be lodged with the Chief Official”
 - Include schematic provided by John
- #013 Appeals process – endorsed
- #014 Lifting Environment (SOP) – remove as superseded by Policy #034.

Action: Marie (#290)

Clubs are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the various policies as they are being reviewed by DBSA and duly recorded in the Minutes.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- The following Clearance application was endorsed:
 - Beth Dunchue – Blue Water Raiders to Adelaide Sea Dragons
Action: Marie (#291)
- Discussion deferred to next meeting on whether a cold weather policy should be implemented. A policy has been formulated by Jennifer Bould and everyone to review it prior to our next meeting.
- **Action: All (#292)**
- The Active Ageing Australia 5 for 10 program to be trialled on Saturday mornings at 10.00am in the first instance.
- The contacts from the recent Life be in it sessions to be shared amongst the Clubs. Race Committee to discuss how it will be done.
Action: John (#293)
- Copy of the current Certificate of Currency to be emailed to Nick Zervas (Subsonix).
Action: Chris (#294)

14 NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 14 August 2013 at 8pm.

15 CLOSE OF MEETING – 11:00pm

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: ____/____/____

2013 STATE TEAM REPORT – FOR SENIOR B & C AND PREMIER OPEN & WOMEN

Prepared by Chris Wood & Cheryl Watson

SENIOR B & C

Training

It was apparent from the first session that the more committed paddlers were there to make an early start in their preparation for the Nationals. Initial numbers weren't significant however that improved over ensuing weeks/months thanks to Cheryl's enthusiasm to recruit and build on our numbers.

For future campaigns we seek the assistance of all Club committees to be pro-active in recommending that their members try-out for State selection, particularly if their Clubs are competing at the championships.

The majority of our squad of Senior B & C paddlers had all represented the State before. It wasn't our intention to spend a lot of time on technique correction rather to focus on endurance, strength and moulding the crews as all paddlers were expected to be training with their Clubs 3 times a week.

It was interesting though when we reviewed attendances for crew selections that they ranged between 40-95%. Some of the lower percentages were due to work commitments, however if we are to improve on our current standing a realistic expectation would be attendance of 75%+ going forward.

Camaraderie between squad members was outstanding, and the feedback received was very positive. In fact, some commented on how much they enjoyed their involvement.

Competition

65 SA representatives competed in Penrith in the following categories:

Senior C – Open, Mixed & Women

Senior B – Open, Mixed & Women

We received Bronze medals in every division and ran 3rd overall in the State v State rankings. In a perfect world coaches would ideally like to have a squad of 100+ to attempt all these categories so what resulted from our smaller group, against States such as Queensland & NSW, who had 4-600 strong squads respectively, is a credit to each and every one of you.

With the exception of the Senior C Open the results reflected little more than a boat length off a Gold medal; so be very proud of these achievements.

Senior B	Mixed	Bronze	SA	2.07.677	
		Silver	NSW A	2.04.408	
		Gold	Qld	2.03.452	

Senior C	Mixed	Bronze	SA	2.12.371	
		Silver	NSW A	2.10.949	
		Gold	Qld	2.08.413	
Senior B	Women	Bronze	SA	2.17.208	
		Silver	NSW	2.13.937	
		Gold	Qld	2.13.419	
Senior C	Women	Bronze	SA	2.25.325	
		Silver	NSW	2.19.461	
		Gold	Qld	2.19.239	
Senior B	Open	Bronze	SA	2.05.675	
		Silver	NSW	2.03.610	
		Gold	Qld	2.03.395	
Senior C	Open	Bronze	SA	2.39.235	All women's crew
		Silver	Qld	2.08.326	
		Gold	NSW	2.08.166	

PREMIER OPEN & WOMEN

During February/March it became apparent that focus was on Premier Mixed due to an apparent lack of numbers for Open and Women's crews partly due to early culling of "Premier-suitable" paddlers.

In an endeavour to enter a full complement of Premier crews in the Australian Championships an expression of interest was called for at our State Championships on Sunday, 24 March with 37 people registering their names.

After reviewing available numbers and the addition of some men & women who were already training with Premier Mixed, crews were selected and with limited time 2 training sessions were organised for those who could attend.

With good team ethics and a desire to do well I can proudly report on their behalf that these crews achieved a commendable 4th & 5th in Premier Women & Open respectively in extremely strong competition from Qld, NSW, Vic & ACT.

The inclusion of these crews, and the points they accrued in their races, placed South Australia 3rd overall in the Peter Bristow State v State Trophy; an excellent result.

I would like to acknowledge their achievement and commitment in making this possible. You've proved as paddlers you are keen to represent your State (under extra-ordinary circumstances).

DBSA Board members sincerely appreciate your support and determination to enable these categories to be raced. It is a credit to you all.

Our 2013 campaign is now history and I hope we can now regroup to take on the challenge in Queensland in 2014. With your support, and that of your fellow paddlers, I believe SA can look forward to more positive outcomes.

Recommendations

Coaching

Coaches meet prior to any on-water training to discuss and agree on training times, warm-ups, training plans, issues etc.

Develop, implement and circulate new selection criteria.

Coaches meet monthly to share information.

Coaches to meet for final crew selections

Coaches to sign a letter of agreement

Recruiting

Group meeting between DBSA representatives and all Club members after first regatta (22 September) to encourage participation

Registrations

Use Smartspace so Coaches can access paddler information at any time.

Include a question asking if they have any pre-existing injuries, particularly due to dragon boating.

Paddlers to sign a Participants Agreement

Communication

Provide regular feedback to participants to keep them well-informed. Email from Smartspace so it goes directly to each individual, but also normal Club channels of President & Secretary.

Continue to educate participants so they understand the importance of Australian Championships, our expectations and processes and their level of involvement and commitment.

