

# Minutes of Yachting New Zealand's Annual General Meeting Held at the Richmond Yacht Club 10.00am on Saturday 14th October 2017

Present: as per the meeting register.

## 1.0 Welcome

The Chair of the Board Greg Knowles welcomed everyone to the meeting. Greg thanked the Richmond Yacht Club for hosting the meeting.

## 2.0 Apologies

Michelle Bain, **Torbay Sailing Club**

Tony McAlwee, **Richmond Yacht Club**

### Life Members

- Jim Park
- Joe Butterfield MNZM
- Jan Dawson
- Martin Foster
- Richard Brabant

### Personal Members

- Des Brennan
- Brian Smith
- Peter Hay

### Other Members

- International Order of the Blue Gavel

*Greg Knowles/Sarah Meikle  
Carried*

## 3.0 Obituaries

The passing of the following friends of yachting were noted and a minute silence observed:

- **Graeme Hardy**, YNZ Personal Member (Sept 2016)
- **Fiona Balch**, Otago & Vauxhall Yacht Clubs (November 2016)
- **Les Rogerson**, Southland Yachting Association and Wakatipu Yacht Club (January 2017)
- **Derek Preece**, Mercury Bay Boating Club and YNZ Safety Inspector (April 2017)
- **Tony Beckett**, Tamaki Yacht Club and YNZ Personal Member (April 2017)
- **Digby Taylor**, Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race Skipper (May 2017)
- **Bob Thomson**, Napier Sailing Club, YNZ Personal Member (July 2017)

## 4.0 Confirmation of Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting (15<sup>th</sup> October 2016)

**Moved** that the minutes are a true and correct record.

*John Cobb/Chris Webb  
Carried*

## 5.0 Reports

**Moved** that the reports be accepted as tabled.

*Tom Filer/Joan Livingston  
Carried*

### 5.1 Chairman's Report

Greg reported the past 12 months have been an immensely rewarding time to be involved in yachting and boating in New Zealand and the future looks equally exciting.

He highlighted some of the events that have taken place including the Aon Youth Sailing World Championship and 2017 World Masters Games, hosted by Torbay Boating Club. Greg noted that international regattas are central to the competitive side of our sport and the help maintain New Zealand's place as a top yachting nation.

Greg spoke to the renewed strategic plan and that it reaffirms that clubs are the first priority for Yachting New Zealand. The vision of helping New Zealanders access, enjoy and succeed on the water for life is still at the heart of the plan. There are a number of clear actions to deliver over the next four years. Greg is confident clubs will appreciate the direction the organisation is heading in.

Greg commented that as with most national sporting organisations, money is reasonably tight but through prudent management over a number of years, Yachting New Zealand is in a sound financial position.

Greg acknowledged two departures from the Board; Ray Hasler who retired as Yachting New Zealand president during the year, and Irene Hayward who is stepping down. Greg thanked them for the valuable contribution they made to the Board.

Greg thanked Terry Nicholas, outgoing chair of the Olympic committee, and Jez Fanstone who retired as high performance director after eight years.

Greg also thanked Sport New Zealand and High Performance Sport New Zealand for their support.

Lastly Greg thanked David and the team at Yachting New Zealand for their efforts.

### 5.2 CEO's Report

David noted that there was much to celebrate over the past twelve months including four Olympic medals, the Red Bull Youth Americas Cup, the Americas Cup, the Aon Youth Sailing World Championships and World Masters Games.

David highlighted the positive impact events have on the sport, they help increase volunteer numbers, provide visibility for the sport, demonstrate our capability for future events and enable us to inject a small amount of revenue back into members services.

Many people and organisations provided an amazing level of support for these events and to Yachting New Zealand from HPSNZ, Sport New Zealand, Major Events, ATEED, parents, sailors, volunteers, sponsors providing value in kind Nick Page, Harold Bennet, and many more.

David thanked Yachting New Zealand partners and sponsors: Aon, Sport New Zealand, HPSNZ, Volvo, Zhik, Oceanbridge, NZL Sailing Foundation, Maersk, Lawsons Dry Hills and the Halberg Disability Foundation.

