



ROYAL BRIGHTON YACHT CLUB INCORPORATED A0018674M  
253 ESPLANADE, MIDDLE BRIGHTON. VIC. 3186  
HALF YEARLY GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS  
MONDAY 22nd MARCH 2021 at 7:00PM

## MINUTES

### 1. NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Rule 32, the Half Yearly General Meeting of Members will be held in the Clubhouse on Monday 22nd March 2021 at 7.05 p.m.

#### Attendees

Via Zoom

Gary Cook, Darren McKay, Brendan Jukes, Ross Fisher, Geoff Adams, Chad Humphries

#### In person

Commodore Peter Strain, Vice Commodore John Mooney, Rear Commodore Paul Jenkins, Club Captain Brett Heath, Honorary Treasurer Peter Demura, Kirsten Mitchell, Jan Ferguson, Grant Dunoon, Lyn Bingham, David Bingham, Tom Thomson, Michael McKay Jennifer Pascoe, Glenn Ferguson, Simon Tedstone, Mary Alice Tedstone, Susan Leaper, Pam Merritt, Will Merritt, Murray Cowdell, Ashley Horne, Wendy Luck, Paul Pascoe, Cath Hurley, Peter Coleman, Susie Strain, John Spencer, Ian Mather, James Leckey, Kalpana Raghunathan, Andrew Merrett, Kerry Watson, Niesje Hees, Amanda Irving, Dennis McConnell, Chris McConnell, David Prest, Peter Gebhardt

A quorum of more than 20 Senior Members was declared.

### 2. APOLOGIES

Charles Stanton, John Hearle, Malcolm Mitchell, Kim Luck, Mandy Jackson, Paul Jackson, Lou Irving, Patrick Purcell, David Allen, Peter Austin, Mark Woodload, Andrew Poulton, Glenn Norton, Grant Dow, Malcolm Ware, Jacqueline Provis, Athenie Leckey, Martha Garkel, Philip Sloane, Phil Bedlington

### 3. OBITUARIES

Michael Bush  
Richard Hawkins  
Linda Lane  
Andy Ward

### 4. MINUTES

Confirmation of the Minutes of the AGM held 23rd September 2020.

Business arising from the Annual General Meeting held 23rd September 2020

- Commodore Peter Strain indicated there was a typing error in the minutes. Should read “Paul and Mandy Jackson” as apologies. Not Jackman

That the previous minutes be accepted.

**MOVED:** Peter Strain      **SECONDED:** Paul Jenkins      **CARRIED**

Proposed by Commodore Paul Pascoe that Rule 8.2(a)(ii) be changed as follows;

It was noted that the previous rule change omitted TPI in the list of Senior Memberships and could not be amended during the AGM meeting on 23rd September. Therefore, the same rule is proposed to be amended with the addition of TPI, Honorary Life, 50 Year and 60 year+ memberships.

*Proposed by Commodore Paul Pascoe that Rule 8.2(a)(ii) be changed as follows;*

*Rule 8.2(a)(ii) For the purposes of voting for both the election of the Committee and for the passing of ordinary and special resolutions at a General Meeting, Senior Members include 40 year Members, 50 year Members, 60+ year Members, Honorary Life, Senior Special Members, Absentee, Country, TPI Members.*