General

Appoint a Team Manager in addition to Male & Female Captains.

In closing there are many people we would like to thank. Firstly, it wouldn't happen without you, our competitors. You were a total pleasure to work with, which made our jobs so much easier, and we hope to see you all back for the Nationals in Queensland. Please encourage your fellow paddlers to try-out too.

Next I'd like to thank Colleen Finlayson for her assistance in organising crews on the day; gosh was that a challenge. With Cheryl & I being tied up with paddling & sweeping ourselves Colleen calmly managed to put other crews on the water in our absence. We hadn't planned on it all being such a rush.

Our State Captains: Rick French & Jan Bice (Senior C) and Sue Bockmann & Chris Payne (Senior B). These people are such great ambassadors of the sport. Our thanks

To Sue Bockmann & Cheryl for making us look like a State team. The merchandise was great ladies, thank you. We looked terrific.

A special thanks to those people who swept on training days. These people give up their time in the boat so we can train. I know they would rather be paddling but without them there's no training.

Finally, to my mate Cheryl; I love working with this lady. Her energy and love for the sport is second to none. We share a passion for dragon boating and the challenges it brings and we are keen to help build on growth of success South Australia and its individual Clubs are experiencing at a national level and beyond.

The focus now is 2014 – there's one boat length between us and Gold!

Thank you all, and see you on the water.

Chris Wood & Cheryl Watson

STATE PREMIER COACHES REPORT – 2012/2013

For several years now I have had the fortunate opportunity to coach the State Premier Team and without reservation and with renewed vigour as each season passes I have taken up the challenge and volunteered my services to coach at this level.

However as seasons have come and gone and apart from an enormous effort by the dedicated few who have volunteered their services to support the Team either as paddlers or sweeps it has been basically a labour of love for all with little or no return in the way of success on the water.

They all should be commended for their dedication and their general support to the sport of Dragonboating in this State for without their continued efforts over the years there would not have been a Premier Team Representation in any form from this State... 'I THANK YOU'...

There are many reasons why this 'Division' has struggled for success and not least are:

- 1) Lack of suitably credentialed 'Premier Aged' paddlers.
- 2) Lack in numbers of 'Quality' paddlers to be competitive at this age bracket irrespective of age.
- 3) Lack of commitment from the general paddling community to undertake extra training sessions to fulfil selection criteria and at the very least 'Try Out'.

This year was no different with numbers down on the previous year due to various reasons we were not in the position to field competitive teams for the Premier Womens and Open Mens categories.

It was decided early at the beginning of the year in consultation with the High Performance Manager in Steve Clinch to only target the 'Mixed' category and for those that were keen and interested to nominate and to try out for the required number of male/female positions to form the basis of this team.

Testing was duly conducted over a couple of weekends about 4-6 wks apart at the beginning of the year.

The whole process was transparent and there was no intent to deceive or withhold any information as to what we were about....

If the Board at any time thought I was derelict in my duties should have spoken to me or relieved me of the coaching role at the beginning of the year rather than taking it upon themselves 2wks prior to the Nationals and asking for 'Volunteers' to fill the empty seats within the Premier Open Mens/Womens crews.

The question needs to be asked why the 40 to 50 'Volunteers' did not try out for a position in the State Premier Teams via the normal process when the initial call for expressions of interest was first addressed i.e. – approx 6mths prior to the Nationals.

This action alone undermined everything that the State Team represents. After all without following the recommended policy/guidelines which the Board have endorsed what is the point of people presenting themselves at the initial phase giving up their valuable time going thru tryouts etc in good faith in order to be part of hopefully a strong State Representative Team. Now that a precedent has been set it will be interesting to see how people respond for future formation of State Teams when the call comes for interested parties to try out early in our racing season for State selection.

In the end a near disaster was averted to some extent and 'reasonable' teams were formed and with virtually no training together still managed a creditable result on the water given the circumstances.

Looking ahead to next year and beyond there needs to be a complete overhaul in how the formations of the State Representative Teams are approached.

To be absolutely fair 'All Paddlers' irrespective of Club Allegiance, Age etc should be afforded the right to at the very least the opportunity to try out and without prejudice if successful be part of the State Representative Team.

As coaches it is upon our heads to work together with the successful paddlers and co-ordinate the formation of 'Teams' as required with the 'State Premiers' being first priority.

We need to get 'Smarter' as a Board and as Coaches and entice the very best paddlers from the clubs to try out.

State selection should not be about any particular Club but reward for individuals in recognition of their prowess as a paddler and their ability to be part of a Team to compete at a higher level.

After all it is only the very dedicated who are willing to do the extra training required and have that zest to be part of something 'Special' that is removed from their normal club duties that continue to keep trying out and to be part of that 'Elite' to represent their State at their chosen sport.

These are the ones that you want to nurture and treat with respect and build future Teams around irrespective NOT the 'Late Arrivals' alluded to earlier.

Apart from this 'Minor' hiccup I thoroughly enjoy the experience of working with the 'Younger Brigade' of paddlers from the various Clubs it is challenging and rewarding in equal measures. They are willing to learn and apart from the occasional clash of 'personalities' are accepting and get on with it.

Due to the chaotic nature on the day of State vs State Championships I do not think I properly voiced my appreciation to all those paddlers that were involved at Premier level from day one.

Let it be known to all those paddlers and support that volunteered their services for the State Premier Division that I respectfully and fully appreciated all your hard work from the first days of training, including the 2 Saturday training camps, and the lead in to the Nationals it was fantastic to work with such a dedicated group of paddlers....

Please Do not Lose the Faith...
Thank You for your indulgence.
Respectively Yours in Paddling,

Dave Brugioni.
(State Premier Coach).