

**CANOEING VICTORIA BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday 15 May 2010
Westerfolds Park**

1. MEETING OPENED

The meeting opened at 8pm

Gary Flanigan – President (GF)
Tom Hirschoff – Chair (TH)
Richard Howard – Independent Director (RH)
Tony Coventry. – Independent Director (TC)
Sharon Swoboda– Executive Officer – Co (SS)
Andrea Boothroyd – Executive Officer – Co (AB) (and Sprint Representative).

Mike Wilson – Canoe Polo
Mark Murray – Marathon
Matt Webster – Slalom

2. APOLOGIES

Chris Wharton – Downriver
Andrew Coutts - Guest

3. Minutes of Previous Discipline Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting accepted.
Moved: TC Seconded RH

4. Canoe Polo (MW)

Nationals at easter in Perth. Small representation (2 teams only). Busy year before and up and coming teams not up to playing at yet. Meet was at the new venue.

Venue Development / Management.

No cheaper source of pools as yet. Timing is an issue. Tues/Wed competition starts at 9pm at night. Junior program starts at Brunswick at 7pm. Better but not popular in winter with parents and supporters. 8pm start during summer.

Delphin at Carolyn Springs. Mike has spoken to them about the possibility of a Canoe polo field. Discussion about a combined proposal for all aspects of Canoeing. Great opportunity for after school programs, 7 schools within 10mins, Flatwater slalom / parallel course, possible buoyed course (in conjunction with Rowing Victoria). (900mm for rolling in polo course)

Edgewater (also another Delphin project). Tidal issues that would need to be addressed.

Essendon needs to be dismantled at the end of each day which makes it a logistical issue.

Storage is a high priority.

Action: SS to organize a co-ordinated effort to gather list of requirements and possibilities for the site and approach both Delphin and the Local Council.

Action: MW – provide a list of requirements for Canoe Polo courses for both the Carolyn Springs

RH Reported that Parks Victoria have found the extra money to move forward with the bank stabilization and shaping at Yarra Bend. In addition to the ramp Parks Victoria have agreed to put in 2 poles to attach the polo goals to.

MW provided an update of the Fairbairn Park development (Essendon Canoe Club / Essendon Football club). Development will inevitably go ahead, negotiations are continuing (such as lights controlled by Essendon Canoe Club).

5. Marathon (MM)

Event on Sat at Patterson Lakes (approx 180). Down on previous years probably due to lower relay teams. Venue is a transit area – (incident report has been raised). Water police will probably be employed next year to deal with inconsiderate power boat owners.

Warnambool (1st race) – poorly attended.

Nationals at Easter. Victorians were over represented. It is anticipated that the 2011 Nationals at Easter will be offered to Victoria to be held at Geelong. Nationals committee has been proposed (Mark, Joe, Mike Baird, Tom, Graham).

Venue booked.

Motion: In anticipation of a request from Australian Canoeing, the Board supports the Marathon Nationals to be held in Geelong in 2011.

Moved. GF Seconded RH

Development Strategies

Cost of the Marathon Schools was a major barrier for regional schools to participate in the School marathon champs due to the lack of parental support to assist in the transport of both boats and paddlers.

Marathon Committee will investigate how to address this issue for next year.

AB noted that grants such as the Vic Talent programs are available to assist regional schools and clubs to attend the championships.

Strategy of Sprint and Marathon on the same weekend works well for the regional schools and clubs.

Volunteers / officials

Perceived strong volunteer base and development of officials.

Lunch is offered to volunteers on the day, paid first aiders, SES is utilized and provide a donation. These strategies assist in reducing the number of “member” volunteers being used.

Action: AB to provide all disciplines a sample pack of the Certificate of Appreciation. Admin to co-ordinate how these can be used by the Disciplines.

SS / RH outlined the new membership category of “Discipline Volunteer”, a free membership category to capture these volunteers who are so key to the survival of all the disciplines.

6. Slalom (MW)

Nationals and Schools were held in January at Goulburn. Participation was 80% above budget. Approx numbers – Schools – 160, Nationals – 200. Large contingent from WA (with strong support from Victoria), a New Zealand contingent. \$14,000 profit (40% to MCC, STC 40% - Goulburn redevelopment, Bendigo, CPRT and Eltham CC will divide up the remaining 20%).

Previous years held in Melbourne was approx \$6000 profit.

Rapidly to London and other junior development programs are a major contributor to the strong participation at the Nationals.

Victorian 35% of National Teams. 2 paddlers in Junior Team – Maggie Webster, Tim Anderson. Warwick Draper (K1), Sarah Grant (K1), Leanne Guinea (C1), Chris and Scott Guinea (Under 23 C2), Phi Gibbins, Jackson Merrit (Under 23 K1) – Jackson has also been selected to represent K1 in open as well.

Major Issues: Water, training facilities.

Goulburn facility is still in need of repair / redevelopment – despite initial repairs. 7 authority bodies that need to be negotiated to undertake the exercise.

Snits – current training facility has issues with Parks Victoria and the erosion of the site. Development of Westerfolds park is a key to moving away from Snits. Currently there is a feasibility proposal to develop Westerfolds Park and the possibility of the Westerfolds.

Helmet cam of Finns race is available on the MCC Web site.

Westefolds Park

SS provided an updated on the Westerfolds Park Projects:

1) Feasibility Study of developing the water ways

Roy and Dita were spear heading this feasibility study – SS followed up with Parks Victoria and was informed that the original quote for the feasibility study was requested and come out much more expensive than originally proposed. Parks Victoria is currently reviewing the quote for the study – but as yet no update.

2) Possible facility developments

SS spoke to Parks Victoria regarding the possibility of increase our lease footprint near the current westerfolds shed. An action with SS is to define long term requirements, draft up proposal and forward to PV to request the increased lease footprint. Time and resources is the barrier to this moving forward.

New contingent of volunteers, official and judging courses

Looking for sponsors to get bibs purchased (approx \$35 each). AB noted that the Uniform Grant – up to \$1000 and the Woolworths Fresh Food Grant - \$5000.

7. Sprint

Sprint season has been completed – ran 6 races with record attendances. 70 in state championships. Masters encouraged to participate. Successful strategy. Calendar was published early.

On-line entries have made a big difference in managing the events and streamlining the processes.

Many years ahead of unskilled volunteers – packs have been developed to “Train” on the spot volunteers. These packs have been available to other clubs / organizations to run similar events.

Pilot event – Twilight sprint event that was a great success (70) and as a result a series will be developed.

AB wanted to thank Marathon discipline committee for their great assistants during the season.

AB opened invitations to all the disciplines if they would like additional classes to encourage participation in the sprint.

Recruited volunteers (happily) have been converted to paddling but unfortunately it means that there is a low rate of retention and getting volunteers is becoming challenging.

AB provided an update on the National Talent ID Sprint program.

8. Club Training Centres

Fairfield Canoe Club has come on line as the first Canoeing Victoria CTC. This means they have published coaching courses, risk management plans in place, registered Sprint coaches. They are now moving towards becoming a high performance training centre.

Feedback from the club was that the process undertaken was a worthwhile one to review their processes and activities.

9. Paddle power

Paddle power is a British Canoe Union is a product that addresses the missing link between the schools and clubs/disciplines/membership. AB is working with BCU to determine the best way that this program can be integrated into Victoria.

Next Meeting

16th Nov 2010