Minutes of the
PRESIDENTS' FORUM v1
Monday 11 May 2026 @ 8:00 pm
Aquatic | Zoom

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1. OPEN MEETING – 8:00 pm

Peter Button as Chair opened the meeting.

2. PRESENT

In person

ACDC:	Chris Wood (President), John Holland
Adelaide Phoenix:	Kierney Sieberhagen (President)
Black Sea Dragons:	Rob Harding (President)
Pink Dragons:	Shanan Anderson (President)
Powerblades:	Tracey Gardiner
SADA:	Helen MacLeod (President)
Waiwilta:	Kay Cameron (President), Jill Furmage
Subsonix:	Jack Salagaras (President)
DBSA Board:	Peter Button, Chris Wood, John Holland, Tracey Gardiner
DBSA SC:	Pat Doogue

Present (online)

ACDC DD:	Heather Graetz (President)
Coorong Dragons:	Annabel Kitchin (President)
Copper Coast:	Judy Haydon (President)
DAA:	Julie Howie (Deputy President)
DAPL:	Sandra Jansen (President)
Mannum Dragons:	Julie Metcalfe (Secretary)

3. APOLOGIES

ASA:	Mary-Ann Holt (President)
DAA:	Julie Howie (Deputy President)
DBSA:	Jennnifer Bould, Mary-Ann Holt, Rodney Purbrick
Victor Dragons:	Morag Craig (President)

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 Meeting 19/2/26

Ratified as a true and correct record. **Action: Marie #130**

4.2 Action List

Reviewed. Of note:

- #123. Noted some clubs are finding it difficult to secure volunteers. Agreed to follow up with clubs on their list of volunteers so that a half-day training course can be held.
- #125. Withdrawn. Any issues with RevSport can be advised at any time to Marie Cunningham.
- #129. Withdrawn. Clubs will be asked to advise of preference for a Saturday evening or Sunday lunch event in June.

5. DBSA

5.1 End-of-Season event – planning

Clubs requested to return any plaques they received during the State Championships for rebranding and engraving to Chris Wood's shop. **Action: PBs, BSD, ACDC #131**

Chris Wood advised that she was waiting to hear back from the SACA on the availability of the Karen Rolton Oval as a venue for either a dinner on Saturday 27 June or a lunch on Sunday 28 June. An email will then be sent to Clubs re event details. **Action: Chris #132**

5.1 Other – Board meeting

- Noted the issue of Dragon Pass not advising clubs that a registration period was due to expire after 30 days had been raised with AusDBF to address. The response was that it was not possible as it was the same as all of the other payment classes and could not be changed. It will be up to clubs to monitor this themselves.

- Reminder given to ensure that this meeting room is locked after use as there have been some recent occasions when it has been left unlocked.

- Peter Button will be maintaining a spreadsheet of the fobs allocated to clubs and will circulate this for clubs to respond separately.

- DBSA will be seeking information from clubs and volunteers on who holds a boat licence to maintain a spreadsheet for ready access as needed.

- Noted a club had recently been locked out of the DBSA boatshed due to the fob system not working and there was no one else available at the time to assist after hours. They could access the building from the side entrance but not the actual boatshed.

  DBSA is looking at an option to have a physical key lock attached to the DBSA front entrance and will liaise with Paddle SA and then the Council as necessary to arrange.

- Peter Button advised that the training equipment is being upgraded as needed to meet the AusDBF benchmarking requirements.

  Reminder given for users to take care when using the equipment as it is not about how fast one paddles but about the cadence (ie consistent rate, effort and distance) as the equipment is being degraded and is expensive to replace.

- John Holland is putting together a plan to reconfigure the boatshed for better storage usage and access with the club lockers to be placed on the side and the DBSA lockers at the back of the room. A working bee will be arranged with clubs to relocate the equipment and lockers.

6. Events

6.1 State Championships – 28&29 March – feedback

- Peter Button noted that it was a great event with all clubs performing well and respectful towards the volunteers and officials who did an excellent job. He felt the association should e proud of the vent and the on and off water camaraderie.

- Jack Salagras mentioned that some regional teams were not happy with the team that medals with a volunteer sweep and felt that medals should not have been awarded.

  Peter Button advised that in accordance with DBSA Policy they had received an exemption at the previous Board meeting and were advised that this would be the last occasion they could request this. It had been advised at the C&S meeting. Agreed going forward clubs should be advised of any dispensations prior to an event.

- Noted an invoice for $100 was received from Rowing SA for the relocation of the rubbish bins which should have been returned kerbside for collection the following day.

- Pat Doogue noted it was pleasing that all of the boats and equipment were readily returned to the boatshed with the power boat relocating to Mannum. Clubs and volunteers worked well with some clubs returning two boats.

- Kay Cameron noted it would have been good to have more volunteers to assist as back up timers as there were some occasions when boats started without them in place however it was noted that the FinishLynx system was working.

