



DRAGON BOAT AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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Canberra Dragon Boat Association (DRAGON BOAT ACT)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: Sunday 7th August 2022

Time: 11:00

Venue: Girl Guide Hall ,16 Newman Street, Yarralumla ACT

1. Attendance and apologies

Present: Donald Jenkin, Griffins, Nikki White, Invictus, Cath Croatto Invictus, Xenii Newman-Kell, Frances Heaney Diamond Phoenix, Chris Lemon, Dragon Flyers, Julie Chenoweth, DAC, Narelle Shields, Griffins, Gillian Styles, Dragon Flyers, Joe Murphy, Griffins, Kerry Foley, Diamond Phoenix, Heather Walsh, Invictus, Sarah Whiley, Invictus, Kevin Anderson, Invictus, Kevin Shipp, Invictus, Hugh Chalmers Dragon Flyers, Mark Webster, Navmat, Chris Mills, Komodo, Michelle Rickets, Komodo, Kim Toussaint, Komodo, Robyn Woollcott, Komodo (arrived late).

Apologies: Nick Sifniotis, treasurer, Sue Pidgeon, Katie Whitehead, Jenny Usher

2. Acceptance of minutes of Annual General Meeting 7th August 2021- accepted by a show of hands.

3. Presentation of annual Reports

a. President

i. Attached

- ii. The president read out his report, expanding some areas. He gave thanks to each current member of the committee. A member of the committee gave thanks to the president for smoothing the waters over many rough area throughout the years.

b. Treasurer

- i. The financials were sent via email to club reps and committee prior to the meeting
- ii. Available On One drive

- iii. In summary – membership fee should not change - \$260 sports and \$150 student plus building fee of \$10.00 and \$5.00 respectfully
 - c. Membership
 - i. Attached
 - ii. The president gave a brief recap on the membership report
 - d. Marketing report attached
- 4. Determination of the annual membership fees for 2022-2023
 - a. The president called for discussion of setting the membership fees.
 - i. One member supported the suggestion that the membership should remain the same highlighting the following reasons:
 - 1. To encourage membership to grow
 - 2. Many people in Canberra are struggling at the moment and
 - 3. If the depreciation of the temporary facility is removed from the loss, the loss is reduced.
 - b. The president put forward a motion that the membership fee for 2022-2023 as:
 - i. \$260.00 for a sports membership plus \$10.00 building fee
 - ii. \$150.00 for a student membership plus \$5.00 building fee

Motion carried unanimously by a show of hands.
- 5. Election of Executive Committee
 - a. All committee positions were declared vacant.
 - b. The number of nominations equaled that required for the committee. Two committee members did not nominate this year.
 - c. President called for any objections.
 - d. No objections were raised
 - e. The new committee:
 - Donald Jenkin – President
 - Nikki White – Vice President
 - Nick Sifniotis – Treasurer
 - Chris Lemon – Secretary
 - General Members
 - Kevin Anderson
 - Cath Croatto
 - Frances Heaney
 - Xenii Newman-Kell
 - Kim Toussaint
 - Robyn Woollcott

There was discussion over the marketing role not being allocated to a committee member. The president explained that the various marketing thread will be spread amongst the appropriate committee members – development, membership and events. A member suggested that the focus should be on new members and that the importance of marketing should not be underestimated. The President stated that he

hopes a subcommittee can be formed giving a chance for a member from each club to be involved. Increasing membership is a high priority along with the building.

A member suggested that with the many subcommittees and ex-officio positions that are now in operation, a flow chart or table should be made available, so all members know who which member and clubs are involved and who to go to for information. The president said the new committee will discuss this at the next meeting.

Meeting closed 1140

Date of Next AGM (Sunday 6th August 2023)

President's Report AGM 7 August 2022

Dear Members,

We are a wonderful group of people who engage in Dragon Boating in many different ways: competing, social, cultural, contribution to society and a variety of others and combinations.

Regattas we ran 6 of 8 planned regattas between October and March plus both days for ACT Championships in March (a first in a while due to good weather).

Aus Champs in Adelaide, SA in April was brilliant. Fantastic results from ACT clubs and the ACT state team. All DBACT teams who attended set new performance baselines and put ACT firmly on the map against bigger states. Wonderful supportive atmosphere across all our teams. ACT often had many boats in the finals and example (picture) 4 teams out of 8 lining up for the 200 m Womens Premiers Grand Final: Komodo, Invictus, Griffins & Hydra. Thank you also to the DBACT Officials who give generously of their time and experience Gillian Styles, Sue Pidgeon, Deb Whitfield, Heather Walsh, Lynnette Flanagan and Susan Pitt. ... and to Gillian our Flag Bearer.

Focus DBACT areas:

1. Sub-committees and volunteers
2. Calling out poor behaviours
3. Mentoring

Thank you to the clubs and DBACT committees, sub-committees and groups of volunteers who give their time to make our sport run smoothly. DBACT sub-committees: Building, Events, Equipment, Recruitment and Membership.

Behaviour. Significant positives and please call out bad behaviour, we accept the behaviour we walk past.

Mentoring/ EOI selection for AusDBF and Ex-Officio roles. Keen for certain people who are starting think about stepping away to relinquish their role and become a mentor. AusDBF Committees, Commission and Working Groups (see their web page) and we have 11 people supporting this including two current gaps D&I and Historical WG.

Building. On the positive we secured ACT Government funding. One disappointment, NCA have done another review and this has driven a design change to the roof. We continue to negotiate and once approved we will get quotes for the work. The result of this delay means unlikely we will start building work proper this calendar year.

Committee

Robyn Woollcott VP – AusDBF, equipment, events, many things she just does. Life Member.

Chris Lemon Secretary – Minutes, bookings, hold people to account w dates

Nick Sifniotis Treasurer – all things treasurer

Xenii Newham-Kell Events – All regattas, other events, NCA processes a big key job.

Cath Croatto Safety – processes, pragmatism, ability to defend our position.

Nikki White Development – Training sweeps, coaches, First Aid. Also drive ACT Team and nomination processes. Social media and support running the DBACT.

Frances Heaney Corporate – several events

Katie Whitehead Marketing (for several years and not nominating for next year) – strategy, running dragon boat component to various public events: Floriade, Multi-cultural, Chinese New Year etc.

Sue Pidgeon Membership – (for several years and not nominating for next year) – ROMP/ senior official, Membership, RevSport, Grants, AusDBF, Building and always willing to help other/ generous with her time. Sue will Mentor and support. Life Member.

Next year's calendar is published on the DBACT website under events. The Regattas and the DA Regatta are now fixed. We anticipate the odd change to some of the external events and watch respective organisations if you plan to attend these. DBACT will circulate any news to club reps.

Thank you all for your significant generosity to our sport and for helping me. Looking forward to paddling next year. Thank you.

Donald Jenkin

7 August 2022.

DRAGON BOAT ACT
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022
MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership

The number of financial members as at 30 June was 493 plus 54 non-paddling members (supporters, officials, teachers etc). This compares with 639 financial members at the same time last year, plus 31 non-paddling members.

The loss of 23% of financial members can largely be attributed to covid-19 and particularly the ACT lockdown from mid-August to mid-October 2021. Of the 146 reduction in membership numbers, 65 (45.5%) expired during the lockdown and did not renew later. A significant number of student members were lost when Saints did not participate in 2021-22 as a result of the covid-19 outbreak. While one member moved to another club, most did not renew or had their memberships suspended until the 2022-23 season. Grammar was also unable to participate for the first half of the season and lost many members – Grammar's membership diminished from around 60 during the 2020-21 season to 22 in the 2021-22 season.

The lock-down and subsequent restrictions also prevented the clubs and DBACT from running Come-and-Try days and other recruitment activities that normally take place at that time of the year. Events such as Come-and-Try days are important in attracting new members to help balance the number who decide not to renew.

