

Balmain Sailing Club

Minutes of Sailing Committee Meeting

Wednesday – Nov 19

Location – Balmain Sailing Club

Attendees :

Nick Evtoushenko – Chairman (Vice Commodore)

Nick Storey – Race Director

Neil Hamilton – Safety Officer

Brian Wood – Director

Frans Tkatchew – Director

David Clark Duff – Web Site

Apologies :

Brendon Stewart

Acceptance of Last Minutes – this was the first Race Committee Meeting of the new committee so there were no minutes to accept, but the committee did use the opportunity to accept the Notes/Recommendations of the Sailing Committee Sub Committee which had met on Wed Nov 11 to formulate recommendations for the conduct of racing both yacht and dinghy at Balmain Sailing Club. Discussion of various aspects of these recommendations appear below in these minutes.

Swap of Duty between Deck Captain and Dinghy Captain

- (a) A review of the recommendations re racing operations found that the Dinghy Captain should take responsibility for ensuring that all Dinghies have returned following a race , rather than the Deck Captain as initially proposed.

Action: Neil Hamilton to make change

Discussion of Race Officers –

- (a) The committee accepted the recommendation that a number of Race Officers be appointed to a pool which will be used to appoint Race officers for each BSC race. The responsibilities of the Race Officers should be as detailed in the recommendations.
- (b) It was agreed that Race Officers needed to undergo training for the role so that they are qualified to carry out the role at BSC. There was some discussion re the use of AYF Training for this role but it was finally decided to develop our own training program specific to the needs of the BSC.
- (c) Race officers will be sourced from the existing sailing committee as well as volunteers from experienced competitors (owners , skippers or crew) or others from the community who may be qualified and further trained to carry out this role.
- (d) It was suggested and agreed that a check list should be developed to assist the Race Officer to carry out their tasks prior to and on race day. This check list could form the basis of the training referred to in (b) above.

Action : Neil Hamilton to prepare check list by Nov 25

- (e) There was significant discussion regarding the issue of whether Race Officers should be able to race when carrying out race officers duty. The committee generally felt that it would be desirable if the Race Officer did not race so that they could be available to address unexpected admin, race or safety issues. The committee was also concerned that it may make it more difficult to recruit race officers if they were unable to race. To this end it was decided to :
- a. Purchase another mobile VHF radio which the race officer would carry when on duty thus being able to race and stay in touch with race control.
 - b. Allow Race Officers who elect to not race to decide to withdraw their boat from the race and accept 4th place series points in Lieu.

Recruitment of Yacht Captain

- (a) There was discussion re the need to recruit a Yacht Captain, following the resignation of Greg Daven to take on the extensive list of tasks and to reduce the load on the Race Director.
- (b) This will be a key issue for the Skippers Meeting and also needs to be publicized in the Undercurrent.

Action : Nick Storey

Starters and Time Keepers

- (a) All recommendations re Starters and Time Keepers were accepted. A roster of Yachts will be prepared to cover the rest of the season to provide a spotter or time keeper for each race. This issue will be discussed with Owners and Crew at the up coming skippers night.

Action – Nick Storey

Trial of Alternative Race Software

- (a) It was generally agreed by the meeting attendees that the existing BSC Race Software meets our needs but there were concerns expressed regarding some short comings such as
- a. Lack of user friendliness (requires knowledge of Excel)
 - b. Inability to directly post results to web
 - c. Lack of transparency (its workings are a little magical)
 - d. Concerns re maintenance since only the developer has any real knowledge of its ins and outs.
- (b) It was decided to take up the recommendation of a previous race committee and conduct a trial of one of the more popular packages available eg Top Yacht . This trial is to be conducted in parallel with the existing Excel based system during the post Christmas twilight program.

Action – Nick Storey.

Food Services post Twilights.

- (a) The race committee agreed to pass on to the management committee its concerns regarding the quality , variety and quantity of food available post twilight races.

Action – Nick Evtoushenko

- (b) It was also noted that boats that are moored some distance from the club eg Witford Bay do not tend to return to the club as by the time they do return the food is mostly not available.

Survey of Members and ex Members.

- (a) The race committee agreed to recommend to the management committee that they consider a re run of the survey that had been conducted approx 5 years ago to try and get a better understanding of members needs and wants as well as survey for past members who have chosen not to re join. Dale Osborne could be approached for assistance in this matter as she had carried out the last survey and has both expertise and technology.

Action: Management Committee.

- (b) This was considered to be an important part of a recruitment program as it shows that the club really is interested in members and their needs and wants.

Action – Nick Evtoushenko

Clarification of Reciprocal Rights

- (a) Concern was expressed that there may be some misunderstanding between clubs regarding the Reciprocal Rights for Sunday Racing that has been set up with Drummoyne and Hunters Hill Sailing Clubs.

- (b) This needs to be addressed to determine exactly what was agreed and to ensure that it is in writing and well understood by all parties.

Action – Nick Evtoushenko

Friday Nov 20 – Race Officials

- (a) Race Officer – David Blackwell
(b) Starter - Nick Ward
(c) Spotters – Time Keepers TBA

Sunday Nov 22 – Race Officials

- (a) Race Officer – TBA
(b) Starter Philip
(c) Spotters – Timekeepers Philip