David thanked clubs who responded to the RSO survey. Yachting New Zealand values the program hugely and want to be able to understand clubs needs and how we can best support them with the resources we have. David recognised the contribution on NZCT and Foundation North to the programme.

The Sailing Have a Go! programme has been an ongoing success and with the support from Volvo, Lion Foundation and Zhik.

David highlighted the importance of clubs in the structure of the sport and commented on the negative impact other sports experienced when they stopped a club approach. The sport is stronger by spreading the costs of affiliation across a wider base. David noted he understood the issues most clubs have in resourcing and funding and that Yachting New Zealand is no different. He noted his appreciation for the support and help Yachting New Zealand receives from clubs who work with the organisation.

David also noted that Yachting New Zealand is more fortunate than many NSO's in being able to share operating costs with the High-Performance program which greatly reduces the cost of running member services.

David highlighted the importance in understanding how many people we have participating in all clubs and how knowing that, helps attract more funding to the sport from the likes of Sport New Zealand and trusts, enabling Yachting New Zealand to better support the sport. Almost 100% of clubs are now sharing at least names with Yachting New Zealand as part of the affiliation system.

All clubs should now have a mechanism in place on their membership forms that enables them to share member details with Yachting New Zealand. Yachting New Zealand can provide advice to clubs on this issue.

Lastly David thanked the Board, Greg Knowles and Yachting New Zealand staff and commented he was fortunate to have such a talented, capable and committed group to govern and administer our sport.

### **5.3 Treasurers Report**

Jenny de Lisle spoke to the accounts in the annual report.

Jenny referred to the income statement for Yachting New Zealand and highlighted that the statement was split into three different areas. Jenny noted that the member services area was in deficit. Income from clubs was circa \$466,000.

She noted that Yachting New Zealand was feeling the effect of a reduction in trust funding, which was putting pressure on the finances.

Jenny reminded clubs that the finances of the high performance programme were independent of the club area.

## **6.0 Annual Accounts**

### **6.1 Appointment of the Auditor – HLB Mann Judd, Chartered Accountants**

**Moved** that HLB Mann Judd be appointed as auditor.

*Bob Blakey/Grant Cooze  
Carried*

## **7.0 Board Directors**

### **7.1 Election of President**

Greg Knowles was the only nomination to this position and was deemed elected to the position of President.

### **7.2 Ratification of selected Board Directors**

Clubs were asked to vote to ratify John Cobb's, Steve Reindler's and Murray Brown's appointment to the Board of Directors.

All three appointments were ratified.

### **7.3 Election of Board Directors**

Greg noted that Yachting New Zealand requires at least two directors to be from outside of Auckland, meaning that one of the positions available must go to one of the nominees outside of Auckland.

Each of the nominees that were present addressed the meeting.

The successful nominees were Viki Moore and Sarah Meikle.

Ian Clouston and Dianne Logan were appointed scrutineers.

## **8.0 Motions**

Greg Knowles informed the meeting that Yachting New Zealand has sought constitutional advice on the motions, which was as follows:

- 1 The Waikawa Resolution should be decided on a simple majority (i.e. a 50% threshold).
- 2 If adopted by the members, changes will be required to the Yachting New Zealand Constitution and the Board is obliged to go away and consider what changes (if any) should be made.
- 3 If changes to the constitution are recommended by the Board, these will need to be brought back to a subsequent SGM or AGM, to be decided by a special majority (i.e. a 66% threshold).
- 4 If there are to be changes to the Levy system, this will need to be done in an orderly way with sufficient lead time to plan for the outcome. For instance – Yachting New Zealand will need to consult with the clubs and understand the extent to which affiliation fee revenue will be affected, we may then need to

adjust the levy rate and we need to give notice to our clubs. This is a zero sum game from a Yachting New Zealand perspective and as a collective group, our member clubs will be no better off. Alternatively, if clubs are saying they want to cut our funding, we will need to cut member services to our clubs.

- 5 If changes to the constitution are not recommended by the Board, any member club could try and force the issue, by calling an SGM.
- 6 If member clubs are amending their constitutions, these need to be reviewed by the Yachting New Zealand Board and we need to decide on a case by case basis whether we will allow clubs to remain affiliated.

