Minutes of the
PRESIDENTS' FORUM v1
Wednesday 9 September 2026 @ 8:00 pm
Aquatic | Zoom

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1. OPEN MEETING – 8:10 pm

Peter Button as Chair opened the meeting.

2. PRESENT

In person

DBSA Board:	Peter Button, Gaye Millar, Mary-Ann Holt, John Holland, Chris Wood
Life Members:	Pat Doogue, John Holland, Chris Wood
ACDC Dragon Fire:	Chris Wood (President), Chris Greenbank, John Holland
Adelaide Phoenix:	Sam Kelsh
ASA:	Mary-Ann Holt (President), Steve Holt
Black Sea Dragons:	Rob Harding (President)
Powerblades:	Peter Button (President), Julie Lister
SADA:	Pat Doogue (Sweeps Coordinator), Gaye Millar
Subsonix:	Jack Salagaras
Victor Dragons:	Morag Craig (President)
Waiwilta:	Kay Cameron (President), Kay Powlesland
Water Warriors	Imants Didrichsons (Secretary)

Online

DBSA Board:	Jennifer Bould (Life Member), Rodney Purbrick
ACDC Desert Dragons:	Heather Graetz (Secretary)
BWR:	Masto Myles (President)
Coorong Dragons:	Linda Noack (Vice President)
DAPL:	Jackie Johnson (Secretary)
Mannum Dragons:	Jason Kuhlmann (President)
Murray Bridge:	Glenis Crane (President)
Pink Dragons:	Melanie Garland
Victor Dragons:	Morag Craig (President)

3. Apologies

ACDC DD:	Heather McDonald (Secretary)
Adelaide Phoenix:	Kearney Sieberhagen (President)
Copper Coast:	Judy Haydon (President)
DAA:	Deb Elfenbein (President)
DAPL:	Sue Bishop (President)
KIDS:	Ants Harris (President)
Pink Dragons:	Shanan Anderson (President)
SADA:	Helen MacLeod (President)
Water Warriors:	Emily Jones (President)

4. DBSA Patron – Jing Lee

Peter Button introduced Jing Lee as the newly appointed DBSA Patron when she joined halfway through the meeting and read the media release on this appointment.

Jing Lee introduced herself, provided some background, and confirmed her availability for the Opening Ceremony at Race Day #2 on Sunday 11 October.

5. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Meeting 11/5/26

MOTION
That the Minutes of the meeting held 11 May 2026 be accepted as a true and accurate record.
Motion: Chris Wood and Seconded: Kaye Cameron CARRIED.

5.2 Action List

Reviewed.

6. DBSA

6.1 New boats – branding

Noted that an order has been placed for the 2027 AusChamps for a fleet of 20 new dragon boats with the standard scale type branding and all with different colours for AusChamps. They will each have the AusDBF DBSA logo and the DBSA "Nessie' logo on them at the front and back of the boats.

6.2 Appreciation to clubs for managing transfer of payments to new bank account

Appreciation extended to clubs for their support in transferring bank accounts from Bank SA to Westpac.

6.3 Clearance form – correct season reminder

Reminder given to ensure that the latest form is completed and that the correct season is included.
https://www.dragonboatsa.com/media/82907/dbsa-clearance-form-260511.doc

6.4 Reminder of requirement for online bookings for DBSA equipment

Noted that most boats and equipment are booked online through RevSport; however, the 20s boats must be booked through the DBSA Secretariat (admin@dragonboatsa.com).

https://www.dragonboatsa.com/media/82057/dbsa-boat-equipment-booking-booking-request-form-v2.pdf

6.6 Dragon Start – reminder to set up for use and use of waiver

Discussion was held on the process for setting up and using any waiver for new paddlers in RevSport, with some uncertainty about how to do this; questions were raised about whether casual paddlers could realistically read and understand the entire waiver circulated for their use before paddling, and about its legal strength.

Victor Dragons reported that Dragon Start works but is clunky. Walk-up paddlers often have only a short window to register, making the full waiver hard to read on a phone, especially outdoors and overly detailed for someone doing a single trial paddle.

The waiver requires participants to agree to DBSA's constitution, regulations, policies and directions. Clubs questioned whether casual paddlers could realistically read and understand all of that before paddling and were unsure about the waiver's origin and legal strength.

