

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

**Held online**

**10am on Saturday, October 9, 2021**

**Present:** Andrew Aitken, Tim Nichols, Matt Nolan, Sara Poore, Adam Yates, Ruth Fletcher, Colin Mitten, Diane Lindsay, Richard Limbrick, Cameron Dunn, Sean Munro, Blair Park, Jason Morgan, Dave Kelway, Kerry Davies, Luke Jenkins, Geoff Thorn, Andrew Robertson, Julie Kidman, Doug Elder, Wayne Huang, Sarah Hume, Emma Rae, Jenny de Lisle, Ross Blackman, Murray Brown, Viki Moore, Bridget Winstone-Kight, Sarah Meikle, John Butcher, David Abercrombie, Beth Orton, Raynor Haagh, Michael Brown, Kelly Mulcahy, Hayden Whitburn, Alana Pooley, Colin Rickett, Vanessa Hall.

## **1.0 Welcome**

Yachting New Zealand chairman Ross Blackman welcomed everyone to the 2021 annual general meeting which, for the first time, was being done online.

Board member Bridget Winstone-Kight performed a karakia.

## **2.0 Apologies**

Arabella Brawn  
Ian Cook  
Des Brennan  
Sir Stephen Tindall  
Don Cowie  
Joe Butterfield

## **3.0 Obituaries**

Ross paid tribute to the following, who had passed away over in the previous 12 months:

- Peter Hay: former Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron; personal member – passed away August 4, 2021
- Geoff Rogers: Ponsonby Cruising Club; life member – passed away September 17, 2021
- Jack Lloyd: Onerahi Yacht Club, passed away September 17, 2021
- Earle Wells: Olympian, life member, passed away September 30, 2021
- Laurie Davidson: yacht designer, passed away October 30, 2021

## **4.0 Confirmation of minutes**

It was proposed that the minutes of the 2020 annual general meeting on October 10, 2020 be accepted.

Andrew Aitken / Tim Nicholls  
Carried

## **5.0 Reports**

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

Ross noted that most things were being impacted by Covid-19, whether at a club or individual level, and encouraged everyone attending to make the most of what they had. Covid-19 is likely to play a big part in considerations at all levels over the next couple of years.

Ross also reminded everyone that yacht clubs were often located at outstanding locations throughout New Zealand and that these were largely under-utilised, particularly when considering the financial challenges many clubs faced. He encouraged clubs to think about how they could be utilised more to put them in a stronger position and acknowledged this could lead to some conflict over membership structures.

Ross acknowledged the incredible amount of work his predecessor, Greg Knowles, had done as Yachting New Zealand chairman and president and the strong position Greg had put the organisation in. He also formally welcomed Ian Cook as the newest Yachting New Zealand board member and thanked David Abercrombie and the team at Yachting New Zealand for their work, especially in such difficult circumstances.

### **5.2 Chief executive's report**

David Abercrombie welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the impact Covid-19 was having on everyone. He also thanked Sport New Zealand and Aktive for their ongoing support, particularly in helping obtain financial support from the Government for sports organisations and clubs.

Dave also thanked the team at Yachting New Zealand. It had been a particularly difficult year and Dave felt everyone had done a great job to stay connected to clubs. He pointed out that all Yachting New Zealand staff, coaches and high performance sailors were fully vaccinated. This had not been mandated but was something that was encouraged and staff also wanted to be vaccinated to ensure a safer environment for everyone.

Yachting New Zealand recorded a small surplus, which was unusual (a small deficit is typically recorded), but was achieved through things like support from Sport New Zealand and the ability to offset some salaries. The surplus funds would go into supporting clubs through membership services.

Dave talked briefly about the significance of Yachting New Zealand achieving the Governance Mark from Sport New Zealand, which was awarded in recognition of the quality of Yachting New Zealand's governance and leadership. The Governance Mark was introduced in 2016 and was the only externally accredited governance development programme of its kind internationally, with a focus on play, active recreation and sport. It was something Yachting New Zealand's board had been working on for some time.

