

WALLIS SPIRIT DRAGONS INC.–
Committee Meeting – 30 July 2015 – Annabelle's place

<p>Attendance: Chris Hutchison, Sue Hutchison, Lee Newell, Laraine Hattersley, Annabelle Lewis. Apologies: Kim Manners, Kathy Boyce Welcome to Guests: Sally Cooke, Chris Rand, Lindy Patterson</p>		
ITEM and DISCUSSION	ACTION	WHO
<p>Minutes of previous Meeting on 30 June: Accepted Sue / Lee</p>		
<p>Matters arising from Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lee has organised gift for Stuart. Will be presented at meeting after AGM • Cards to be sent to Kim (condolences) and Wendy (get well) from WSD 	<p>Cards prepared and sent</p>	<p>Lee</p>
<p>Correspondence – IN DBNSW re AGM & Conference DBNSW re State Coach positions etc DBNSW re changes to structure Northern Region & DBNSW - various OUT Emails to members as determined at June meeting Emails re proposed changes to DBNSW Constitution</p>		
<p>Business arising from Minutes As requested by Andrew Blundell from Northern Region, we will forward our concerns re proposed DBNSW constitution changes and restructuring. Discussion of points to be recorded. Draft email will go to committee & visitors to this meeting for OK and then sent to Andrew. See text of email below. This will also serve as our briefing for Sally for AGM</p>	<p>Email to Nth Reg prepared and circulated</p>	<p>Secretary</p>
<p>Treasurer's Report: One copy available. Will be emailed to committee members. We have not yet been invoiced for Club membership - around \$700 Special thanks to Tati, Mehdi, Frank, Kathy & Ray who have all worked on the BBQ held in Forster each month, contributing over \$100 a month to our coffers.</p>	<p>Email report to C'tee</p>	<p>Chris</p>
<p>Coaches & Sweeps: Lindy Patterson is our trainee sweep. She spoke of the stirrup used at the training session to aid people get back on board the boat. Lindy is willing to try and make one or find a suitable alternative. We will introduce the concept to members at the meeting after the AGM and have a practice using it when the weather is warmer. Aim to have something ready to use by the end of October. There had been no response for request for members to consider Coach training, but at this meeting, Chris Rand decided to investigate the requirements and consider training.</p>	<p>Make/obtain stirrup Investigate coach training requirements</p>	<p>Lindy Patterson Chris Rand, assisted by Sally</p>
<p>SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS</p> <p>Fund-raising and Catering: In Kim's possible absence, Laraine & Annabelle will look after catering for the AGM. Wine & Cheese beforehand. If anyone requires tea or coffee after, we will have some available and a packet of biscuits.</p> <p>Membership & Publicity: 20 have renewed with DBNSW for the coming year. The Aquatic Club has asked for something to go in The Breeze Newsletter each month if possible. Need to keep up info in <i>Connections</i> and <i>The Advocate</i>.</p> <p>Regattas: Camden Haven coming up in October. Members have been asked to put their names down now.</p> <p>Uniform: The sub-committee will take samples to the meeting after the AGM. Thank you for all the work put into getting the proposed new uniforms ready.</p>	<p>Wine & Cheese etc purchased Info for publication Remind members to put their names down Uniform to Meeting 10/08</p>	<p>Laraine & Annabelle C'tee and members Elaine, C'tee and paddlers Lee, Wendy, Cathie</p>
<p>Nominations for Supporters of WSD Group: Tracey Cruikshank had been nominated previously and the form overlooked. The certificate had now been prepared and Sally offered to deliver it to Tracey.</p>	<p>Deliver Certificate</p>	<p>Sally</p>

<p>Plans for AGM: Elections for all committee members at AGM and Financial Report presented. Then Members meeting. Topics to include info about Regattas, repairs and maintenance of boats, use of Stirrup, report from Sally on DBNSW AGM and conference, the place of Juniors in our club and any General Business members wish to raise.</p>		
<p>MAINTENANCE ISSUES Boat repairs: a lot of work has gone into this. There has been more damage and deterioration than was first realised. It was moved by Annabelle, seconded by Laraine and accepted by all present that the budget approved be raised from \$500 to \$700. This only covers material and not the many, many hours put into the task. Boat Covers: this has been VERY disappointing. Several places approached have declined the job. Other options require that the boats be taken to for instance, Taree -no small task. We will continue to try and find a solution to this problem.</p>		
<p>GENERAL BUSINESS: Sally still interested in being the contact for Junior paddling and if Natalie Muenger renews, we will let Northern Region know that Sally is our Juniors contact</p>	<p>Ask Simone about Natalie</p>	<p>Sue</p>
<p>Next meeting: Thursday 27 August at Laraine Hattersley's - 4pm</p>		

Text of Email sent to Andrew Blundell, Northern Region with our reponse to proposed changes to DBNSW:

Hi Andrew,

Thank you for your offer to gather and collate responses regarding the DBNSW's structural changes and proposed changes to the constitution.

Our committee has considered at length the DBNSW's proposed constitutional changes, particularly the proposal to change the minimum club membership numbers from 18 to 26.

We are very much against this proposal and have advised our delegate to the DBNSW AGM accordingly.

In response to your email in which you said that you were willing to ...collate questions and comments ... and forward direct to Trish and the Board..., we would like to question

- a. The reasoning behind the proposed constitution change (increasing club membership minimum) and should it be accepted,*
- b. The mechanism of how this change would be implemented*
- c. The implications for clubs and for members*
- d. The implementation timeline.*

We accept that we should have been more pro-active on this topic, given that the proposal was raised in the notes from the Planning Forum distributed in January. However, we are very disappointed that the attention of clubs was not specifically drawn to this matter and that a briefing paper has not been issued on the topic, something which most organisations would consider 'due process'.

For clubs such as ours, that are in small, geographically isolated communities, the 'problem' of low membership numbers has little to do with lack of will, energy or effort to increase membership and we would be particularly disadvantaged if the proposal was accepted into the constitution.

In regard to the DBNSW restructuring in general, in the absence of any meaningful explanation or discussion it is hard not to think that DBNSW, rather than aiming at advancing Dragon Boating from a boutique sport to an 'emerging' (not quite sure what that actually means) one, is aiming to take it from a mainstream sport to an elite one with little room for and little interest in ordinary members who enjoy paddling and taking part in Regattas but are not interested in higher level competition.

We are supportive of DBNSW's efforts to increase its membership and public profile, through its involvement with promoting dragon boating as a school sport and consider it an area that would benefit from an even greater emphasis. And at the other end of the scale, promoting the sport as a healthy way to keep fit, physically and mentally for our increasing aged population would tie into public concerns and government initiatives to address the growing incidence of obesity and other lifestyle related health issues within the community.

We hope that the debate over the issues at the AGM will be thorough and vigorous, that common sense will prevail and that the value of DBNSW's 'ground level' members will be recognised.