Greg read the motions to the meeting and the invited Chris Webb from Waikawa to speak to them.

Chris noted that 10-15% of the club's membership was racing and that the club didn't see the value Yachting New Zealand provides across their whole membership. The club would also like to see more publicity around the advocacy work that Yachting New Zealand does. As members with no interest in sailing or boating, the club wished to see the levy not applied to social members. Chris also spoke to the fact that many of the Waikawa members also had memberships with other clubs and that those members should not have to contribute to Yachting New Zealand multiple times.

Milton Bloomfield from Naval Point Club Lyttleton suggested that the Yachting New Zealand constitution should identify the groups that should be levied and not create groups that should be exempted. He noted many clubs are becoming more diverse in membership type.

Mark Rundle from Mount Maunganui Yacht Club addressed the meeting. He commented that his club supported motion 3 and would like to see discussion regarding social members (motions 1 and 2). He noted the way his club was set up was unique.

Hal Wagstaff commented that as a long term participant and administrator in the sport that he feels clubs were built on the back of sailing and boating members and that a member of a club is a member no matter what they do and that no group should be exempt.

Ian Cooke from the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron commented that their club had debated the issue at length. The club has a view that the reason clubs exist is due to the efforts of the sailing and boating members, however the club chose to abstain from voting as not to impact the vote of smaller clubs.

Panmure Lagoon Sailing Club commented that they avoided having any social members so as not to incur fees on them.

John Faire commented that boating needs a strong national voice, which if diluted will not serve the wider boating community. He highlighted the threat of compulsory registration, which Yachting New Zealand advocates against.

Greg Knowles responded to the motions.

Greg referred to the letter from the Board that was distributed along with the motions. He noted that the system had been through an extensive consultation process to arrive at the current system – the philosophy being low rate over a broad membership base.

Under the previous (SEM) regime the fee was \$40.36 plus GST.

From a Yachting New Zealand perspective, it needs to raise around \$460k per annum and needs to spread that fairly across the membership base.

The affiliation fee is a Levy on the Club referenced to the number of members of each club. The purpose is to ensure a progressive system so that the largest club RNZYS has the largest Levy and the smallest club Riverton has the smallest.

Yachting New Zealand is not in fact levying the individual members of the clubs. The clubs are the members and have the choice of remaining affiliated or not.

To motion 3, Greg commented on the difficulty of returning the levy and identifying which was the primary club, and if any money was returned would the club pass it back, or should individuals receive the money directly and noted that it is still the club and not the individual that is a member of Yachting New Zealand.

Greg commented that Yachting New Zealand provides value to all club members and that initiatives such as the member card help improve communication channels and better allows Yachting New Zealand to promote the related offerings and ongoing activities.

Lastly Greg commented that the level of income has remained static for the past five years as has the costs of providing services to members.

The clubs then voted on the three motions.

Motion 1 – **Lost**

Motion 2 – **Lost**

Motion 3 – **Passed**

## **9.0 2018-2019 Affiliation Fees**

**Moved** that the Affiliation Fees for 2018-2019 will be as follows:

Club Affiliation Fee - for the 2018/19 \$22 plus GST for every club individual person  
- for the 2018/19 \$44 plus GST for two members in a family and \$55 plus GST for three or more members in a family.

Other Affiliation Fees

Class Association Fee - \$117.39 plus GST

Non Commercial Maritime Fee - \$117.39 plus GST

Commercial Maritime Fee - \$252.17 plus GST

Individual Member Fee - \$60 plus GST

*Ian Cooke/Viki Moore  
Carried*

## **10.00 General Business**

Gay Noyer from Sandspit Yacht Club asked to have clarification on whether clubs need to belong to their regional association.

David responded that due to some areas not having a regional association it was difficult for Yachting New Zealand to fairly enforce this. David commented that this item in the Constitution may need to be reviewed.

Hal Wagstaff raised that he would like to see the Sanders Cup awarded regularly and that giving it out at a regional or interdominion championship for Olympic classes would be appropriate. He suggested the 49er class. Currently the trophy is at the Bay of Islands Yacht club and was last awarded in 2015 for the Javelin class.

*Meeting closed at 11.57am*