Dave and national sport development director Raynor Haagh had visited a number of clubs over the past year to share Yachting New Zealand's new strategy. It was pleasing to see an increase in the number of women and young men involved in club committees, which was one of the biggest shifts Dave had seen in his 11 years in the role. Unfortunately, disruptions

caused by Covid-19 meant some catchups with clubs had to be done online but the feedback to Yachting New Zealand's new strategy had been overwhelmingly positive. Dave shared a brief summary of the new strategy, including the vision and mission statement. He acknowledged that clubs and committees were still fundamentally important, but clubs could expect to see a shift and expansion to promote gender and ethnic diversity. More work would also be done to make a bigger impact environmentally.

Membership figures for the 2020/21 season showed a slight increase, which bucked the trend of most sports. Dave felt this highlighted the importance members put in clubs and communities. This will come under pressure as Covid-19 continues to impact society and Dave encouraged clubs to reach out to members to keep connected.

Yachting New Zealand's new schools programme, Kokokaha – Powered by the Wind, had been an enormous success. When previously 4000 youngsters were experiencing sailing through the Volvo Sailing... Have a Go! programme, as many as 14,000 took part in Kokokaha, with 5000 enjoying an on-water experience in Term 1 2021. Yachting New Zealand were working hard to deliver Kokokaha again in term 4 of 2021 and build into 2022.

Sponsorship was proving to be a very difficult space for many industries and organisations in 2021, including Yachting New Zealand. Dave thanked the group of loyal sponsors and partners who had stuck with Yachting New Zealand, which included Aon, Zhik, Oceanbridge, Maersk, Railblaza, Lawson's Dry Hills, Volvo and the NZL Sailing Foundation.

Dave noted that the New Zealand sailing team's results from the Tokyo Olympics had not been as good as expected but that people should be proud of how the team performed on and off the water and the work done by the support team to create such a professional environment.

Dave noted the recent passing of Alan Webb from the Muritai Yacht Club and Alan's passion for all things yachting.

### **5.3 Annual report**

It was proposed that the 2020/21 annual report be accepted.

Adam Yates / Sara Poore  
Carried

## **6.0 Annual accounts**

Audit and risk committee chair Jenny de Lisle talked about the accounts in the 2020/21 annual report.

She explained that, as of June 30, 2021, the statement of financial position showed total entity funds of \$4.3 million. Only \$714,000 of this is general funds with the balance either designated or restricted funds.

Yachting New Zealand had registered an overall profit of \$85,399 compared to a loss of \$196,000 last year. Yachting New Zealand split income and expenditure into three areas and club service made an operating surplus of \$43,019 and sport development a surplus of \$104,000. Olympic and talent development made a loss of \$61,000. Jenny pointed out the Olympic and talent loss was largely down to timing, and that the surplus from club services

would not be funding the high performance programme. She said there was a misconception among some members that club services helped fund the high performance programme but the opposite was actually the case.

There were a handful of reasons for the recording of a profit which included, but was not limited to, the following:

- A one-off reset and rebuild grant of \$40,000 from Sport New Zealand to assist national sports organisations with Covid recovery
- A payout of \$36,000 from the TAB sports betting on the America's Cup
- A grant of \$62,000 (net of expenses) from the New Zealand Sport Collective in relation to the various highlights packages produced for Sky TV
- Cost savings from reduced travel and programme costs due to Covid-19
- Allowance by High Performance Sport New Zealand to offset a higher proportion of Yachting New Zealand staff salaries against the high performance budget as opposed to club services due to Covid-19.

Income from affiliation fees increased by \$47,000, which reflected the increase in fees agreed at the 2019 AGM to help fund the regional development managers, which was becoming increasingly more difficult with a reduction in trust funding. The operating costs for club services was \$1.5 million and income from the affiliation fee \$595,000, meaning the rest needed to come from grants and commercial sponsorship. Jenny acknowledged Dave for the way he managed the finances in a tough environment.

It was proposed that HLB Mann Judd be appointed as auditors for the coming year.

Colin Mitten / Adam Yates  
Carried

It was proposed that the accounts be received as tabled.

Ruth Fletcher / Tim Nichols  
Carried

## **7.0 Affiliation fee**

It was proposed that the Yachting New Zealand affiliation fee for the 2023/24 season be increased by 3.3 percent. This was reflective of the consumer price index (CPI) on June 30, 2021.