**VOTE:** CARRIED

## 5. COMMODORE’S REPORT – taken as read

- Membership is up and marina occupancy both up on last year. Thanks to members old and new.
- Slowly getting on top of maintenance especially out on the marina
- Club’s financial position much improved, we have more detailed more accurate accounts. Thanks to great work by Hannah and the treasurer.
- Been treading water for the last few years but now can see daylight. Improved cashflow and surpluses which will enable more attention to maintenance and capital expenditure.
- Strategy going forward, building on the strategy Document Niesje and Steve Ingram developed. 7 pillars. Very simple process.
  - Detail NOW work out WHERE then build the Strategies and Actions to get there.
  - Best example is assets. We are working on an integrated asset register, compatible with MYOB.
  - Once developed we can then build a maintenance plan so we can become proactive rather than reactive. All on the back of the improved financial position. Additional to that we have begun an OH&S strategy with help from a consultant, working on continuous review and improvement.
- Sailing Similarly the Club Captain has already had strategy/brainstorming meeting to start the process of detailing where the Club wants to get to. And is planning another meeting to detail the actions and strategies going forward. The plan is to do this approach across all the Club.
- Auxiliary Susie will say more about that but thanks to the commitment over 90 years.

**MOVED:** Peter Strain      **SECONDED:** Niesje Hees      **CARRIED**

## 6. FINANCE REPORT – taken as read

- The six months ended 31st December proved a difficult time for the Club, but nevertheless with the support of members, the government, the Bank of Melbourne and employees, led by our General Manager Hannah Catchpole, the Club managed to deliver a sound financial outcome.
- Circumstances make comparisons with last year difficult; presentation tonight focuses on the most recent period:
  - For the 6 months ended 31 December 2020, the Net Operating Surplus was \$548,000 and the Net Deficit was \$50,000. This is in comparison to Net Operating Surplus of \$155,000 and a Net Deficit of \$410,000 in the corresponding period of 2019.
  - Revenue declined by \$628,000 compared with the corresponding period last year, but expenses declined by over \$1m

- The cash balance was \$1.245m, compared with \$1.354m at the end of December 2019. It is important to note the later was inflated by around \$1m due to the proceeds of a restructured loan yet offset existing loan.
- CAPEX and loan repayments were negligible.
- The past six months was all about cash preservation, expense reduction and maintaining services to members.
- Although COVID-19 remains an ever-present threat, the Club needs to move forward to start repaying debt and undertaking necessary spending to ensure it is able to services to an ever-growing membership base on and off the water.
- In closing Peter wanted to thank the members for their support and donations and also to thank his colleagues on the General Committee and the Finance Sub-Committee comprising of Peter Strain, John Mooney, Hannah Catchpole, Keith Badger and Jim Leckey (since retired from committee).

**QUESTION:** Paul Pascoe - how do you think the ending of Jobkeeper will affect club?

**RESPONSE:** The club was fortunate to receive Jobkeeper payments in the 1st and 3rd sectors and this obviously was of assistance to the club however the removal of Jobkeeper at the end of March won't necessarily affect the club's ability to trade profitably as long as tight controls are kept and hospitality trading is maintained.

**MOVED:** Peter Demura                      **SECONDED:** Simon Tedstone                      **CARRIED**

## 7. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

### SAILING REPORT – taken as read

- Covid – certainly a challenge with an ever evolving calendar.
- Massive thanks to sailing office, sailing committee and race committee.
- Overall participation has increased
- Thursday sailing, Sunday keelboat sailing added to program

**QUESTION:** Simon Tedstone - how many participants on a Sunday racing?

**RESPONSE:** Unfortunately, not as successful, on average 10-11 boats. Covid has really impacted the junior fleet. By contrast Thursday there were 20 boats two weeks ago. Mainly a laser group. Other examples of numbers are:

Saturday 15 keelboats

Wednesday night last week – 25 boats.

Simon then asked: Is yacht racing not a Club priority?

**RESPONSE:** Peter Strain and Brett Heath - It is the first priority of GC and SC. 100 boats were registered for George Mac. More sailing has been added to the program than ever before. Sailing is absolutely a priority given the first forward strategy meeting was with the sailing committee. Acknowledged more can be done.

**QUESTION:** Peter Demura – what sort of numbers is the club receiving attending training programs?

**RESPONSE:** High participation in training programs. Club Captain will revert back with exact figure.

Need to engage participants post program with boat owners. A connection point is between participants and boat owners. Plan to work on sailing pathways.

