



Wallis Spirit Dragons



Coomba Park NSW 2428

MEMBERS MEETING

11 August 2014

Coomba Community Hall

Attendees: Debbie Gosper, Annabelle Lewis, Di Peden, Brian Cotterill, Elaine Charker, Sally Cooke (guest), Kathy Boyce, Sue Hutchison, Chris Hutchison, Mary-Jane Silver, Stuart Silver, Pat Powell, Lee Newell, Kim Manners, Liz Spinks.

Apologies: Jenny Martin, Laraine Hattersley, Wendy Rogers, Simone Muenger

The Members meeting was held at the conclusion of the 2014 AGM. Lee Newell, unexpectedly elected as President was unprepared to chair the meeting so the Secretary took the chair.

Medical Forms: Forms were handed out and updated, signed and resealed by Members. They will continue to be held by the Sweep and be available at all paddling sessions.

Sweeps: Congratulations to Chris Hutchison, now L1 sweep. The roster on the web-site will be adjusted so that the Sweep's name – Sally or Chris – can be inserted by them as necessary. An email will go to all members advising them that from Saturday 16 August, to determine if paddling will go ahead, in addition to checking the number of paddlers listed, they also need to check whether there is a Sweep listed.

Discussion of Lee's accident during Sweep accreditation also led to the decision that in future the Coach should carry the WSD Emergency phone.

Regattas and Coaches: Elaine spoke about coming regattas and the training program leading up to them. Unfortunately the committee had not responded to the Coaches' request to review their training plan and so the Coaches had felt constrained from assuming that they could go ahead with the plan. The committee determined that the draft plan as presented should go ahead and expressed confidence in the decisions of the Coaches. Their plans were put to the membership generally and the regatta priority was explained.

Membership & Publicity: With the departure of several members through the year, due to moving or ill health, our numbers are down. Fifteen members had rejoined DBNSW and the plan, previously discussed, to have a Membership Drive in Spring was explained.

Concern was expressed that WSD could be abandoned by DBNSW as the DBNSW mentions 18 members required for a member club. The committee had thought to wait till the results of the Membership Drive to pursue this aspect further. However, the fears expressed by members that we would not be covered by insurance were acknowledged and it was determined the Sue Hutchison would contact DBNSW to clarify the situation.

(UPDATE: Sue contacted DBNSW and the reply indicated that: *It is not the intention of DBNSW to close off ties if the number drops.*)

In regard to the membership Drive, it will most likely be in September/early October at the foreshore. Sally will have to be the Sweep so her availability is a crucial consideration. All members strongly encouraged to be involved as we will need to use the Big Boat on the day. The dates repairs will be made will also be a factor (see below).

Fund Raising: With the purchase of the big boat, repairs and the need to organise some sort of covers for the boats (see below) we need to increase our available funds. Kim Manners is arranging a Bingo Night for the Saturday of the Long Weekend in the school holidays – Saturday 4 October. All members are asked to contribute \$5 and a bottle of wine for a raffle and all members are asked to be involved if at all possible and to promote the Bingo night.

General Updates:

Boat Repairs – as previously advised both boats need repairs. At this stage, depending on weather and other extraneous factors, the plan is to begin on 1 September, starting with the big boat. It could take up to 3 days so there will be no paddling in the big boat on that week. Information about repairs to the small boat will be notified later.

Boat Covers – the problems with cracking of the hulls of both boats is caused by rolling them over. When they are upright in the roll-over process, the pressure on the side is too great. To stop this they need to be kept with the hull on the ground but protected from the weather. Chris Hutchison handed round a photo of two different types of vinyl covers that could be a solution. We have had a quote from Bill Pain (local sail-maker) for around \$700 each. This project needs to be explored further and will be in the coming weeks. It would be ideal to get something in process soon so that the most can be made from the repairs being done.

General Business: thanks were extended to Deb and Di for the work they have put in to WSD as members and on the committee since its inception. We all hope that they may be able to return if their circumstances change.

The new committee was welcomed once again and the first meeting of the new committee will be held at 4pm on 8 September at Annabelle's place.

Annabelle Lewis
Secretary