

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

**Held online**

**4pm on Tuesday, October 10, 2023**

**Present:** James Quaid, Richard Hosking, Tony Bullard, Diane Lindsay, Reneta Money, Derry Godbert, Luke Jenkins, James Robinson, Justin Dowell, Nick Hanson, Geoff Thorn, Simon Wright, Andrew Robertson, Adam Yates, Nick Gaites, Andrew Kearney, Reuben Miller, Paul Saunders, Zack Hitchcock, Chris Crone, Gillian Williams, Ben Molloy, James Jordan, Sally Middleton, Bill Lomas, Scott Hodges, Anne Marett, Julia Faire, Vaughan Hunt, Jo Kensington, Des Brennan, Dean Barker, Bob Cook, Mike Leyland, Ross Blackman, Sarah Meikle, Viki Moore, Bridget Winstone-Kight, Murray Brown, John Butcher, Nik Burfoot, Jenna Hansen, Dave Smith, David Abercrombie, Raynor Haagh, Eduan Roos, Angela Jordan, Kelly Mulcahy, Hayden Whitburn, Colin Rickett, Ian Gardiner, Wayne Holdt, Mel Hurst, Greg Knowles, Nicola Harrison.

## **1.0 Welcome**

Yachting New Zealand president and chairman Ross Blackman welcomed everyone to the 2023 annual general meeting.

## **2.0 Apologies**

Arabella Vennell, John Faire, Ian Cook, Jan Dawson, Adrienne Greenwood, Richard Cave, Sarah Bacon.

## **3.0 Obituaries**

Blackman paid tribute to the following people, who had passed away over the previous 12 months:

Ron Given - renowned boat designer.

Ralph Roberts - Olympian, former Olympic team manager, Yachting New Zealand life member, former Yachting New Zealand president, former commodore and president of Takapuna Boating Club.

Jonty Farmer - Olympian.

Claudia Montgomery - Devonport Yacht Club.

Debbie Snelson - Lowry Bay Yacht Club.

Davie Norris - Naval Point Club Lyttelton.

Beverly Church - Stewarts Gully Sailing Club.

## **4.0 Confirmation of minutes**

It was proposed that the minutes of the 2022 annual general meeting on October 8, 2022, be accepted.

Nick Hanson/Geoff Thorn

Carried

## **5.0 Reports**

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

Blackman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Yachting New Zealand board and staff, thanking them for their contributions over the past year. He said he remained amazed by the scope of work done by the team to serve the sport.

Blackman confirmed he is stepping down as chair and president after three years and reminded members that the board is elected by them and of the importance of having their say at the meeting.

Reflecting on his time in sailing, Blackman said the sport now presented many more opportunities for people to have a meaningful life in the sport – from sailors, coaches and race officials to sailmakers, brokers, designers and many more.

It was important to keep in mind, though, that it all started on the beach, sailing Optimists at events run by volunteers.

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

David Abercrombie opened by acknowledging it had been a challenging year with adverse weather events affecting many, but said the resilience shown by members had again shone through.

These occurrences are a timely reminder to be prepared, and that includes having appropriate insurance cover, as demonstrated by Mercury Bay Boating Club and Milford Cruising Club who both received significant assistance from Aon over the past 12 months.

Abercrombie expressed the hope that this season would see a return to normal operations but stressed the effects of climate change couldn't be ignored.

Highlights from the year include the return of the Club Conference to its in-person format and seeing the growing number of young people taking up leadership positions at clubs, as well as the growth of the RŪNĀ schools programme.

Abercrombie thanked the three departing board members – Blackman, Sarah Meikle and Viki Moore for their service and welcomed the new members onto the board.

### **5.3 Annual report**

It was proposed that the 2022/23 annual report be accepted.

Adam Yates/Blair Park

Carried

## **6.0 Annual accounts**

Audit and risk committee member Nik Burfoot talked about the accounts in the 2022/23 annual report.

He explained that, as of June 30, 2023, there was an operating surplus of \$440,000 but that was largely due to an unexpected grant of \$500,000 from High Performance Sport New Zealand in the second half of the calendar year.

This grant can only be spent on high performance and without it, Yachting New Zealand's financial position would have seen a deficit of around \$60,000 for the year.

Burfoot said this illustrates the challenge the organisation has had to balance its books over the past financial year.

#### **6.1 Appointment of auditors**

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

Simon Wright/Diane Lindsay

Carried

### **7.0 Affiliation fees**

#### **7.1 Club affiliation fee**

It was proposed that the Yachting New Zealand club affiliation fee for the 2024/25 season will be the club affiliation fee for 2023/24 plus an increase of the annual New Zealand government consumers price index (CPI) as of June 30, 2023.