Dragon Pass

One positive innovation in late 2021 was the introduction of Dragon Pass by the Australian Dragon Boat Federation (AusDBF). It provided new paddlers with one month's free dragon boating with any club, with online registration. This compares with the previous, paper-based, temporary membership which only allowed three sessions before a person had to become financial. One drawback

was that the eligibility criteria initially allowed by AusDBF was narrower than the DBACT temporary membership policy. A general meeting of DBACT clubs in October 2021 decided to adopt Dragon Pass while maintaining our temporary membership form for those who did not meet the AusDBF criteria for Dragon Pass. To avoid confusion, the meeting also agreed that those signed-up using the paper form would have the same benefits as Dragon Pass members – unlimited free sessions for a month. Shortly afterwards, AusDBF indicated that State bodies such as DBACT could set local conditions for Dragon Pass, which means that all temporary members can now be signed up to Dragon Pass.

As winter approached this year, with the usual increase in cancellations due to adverse weather, it became evident that one month's free sessions may not provide much opportunity get on the water. For this reason, DBACT created Winter Dragon Pass which provides free participation in training sessions for new members throughout June, July and August.

Hopefully the lockdowns and restrictions which undermined recruitment efforts in 2021-2022 will not recur in the coming year and DBACT can start rebuilding its membership. Dragon Pass will be a useful tool in those efforts.

Sue Pidgeon
DBACT Membership officer

7 August 2022

Marketing Report – August 2021-August 2022

COVID certainly impacted on our ability to organise marketing events over the last twelve months, but not for lack of trying!

Soon after the AGM in 2021 we were directed into lockdown by the ACT government. This lockdown was stricter than the previous lockdown of 2020 and lasted much longer. As we started to crawl out from underneath the rock in October, in no time at all the Omicron Christmas edition let loose.

This meant that marketing activities earmarked over the warmer months did not occur, including a ‘come and try’ event to mark the start of regatta season, participation in Australia Day and Multicultural Festival activities – even the Lion Dance Troupe performing at the ACT Champs to hail in the announcement of the Dragon Boat Headquarters construction to begin! All were impacted by COVID.

In spite of this, we did manage to participate in a few activities.

Thank you to all who answered the call and supported the DBACT marketing events throughout the year. As always, your volunteering is not taken for granted and is greatly appreciated.

Canberra Day Balloon Spectacular

Forty-eight paddlers got up early to join in the Balloon Spectacular. None were disappointed with the experience.

The crowd onshore was equally spectacular and a small number of dedicated dragon boaters walked the shoreline to hand out Dragon Pass cards and encourage them to jump in a boat – one month for free!

Canberra Day Festival – Regatta Point

Later that day Dragon Boat ACT was part of the Canberra Day Festival official program, where we formally launched Dragon Pass to the Canberra community. On Stage 88 were representatives from our AusChamps ACT team – Tom Wicks, Head Coach, and Michelle Firth, Assistant Coach. They were joined by our AusChamps 2022 Flagbearer, Gillian Styles, all of whom were interviewed by Betsy Dixon.

A procession from Stage 88 down to the waters’ edge followed where festival goers were invited to go along, ably encouraged with a lively performance by Prosperous Mountain Dragon & Lion Dance Association. At the waters’ edge twenty paddlers gave an exhibition paddle in the beautiful autumn sunshine.

Chinese Dragon Boat Festival

On a chilly June day, two spirited boats of keen paddlers entertained the crowds at the Dragon Boat Festival, Yacht Club Yarralumla. The weather was not as welcoming as the inaugural festival held last year, but those who braved the weather loved the exhibition and the display

boat onshore was a hit with festival goers – young and old. We featured on the ABC evening news, where Dragon Boaters were referred to as ‘smoke on the water’. A special thank you to former President, John Corcoran, who acted as lead liaison with the festival organisers.