ACDC said they use a QR code that links directly to their Dragon Start registration, making walk-up paddling easier because people can scan and register quickly instead of navigating the full website.

Noted the waiver's purpose is to support insurance coverage, not to make participants waive all rights. Clubs were advised that everyone must register and sign; otherwise, they may not be insured.

Registration is considered essential because it records every person entering a boat, supports participation data and funding, and provides a pathway for casual paddlers to move into Dragon Pass or full membership.

It was suggested that any unresolved legal or waiver wording concerns be raised with AusDBF at the upcoming V-Insurance webinars, with session details to be circulated. **Action: MC #137**

6.7 Meeting room hire – cleanliness reminder

Clubs reminded to leave the room in good order upon completion and do a quick vacuum.

6.8 Race Day parking – Aquatic verge/grass – club signs on dashboards

Noted that additional parking has been secured on race days for clubs in the western parking area; however, they need to be mindful not to damage the irrigation system. The Board will aim to photograph the irrigation line marking for future race days, as the Council only does this periodically.

Peter Button tabled a sample parking slip that Powerblades use for cars parked on the round grass verge on race days, which allows for easy identification of their cars, and suggested that other clubs consider doing something similar.

6.9 Access to Aquatic gym

Noted that the Paddle SA gym is available; however, the booking sheet on the door needs to be checked first, as they have priority.

6.10 Coffee caterer: CIBO Expresso – Saturday training – feedback

Noted that this vendor had expressed interest and was being followed up by Chris Wood to attend on Saturday mornings from around 9:00 am.

Noted a separate vendor (Momo Doko) who has been operating at Aquatic Reserve for the past month requested permission to offer their service on the next race day. The Board approved this, provided they do not serve coffee in competition with the current caterer (Barbara).

6.11 Season launch ceremony: respect reminder

Noted the ceremony has been rescheduled to the second race day on Sunday 11 October.

Clubs were reminded to be mindful and respectful during the ceremony.

6.12 EOI | State Divisional Team Manager – Job Description – reminder

Noted applications close on Friday 18 September.

6.13 AusChamps – Para Dragon Plan – by Julie Lister

Julie Lister, the Para Dragon state coach, presented this new category and asked clubs to help identify potential paddlers. She will liaise with clubs and coaches at race days and, where appropriate, approach prospective paddlers sensitively.

Five paddlers had already expressed interest in completing the assessment process. A crew requires a minimum of 10 paddlers, with approximately 12 preferred.

Noted that sight impairment may qualify, depending on its functional impact on the paddler.

Clubs were encouraged to discuss Para Dragons with their members and support DBSA in forming a state crew.

Agreed to circulate a copy of the PowerPoint presentation delivered. **Action: Marie #138**

7. Events

7.1 Courses

7.1.1 S&D Sat 8/8/26 – feedback

Pat Doogue noted that the course went well, with support from some senior sweeps on the day and complimentary feedback received.

The focus was now on forwarding the completed paperwork to AusDBF and following up with clubs and sweeps respectfully to identify (a) who is inactive or (b) who does not want to sweep anymore, or (c) who should be followed up and advised that their qualifications are due to expire soon.

7.1.2 First Aid Course Sun 18/10/26 – update

Noted there are only four registrations to date, with a minimum of 10 required before the deadline of Friday 2 October.

7.2 Regional Training Day – Sun 27/9/26 – status

Noted there are now 49 registered, with a few more expected. Bill Parousis (Powerblades) will cook the BBQ, with some assistance most likely needed given the high number of participants.

As an aside, Paddle SA had to relocate their race day from the River Torrens to Aquatic Reserve on Sunday 20 September, and any clubs training are to be mindful to stay off the course and out of the basin as much as possible.

Noted that the state team training on Sunday will conduct the on-water ergo assessments on Saturday19 September instead.

8. CLUBS / OTHER

- VDs: AGM held recently with a good turnout of 34 members. The Constitution was changed by special resolution and has been submitted to CBS. They are working through the ATO's self-assessment requirements, have 41 paddlers, and some members are transferring to CDs.

