

Windsurfing NSW General Meeting Minutes

7:00pm 24/8/20

By video conference

Present

Lissa McMillan, Richie Reynolds, Tom Plodr, Murray Towndrow, Glen Morrell, Keith Single, Richard Lacey, Geoff Kitchen, Zack Coleman, Peter Doolan, Melanie Webb, Martin Stone, Neil McKinlay, Greg McInnes & Al Haynes.

Apologies

John Doolan, Kevin Wadham

1. President's Report

Items from the last meeting were

- a) Glen M has finished the payment gateway on the WNSW website. It has been tested and works.
 - b) 17 WNSW affiliation agreements were sent out and 7 have been returned. (Note: Balmoral SC received 25/8/20 makes eight.) See attachment 1 for affiliation agreement and membership tracker.
 - c) Stormriders Windsurfing Club held their AGM. Their new President is Brett Morris.
 - d) Botany Bay SENS is yet to be advanced.
2. Richie reported from the AWA. The interim AWA insurance certificate of currency is on the WNSW website <https://www.windsurfingnsw.com/about/> of scroll down to near the bottom the page. The final certificate of currency will be posted when it is available.
 3. Murray said the calendar was set subject to Covid restrictions.
 4. Glen reported on foiling. The Formula Foil at Silvaplana, Switzerland had many competitors & was very exciting. There is uncertainty over the planned events.
 5. Geoff K reported on RPAYC. There were over 20 entrants with 17 races over the winter. The newly appointed RPAYC board are however unlikely to sign the WNSW affiliation agreement.
 6. Neil M reported on IYC. The licensed club CEO meets with sailing class captains tomorrow (incl Neil) about the Club's Covid plan.
 7. Greg M reported on DAC. They are planning for the best and anticipating the worst. The working bee and last winter sailing date is scheduled for the 5th of September.
 8. Zack C from Wave has a 5 event season planned. Event 1, the Surf FX Woopi Classic 2020 is to be held at Flat Top, Woolgoolga in October. The International Wave Tour is currently still planning the first 2021 round at Margaret River, WA in February. Which is proposed as the Wave nationals.
 9. Richard L from PBSC reported. PBSC have to put their Covid plan into Northern Beaches Council for approval. They are looking at a 10 race series. PBSC are still looking to host the Raceboards and Windsurfers in October.
 10. Al Haynes noted the request for funding proposal for windsurfing at TASC that was sent to WNSW earlier this week (see attachment 3) with Brett Morris response (attachment 4) and Al's counter response attachment 5). Al has been spending a lot of time at Toronto ASC promoting windsurfing. According to Al, the club is struggling financially. <http://www.tasc.org.au/>

11. Keith reported on the financial position which remains well-funded but noted that it took a long time to get to this position. Demolition of St George sailing club is complete.
12. Mel Webb reported from Balmoral. There are currently 21 windsurfing members. Greg Johns will coach junior windsurfing. Balmoral is in discussion with Middle Harbour Skiff Club and Manly SC so that weekends kids coaching won't clash among the north harbour sailing clubs. They are in discussion with Mosman Council to get better external racking & funding.
13. Martin Stone said the WCAA Nationals in Parkdale are still scheduled for Australia Day 21 but the NOR won't be released until November.
14. President reported great feedback on the WNSW life member appointments. The Raceboards calendar is planned but uncertain.
15. Sailing under Covid. The Australian Sailing recommendations (which are in response to the NSW Chief Health Officer announcement on community sport of 19th of August) are in place for 6 weeks. NSW Health has asked for inter-regional mixing of people (using AS defined regions) to cease at NSW sailing events. While it was noted that the AS definition of "regions" was somewhat arbitrary, it would be irresponsible to ignore Govt Health guidelines during a global pandemic.
16. The October long weekend falls just outside the above 6 week period. The President said that clubs and classes should continue to plan to sail but be prepared to amend plans at short notice. We will have a better idea of whether restrictions will be continued or not at our next meeting on 21/9/20 to be able to make a call on future scheduled events.
17. Modernising the Constitution and Offering Individual Memberships to WNSW. The President discussed the paper (see attachment 2) that was distributed with the meeting agenda. The suggested Constitution amendments will be worked on and presented to the Committee at a later date. Windsurfing NSW affiliation agreements and individual memberships to WNSW was then talked to. After much discussion, no consensus was reached. Some AS affiliated clubs would be happy to move to individual WNSW memberships while others don't while some non-AS windsurfing clubs find the current system okay but others don't. There were concerns that members would join WNSW & race but not join a club. The executive will do more work before the next meeting.
18. The President discussed Sydney harbour access for windsurfers. While optimist dinghies sailed by minors and stand up paddle boards operated by anyone can cross Sydney harbour ferry lanes, windsurfers can't and are currently being warned by Maritime if they are seen crossing them. This needs to change.
19. Al Haynes has made an application for WNSW funds on behalf of TASC and WCAA for training equipment and other support for training infrastructure. Al reported that the WCAA can't support Toronto Amateur SC as requested but will in a minor way. There were a number of interesting fund-raising suggestions (eg the tax-deductible Australian Sports Foundation Fund <https://asf.org.au/>) proposed to Al by committee members as many clubs are needing to raise funds to keep afloat. There was a lot of moral support for the proposal. The WNSW Executive will consider the proposal further, along with the overarching WNSW philosophy and criteria for making grants.
20. The President proposed September 21 at 7pm for the next committee meeting.
21. The meeting closed at 8.58pm.