- Peter Button advised that Rodney Purbrick was aiming to establish a volunteer swap type arrangement with an offroad motorbike association that he is involved with.

- Question asked if the Volunteering SA association could be contacted next season for volunteers. Agreed to follow this up. **Action: Mary-Ann #133**

6.2 Masters Games – Sat 11/4/26 – feedback

The consensus was that Mannum Dragons ran a successful event which provided good practice for Sweeps under varying conditions. It was well supported by other clubs.

6.3 AusChamps – feedback

A successful event.

Comment made about a NZ team entering the Oceania races and cleaning up the medals. John Holland responded that this event is held on alternate years in Australia and NZ with clubs from either country eligible to participate.

Rob Harding advised that it was one of the best catered events since Albury-Wodonga for celiacs providing a variety of food options.

Peter Button noted that AusDBF have released a survey for feedback to participating clubs and that a kick-start meeting for 2027 event will be held at Aquatic Reserve on 4 July. He had taken a copious amount of notes to assist with the event planning.

6.4 Courses – next

Pat Doogue advised that:

- AusDBF is releasing a training video for use in the S&D course and he would be seeking EOIs for the next course and the preference for a Saturday or Sunday. **Action: Marie #134**
- Will be following up with Rob Bowen (Victor Dragons) on a proposed training day at Mannum.
- Clubs are to be aware of the requirements for reaccreditation of Sweeps as it was no longer just to have an updated WWCC and a First Aid certificate with AusDBF requiring further courses to be undertaken. They should be checking RevSport records to see what accreditation had been undertaken by their Sweeps. An easy Google check would readily provide the respective AusDBF website link for this as their Search engine is not available.

John Holland advised that:

- AusDBF Level 1 Coaching course – nothing planned this year and is still working through last year's course paperwork and this year's.
- AusDBF Official's course – nothing planned this year.
- AusDBF looking to provide more online learning for all of their courses.

Marie Cunningham advised that there is no first aid training course scheduled at this stage.

7. CLUBS / OTHER

- ACDC DD. Heather Graetz advised that they would be arranging a 10-year anniversary celebration since joining ACDC most likely at the start of the season.
- DAPL. Sandy Jansen advised that they had a training break in April and recommenced on Sunday. One paddler will be joining DAA in the Bribie Island long distance event this coming week and appreciated the invitation from DAA. Three members are preparing to attend the international BC paddling event in France in August. They have a new Sweep (Kelly) who is going well thanks to Pat Doogue and their new coach Charmaine is also going well thanks to John Holland.
- Mannum. Julie Metcalfe advised that they are continuing training with fewer numbers however still happy to be on the water. They were pleased with how the Masters Games event went and looking forward to the next season.
- Coorong. Annabel Kitchin said that their club enjoyed the Masters Games event and have a Sweep who has completed a second of her two races to become a level three and extended thanks to Pat. They have two coaches nearly there and just need to submit their accreditation paperwork. They held their presentation dinner on Sunday night with good numbers in attendance. Most sessions, they have two full boats going out, and the Murray mouth paddle on Saturday, weather permitting. They are plodding along and enjoying paddling with a few 40 years old members keen to race.
- ASA. Report was provided by Mary-Ann Holt prior to the meeting:
  - ASA going along nicely with 23 registered members, 2 of whom are keen to do the sweeps course. Come and try on Saturday saw 3 people, with fingers crossed interested enough to do the dragon pass. Continuing training on Tue and Sat mornings and Thu evenings at this stage, with consideration to take time off in July.
  - Focussing on getting Emma P to follow up and get her sweeps accreditation done and dusted, and I am continuing to get more time at the helm. Aim is for us both to be available for the next season's racing.

- Thanks to Waiwilta, DAA and Adelaide Pink Dragons for joining us at times in training sessions, and also for Pamela and Nerida for being available to sweep for us on the odd occasion at training sessions when neither of ours are available. I really love the way we all there to assist each other when and if required.
- On a lighter note, Carol-Ann from Waiwilta advised that her husband has found my paddle – when the rowing club were moving pontoons it popped up, and it is at her home being drained of water.