  Flagged a fundraising idea with the TDU, which will pay for volunteer traffic marshals along the route, and they are organising this for the Victor Harbour/MacLaren Vale area. Each volunteer is paid, and payments can go directly to the club; further details are on the TDU website.

- DAPL: AGM held recently with acknowledgement given to Sandy Jansen, who stepped down as President after 17 years. Sue Bishop who is currently overseas relaxing in France after attending the International Breast Cancer Paddlers' Commission Festival, is her replacement and will be back for the next meeting. They have been paddling for three weeks.

- ACDC DD: back on the water paddling on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings after the lake has refilled. They will hold a 10-year celebration in January 2027 on the weekend of the 9th & 10th.

- PDs. Back on-the-water training and looking for new members. Promotional flyer has been upgraded, and a recruitment drive is in place. AGM is scheduled soon.

- MBDBC: Glenis Crane is the new President. They are attracting a few male members, which is positive. The name was recently changed to Murray Bridge Dragon Boat Club, and the logos are being updated. Michael Ash has replaced Julie Davieds as coach, and they are focusing on fundraising by participating at a football gate during the football season to raise money for life jackets, trailers, etc.

- Mannum: AGM held recently and celebrated 10-year anniversary. Julie Metcalfe stood down as President after 10 years and was replaced by Jason Kuhlmann. 22 members currently.

- CDs: AGM held recently, with Linda Noack elected as VP. Awarded their second Life membership, and some members have a 10-year anniversary coming up soon. Come & Try event is planned; there was no winter break, and they are on the water three times weekly.

- BWR: Continue to paddle on Saturday mornings, having a good time in general, with fundraising also a focus. AGM is scheduled soon. Last weekend, teams from Port Lincoln and Tumby Bay paddled together on the creek, with a beach barbeque held afterwards.

- BDs: Recently returned from the WCCC event held in Taiwan with mixed results. The competition was fierce with over 5,000 paddlers, and the venue was good, with better facilities and more food options than in Ravenna. Italy was notably absent.

- Subsonix: Club is doing well and seeking more members. It is positive that they have a few young paddlers. Looking to field three corporate teams. Will be light on for paddlers for Sunday's race day.

- Water Warriors: Member numbers remain steady. Emily Jones has been elected as President and will take on this role from Sam Slabbert upon her return to Australia in October.

- ASA: Progressing well. 25 members, with 5 males, and they are focussed on providing prostate and breast cancer support. This season will be the first time they race in their own right and will not have to combine with another club. Continuing to train on Thursday nights and Saturday mornings.

  Working through issues with their sweeps. Mary-Ann Holt noted that she returned early from France after training with a Sydney DA club at the WCCC event and could not remain to compete.

  Extended appreciation to Waiwilta for the assistance from Pamela Bastable and Carol-Anne Cooper, who occasionally sweep with them.

- ACDC: Membership numbers remain stable at 112, and they will soon launch a new website. They purchased the former Adelaide Phoenix trailer from the insurance company. It was stolen and had been recovered after Phoenix's claim had been settled

  Dragon Start is working well, and they use a QR code placed on their locker for new participants to check in. They will hopefully have two corporate teams.

While in Taiwan, John Holland met a few of the other regional Presidents and received an invitation to participate in the upcoming annual competition in Uganda on Lake Victoria in October.

He noted Senior D is now an IDBF race category.

- SADA: Noted Helen Macleod is still President, with there being 3-4 new members. This race day, their crew will be depleted for several reasons. They are training twice weekly, and next Thursday will return to three times weekly with a potential corporate team.

- Waiwilta: The club is doing well, and not being a racing club allows them to provide volunteer support at DBSA events, especially the State Champs and upcoming AusChamps. Membership numbers have increased over the years, with 43 currently and 23 being previous paddlers. They have seven Sweeps and a Coach, and they appreciate the support provided by Julie Lister, Vi Duong, and Drew Akkermans, who provide different coaching ideas.

  AGM was held recently, with the constitution revamped. They have a new name, new uniforms, a new website, and they are working through their new 5-year strategic plan at meetings. They hold a variety of social activities after training, monthly dinners and recently hired this meeting room and an African music group for a musical team-bonding session. For the first time, they will look to enter a crew for the Peter Bristow event.