**CATH HURLEY:** wanted to express appreciation for the flexibility in program in regard to the “Try Again Thursday” concept.

**DAVID PREST:** “Wednesday nights with extras” - highlighted it has had low numbers unfortunately. Suggestion is to put it in the main race. Club Captain agreed.

**MOVED:** Brett Heath                      **SECONDED:** Niesje Hees                      **CARRIED**

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT – taken as read

- 2% increase in membership which is positive considering how long it was closed.

- Looking at strategy in the membership area and the first step will be an online survey to members working with the IDAG committee about their likes and dislikes.

**QUESTION:** what is the driver behind increased membership?

**RESPONSE:** Local attractions, can't travel overseas, looking for things to participate in nearer home. Increase in all membership types. Club is seen a very positive option.

**RESPONSE FROM PETER DEMURA:** John Mooney and Peter Demura have been interviewing potential new members. Overwhelming comment is that potential new members are made to feel welcome as soon as they arrive. That first impression is the reason for joining at RBYC rather than somewhere else.

**MOVED:** Cath Hurley                      **SECONDED:** Paul Pascoe                      **CARRIED**

**ASSETS REPORT - taken as read**

- Move to an integrated asset management system with MYOB accounts. Some members assisting the club with this project who have experience in the matter.
- Dredging – discussions with Parks Victoria – moving in the correct direction. Confident they are now viewing the problem as the Club sees it.
- Marina Lease – good discussions with Parks Victoria. Have announced the Club can go into “direct negotiation”.
- Attenuator – huge amount of work has been going into this. It is in a much better condition than in previous years.
- Marina – electrical work is being undertaken.
- Marina gate – in the process of being stripped back and repainted with protective coating.
- Race tower – hampered by the pier closure.
- Refrigeration upgrade – kitchen running much more efficiently.
- New LEDs lights around the club – reducing running costs.
- Analysis and review of air conditioning and solar options.
- Men's changing room refurbishment has commenced

Jim Leckey wished to compliment the works done with Parks Victoria.

**QUESTION:** Jim Leckey – does the club have written objectives for dredging? Before the club commits to dredging please can the objectives be shared with members. Jim commented it is important to be looking ahead to the future.

**RESPONSE:** Vice Commodore John Mooney agrees this should be the case once discussions with Parks Victoria progress further.

Jim also raised concerned for member boats in the shallow area and protruding rock in the vicinity of RBYC start line. John Mooney agreed it should be marked with a crowding buoy to allow for fair racing.

**MOVED:** John Mooney                      **SECONDED:** Jim Leckey                      **CARRIED**

**CRUISING GROUP REPORT – taken as read**

- Successful activities have been run:  
Monthly Forum dinners  
Progressive dinner was a highlight as usual

**MOVED:** Paul Jenkins                      **SECONDED:** Will Merritt                      **CARRIED**

**ICEBERGER REPORT – taken as read**

- Numbers of 138 Iceberger members across all categories of membership.
- Activity levels stable – swimming mostly in the morning
- Covid era was a bit gruelling – 8 degrees – especially without access to changing rooms and showers.
- Thanks to Doug Weir – takes the temperature every morning at 6am.
- Thank you to Ria who edits the Iceberger newsletter