Richard Limbrick / Cameron Dunn  
Carried

## **8.0 Election of board directors**

Current member Jenny de Lisle is the only nomination for the vacancy on the Yachting New Zealand board.

## **9.0 Election of life members**

### **9.1 Peter Dawson**

It was proposed that Peter Dawson be elected a life member of Yachting New Zealand.

Cameron Dunn / Sean Munro

Carried

## **9.2 Greg Knowles**

It was proposed that Greg Knowles be elected a life member of Yachting New Zealand.

Andrew Aitken / Sara Poore  
Carried

## **10.0 Yachting New Zealand constitution**

It was proposed that the prescribed changes be made to the Yachting New Zealand constitution relating to clause 2, clause 3.1, clause 15.5, clause 15.7, clause 15.8 and clause 15.10.

Sara Poore / Adam Yates  
Carried

### **Clause 13.5**

There was general discussion about the proposed change to clause 13.5, which would allow for the affiliation fee to be adjusted annually based on CPI.

Dave outlined that this change would allow Yachting New Zealand greater certainty when budgeting in future, particularly in relation to the ebbs and flows of trust funding, as well as greater capacity to look after Yachting New Zealand staff salaries and help retain quality people. He also explained that it allowed clubs to act with more certainty when setting their own membership fees.

Matt Nolan (Pigeon Bay Boating Club) said he didn't disagree with proposed increases but felt it should be something Yachting New Zealand sought approval for on an annual basis. This would ensure, he said, greater rigour because it would be considered regularly.

In reply, Dave said it would make the process simpler. He also pointed out that members would still have the opportunity to change things at an AGM if, for example, CPI was at a high level.

Adam Yates (Mt Maunganui Yacht Club) outlined his support for the proposal, saying it provided clubs with greater certainty around their own finances. He also acknowledged that trust funding was decreasing, making it important for clubs to support Yachting New Zealand. Adam, did, however, believe some more work needed to be done on the wording of the proposed change to bring more rigour.

Mel Parkin (Worser Bay Boating Club) acknowledged the support her club received from Yachting New Zealand regional development manager Wayne Holdt.

It was proposed that the Yachting New Zealand member levy will be adjusted to reflect the annual New Zealand government CPI as of June 30. Any additional levy will need to be approved by the members.

Blair Park / Adam Yates  
Not carried

## **11.0 General Business**

Andrew Robertson (Milford Cruising Club) referred to the 2017 motion relating to multiple memberships and asked how this would work. Dave said a system was presently being trialled and new applications should be lodged with Yachting New Zealand sponsor and high performance coordinator Beth Orton or their local regional development manager. In the application form, an individual needed to name the clubs they belonged to, show proof of membership of those clubs, and nominate the club they wanted their affiliation fee attributed to. Any other clubs they were a member of could apply for a rebate, however, it applied only to clubs that submitted their full membership data. That was the only way to know if an individual was a full member of that club. Yachting New Zealand had come across a couple of instances in which people had applied for a rebate for a club they weren't even a member of. He also didn't know how many people who were members of multiple clubs would apply for reimbursement because many recognised the need to support Yachting New Zealand and the sport as a whole. If this was a large number, Yachting New Zealand might need to reconsider how it sets the affiliation fee in future. At present, Yachting New Zealand's affiliation fee is significantly lower than fees set by many sports.

Ruth Fletcher (Heretaunga Boating Club) talked again about a subject she raised at the last AGM, namely the club's ability to attract and retain children and families as members. She said their club set low membership fees but that a lot of that was then used to pay the Yachting New Zealand affiliation fee. Dave explained that a broad-based low fee was already in operation, something supported by the membership. He also pointed out, on top of the fact clubs are the members, not individuals, that clubs had the ability to recognise up to 10 individuals in a club, usually volunteers, who wouldn't be required to pay the affiliation fee.

Ross and Dave both thanked everyone for their attendance as well as their patience as they worked through voting online.

Board member Viki Moore closed the meeting with a karakia.

**Noon: meeting closed**