



ASRL Newsletter

ASRL Newsletter NO: 49 June 2014

Report on various May Conference Meetings:

Go to the links below to see the three individual conference agendas

To find the ASRL/SBC Agenda click [HERE](#)

To find the Conference with State Rowing groups and committee click [HERE](#)

To see the Forum agenda click [HERE](#)

ASRL/SBC meeting with SLSA:

The agenda was large and strong the outcomes not so positive would be the easy way to sum up this meeting:

- ⇔ SLSA Surf Sports have no money and are heavily into cutbacks across the sport including product and staff support
- ⇔ This affects us directly in a reduction of contribution to the Australian Teams and no contribution to our running the National Interstate which costs the ASRL \$70,000 a year
- ⇔ The ASRL have confirmed that they will select the date, venue and Officials to run the National Selection event for 2014-15 which was agreed to
- ⇔ We have confirmed that the Boats for 2015 will be at Tugun and we have the run of that beach for location. In 2016 we will again have our own beach
- ⇔ We are pushing hard for the introduction of a National Calender of Major events to be confirmed by each State together with SLSA at least 18 months in advance. This to include all the majors so other events can then be fitted in and around
- ⇔ Finish line camera and Drone technology are now a must have and any final hurdles must be sorted for the coming season. The Finish Line camera we now have all the pieces to the puzzle so no excuses for this now not happening. Drone usage does come with some restrictions from the Civil Aviation Safety Authority around heights and people but nothing that can't be overcome with good planning and a serious desire
- ⇔ Discussion on falling numbers and barriers to attracting new members were accepted but nothing positive was offered as a way to solve either issue other than to blame Lifesaving for not being able to move

A frustrating meeting not reaching any great heights would be a fair assessment. It simple means we need as a body of rowers to take more control and work harder at our own solutions

Sat am Conference:

This was a far more productive meeting with 100% of people in the room leaving with a feeling of understanding and future direction. The cooperation between the State bodies and the ASRL Committee was great and good platforms were forged to attack the future together.

Summary:

- ⇔ Navy are coming on board with us again for 2014-15 season which is not yet a signed contract and only for 1 year so vigilance is still required

- ⇔ The ASRL is again in a solid financial position and budgeting for a sufficient rainy day carryover bank account at the end of next season
- ⇔ The State bodies are all active and ready for the challenge of lifting participation in the sport
- ⇔ The announcement was made on the venue and date for the next ASRL Open. **Venue is Shellharbour NSW and the date is Friday 20 to Sunday 22 Feb 2015**
- ⇔ By way of background on the date selection, we have worked as closely as possible with SLSNSW on an overarching program to secure our dates for next season. As another event has shifted onto our regular weekend and been approved by SLSNSW to do so we were left to either run against this event or shift. We decided to shift to save a fight but did require that SLSNSW find us a date that didn't conflict with either the regular NSW Branch weekend or the Pac Palms event. The final suggested date was the 20-22 Feb but at the time of our meeting and to now that hasn't been confirmed by SLSNSW. In fairness to every other State it became imperative for us to settle on a date so that decision was taken at this meeting
- ⇔ We had a presentation on the state of sport nationally and not one person was left feeling that we as the sport of Surf Lifesaving is leading the way in development or participation. Coupled with the presentation on crew numbers from 2002 to present we are in serious decline and every one of us must respond and change what we are doing in some way as required by each set of circumstances
- ⇔ The TC event maybe with a name change will be further refined next season and has been positioned to stay away from other major event days while using existing events to work with
 - Round 1 will be at Surfers Paradise on the weekend of the 8-9 Nov
 - Round 2 will be in South Australia on the weekend of the 6-7 Dec
 - Round 3 and the final National Team selection is on the weekend of 20-21 Dec
 To explain the R3 final selection date the only option offered up by SLSNSW was the 25 Jan and that provided a maximum of 5 or 6 working days to organise team travel to NZ including outfitting etc which was never going to happen. So we are forced into choosing the earlier December date at Elouera NSW and this will couple up to the Nth Cronulla event so we will be able to make this a weekend well travelling to
- ⇔ Another initiative we are working on is to include a ski section at this year's Open to both increase our footprint and presentation
- ⇔ Three very important outcomes centred on our discussion around age groups and crew numbers
 - A real effort will be made by the various State bodies to introduce event days for 15YO rowers. It won't be competition events where they are racing to win but event participation days which sit inside the current guidelines. The ASRL will look to the Open to achieve the same goal
 - Secondly we will be pushing ahead to introduce rowing surfboats to non-current club members. These will take the form of special days set up as a come and try and will fall under the Special Event process that already exists within SLS and is used to run events like Ocean Swims and Coolangatta Gold
 - Finally the challenge was laid on the table to every club in Australia to go out and find 1 new U19 crew and introduce 1 new sweep into our sport this next season and if achieved we will have gone a long way to reversing the falling trend. It isn't that hard to achieve so don't fall to excuses **"just do it"**