Attachment 1. Club Agreement & Membership Tracker

25/08/2020	Club	Agreement Sent	Agreement Returned	members details received In member spreadsheet
1	Balmoral	Yes	Yes	
2	Dobroyd Yacht Club	Yes	Yes	
3	Hunters Hill	Yes	Yes	
4	IYC (Oaks Flats)	Yes	Yes	
5	Koonawarra Bay	Yes		
6	Marmong Point	Yes	Yes	Yes
7	Merimbula	Yes	Yes	
8	NSW wavesailing	Yes		
9	Palm Beach	Yes	Yes	
10	Port Stephens Sailing	Yes		
11	RPAYC	Yes		
12	Saratoga SC	Yes	Yes	
13	St George (Manly)	Yes		
14	Stormriders	Yes		
15	Sunshine (SLMASC)	Yes	no windsurfers	
16	Toronto	Yes		
17	Windsurfer one design	Yes		
18	Woollahra SC	Yes		

Attachment 2. Paper attached to WNSW Agenda of 4 August 2020

Modernising the WNSW Constitution – DRAFT for discussion

The Constitution was last amended in 1990 and needs modernising. The WNSW objectives should be amended as some are out of date (eg the IYRU is now World Sailing & Div 2 is one very small part of the WNSW membership). The other amendments are technical, for example to enable meetings to be held electronically as this is not contemplated by the 1990 document.

Any proposed amendments need to be passed by a majority at an AGM. The proposed amendments will be worked on and presented later in 2020 for discussion by the Committee. Any amendments approved by the Committee would be presented to members for approval.

The 1990 document says that:

- The objectives of the Association shall be:
 - to promote the interests of Board Sailing, of its members and sailors:
 - to encourage competition and
 - to control the plans, specifications and restrictions governing the various classes and or divisions in particular the open class (Division 2) of the I.Y.R.U. in New South Wales.

A better objective could be

- To develop and promote all aspects of windsurfing in New South Wales.

- To encourage competition and enhance sailors' enjoyment of the sport of windsurfing in New South Wales

Membership of WNSW

The current model is that sailing clubs that offer windsurfing affiliate to WNSW for the year July 1 to June 30. The fee is \$100 per club with the first year of affiliation gratis, plus \$20 per member. These clubs then collect monies from club sailing windsurfers which are forwarded to WNSW. Most of the fee goes to the AWA for the third party public liability insurance.

Pros

1. Most if not all windsurfing club members are captured by this method resulting in racing members being covered by the WNSW policy.

Cons

1. Every year, the reason for WNSW club affiliation must be presented again to many clubs. In some cases there have been blank refusals to sign or many iterations of the affiliation agreement,
2. Clubs have to collect extra money over and above the club membership fee for windsurfers and forward them to the treasurer. In many cases, this is cited by a number of clubs as a significant hassle.
3. Sailing Clubs, as a result of complying with NSW Maritime regulations and AS requirements typically have a higher standard of care than WNSW requires and the WNSW affiliation document is unnecessary.
4. WNSW is reliant on Clubs to maintain an accurate membership list and advise the WNSW secretary. This is imperfect. NSW Fair Trading requires an up to date membership list to be maintained by a NSW registered association.
5. Individual NSW windsurfers can't access well priced third party public liability insurance unless they join a sailing club. (the AWA third party public liability insurance is priced well below similar products)

The Committee should consider ways to improve this.

A possible option would be to offer individual membership to WNSW and alter the relationship with sailing clubs that offer windsurfing.

1. Members would be required to join WNSW individually and pay a fee. This should occur in June prior to the sailing season as the member is covered for the financial year for insurance.
2. Australian Sailing affiliated Sailing clubs that offer windsurfing would get a letter in July from WNSW offering support and help from WNSW on windsurfing policy related issues.
3. Non-AS sailing clubs that offer windsurfing would be asked to sign the current affiliation agreement outlining a minimum duty of care to hold windsurfing racing. The current fee is up for debate.

Pros

- An automated email would be sent in June notifying WNSW members that they need to renew. Some will renew then, others before the sailing season

starts. Others could join WNSW or purchase insurance at WNSW sanctioned regattas. (the AWA insurance envisages this)

- Clubs don't have to get or handle extra windsurfer money
- AS clubs don't have to execute an agreement with WNSW
- WNSW will get a membership register and can readily contact members when required
- There are likely to a number of casual, non-racing members that will join to get third party public liability insurance.

Cons

- Compliance. There will be sailing club members that won't join WNSW, notwithstanding third party public liability insurance is required to sail at Australian Sailing affiliated club racing or WNSW sanctioned events. As an example, possibly 20% of DAC members may not join unless prodded or prompted.
- Using an external party sports club management system such as revolutionise.com.au or tidyhq.com is not free.
- Club affiliation is currently approx. \$1600 of WNSW annual income.

Issue

- Enabling members to join more than one club or class, but only pay once for WNSW membership.

A change such as this needs to be sold to members.

Here is the WWA membership site.

<https://windsurfingwa.org.au/public/pages/membership-faq>

Membership Fees

The cost of AWA fees and insurance is approximately \$20. As an example, WWA charge \$80 for senior members and \$50 for junior members. They are different to WNSW as they have boats and trailers. \$45 for senior members and \$30 for junior members (under 18yo, can't vote at meetings) may be acceptable, but more work needs to be done on calculating a fee that allows services to be provided without being excessive. WNSW is a not-for-profit organisation. As a further example, The Windsurfer Class Association of Australian (WCAA) charge \$65 for membership including third party public liability insurance and \$40 without said insurance.