

# **DRAFT Minutes of Yachting New Zealand's Annual General Meeting**

## **Held at the Worser Bay Boating Club**

**10am on Saturday, October 10, 2020**

**Present:** Anders Jagvik, Alan Webb, Sarah Morgan, Pedro Morgan, Ruth Fletcher, Max Myers, John Butcher, Adam Yates, Jason Morgan, Andrew Aitken, Pedro Morgan, Melanie Parkin, Jamie McDowell, Todd Olson, Don Christie, Greg Knowles, Jenny de Lisle, Ross Blackman, Murray Brown, Bridget Winstone-Kight, Arabella Brawn, Viki Moore, Sarah Meikle, David Abercrombie, Dianne Logan, Beth Orton, Raynor Haagh, Michael Brown

### **1.0 Welcome**

Worser Bay Boating Club commodore Melanie Parkin welcomed the board, Yachting New Zealand staff and assembled guests on behalf of the club and Wellington region.

Yachting New Zealand chairman Greg Knowles welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Worser Bay Boating Club for hosting the meeting.

### **2.0 Apologies**

#### **Clubs**

Evans Bay Yacht & Motor Boat Club  
Manukau Yacht and Motor Boat Club  
Mt Pleasant Yacht Club  
Otago Yacht Club  
Wakatere Boating Club  
Weiti Boating Club

#### **Life Members**

Joe Butterfield  
Neville Crichton  
Jan Dawson  
John Faire  
Adrienne Greenwood  
Barbara Kendall  
Ralph Roberts  
Janet Watkins

#### **Personal Members**

Des Brennan  
Ian Cook  
Jerry Payne  
Brian Smith

### **3.0 Obituaries**

The passing of the following friends of yachting were noted and one minute's silence observed:

- Michael Churchouse, former Yachting New Zealand employee and safety inspector, Sept 8, 2020

- Colleen Bassett, Whangarei Cruising Club member, July 13, 2020
- Jim Young, Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron member, June 18, 2020
- Dennis Win, Nelson Yacht Club patron, January 8, 2020
- Stuart Pedersen, Tauranga Yacht & Power Boat Club and Bay of Plenty Sailing Academy Trust, October 14, 2020

#### **4.0 Confirmation of Minutes of the 2019 annual general meeting (October 12, 2019)**

It was proposed that the 2019 minutes be accepted subject to them being updated and circulated to reflect the changes to the constitution pertaining to Yachting New Zealand's responsibilities around anti-doping.

Ruth Fletcher / Andrew Aitken  
Carried

#### **5.0 Reports**

It was moved that the reports be accepted as tabled.

Andrew Aitken / Jason Morgan  
Carried

##### **5.1 Chairman's report**

Greg thanked everyone for making the effort to attend.

He talked about Yachting New Zealand's origins as the New Zealand Yachting Federation in 1954 and the fairly singular focus of New Zealand attending the Olympic Games. Today the national body has a broader purpose, through member clubs and class associations to help Kiwis "access, enjoy and succeed on the water for life". This can be done by working together and Yachting New Zealand seek feedback from clubs through a variety of means. Greg explained that the board and management spent considerable time on the previous day reviewing the YNZ strategy, and that this would be shared over the coming months to ensure it was on the right track.

Yachting New Zealand is in a sound financial position thanks to the support of clubs, class associations, commercial sponsors, community trusts and Sport New Zealand.

Greg commended the Worsler Bay Boating Club, Queen Charlotte Yacht Club and Pleasant Point Yacht Club for the recent completion of their club rebuilds and also congratulated the Royal Akarana Yacht Club for the opening of the Hyundai Marine Sport Centre which has proven to be an international facility on a grand scale and hosted last year's Hyundai 49er, 49erFX and Nacra 17 world championships. These facilities will benefit the sport and wider communities and there is a lot we can do with the wider environment and community.

The Hyundai 49er, 49erFX and Nacra 17 world championships were a tremendous success and were a credit to everyone involved, particularly local organising committee chair Anatole Masfen, event director Peter Dawson and regatta secretary Jude Eades. The event was one of a number which was recognised by the Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta programme for their environmental efforts.

The curtailment of international regattas has been disrupted but has also created new opportunities for New Zealand-based activities and has highlighted the connections provided by our member yachting and boating clubs to their communities, which are more important now than ever.

Greg indicated he was stepping down as Yachting New Zealand president and chairman and took the opportunity to acknowledge the significant personal contributions of board members. He particularly thanked Steve Reindler and Angus Haslett, who were retiring from the board after six and five years respectively, and made a special mention of Dianne Logan who is retiring from YNZ after 21 years of service.

With Ross Blackman taking over as board chair and John Butcher joining as an elected director, the governance of Yachting New Zealand continued to be in very good hands. Greg thanked the entire team at Yachting New Zealand led by David Abercrombie, Raynor Haagh and Ian Stewart and acknowledged their ongoing dedication and commitment.