- \$31.16 plus GST for every club individual person.

- \$77.27 plus GST for three or more members in a family.

Scott Hodges/Anne Marett

Carried

#### **7.2 Other affiliation fees**

It was proposed that the Yachting New Zealand affiliation fees of the following amounts be accepted:

- Class association fee \$159.00 plus GST

- Non-commercial maritime fee \$159.00 plus GST

- Commercial maritime fee \$530.00 plus GST

- Individual member fee \$84.80 plus GST

Anne Marett/James Quaid

Carried

### **8.0 Yachting New Zealand constitution changes**

Blackman explained the existing constitution was being updated with most changes necessitated by the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 coming into effect next year.

Work on updating the constitution had been done in consultation with Sport New Zealand and would provide a template for yacht clubs to follow when updating their own documents soon.

The only other change was removing the role of Yachting New Zealand president from the constitution, to bring it in step with modern trends around the globe, and to reflect the responsibilities of the position more accurately.

Andrew Robertson (Milford Cruising Club) asked about the consultation process around the changes and noted that delegate proxy forms sent out did not provide the ability to vote on the new constitution.

Abercrombie said updated proxy forms had been sent to members the week before the annual general meeting and that, in terms of consultation, he had personally sought the input of several club members and had received no adverse feedback. Abercrombie underlined the fact that work on the constitution had been led by Sport New Zealand's legal team, with the changes required to comply with the new Incorporated Societies Act.

It was proposed that that the new constitution for Yachting New Zealand be accepted.

Diane Lindsay/Scott Hodges

Carried

## **9.0 Election of board directors**

No vote was required as only three nominations – Sarah Bacon, Nicola Harrison, and Greg Knowles - had been received for the three positions on the Yachting New Zealand board made vacant by outgoing board members Blackman, Meikle, and Moore.

Blackman welcomed Bacon, Harrison, and Knowles onto the board.

Harrison (Tauranga Yacht and Powerboat Club) said she was looking forward to working with the board, Yachting New Zealand management and clubs. She outlined her almost 20 years in the sport – from sailing Optimists to keelboats and recently discovering double-handed sailing – and her strong background in risk management through her experience in the construction industry. She is currently studying for a master's degree in sustainability.

Knowles is returning to the Yachting New Zealand board after a three-year absence. He is a member of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron and a YNZ life member, who has sailed everything from the P Class to Olympic classes at the 1988 and 1992 Games. He has been a partner at KPMG for the past 23 years and will be retiring at the end of this year. Knowles first joined the board of Yachting New Zealand 10 years ago.

Bacon, who was unable to attend the AGM as she was abroad, is a member of Worsler Bay Boating Club. She is a lawyer, business owner, and mother of three sailors.

John Butcher (Gulf Harbour Yacht Club) was re-elected to the Yachting New Zealand board unopposed for another three years.

## **10.0 General Business**

Paul Saunders (Panmure Lagoon Sailing Club) raised the issue of junior sailor retention and asked Yachting New Zealand's view on ensuring those entering Learn to Sail programmes eventually become club members.

Yachting New Zealand's national sport development director Raynor Haagh acknowledged the challenge with retaining sailors through transitional phases and said the onus was on clubs to offer programmes and opportunities for participants to stay in the sport and become members – through racing, training etc.

Abercrombie added that Yachting New Zealand would again be running the Voice of the Participant survey this year, which was a valuable tool in understanding how yacht clubs are viewed by members and what their needs are. The Yachting New Zealand board is also looking at ways to address cost as a barrier to entry and retention and more information about this will be shared in due course.

Derry Godbert (Kerikeri Cruising Club) shared his thoughts on team sailing and suggested a range of options to revive the format at club level.

Saunders (Panmure Lagoon Sailing Club) asked whether Yachting New Zealand could facilitate a workshop for clubs to encourage retention and identify career pathways for sailors.

Abercrombie said that was the aim of the Club Conference and the Voice of the Participant survey but that it was worth exploring the idea with the Yachting New Zealand team.

Diane Lindsay (Gulf Harbour Yacht Club) said her club had benefitted greatly from combining activities and having shared events with other yacht clubs in their area – Manly Sailing Club and Weiti Boating Club – as well as the introduction of their women's regatta. Lindsay said she believed this has helped with retention.

Blackman thanked everyone for their attendance, and their support with all the motions passed during the AGM.

5.22pm: Meeting closed.