

Swimming Auckland Board Meeting 25th February 2010

MINUTES

of board meeting held on Thursday 25th February 2010 at 7.30 pm
at Sports House, Harbour Sport, Stadium Drive, Albany

Present: Andy Brown (Chair), Gwen Ryan, Willem Coetzee, Brian Palmer, Suzanne Speer, Julie-Ann Mold

1.0 Apologies: Alison Fitch, Dominic Toomey, Teresa Stanley, Ken McEwan

2.0 Register of Interest: No items to register

3.0 Previous Minutes:

Approved as a true record. Moved A Brown/Julie Ann Mold

The issue of a Directors Liability Insurance policy was discussed and it was agreed that the EO would forward individual proposal forms for each director to complete.

4.0 2010/2011 Calendar and Championship Events.

The calendar as proposed was presented to the board for review, especially as it related to the redefining of the existing Junior and Age Group Championship Events as "Invitational's" to be held in the same calendar slot and the addition of a closed and combined Age Group and Junior Championship meet at the end of January. The merits and otherwise of the proposed calendar were discussed at length. ABrown proposed that the calendar as presented be adopted. Seconded – Julie Ann Mold. The proposal was carried 4:1 with the request by Gwen Ryan that her contrary vote be recorded.

5.0 Registrars Report.

The report including records and notification of newly qualified officials was presented and accepted. GRWC

Further discussion ensued with regard to a report supplied by Gwen Ryan with regard to concerns that arose from New Zealand Juniors. It was agreed that the Auckland Team Managers report would be reviewed when it is received and depending on the outcome of that, the concerns which were being expressed should be conveyed officially by ASA to SNZ. SS/AB

6.0 Transfers

Transfer report submitted by Registrar.

Moved that all transfers be accepted. WC/AB

7.0 Auckland Swimming League

The EO provided an updated report on progress including the fact that SNZ had now agreed to allow the ASL to operate and that now all efforts were being made to ensure that the league was ready to run and operate by the scheduled start dates of April 24th and 30th respectively for the Junior and the Senior Leagues.

8.0 Technical Equipment Issues

Various Technical and equipment issues were reviewed for the board's information. This included the delivery of new touch pads as ordered, the rejection of one touch pad which was damaged in delivery and the potential recovery of a further 3 or 4 touchpads via reconditioning of old touchpad stock which had been considered redundant.

Work has been undertaken with regard to the issue of a fault with the start speaker system from the scoreboard end of the pool. This has now been the subject of extensive testing and repair and is expected to have redressed the various intermittent problems.

The scoreboard has been the subject of ongoing issues. The spare parts to repair the pixillation on the top left corner have been ordered and are expected to result in the repairs being affected prior to the SNZ Opens at Easter. A further stock of spare parts is also to be ordered to ensure that future repairs can be effected on a timely basis.

A proposal has been received with regard to a high speed copier for use at West Wave to cover the copying bottleneck during larger meets and also to compensate for the increasing service charges on the existing machines. The financial analysis establishes the merits of this replacement but the board agreed that a decision should be deferred until prior to the next major meet being Auckland winters.

Various user groups ranging from Swimming New Zealand to clubs, schools and other aquatic codes wish to use our equipment from time to time. To date there has been no consistent policy or schedule of charges established for their use of ASA assets by third party user groups. Indeed frequently assets are offered by members and clubs in with little expectation of any payment being made. The board authorised the EO to establish a schedule of use charges which should be published to cover the use of all ASA assets by third party user groups and clubs.

Resurfacing of scoreboard end start blocks. Various options are being explored to facilitate this work but at this stage the solution to remedy the slippery surface is not immediately obvious and involves some considerable speculation relating to the use of differing marine non-slip products. Investigations on the subject are ongoing.

9.0 Swimwear Guidelines.

Following Swim New Zealand's adoption of what are the ASA Swimwear guidelines (with some minor deletions) the ASA technical group has recommended that we now adopt wording the same as that used by SNZ and establish these as Bylaws of ASA with a numbering system for use by officials as specified. Adopted. WCoetzee/ABrown.

10.0 ANZ term Deposits for renewal.

The executive officer reports that one of the ASA's term deposits with ANZ bank matures on 2nd March in the sum of \$11,818.46 plus accrued interest of a further \$269.59. An analysis of anticipated cash flows for the balance of the financial year are such that it is not expected that ASA will need to call on its reserves to meet operating requirements and hence the EO recommends that this sum be reinvested for a further deposit period of 6 months. Approved. J-AMold/GRyan

11.0 Boycotting of some level meets and other sanctioned Auckland meets by clubs and its implication for our structures.

The EO submitted a written review of which included observations about certain clubs who are effecting a policy which amounts to an effective 'boycott' of certain ASA meets. In some cases this is a deliberate policy aimed at securing direct advantage and leverage for the club concerned in others it is simply a result for a club making a decision based on perceived training or competitive advantage. In either circumstance there are implications for the way in which our various level meets are run and the viability of some meets which are always

financially marginal but a vital part of the competitive structure of the association. In some circumstances these decisions will mean that the full competitive program cannot be implemented. Discussion ensued which confirmed a view that there is concern amongst many parents that they feel these decisions being made are creating a detrimental impact on their children's swimming experience. In some cases because of the way that the communication of information relating to forthcoming meets works the non-participation by certain clubs is simply a result of that not passing entry information relating to those meets onto the athletes and their families. A partial remedy for this situation which is being considered is the establishment of an ASA facebook and twitter account to allow the passage of information directly to athletes rather than working solely through the current official channel of the ASA website which is not universally used. The EO encouraged the ASA board to not becoming pre-occupied with the micro events of particular 'boycotts' but to consider the broader implications for our competitive programs.

Various possible 'remedial' actions were considered with the understanding that the board would revisit this issue again in the future. Amongst the more severe actions considered were to implement a policy whereby only ASA sanctioned meets could be ratified for the purpose of entry times. Another variation of this was that a club may only run and have ratified one non-licensed meet per year. It was agreed that these would be the equivalent of 'nuclear' options and further consideration would be extended to explore other possible remedies to the problem.

12.0 Strategic Review of membership and participation trends

The EO submitted statistical information with regard to membership trends and also some case study reviews which point toward concerns of how we as an organised sport present our 'product' to potential participants in the sport and the way in which we compete for the leisure dollar. The EO emphasised that a failure to address these issues and to get our stakeholders to understand and consider them will see a continuation of the current trend toward decreasing competitive participation, lower age demographics and early/premature departure from the sport. This must be seen as a threat to the ongoing viability of the sport and our ability to meet broader strategic objectives. It was agreed that these issues would be and needed to be reviewed again.

13.0 Executive Officers Report

The EO submitted draft management accounts (P&L and balance Sheet) to 31 January 2010 for review.

14.0 General Business

- The AGM is coming up and any remits or business for the AGM should be given early consideration.
- SSpeer raised the issue of the EO's performance review. It was assigned to ABrown, Chair to make arrangements for this to take place.
- Professional Indemnity (OI) for directors. Needs to be implemented as a part of the annual renewal of insurance – EO to supply proposal forms for each director to complete.

Next meeting noted for 18th March 2010, followed by 22nd April.

Approved as a true record:

Date: