



NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

May/June 2017

Attendance:

Alex Poole – President and SA Rep
Bill Kerrigan – ACT Rep
Barrie McIndoe – Tas President
Steph Sheridan – NSW President
Mike Tait – Registrar/Public Officer
Adrian Adams – Webmaster
Michael Hitchens – Secretary/Treasurer

Apologies:

Adam Cause - Measurer

Item 1: Welcome (Alex Poole)

Alex welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated Steph on her election as NSW President.

Item 2: Treasurer's report (Michael Hitchens)

The financial position to April 2017 was noted as satisfactory (Attachment A).

The membership for each State as at 16 June 2017 is ACT 7; Tasmania 15; SA 13 and NSW 26. Unless there are additional capitation fees paid, these membership numbers will determine voting rights for any proposals to change the Constitution.

The Treasurer apologise for some shortcomings on information provided to the Executive:

1. A copy of the audited financial statement for 2015/16 was provided. It is 9 months late as I 'lost' my proposed auditor. It verifies the statement I gave the committee last October. You should note that this audit has been carried out by my wife who is experienced in accounting.
2. In January I actioned an invoice from Jaba (Adrian Adams) for \$330 for hosting our website. Circumstances had changed for Adrian such that Jaba could no longer host us for free. The amount was not included in the agreed budget and I should have sought Executive Committee approval prior to payment. The meeting expressed no objections to the payment.

Item 3: Incorporation of the National Association (Mike Tait)

- (a) The Association is incorporated in NSW where a requirement is a minimum of five members. I am the Public Officer. With the demise of the Queensland association we



are down to four members which means we can no longer be incorporated unless we change something in our constitution to increase the number of members.

So, the first decision is ‘Do we want/need the Association to be incorporated?’. If the answer is ‘yes’, then we can look at ways to achieve this.

By way of history, the Association was only incorporated in 2007 following the final splitting of the accounts from the NSW association. The main reasons for incorporating at the time were:

- To allow affiliation with YA, now Australian Sailing, so as to lift the class’ profile
- To allow the Association to gain insurance if required
- To provide some protection to office bearers.

Incorporation allows the Association to act as a separate legal entity; Australian Sailing still requires incorporation; the annual cost is minimal – the annual return fee – and no additional record keeping is required for an association our size.

Incorporation is not obligatory but, in its absence, some transactions may have to be done through individuals acting for the Association.

The meeting agreed that incorporation was important and that 2 options for amendment of the Constitution be considered. Option 1 to be sponsored by NSW would include the President of the Association as the 5th member. Option 2 to be sponsored by Tasmania would provide for all members of a State association to become members of the national Association.

- (b) Additionally, the Act was also amended setting out Standard clauses for a constitution which generally support the necessary corporate governance of an association. Where an association’s constitution does not address a matter set out in the Standard, the corresponding provision in the Standard constitution will automatically apply to the association’s constitution. This may result in a provision that does not support the association’s intended operation and also ambiguity or conflict in the interpretation of the constitution. Further, it is noted that our Constitution also covers our Rules, which is not necessary under the Standard. The prescribed fees for an application to change an association’s constitution have been waived until 1 September 2017.

The meeting agreed that Mike Tait and Michael Hitchens draft amendments to the Constitution covering Options 1 and 2, and the consequential amendments necessary to meet the Standard clauses of the NSW Act. NSW and Tasmania would review the drafts and recommend to the President that a vote take place under the Constitution. The drafts were forwarded to NSW and Tasmania on 3rd June.



Item 4: Measurement Issues (Adam Cause)

A number of measurement issues have been raised for consideration

- (a) There is some concern about consistency of measurement of the mast band height; the swapping of masts between boats without re-measurement; the recording of measurement on the masts; and the use of large washers on mast steps that may not have been included in measurement. For discussion and decision on a way forward.
- (b) The collection of measurement forms in Dropbox remains a work in progress. Of particular concern are the number of boats built in the last 5 years that still do not have a measurement form in Dropbox. While there are also many sails not on Dropbox, this is of lesser concern as sails measurements are recorded on the sails.
- (c) While each State has registered measurers, NSW also has club measurers not listed on the website. It would be helpful to record the NSW Club Measurers in the contact list on the website.

