



Annual General Meeting

Elouera SLSC, NSW

Saturday 19th July 2013 at 10:00am

<p>Present</p>	<p>Bert Hunt, Rod Costa, Don Alexander, Mick Lang, Don Cotterill, Grant Wilkinson, Paul Scherf, Robyn Humphrey, Elton McKay, Russell Lamb, Beverley Tilloury, Graeme Knox, Trish McDermott, Jase Bean, Adam Purdie, Rory Gillespie, Emma Cato, Mathew Guy, Stephen Bryen, Michael Henry, Michael McRaln, Paul Wessel, Geoff Streater, Cliff Gerathy, Peter Spence, Ryan Wood, Brent Trotter, Michael Bofinger, Brett Wright, Mel Ireland, Sarah Hill, Tara Lal, David Gregson, Barry Smith Kim Marsh</p>
<p>Apologies</p>	<p>James McLaughlin, Geoff Matthews, Norn Pounder, Stephen Blewett, Alex Hill, Greg Davies, Michael McDermott, Phillipa Lowe, John Devitt, Richard Olesinski, Nathan Perry.</p>
<p>1. To confirm and adopt the minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting as circulated</p>	<p>Moved: Don Cotterill Seconded: Don Alexander CARRIED</p>
<p>2. To deal with business arising out of the previous minutes</p>	<p>No business arising</p>
<p>3. To deal with any relevant correspondence</p>	<p><u>Inwards</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As tabled <p><u>Outwards</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As tabled <p>Rod outlined how the majority of correspondence is now by way of Email, SMS messaging. In excess of 4000 emails were circulated during the season.</p>
<p>4. Presentation of Annual Report President-Bert Hunt</p>	<p>It is with pleasure I present to you the Annual Report for the season just past. At the outset I want to make special mention of Don (Bristles) Alexander, one of the rocks that the ASRL stand on. Bristles, in his role as Treasurer, works tirelessly and selflessly for the benefit of every rower in the country. His attention to detail with our finances is exemplary and his</p>

straight shooting advice is always full of common sense.

This season has been another with some very tough challenges for the committee to deal with. On the outside members could be forgiven for thinking that we are just a body looking after the interests of boat rowers, whatever that means. Maybe running a major event called the ASRL Open and playing around with a few other things. We wish it was that simple. Over my computer alone I have had to deal with in excess of 4000 emails inbound and 4000 outgoing during this season. Then add those other emails going directly to the secretary, treasurer and committee members, plus the many hundreds of phone calls and you start to gain some insight into what it means to serve on the ASRL committee. To each of my committee members my sincere thanks for your support and for continuing to give freely of your time to represent the greater membership.

Of all the issues taking our attention this season, far and away the most pressure came out of the Helmet issue. We understand that if we assemble 100 people in a room and ask their opinion, we will get almost 100 different opinions and attitudes. We also understood right from the beginning that the SLSA Board policy was a line in the sand decision and it wasn't going to change. Over the course of this debate we have run every sensible argument past SLSA in trying to ensure that if we are to shift further toward safety for members, it works for us as best it can. We are very confident that in staying close to the management at SLSA we have achieved the best outcomes for the rowers of Australia.

We have prevailed with SLSA to introduce the new Surf Hazard Rating system into boat competition for this coming season. Much work has gone into the development of this new system and we thank the instigators and developers of the system, Mr Gary McCoy and Neville de Mestre of Bond University. Many boat members and officials around the States worked very hard in the testing and collecting stage of the new system that has been ongoing this last season. This SHR is a major step forward in allowing our officials some degree of consistency in understanding the effect of the prevailing conditions on our racing boats.

A recent change is that Peter Hickey of HSM has resigned from his marketing sponsorship role with the ASRL. Peter has been working for the ASRL in this role for 17 years and he goes of his own accord.

To the sponsors that continue to make a lot of what we do achievable, we are forever in your debt. We simply couldn't deliver most of our program in youth development, coaching, national meetings,

interstate teams, national teams, media exposure, state rowing body support and much more without your continuing financial input.

- The Royal Australian Navy and Defence Force Recruiting - our partnership is as strong as ever and we are just in the middle of re-signing to work together again for the coming season. Something for members to understand is that sitting behind all those newspaper, radio and television news stories is a professional media organisation provided by DFR to support this sponsorship. When the local paper rings your crew and asks to come down and take a photo, it is coming off the back of a news release organised as part of this package. Each season, the dollar value of this form of press exposure directly to surf boats (and subsequently to Surf Lifesaving) runs between \$1 to 1.5M - more exposure for our sport than any other form at any level. I can assure our good friends at both Navy & DFR that your support is well understood and we look forward to a long partnership into the future.
- Staminade - has been a supporting sponsor now for many seasons and this support comes in the form of dollars as well as product that many east coast clubs have benefited from.
- Schick – another supporting sponsor providing the opportunity for us to produce some of our Television packages.
- Dial Before You Dig - have been and continue to be great sponsors of surf boats in NSW, now directly supporting some 7 surf clubs along the length on the NSW coast. DBYD joined the ASRL last season to again allow us to present our television program.
- Destination NSW - has been strongly on side in support of the ASRL Open and your crew entry numbers have justified this partnership. We are bringing a lot of bed nights into regional NSW and the returning sponsorship is allowing us to present a great on-beach event
- City of Newcastle – We enjoyed wonderful support from council in presenting the recent ASRL Open event.
- Navy Health – this was another new sponsor that provided solid support for us during the season.

We have just completed a three year stint of the ASRL Open at Stockton beach. Each year we learnt a little more and hopefully provided a great example of how to run a terrific boat event. We can't say enough to thank Rhonda Scruton, the CEO of Hunter Branch and her Board and Staff. It was an absolute pleasure working with such a professional body of SLS administrators for whom nothing was too difficult. To Callan Nickerson President at Stockton Surf Club and his team - again wow! What a good job. You have all set the bar pretty high, which is a great

result. Internally we must acknowledge and thank Frank Veltman who has made the job of Event Director his. Frank works closely with the organising club, branch and council for a full twelve months leading into this event and the seamless end result can, in large part, be credited to the work Frank does behind the scenes.

Shellharbour here we come in February 2015. Frank and Bristles have already been to meet with the club and start the process all over again, so we can all be sure another great experience at the Open awaits us at Shellharbour.

The ASRL Website has been completely rebuilt and relaunched in July this year. We again acknowledge and thank the wonderful support we receive from Perry Brennan, our Webmaster and importantly, our friend. The plan is to make the site a lot more interactive, providing users the opportunity to upload video and photos that will become the focus of member commenting and voting. The old Chat Forum has gone and been replaced by a more information-based Billboard. If you want to sell something, advertise for a rower or provide information on upcoming events or information, this section is for you. For those that want to chat we have made the Facebook connection a priority as this is where the vast majority of members are currently found. Sport can't continue to have its mother ship media outlet, in our case the Website, being used to undermine either the product or make sponsors nervous. One only need look at the speed with which some other sports are now reacting to anything adverse by participants to understand that we are all in a much more exposed position. The Chat Forum has in past served us well, but time to let go and move on.

On behalf of all rowers I thank our loyal band of officials. You stick to us through it all and I do wonder and worry for the future when I look at how few new starters we seem to be attracting to assist in this most important role. Also to all the Water Safety people around the country, we can't enjoy our sport without you and we only wish we could do more to say thank you to both the Officials and Water Safety people out there.

I have been on a mission for the last few years to understand what is happening to the decreasing numbers in our sport. It is complex, it is community based and not just surf or boat specific, but we do have things we can do together to make a difference. If every club with a surf boat in Australia made the effort to introduce just 1 new age division crew and one new sweep this season, our problem would be fixed. We have over 300 surf clubs so even if one third of them achieve this challenge, we will have

introduced 100 new crews and 100 new sweeps to our sport. Unfortunately that is just the start, the challenge after that is to not lose any of our current crews and sweeps. It is little understood, but just in the boats we are turning over roughly one third (or 800 rowers) of our membership each year. This isn't sustainable long term, with all the other sporting and social options available to our members.

How we fix this bit isn't so easy, but for our part it is to look at the way we run events. Make them different, make them fun, make them shorter in time, start to really engage with the competitors and understand what it is they are involved in the sport for. Yes some will want nothing but competition and to win, however on the known statistics, the vast majority want other things. They want friendship, fun, fitness first and foremost - and endless competition is at the bottom of the scale. Balance is the key word here and in most cases and in most locations we haven't achieved this just yet. Finally on this topic, the other big issue which is harder for us to control is the long list of regulations (read turn-offs) that the sport of Surf Lifesaving puts in our way. Work has started in chipping away at this and this season, most if not all States will be attempting to run "come and try days" for non-club members. The system exists to allow this to happen, so it is up to us to make it happen.

As a committee we still have much to do and this season we will be continuing to develop:

- the Southern States Youth Stampede which is to be held at Lorne in January;
- working closely with SLSA on the development of an entirely new Coaching and Assessment delivery plan;
- the coaching accreditation will have a significant online component;
- the further development of the SHR system along with incident data collection to enable us to look at the next stage in the safety development. This will allow us all to understand the number of actual incidents and relate those against the SHR at the timeline then interconnect any injury results, so that we can develop a true safety policy based on actual information; and
- rolling out specific coaching courses in conjunction with each of the State rowing groups.

I take the opportunity to thank Graham Ford, President of SLSA, and Greg Nance CEO SLSA, for the open-door policy they have shown to me and the ASRL, via the SBC agreement. We have travelled a pretty rough road as we worked our way through the Helmet debate, where many times all communication between SLSA and the boat rowers could have been scuttled. It has been level heads

	<p>and an ability to work on the solutions together that has seen us all reach the outcomes we currently have. It is always easy to be the critic if you don't have to bear the consequences, so to SLSA we can say our committee did understand, and equally you took the time to listen to what we were saying.</p> <p>Finally, to you the member, I thank you for your continuing support throughout the season. Being President of the ASRL is a big job, it takes an enormous amount of time, but for the most part it is rewarding to be achieving our goals. You are well served by a committed and knowledgeable committee that is not frightened to speak out or state an opinion. Our committee debate is at times spirited, but always well-meaning, and on most things I hope we get it right. Another season is just around the corner and we look forward to again working for you all this coming year.</p>
<p>5. Treasurers Report and presentation of the Audited Financial Statement</p>	<p>This report covers the period 1 May 2013 to 30 April 2014. Our cash and cash equivalents were \$57,940, total assets of \$125,139; with nil liabilities. Our total member funds were \$125,139 at the end of our financial year; almost exactly the same as the previous period. Our income totalled \$551,061 and our expenditure \$551,842, showing a loss for the year of \$781, which was in line with budget forecasts.</p> <p>The bulk of our sponsorship income came from our major sponsor, the Navy. The relationship continues a wonderful partnership between the two groups and is epitomised in the catchphrase "Navy, The Team Works". We are fortunate to have such an iconic organisation backing surf rowers throughout Australia and we thank them for their continued support.</p> <p>TV production income was provided by three companies: Staminade, Schick and Dial Before You Dig.</p> <p>The Navy Launch at Surfers Paradise was supported by the Surfers Paradise Alliance.</p> <p>Navy Health joined us for the season and we thank them for their support.</p> <p>Our relationship with Destination New South Wales continues to strengthen due to the fantastic support that we receive from our members, their families and club members. They certainly appreciate the numbers that attend the ASRL/Navy Open and we look forward to working with them in the future.</p> <p>The Navy 100 Years was the event celebrating 100 years of Navy in Australia, which was a spectacular week of naval activity on Sydney Harbour, culminating on the Saturday evening with a spectacular fireworks and aerial show on the harbour which was televised throughout Australia.</p> <p>Our expenses stayed in control, which is pleasing when considering the many different areas of expenditure that take place throughout the 12 months of</p>