Saturday pm Forum:

- ⇔ The Surf Rating System was well explained by Gary McCoy the co-author of the Matrix system

- ⇔ Many graphs of results were on display and everything very clearly explained by Gary, Kim & Nathan
- ⇔ All in the room were confident and complimentary in the work done in developing this rating system
- ⇔ The challenge now is to provide our recommendation back to SLSA on the kick in position for the introduction of Helmets, when to pull each division off the water and when to stop racing
- ⇔ Included into the event safety net is the inclusion of a 3 person experienced Boat Panel at every event to work with and advise the Referee. This safety panel we are suggesting will have the power to alter the Rating starting point both up and down dependant on number and type of incidents at the time
- ⇔ A new upgraded Sweep Accreditation and Coaching L1 system is currently on the books for introduction this coming season. It will all be combined with a lot more actual practical Boat work as part of the agenda. The paperwork will now be an online element so no more sitting in rooms for days on end. This is a continuing work in progress that the ASRL is inputting into
- ⇔ The sweep/crew grading system was discussed but not resolved at this time. Much more data collection will be required to move this along but the thinking and discussion has started
- ⇔ We have implemented a working sub-committee of Kim Marsh, Nathan Perry, Grant Wilkinson and Don Cotterill to work on the SRS and the introduction points based on the SRS. Anyone who would like to contribute thoughts to this group should do so by emailing secretary@asrl.com.au This is for the kick in point only as we haven't started to look seriously at the Grading system just yet, one thing at a time

National Selection Date:

More detail to come on all this which will set out the process and the actual event details. Crews should make a note that to even be considered for selection you have to complete the SLSA Nomination Form for selection into a National Team when it is released later in the year. Some crews were caught out last season by not nominating and this is something that only the crew or club can do so watch for the notification

Website:

Those that have been watching the Website in recent weeks will note that it has been crashed more times than it has been alive. The issue is complex and we have no option but to spend the money and create a new site.

- ⇔ We are a VIP account with the provider but over many, many calls have had no backup support or explanation as to what the issue is.
- ⇔ Our current site is now out of date and no longer supported by software upgrade
- ⇔ We will take the opportunity to build a new more modern interactive website
- ⇔ It will allow for user input of video footage
- ⇔ The plan is to have a single person or persons driving news on the site at least upgraded weekly with easy connection to Facebook etc
- ⇔ It will most likely feature a Billboard style section where news snippets, classified etc can easily be posted but may not continue with a standalone chat room
- ⇔ All the regular features like the coaching corner, HoF will remain but overall we will take the opportunity to totally revamp the site and make it more relevant to the usage needs of our members

We are not sure of the time line for this but we are at the starting point so if the site goes down it will be a temporary stoppage as required to shift stuff across and develop the new site

AGM:

The date for the AGM : Saturday 19 July

Location: Elouera Surf Clubhouse

Electronic Vote closes at 9.30am on the 19 July

Meeting Commence: 10am

Nomination for committee positions close: 5pm Friday 20 June

See Home Page of Website for all details

Location of ASRL Open:

We take the opportunity to explain the reasoning behind keeping the Open in NSW at this stage. The Open has grown to be the biggest and strongest surfboat event in Australia. It is regularly attracting 350 crew entries each year and that strength of numbers can't be ignored. The Open Brand is now on the top rung of the ladder as one of the most recognised surf sport brands in the country along with the Aussie Titles, Coolangatta Gold and the Ironman Series. To put at risk this brand strength isn't smart business nor would it be a good decision. Most people recognise the need and support of sponsors and sponsors are always after maximum exposure. Every surfboat in the country has a sponsor pasted along the side and exposure is why they provide the funds. Building and maintaining big successful events is a key factor in developing any sport.

When we put this decision on the table each year the strong answer from the travelling States is to keep it around Sydney Airport. Most flights and best chance of better rate cost than any other with the exception possibly of Qld. As Qld is locked up to host the Aussies into the future it is an easy decision to leave it in NSW remembering that NSW currently provides roughly 50% of all Australian boat crews.

For those claiming to want to travel around the country outside of NSW we have many opportunities to do so. Major events on offer and supported by the ASRL for next season would include Round 1 TC in Qld on the 8 & 9 Nov, Round 2 TC in SA on the 6 & 7 Dec, the Southern States (open to all comers) Youth Stampede on a January date yet TBC in Vic so plenty of travel experience opportunity open to all.

Committee ASRL