In Adam's absence, this item will be scheduled for a future meeting.

Item 5: Webmaster issues (Adrian Adams)

Google Analytics of the past 12 months on the NS14 website show the most popular sections of the site apart from the home page are:

1. Forum
2. Class Information (mainly to download the Boat Register PDF)
3. Australia / National page
4. NSW
5. Tasmania
6. ACT
7. SA

Summary stats include

Website = 7,804 users

Forum = 930 registered members

YouTube = 553 Subscribers

The YouTube Channel is increasing in traffic with the Training Videos attracting the most views. The website and forum have declining numbers overall ... although some sections of the website have actually increased from the previous 12 months, these are the Class Information page and the National page.

I do not manage the Facebook page but it appears to have 461 followers.

I do have a number of issues regarding the website but would prefer to discuss these in a separate meeting, specifically about the NS14's digital marketing strategy that includes the website, Facebook, YouTube and other social media integration ... we definitely could be doing this better



Alex Poole
National President
NS14 Association of Australia

Item 6: National Championships in SA Progress (Alex Poole)

See the NS14 website for details.

Item 7: 50th National Championships in NSW Progress (Steph Sheridan)

We requested feedback from members during the recent NSW State Titles. The below was identified as key areas that would make a perfect location in conjunction with the discussion from last years National Committee:

- Accommodation - Ensuring that there were plenty of options at a reasonable price.
- Location - Close enough to Sydney in order to visit the city on a day trip, however not at the expense of the above.
- Budget - This remains one of the highest concerns.

Based on the below feedback we have identified the below clubs which we will be approaching in the near future:

- Lake Illawara (South) - Due to the success of events being held here in the past, this is a popular option with one of our most successful events. We believe it will best suite the identified needs above.
- Georges River (Sydney) - This has been a popular location in the past however a lack of current NS14 sailors at this club is not ideal.
- Mannering Park (North) - This has been a popular location in the past and continue to support the class.

Currently the preferred option is Lake Illawara region as our Southern clubs continue to grow, and geographically makes sense for our other State visitors. We are mindful that currently the majority of clubs are closed inclusive of their committees so will start contacting clubs to determine their interest in the next few weeks.

We have also identified that we would like to put a focus on the youth and determine how we can encourage this sector of the class. Discussions are in hand on how we could go about this, with a few things in the works.

I hope this has provided a sufficient update, and hopefully next time this question comes around I will have a stronger response. This remains our priority as we are anxious to finalise this and get it out to members ASAP.

Item 8: Other business

Nil.

Alex Poole
President
June 2017



Alex Poole
National President
NS14 Association of Australia

Attachment A

Australian NS14 Association

Profit and Loss

1 September 2016 to APRIL 2017

Income

NSW Capitation Fees	\$520.00	
ACT Capitation Fees	\$140.00	
South Australia Capitation Fees	\$260.00	
Tasmania Capitation Fees	\$300.00	
Investment Account Interest	\$136.19	
Queensland Association Gift	\$2,678.95	
Total Income		\$4,035.14

Expenses

Website hosting fee	\$300.00	
Yachting Australia Membership	\$70.00	
Total Expenses		\$370.00

Net Profit (Loss)

\$3,665.14

Balance Sheet

1 September 2016 to APRIL 2017

Asset

Cheque Account	\$1,074.49	
Investment Account	\$11,125.86	
Queensland Association Account	\$2,678.95	
Total Assets		\$14,879.30

Liabilities

\$0.00

Net Assets

\$14,879.30

Equity

Opening Equity 1/9/2016	\$11,214.16	
Retained Earnings	\$3,665.14	
Total Equity		\$14,879.30