



**Minutes of the
PRESIDENTS' FORUM
Thursday 15 May 2025 @ 6pm
Zoom**

1. OPEN MEETING – 6:02 pm

John Holland (JH) as Chair opened the meeting.

2. PRESENT

Online:

ACDC:	Chris Wood, John Holland
ACDC DD:	Heather Graetz (President)
Adelaide Phoenix:	Kearney Sieberhagen (President)
Black Sea Dragons:	Chris Payne (President)
BWR:	Jenny Chillingworth (President)
DAA:	Julie Howie (Vice President)
DAPL:	Sandy Jansen (President)
Mannum:	Julie Metcalfe (President)
Murray Bridge:	Miranda Roccisano (President)
Pink Dragons:	Melanie Garland
Powerblades:	Peter Button (President)
Subsonix:	Jack Salagaras (President), Lynette Ferrari (Secretary)
Victor Dragons:	Morag Craig (President)
Water Warriors:	Sam Slabbert (President)
DBSA:	Chris Wood, John Holland, Jennifer Bould

3. APOLOGIES

ASA:	Mary-Ann Holt (President)
Coorong Dragons:	Annabel Kitchin (President)
Copper Coast:	Judy Haydon (President)
DAA:	Deb Elfenbein (President)
Pink Dragons:	Robyn McKenzie (President)
SADA:	Helen MacLeod (President)
Waiwilita:	Kay Cameron (President), Jill Furnage

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 Meeting 17/2/25

Ratified as a true and correct record subject to the amendment of Lyn Payne (BSD) not being present. **Action: MC #108**

4.2 Action List

Reviewed. Of note:

- #102 – noted that Robyn (PDs) should have a key to the compound providing access to collect a trailer to relocate an old boat from the Murray Bridge dragon boat club. John Holland offered to assist if needed on the weekend.
- #103 – discussion held on whether to apply a race fee (any amount) for the Peter Bristow event with funds raised going to an aligned charity. Agreed instead to raise funds at the event.
- #104 – clubs reminded to encourage their members to not congregate in the front area of the shed whilst boats are being loaded/unloaded.
- #105 – noted not all Clubs had provided “dynamic” photos however for those that have there are many for the Board to choose from.
- #106 – JH agreed to follow up with Melanie Cantwell (AusDBF) for requirements for Clubs to set up Corporate Team events in RevSport.

5. DBSA

5.1 State Champs – feedback

- PBs: event ran well, ahead of time, great weather.
- BSD: happy with event, not having strict marshalling helped with timing.

5.1.1 Making more relevant

Clubs encouraged to consider ways and provide feedback on how to make the event more relevant to increase participation numbers, especially for the Saturday (500m).

Action: Clubs #108

Question asked if some Clubs were not interested in 500m.

Noted some Clubs had members who were not keen on racing both days on the weekend.

One suggestion was to consider swapping the distances around to allow regional clubs to stay overnight if they wished.

5.2 AusChamps – feedback

- PBs: pleased with the management of the event, state day was enjoyable for all clubs to get together as one team. Only negative comment was on the state day being corralled into the grandstand with a blaring sound system all day which would or could not be turned down.

JH said ACDC were in the tent most of the day so it was not as noisy.

- Chris Wood: noted it was amazing that the event ran ahead of time most days.

JH responded that it was mainly due to the 2000m races being held on a separate day and not at the end of the straight line racing days. This worked out well as day 3 finished at 3pm when the heavens opened up.

The turn around of races was 4 minutes generally, quick boat loading and teams getting to the start line reasonably well all contributed.

Noted AusChamps will be held in Adelaide in 2027.

5.3 Events:

5.3.1 First Aid course – next

Will look to schedule in September and seek EOIs beforehand. **Action: Marie #109**

Question asked how two individuals who did not register for the course were allowed to rock up on the day and join the course.

JH advised in response that he was only aware of one person and that they had taken the chance to see if there were any cancellations and there were, so they were allowed to undertake the course. Noted the Club would be invoiced accordingly and if there was any issue with payment, they could take it up with that individual.

5.3.2 AusDBF Level 1 Sweeps' & Drummers' course – next

Agreed to follow up with Pat Doogue as to when the next Sweeps' Committee meeting will be held so that this course could be scheduled. **Action: Pat #110**

5.3.3 AusDBF Level 1 Coaching course – next

JH advised held in February and that only one person has completed the required paperwork to attain their accreditation. The other x9 are yet to do so.

Clubs were asked if they have any members needing to do another course with the following responses:

- DAPL: x2
- CC: x2

JH advised that November would be the best timing allowing participants to undertake the required on water training during the racing season. Agreed to seek EOIs once the race program has been set. **Action: Marie #111**

5.3.4 Season 2025/26 planning – any thoughts?

Noted at the RC meeting on Tuesday 3 June the circulated draft race program will be discussed with Clubs encouraged to have their delegates in a position to put forward their viewpoints.

day set for 15 February 2026

would be the closest date to the 40th anniversary of the association's first race (held on 16 February 1986)

a celebration with under 40s/over 40s racing held. Fun races would be held as well as corporate races.