**MOVED:** Kerry Watson    **SECONDED:** Peter Strain    **CARRIED**

#### **AUXILIARY REPORT – taken as read**

- The auxiliary report addressed the recommendation that the RBYC auxiliary be formally retired.
- The auxiliary was established in 1930 when the club was a male only institution. Its primary function was to raise money for junior sailing, and it provided an opportunity for women to contribute and be active in club life. The auxiliary was independent of the yacht club, had its own office bearers and bank account.
- Now we are in very different times.
  - Women are active club members
  - Junior sailing is well integrated into club core business and not dependent on fund raising.
- The auxiliary is no longer an appropriate governance structure to provide for these tasks.
- Such decisions are not taken lightly.
- We have spoken to other bay clubs about their off-water activities and governance arrangements.
- Also discussed with past as well as present auxiliary members.
- Susie has developed great admiration for the enterprise and resourcefulness of the early auxiliary membership and hope to arrange a function to commemorate the auxiliary history and achievements in the near future.
- Auxiliary functions are to be transferred to other club subcommittees as appropriate, and funds - raised on behalf of junior sailing – to be transferred to the Yachting Foundation until further determination.
- The current auxiliary membership has proposed a new group with an environmental focus more reflective of an issue of our times
- The auxiliary from September 2020 has been limited in operations due to COVID, but Susie would like to thank the current membership for their support and looks forward to the transition to a new group with an environmental focus.

**MOVED:** Susie Strain    **SECONDED:** Susan Leaper    **CARRIED**

#### **IDAG REPORT – taken as read**

Many thanks Kalpana for the handover period.

- Niesje took the report of the Inclusion and Diversity Advisory Group as read. She noted that there is a greater awareness of schools, workplaces and sporting clubs who are struggling with human rights issues including misogyny and racism. The current publicity is an opportunity for us to reinforce our shared values of respect as well as our commitment to keep staff and members safe.

**QUESTION:** Ashley Horne - does IDAG represent all club members – all membership types?

**RESPONSE:** Absolutely. All are valued and represented.

Cath Hurley wanted to commend Niesje and Kalpana on encouraging younger members to join IDAG committee. Lallie and James.

**MOVED:** Niesje Hees    **SECONDED:** Jennifer Pascoe    **CARRIED**

#### **8. Business on Notice - NIL**

#### **9. RECEIVE ANY NOTICE OF MOTION**

**Honorary Treasurer Peter Demura** - That the Club appoints Auditors for the 2020-21 financial year. BDO has been The Club's auditors for past 2 years. Current auditor and its processes were reviewed by finance committee and requires were put to tender.

Finance Subcommittee would like to recommend that BDO be replaced by Ashfords for the following reasons:

- Cost and efficiency of auditor process
- Continuity of auditor staff at the audit firm is very important

Treasurer asked that it be accepted new auditors Ashfords for the year ended June 2021.

**MOVED:** Peter Demura

**SECONDED:** Peter Strain

**CARRIED**

**Niesje Hees** – The motion at the September AGM will be to make changes to rule 49 as follows.

Current rule

49. Who is eligible to be a Committee Member

(1) No Member shall be eligible for election to the Committee unless they are and have been a Senior Member of the Club for at least three consecutive years immediately prior to nomination.

*Proposed Replacement*

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- Niesje noted the Notice of Motion sponsored on behalf of the IDAG which will be voted on in 6 months' time. This is intended to promote diversity and take greater advantage of the talent and valuable experience we have within the club.
- Under the current rules only 17 percent of members eligible for General Committee are under the age of 50 and a similar percentage are women.
- Even if we are successful in converting other classes of members to senior membership today it will be three years before any of them become eligible to sit on GC, even if they have already been club members for many years.
- There will be 6 months to consider this issue. Discussion on the matter must be respectful. We value all our members highly.

## 10. GENERAL BUSINESS

Notion of motion for AGM by Vice Commodore John Mooney

Current

Rule 12. (3) Members who fall into any of the categories set out below are entitled to full or partial remission of their requirement to pay Subscriptions.

(a) 40 and 50 year Members

A Member who has held full fee-paying Senior Membership for 40 continuous years or Membership for 50 continuous years, whichever is the sooner, shall thereafter be free of liability to pay any Subscription.

*Proposed Replacement*

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(a) 40 and 50 year Members

A Member who has held full fee-paying Senior Membership for 40 years or Membership for 50, whichever is the sooner, shall thereafter be free of liability to pay any Subscription.

**By Order of the General Committee – meeting closed 8.10PM**