Greg concluded by talking about the committees, managers, volunteers, parents and coaches who help ensure clubs and class associations deliver fantastic events and experiences. He wished them every success and said Yachting New Zealand would continue to assist them in providing great outcomes for those involved and the environment.

## **5.2 CEO's report**

David welcomed clubs and thanked them for attending the meeting and acknowledged former Yachting New Zealand chairman Jamie McDowell who was in attendance.

He said 2020 had started really well and congratulated those clubs who had completed major rebuilds. Things had changed considerably throughout the year, largely due to Covid-19, and reminded clubs that Yachting New Zealand was there to support them. The wellbeing of sailors was as important now as ever, especially with many not being able to travel to international events. David pointed out the importance of events to stimulate growth, particularly in the youth and Olympic classes, and acknowledged the Yachting New Zealand staff who were presently running the NZL Sailing Foundation Youth Championships alongside the Manly Sailing Club. Volunteers play a huge role in the successful delivery of events, especially when those involved in race management were some of the best in the world.

New Zealand sailors had still achieved some fantastic results in the last 12 months, despite the paucity of events, most notably the two 49er world titles won by Peter Burling and Blair Tuke and Josh Junior's achievement to become the first New Zealander to win the Finn Gold Cup.

Sport New Zealand's support to clubs during Covid-19 has been greatly appreciated and initiatives like the resilience fund demonstrated the value of being affiliated to a national sports organisation. Many yachting and boating clubs around the country had benefitted tremendously from this fund.

Yachting New Zealand had needed to tighten up financially because of the challenges brought by Covid-19 but David pointed out some savings had been made because of the postponement of the Tokyo Olympic Games. Some of that money had been redirected to other parts of the

organisation and lockdowns had accelerated some other programmes, like the online learning platform Embark. This would provide real value for some years to come.

The webinars held during lockdown and online Club Conference had proved very successful and was a great opportunity to share ideas and understand different challenges. This is something Yachting New Zealand will continue in future.

David acknowledged the great team at Yachting New Zealand and talked about the progress being made in implementing the Women and Girls in Sailing strategy.

There will be a number of challenges for clubs over the next 12 months, not least of all business diversity and mixed membership models. The level of funding available from Class Four Gaming is also diminishing and not likely to return to pre-Covid levels.

David acknowledged Sport New Zealand chief executive Peter Miskimmin, who was retiring after 12 years in the role, and wished him well for the future. The most significant funding from government ever had been secured under Peter's sound leadership.

David paid special tribute to Dianne Logan, who was leaving after 21 years as Yachting New Zealand accounts and HR manager. She had provided amazing support and been a good friend of David and the rest of the team and is someone who will be greatly missed.

David also farewelled Greg Knowles and didn't know how he could thank Greg enough for his contribution as a board member, chairman and president as well as his friendship. David thought Greg had assembled the best board of any national sports organisation under his leadership. Ross Blackman will bring a different perspective and David looked forward to working with him.

## **6.0 Annual Accounts**

Audit and risk committee chair Jenny de Lisle talked about the accounts in the 2019/20 annual report.

She commented on the line on advocacy (\$38,000) which was spent on external services but didn't account for the time spent by Yachting New Zealand staff on advocacy issues.

Jenny also discussed a question that had been raised at last year's AGM pertaining to the rotation of external auditors. HLB Mann Judd had been Yachting New Zealand's auditor for many years and had done a very good job. The audit and risk committee had consulted the constitution and auditor experts and it was deemed unnecessary to change auditors. In particular, there is no auditor rotation requirement for not for profit bodies and HLB Mann Judd has confirmed that their annual audit work is subject to second partner review which provides independent oversight.

Jenny thanked retiring board member Steve Reindler for his contribution to the audit and risk committee and the risk register framework and to Dianne Logan for the quality of her work.

It was proposed that the accounts be received as tabled and that HLB Mann Judd be appointed as auditors for the coming year

John Butcher / Adam Yates  
Carried

## **7.0 Board Directors**

7.1 Election of president

7.1 Election of new board members

The nominees being unopposed, it was proposed that Viki Moore, Sarah Meikle and John Butcher be elected as board members and Ross Blackman elected as President.

Andrew Aitken / Adam Yates  
Carried

Ross Blackman addressed the meeting as new President, saying this was an opportunity for him to give back to a sport that had given him so much. He acknowledged Greg's contribution and said he had big shoes to fill (literally). Ross had been involved with Team New Zealand since 1988, starting as a sailmaker and ending as chief executive. He had also sailed thousands of miles around the world and will soon start a figure-eight journey around New Zealand when he intends visiting a number of yacht clubs around the country.

Ross looked forward to working with the new board and making good decisions for the benefit of the sport. He thanked everyone for the opportunity and said he was always available.

## **8.0 Affiliation fee**

There was some discussion around the annual affiliation fee.

Ruth Fletcher (Heretaunga Boating Club) asked the board to consider reducing the fee for associate members. David Abercrombie said this was on their radar and would be discussed by the board as part of the strategy refresh.