Jennifer Bould advised that the race day set for 16 February 1986 would be closest date to the 40th anniversary of the association's first race (held on 16 February 1986). A celebration with under 40s/over 40s racing held. Fun races would be held as well as corporate races.

Noted at this stage that the only confirmed date is the State Championships.

Jack Salagaras suggested that the corporate race day be rescheduled to November providing the opportunity for newbies to participate in more race days rather than at the end of the season when the opportunity is not available.

Julie Metcalfe advised that Mannum would also like to be considered for the regional challenge event as it is their 10 year anniversary and keen to have a celebratory event.

Agreed to circulate the draft race program again. **Action: Marie #112**

5.4 Code of Conduct reminder for participants

JH advised that clubs should be aware of the AusDBF correspondence called "Respect" and felt it was more of an issue for other states events.

Chris Wood encouraged clubs to remind their members of the Code whether they be paddlers, sweeps, coaches, officials or volunteers, at all levels. JH agreed.

Subsonix noted that they include the link to the Code in their newsletter.

5.5 Event: Adelaide Botanic High Come & Trys – volunteers needed

Noted that volunteers are still required for this two day event being held on Thursday 29 May (2 sessions) and Friday 30 May (1 session) on the River Torrens. Another reminder will be circulated with a reminder that honorariums will be paid. **Action: Chris #113**

Chris Wood noted that volunteers will be needed for an upcoming event for Christian Brothers College and that she was also planning a school regatta with about 15 schools. Further details will be provided in due course.

6. AusDBF

Marie Cuninghame reminded clubs of the AusDBF correspondence related to the 'ASC – Board & Committee Diversity Education Course' which is free and that all State Board Directors and Club committee members are encouraged to complete the module.

7. CLUBS / OTHER

- DAA: training as usual until end of May. Several members had a great weekend in Murray Bridge on the Saturday and Mannum on the Sunday and stayed overnight. Hoping to continue this. New coach accredited.
- Subsonix: 20s racing is waning a lot and queried why. Noted some clubs have x2 10s teams entered in the same category when they could field a 20s team as well.

JH advise that a draft policy will be put to the RC meeting allowing clubs to combine with another club (equal split 10/10) to encourage more 20s racing.

- DAPL: went to RMG – great event, great weather, friendly.

JH advised that there was no host currently for the 2026 games with councils all keen to do the 2027 event for some reason. The timing would be problematic as it would be around the AusChamps. Victor Harbor council has expressed interest in hosting it in 2026 however dragon boating may have to be held elsewhere as was done for the Kadina games as there is no suitable location.

- Mannum: went to RMG – awesome event, friendly, great time, best games yet, will go again. Next year will be their 10th anniversary keen to have something special.

DAA have been up for an overnight paddle, BBQ and dinner. Last weekend ASA paddled, BBQ held, weather was good and river was calm. VDs are coming up and Mildura may come down. Good to socialise and interact.

Julie Metcalfe is progressing her coaching accreditation . Club is cruising along well with majority of members heading north for the winter.

- BWR: went to RMG – great event. Looking forward to some calm weather in the next few months so that they can paddle as it is the best time of the year for them.
- Phoenix: end-of-season event schedule for Sunday in the hills. Focus on socials mid-July for a Come & Try. Few new members joined recently.
- VDs: two members doing L2 Sweeps accreditation. Noted Pat Doogue has not yet set a date for their test however may be down there late May/early June whilst on holidays so aiming to schedule it then. Invitation extended to anyone else wishing to do it at the same time.

Agreed to drop off the championship plaque in the meeting room at Aquatic under the television.

Action: Morag #113

Club is cruising along. They are attracting newly relocated retirees to join them in effort to increase membership numbers.

- BSD: still have members training for the Auroras. They have 2-3 competing at the World Police & Fire Games in America in a combined interstate crew and some from the USA. They will travel to Sarawak in Malaysia to compete in October.

Clubs encouraged to return their boats to the same place that they went out on and for trolleys to be left where the mats are as it is hard to see them at night otherwise. Reminder to be sent to clubs.

Action: Marie #114

- WWs: noted took some time off after states and will return to the water for training this Sunday. Congratulated BSD on their success at AusChamps.
- Murray Bridge: went to RMG – loved the venue. DAA joined them in a paddling session and lunch. Busy with the many tasks required as a result of changing their name and logo and are also fundraising.
- PBs: extended congratulations to BSD also. Pleased with own campaign at AusChamps. End of season function/awards dinner scheduled for Saturday. Looking to possibly compete at Penang later this year

Asked if the trolleys could now be left at the water's edge. Agreed that they could.

They have five paddlers trained and selected for Auroras with one choosing not to go. Extended appreciation to the Board for their endeavours.

- ACDC DD: have four new members with some being male which is a positive. Aiming to get the required number of coaching paddles up which will take a while. Once it becomes cold their attendance numbers will drop.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

JH reminded clubs to follow through on AusDBF's Education Plan and to send certificates of completion through to: accreditations@ausdbf.com.au.

Noted clubs can readily download this from the DBSA Website:

<https://www.dragonboatsa.com/news-racing-events/latest-news/ausdbf-education-plan-2025/>

9. NEXT MEETINGS:

- Wed 27-Aug
- Wed 19-Nov

10. NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 7:00 pm.