- BSD. Robert Harding said they were happy with their national results and will be taking a Mixed-B 10s team to Taiwan so their training continues. Queried about the TK1 "broken sign" with no further detail so Peter Button said he will check with Rodney Purbrick. **Action: Peter #135**
- They have 10-12 members keen to train for the Auroras and to access the gym equipment. He noted he located a rack pull piece of equipment at Southport (Willunga) which he tried out on Friday and said it would be good to have one located closer. Tracey Gardiner noted that she converted hers using Bessa blocks with Peter Button advising that he could put longer legs on the DBSA unit.
- DBSA. Peter Button said he spoke with Deb Moran (AusDBF) today who advised that there will be further information released about the benchmarking and mentioned the extended date of 17 July for benchmarking.
- Waiwilta. Kay Cameron said it was status quo currently. They have a few Dragon Pass paddlers with some joining and training remains the same.
- ACDC. Chris Wood said their club is ticking along and they are continuing to train through winter. They are recruiting nicely.
- John Holland advised that he had not received the results yet from the State Team at AusChamps.
- Subsonix. Jack Salagaras said that they have had 2-3 paddlers sign up after a recent corporate event held at Aquatic with 11 in attendance. He queried why Waiwilta can have a vote on race matters at the RC meetings when it is not a paddling club. In response Kay Cameron advised that they were an incorporated Dragon Boat Club and therefore eligible to do so.
- Jack asked if consideration could be given to introducing race fees those new members who only want to join for half a season as they recently lost 3 sets of couples. Peter Button responded that it would not be possible for DBSA to arrange this with several suggestions put forward to Jack.
- Pink Dragons. Shanan Anderson said they enjoyed the Masters Games event and had help with sweeps and drummers from other teams and clubs which was appreciated. Have held a few come and try events recently and her daughter had recently joined with more hopefully to come after a renewed focus on recruiting. They will celebrate their third birthday in July.
- SADA. Heather MacDonald advised that the states and nationals were positive events for them and they went to the nationals to support the younger members who recently joined and had four participating in the state team. It was a good experience for the younger girls in the team. They will be looking to have a 25th year celebration around Christmas time and will rebrand their logo accordingly. They will have an end-of-season luncheon on 23 May and then will train just on Tuesday evenings and some Saturdays.
- Adelaide Phoenix. Kearney Sieberhagen advised that they were happy with the two medals they had received especially as they only had 13 paddlers on the 500m day which was a better result than two years prior. They are in the midst of a big recruitment section with six members joining and two older paddlers returning. They will train on Saturday mornings only to keep the momentum going. A planning day is scheduled for 4 July which will include discussion on a volunteer plan during and most likely look to sacrifice one paddler per race day. He extended appreciation to Chris Wood for organising the liquor licence for the state championships.
- Powerblades. Tracey Gardiner advised that they participated at the AusChamps and it was a fun event. They achieved several club bests and had a great time. They participated at the Masters Games and held their end-of-season dinner last Saturday. On water training is being reduced to Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings until the end of May. They have a couple of paddlers going to Malaysia at year dn, one going to France for the BC event and two going to Hong Kong for the Down Under Dogs event with a larger contingency going to PanPacs in November.

8. AusDBF

Peter Button advised that AusDBF is undergoing the review of the AusChamps event and he is waiting to hear back if those police and fire fighter teams being trained by clubs for the World Police & Fire Games in Perth in March would be covered under the AusDBF insurance policy.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Peter Button noted that the 2026/27 Race Program had been circulated to clubs and dates will be confirmed with Paddle SA unless any final feedback.

- Chris Wood advised that DBSA will be engaging a consultant to manage social media. The new approach will align with the AusDBF 10k Program, which aims to reach 10,000 participants nationally by the end of 2026. $5,000 grant has been allocated specifically for marketing toward this target.

As part of the program, DBSA is required to host 20 Come & Try sessions, which will provide opportunities for all clubs to participate. A brochure is being developed that clubs can also use at their own events.

In addition, a further $3,000 has been allocated to deliver a schools' regatta, which will hopefully be held in October.

- Reminder given that clubs should be feeding data into RevSport for all Come & Try events so that AusDBF can capture this data for their ASC funding and reporting obligations.

- Noted that the AusChamps 2027 dates have not yet been confirmed by AusDBF as the dates for Gather Round were not known yet.

10. NEXT MEETINGS 2026:

- PFs: Wed 9-Sep, Tue 17-Nov
- AGM: Wed 9-Sep

11. MEETING CLOSE

The meeting closed at 9:18 pm.

ACTION ITEMS PF – 19/2/26				
NO.	**ACTION**	**DUE DATE**	**BY**	**STATUS**
130	Upload Minutes from the 19/2/26 meeting.	ASAP	Marie	Done
131	Return plaques awarded at the State Champs to Chris Wood's shop for engraving and rebranding.	ASAP	PBs, BSD, ACDC	
132	Once dates and a venue is known for the end-of-season awards event send an email to Clubs on their preference for Saturday 27 (dinner) or Sunday 28 (lunch) in June.	ASAP	Chris	
133	Contact Volunteering SA for volunteers for the next race season.	Q3 2026	Mary-Ann	
134	Seek EOIs for the next S&D course and a preference for Saturday or Sunday.	ASAP	Marie	Done
135	Ask Rodney Purbrick what is wrong with the TK1 that has a "broken sign" on it and advise clubs.	ASAP	Peter	
NO.	**ACTION**	**DUE DATE**	**BY**	**STATUS**
123	Follow up with clubs to provide a list of volunteers so that a half-day training course can be held.	ASAP	Mary-Ann	