	<p>trading. I'm pleased to say that our organisation remains in good financial health and with the indication that most of our sponsors will be with us again for the 2014-2015 season, we look forward to being able to support the continued promotion and development of the sport throughout Australia.</p> <p>MOTION</p> <p>That the 2013-2014 Financial and Audited Report be accepted.</p> <p>Moved: Don Alexander</p> <p>Seconded: Elton McKay</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION</p> <p>That the 2013-2014 Annual Report be accepted as a true and correct record.</p> <p>Moved: Trish McDermott</p> <p>Seconded: Mick Lang</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
<p>6. Election of Office Bearers for the 2013-2014 season</p>	<p>One position was appointed without need for election:</p> <p>Treasurer - Don Alexander - one nomination (two year term)</p> <p>Vice Presidents - 4 nominations for 3 positions First three past the post three year term</p> <p>Mick Lang – Elected</p> <p>Geoff Matthews - Elected</p> <p>Stephen Blewett - Not Elected</p> <p>Nathan Perry- Elected</p> <p>President Bert Hunt, Secretary Rod Costa & Vice Presidents Don Cotterill, Grant Wilkinson & James McLaughlin are currently serving a two year term.</p>

<p>7. Vote of thanks to Stephen Blewett</p>	<p>The service of Stephen Blewett to the rowing fraternity over the full life of the ASRL was acknowledged by the President. A motion of thanks for such a wonderful effort was moved and unanimously supported from the floor. Moved Don Cotterill Seconded Kim Marsh</p>
<p>8. Deal with any Notice of Motion(s)</p>	<p>No Notices of Motion for this AGM</p>
<p>9. Election of Hall of Fame (HoF) committee (5 required from existing HoF members) Nominations will be accepted up until the call to ballot at the AGM</p>	<p>Nominations received from:</p> <p>Kim Marsh Stephen Blewett Warren Molloy Rick Millar Robert Walsh Stephen Swane</p> <p>A Paper Election was held to select four members for HoF Committee</p> <p>MOTION:</p> <p>That the four members be elected to the HOF Committee, in accordance with the current Constitution.</p> <p>1) Stephen Blewett 2) Rick Millar 3) Kim Marsh 4) Stephen Swane</p> <p>MOVED: Don Cotterill</p> <p>SECONDED: Kim Marsh</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION:</p> <p>That Rick Millar, in accordance with the current Constitution be elected as Chairperson of the HoF Committee.</p> <p>MOVED: Don Cotterill</p> <p>SECONDED: Kim Marsh</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <p>The secretary thanked Trish McDermott for her help in being the adjudicator for all the voting.</p> <p>Don Cotterill suggested that a new criteria has to be prepared and that current nominations are on hold pending this new criteria.</p>

<p>10. Setting of fees for the 2014-2015 season</p>	<p>Much discussion was held re the cost of fees for the coming season. It was decided that the setting of fees be left to the new Committee.</p>
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The Meeting Closed 11 am

Signed as a correct record 20 July 2014:



Bert Hunt

President

Open Forum

There was general discussion of the following issues:

1) Membership Numbers

There were about 2500 rowers in Australia last season represented from approx. 210 clubs. Also about 30% of surf clubs have a boat. When topping up for racing singlet's, we have estimated that we will need approx. 800 so that is a 30% decline in numbers each year. This represents a critical path as we are losing too many members.

Ideas put forward:

Shift to a probationary system

Get rowers into patrol as part of the probation and let them find their lifesaver feet rather than being pushed into it. / On-Line Bronze medallion

2) Coaching

Bert spoke re coaching and sweeping accreditation. These are to become an on-line component which SLSA are preparing. This component will be on-line from October 2014

3) PPE & Helmets

All the latest documentation re this is on the website in Newsletter # 50 as an attachment that spells out our ASRL recommendations.

Matrix scale rating 14-16 calls for helmets. Incidents start at 11 or 12. The Referee will always have the final decision. It is to our advantage that we get the surf hazard rating system activated.

There was much discussion on the above. We simply cannot disregard this safety message.

4) National Carnival Calendar

An invitation is open to all crews from Queensland ASRL to attend the season launch at Surfers Paradise on Sat/Sun 8th/9th November 2014

5) Website

Graeme (Zombie) Knox commented on the changes to the website particularly the Forum. Bert explained how the website is currently being updated and the work is still in progress

6) Finish Line Technology

Paul Scherf asked a question re the video finish technology like at the Anglesea Triple Crown event.

Bert explained how SLSA Nathan Height have purchased Go-Pro's and are all systems go with major events. Currently ASRL are looking at Drone technology also but this is still a work in progress and will only be used at major carnivals,

FORUM CLOSED 1:00 pm

Lunch and refreshments were then provided by Elouera SLSC on behalf of ASRL