- PBs: AGM held recently with some minor constitutional changes made, which have been submitted to CBS. The coaching team has been refreshed after circulating a Registration of Interest, with three coaches appointed and the program split into two halves, before and after the holiday break, with a strong focus on the states and nationals.

  Hopefully, will have a corporate team of firefighters, and it is pleasing that five members have progressed to the next Auroras camp.

9. AusDBF

Noted, due to Gather Round, that dates have changed to 24-29 April 2027.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Julie Lister congratulated the 15 paddlers across the state who have progressed to the Auroras training squad representing BCS, Seniors A/B/C and Para Dragons.

- Rob Harding queried whether the 10s boats could be returned and the Family Boat relocated, as he felt that it was never used. In response, Chris Wood noted that younger members use it and love it, and John Holland said the area would be changed once a mezzanine level is in place.

- Jack Salagaras advised of concerns raised by some of their Sweeps on the AusDBF Sweeps' accreditation scheme. In particular, he tabled an email Rick French sent to Peter Button as DBSA President, which had not received a response.

  Peter Button advised that he had just returned from a three-week leave period and that Rick should have received a return email noting the absence, and that he would follow this up as a priority.
  Action: Peter #139

  John Holland advised that a lot of the rules in place were because of the funding arrangements between AusDBF and the ASC and, in turn, at the state level with DBSA and the ORSR, and were a requirement.

- John Holland advised that the Masters Games would be held in Port Pirie on 13 March 2027 and would be looking to form an organising committee which would provide an opportunity for any members keen to learn about setting up an event. Details will be circulated in due course.
  Action: Board #140

- Chris Wood advised that the tent layout will be circulated on Thursday and that a liquour licence has been received. It was disappointing that clubs did not support the end-of-season awards ceremony and as a result, the plaques will now be awarded on the actual State Championship race days. Clubs would be responsible for the engraving and be reimbursed. The Board will look at another strategy for the end-of-season celebration and would welcome ideas.

  The next CCWC will be held in Barcelona.

- Jack Salagaras asked if the Corporate Challenge trophies could be awarded earlier on the day as most crews wanted to leave once they had finished racing. Chris Wood responded that this could be arranged.

- Gaye Millar referenced the AusDBF Fatality Management Duty Card "Immediate Actions: First 24 hours" provided to her by Pat Doogue at a recent club meeting. She noted that it highlighted at the bottom to "refer to the full process for further information and guidance"; however, there was no further detail. It also noted that the State Dragon Boat Association President was to be informed in two hours, and she was not aware of the contact details.

  Peter Button advised that these cards were produced because of a previous interstate medical incident in a boat and that he was happy to be contacted by email.

  Agreed that the Board will advise of the process to follow to contact him as President and, in addition, the Secretary. **Action: Peter #141**

- Peter Button advised that the Board was working through finalising the new Strategic Plan and had engaged a facilitator to work through the process. Sharon Etherington is working with Zi at AusDBF and the Adelaide Uni to form a team to compete at AusChamps in the future.

- Marie Cunningham reminded clubs to inform her of any changes to office bearers after upcoming AGMs.

11. NEXT MEETING 2026:
Scheduled for Tuesday 17 November 2026.

12. MEETING CLOSE
The meeting closed at 9:44 pm.

ACTION ITEMS - NEW				
NO.	**ACTION**	**DUE DATE**	**BY**	**STATUS**
136	Upload Minutes from the 11/5/26 meeting.	ASAP	Marie	Done
137	Circulate details of the upcoming V-Insurance webinars for Clubs to raise any general issues, including around the Dragon Start waiver wording.	ASAP	Marie	Done
138	Circulate a copy of the Para Dragons PPT presentation delivered by Julie Lister to Clubs.	ASAP	Marie	Done
139	Follow up on Rick French's email concerns about the Sweeps' Accreditation requirements and respond accordingly.	ASAP	Peter	Done
140	Circulate details re the 2027 Masters Games being held in Port Pirie on 13 March 2017 and seek volunteers for the organising committee.	ASAP	Board	
141	Advise Clubs of the process to follow to report any fatalities to the President & Secretary within two hours.	ASAP	Board	
ACTION ITEMS - ONGOING				
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	