Adam Yates (Mt Maunganui Yacht Club) wanted clarification around multiple memberships and having to pay two affiliation fees.

David explained the purpose of asking for club membership numbers is to fairly and proportionally establish the fee that clubs pay as affiliation to Yachting New Zealand. That said, it's very difficult to understand who belongs to multiple clubs because many clubs were reluctant to share membership information. Once that information was available, individual members could indicate what club they identified with and apply for a refund. Because the club is the member of Yachting New Zealand, not the individual, it was the club's responsibility to pass on that information. David said slow progress was being made and appreciated the efforts of those clubs that had provided information. Greg added that in 2017, a proposal to refund members of multiple clubs was passed but reiterated that the membership data is incomplete.

Greg said the affiliation fee had for a long period of time contributed about \$450,000-\$500,000 of the \$1.5 million Yachting New Zealand needed to run the member services. Given a decline in Community Trust funding, at last year's AGM, it was proposed the fee be increased slightly to

help fund the regional support officers, and this was passed. Most clubs valued highly the contributions made by the four RSOs. Greg emphasised that the last thing Yachting New Zealand wanted to do was increase the affiliation fee, particularly in the current environment.

It was moved that the affiliation fee remain the same for 2021/22.

John Butcher / Max Myers

Carried

## 9.0 General Business

Don Christie (Worser Bay Boating Club) thanked Yachting New Zealand staff and board members for their efforts. He said he was encouraged by the things being said by the national body about diversity and in the Women and Girls in Sailing strategy but asked how success was going to be measured.

Greg said the ultimate measure would be Olympic medals won, given that from the 2024 Paris Olympics there would be gender and event equity. David talked about funding from High Performance Sport New Zealand had shifted purely from success based around performance to also now include the capability of an NSO and the various programmes from junior to elite level. Yachting New Zealand, as a tier 1 sport, had 100 percent guaranteed funding until the end of 2021, followed by at least 70 percent from 2022-24 when further funding was contestable. He pointed out that it was a long game, even though the Paris Olympics were coming quickly, and that there would be challenges along the way. Yachting New Zealand had already appointed a women's sailing manager (Rosie Chapman) who was leading the implementation of the Women and Girls in Sailing strategy and was part of HPSNZ's residency programme that aimed to increase the number of female leaders. Jenny Armstrong had also been appointed as a coach for the South Island area. Retention was a key focus and David acknowledged the efforts of people like Jason Morgan who had helped build a strong 29er fleet, as well as the importance of quality coaching and support from parents. He was more than happy to listen to ideas and asked to have these passed on.

Raynor Haagh said a project was under way to record data from regattas to track the numbers and retention of those sailing. She also said we need to have more understanding of what was happening at the learn to sail level and the conversion of those sailors into club programmes. Yachting New Zealand's youth coaching team had also developed a pathway presentation to illustrate what opportunities there are in the sport and marine industry and where the barriers are. This would also be adapted to be used by the RSOs with clubs.

Ruth Fletcher (Heretaunga) said they had been struggling to attract interest in their learn to sail programme, and asked what Yachting New Zealand were doing to attract primary school aged children to the sport.

David talked about Kokokaha, the new schools programme that will give children the opportunity to learn more about sailing through a focuses on the science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) associated with harnessing the power of the wind. This was announced last week and was being piloted in term 4 2020 with a view to being in full operation in term 1 2021. He was very confident this was going to have a lasting legacy and that no other

sport had attempted anything like this. He acknowledged the work of Raynor Haag, Danika Mowlem, Dean Stanley, Lyndal Linton and Brett Linton in putting this together.

Ruth Fletcher (Heretaunga) asked about a club's ability to access capital. Her club needed a new roof, which was going to cost \$100,000, and that it was hard to find funding for projects like this.

David said there were a number of trusts they could approach and that Yachting New Zealand could help in pointing Heretaunga in the right direction. The reduction in funds from Class Four Gaming was a big challenge for many clubs and organisations but Sport New Zealand had recognised that and have applied to government for a change in the way Class Four Gaming is distributed so that, rather than clubs approaching gaming trusts, this would be done to Sport New Zealand and their NSO to seek access to money.

Jason Morgan (Royal Akarana Yacht Club) asked whether Yachting New Zealand still intended creating a high performance centre.

David said the biggest hurdle was finding an appropriate venue given the lack of options close to good sailing waters. Yachting New Zealand was still investigating The Landing adjacent to Akarana but that no decisions would be made until after the next America's Cup. Similarly, a site at Gulf Harbour was still an option but a land covenant was still to be signed off by Panuku and the local committee and that the site had advantages and disadvantages. Yachting New Zealand were also in discussions with Panuku about taking over one of the America's Cup bases after next year's event. David said Yachting New Zealand still saw huge value in a hub for the sport that would also allow them to reduce costs.

Dianne Logan addressed the meeting and thanked the board and staff of Yachting New Zealand, as well as the clubs and committees. She said it had been a privilege to work in the sport for so long.

## **11.25 Meeting Closed**