



MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 09/06/2009

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE AMATEUR ROWING ASSOCIATION held on Tuesday 9th June, 2009 at the Royal Over-seas League, Park Place, St James's Street, SW1A 1LR at 1.15pm.

PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Mrs D.M. Ellis CBE, Chairman	Present
G. Harris, Deputy Chairman	Present
Mrs A. Phelps, Deputy Chairman	Present
R.M. Paterson, Hon. Treasurer	Present

APPOINTED MEMBERS

R. Phelps, CUCBC (Div 8)	Present
M. Blandford-Baker, COUR (Div 10)	Present
H. Trotter, Leander Club	Not present
M.D. Williams, London Rowing Club	Apologies
C. George, Thames Rowing Club	Present

ELECTED MEMBERS

B. Millns (1)	Northern	Apologies
T. Edwards (2)	Yorkshire	Apologies
S. Darnbrough (3A)	Lancashire & Greater Manchester	Present
J.C. Davies (3B)	Cheshire, Merseyside & N.Staffs	Present
P. Fenoulhet (4)	East Midlands	Present
C. Anton (5)	West Midlands	Present
B. Foster (7)	Bedford, Huntingdon, Peterborough	Apologies
A. Johnson (9)	East Anglia	Present
A. Weekes (11)	Upper Thames	Present
P. Moore (12)	Reading	Present
A.J. Evans (13)	Middle Thames	Present
J. Biddle (14)	Staines & Molesey	Present
R. West (15)	Kingston & Twickenham	Present
M. Carr (16)	Chiswick & Mortlake	Not present
Mrs S Cassidy (17)	University of London	Present
Dr N. Jackson (18)	Barnes & Hammersmith	Present
P. Lorenzato (19)	Putney	Present
M. Stallard (20)	Lea Valley & Essex	Present
J. Clayton (21A)	Lower Thames & Medway	Apologies
R. Noakes (21B)	Kent & Sussex Coast	Present
M.E. Green (22)	Hampshire & Dorset	Apologies
Mrs P Sondheimer	WAGS	Present
R. Mallett (24)	Devon & Cornwall	Present
C. Jenkins	President, WARA	Apologies
Welsh Amateur Rowing Association – (1 representative)		Apologies
M. Morrice	President, Scottish Rowing	Apologies
Scottish Amateur Rowing Association - (2 representatives)		Apologies

MEMBERS APPOINTED BY COUNCIL

Miss K. O'Sullivan	Chairman National Coaching Committee	Apologies
R. Murray	Chairman National Championships	Present
M. Martin	Chairman Junior Rowing Commission	Apologies
C. Llewellyn	Chairman National Competition Committee	Present
S. Ward	Chairman Water Safety Sub Committee	Present
R. Mallett	Chairman National Development Committee	Present



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MEMBERS CO-OPTED BY COUNCIL

Miss A. Faiers	Present
B. Hawden	Present
W.C. Thomson	Present
J. Turnbull	Apologies
Mrs F. Dennis	Present

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Hon. Life Vice-Presidents -	
C.G.V. Davidge OBE	Apologies
J.A. Veats	Apologies
M. Brandon-Bravo OBE	Present

ARA STAFF

J.R. Allsop	Financial Controller	Present
Mrs R.E. Napp	National Manager	Present
D.W. Tanner CBE	International Manager	Present
Miss W. Kewley	Rowing & Regatta	Present
Mrs P. Randolph	Minute Secretary	Present
Mrs L. Fieldman	Observing	Present

REGIONAL CHAIRMEN

A. Bryant	Northern Region	Present
Mrs R. Hatton	Thames Region	Present

ALSO ATTENDED

F. Rennie	BUCS
J. Lee	Junior Rowing Commission
Ms V. Parry	President WEARA

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

It is 130 years since the Metropolitan Rowing Association was set up in 1879 to administer the rules of rowing and crew selection, covering at first a limited area of the country. In 1882, to reflect its country-wide role, the word Metropolitan was altered to Amateur. During the 1950's the National Amateur Rowing Association which had been formed to promote the interests of the working oarsmen, joined the ARA. In the 1960's the Women's ARA became part of the ARA to enable them to host the Women's European Championships. Given our history it is perhaps not altogether surprising that Scottish Rowing expressed fears of a 'take over' of its sport. The proposal to change the name of the Amateur Rowing Association to British Rowing is not a move to take on the governance of rowing in Scotland and Wales and following discussions both their Associations support the resolutions put forward today.

We have recognised for some time that the word Amateur in today's world does not convey a positive message to our sponsors, the general public or to our own rowers. The change of name was covered in some depth at our last Council meeting and is an important and historic moment for rowing.

2. CHANGE OF NAME

Resolution 1

That the name of the company be changed from 'The Amateur Rowing Association Limited' to 'British Rowing Limited'.

Resolution 1 was supported by the meeting with the exception of one vote against.



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Resolution 2

That the Memorandum of Association of the Amateur Rowing Association Limited and the Articles of Association of the Amateur Rowing Association Limited be changed in accordance with Resolution 1.

Resolution 2 was supported by the meeting with the exception of one vote against.

3. APPOINTMENT OF SCOTTISH AND WELSH MEMBERS

Resolutions 3 and 4 were introduced because part of the work of British Rowing is international representation. Scotland and Wales felt that under the existing arrangement they do not have a say in the drawing up of British selection policies and budgets. With regard to geographical constraints both Scotland and Wales fully understand the responsibilities of a Director and the commitment required.

The Chairman was asked why this change should be made now when it had not been felt necessary to do so before. She said she believed that it was important to include Scotland and Wales, a move that would bring the Association in line with other Olympic governing bodies. The International Manager said that there were other shared areas to take into account, such as coaching standards and welfare matters.

There was discussion about the process of appointment of the two Directors. Currently there were three places for Scotland and two places for Wales on Council, as elected members. The general view of Council was that the Executive member should be drawn from the elected members of Council. It was put forward that the Articles of Association could be amended to say that the elected members for Scotland would be two representatives and the Executive member, and for Wales, one representative and the Executive member.

M. Brandon-Bravo welcomed the move to unify British Rowing, he said it had been a long time coming and asked that Council did not complicate the matter that was now before them. Council agreed to proceed to a vote on Resolutions 3 and 4 as they stood. A resolution on the appointment of the Council members could be brought to the Annual General Meeting in September should members wish to do so.

Resolution 3

That the Articles of Association, paragraph 13.(a), be amended to include '*One member to be appointed annually by Scottish Rowing, one member to be appointed annually by the Welsh Amateur Rowing Association*', as follows:

13. (a) Unless otherwise determined by Ordinary Resolution of the Association in General Meeting, the Executive Committee shall consist of the Executive Officers, one member to be appointed annually by Scottish Rowing, one member to be appointed annually by the Welsh Amateur Rowing Association and the following 10 members to be appointed by the Council at its first meeting in each year, to be held not later than 31st March.

The Chairman of the National Development Committee; The Chairman of the National Coaching Committee; The Chairman of the National Competition Committee; The Water Safety Adviser and six other members elected by Council.

Agreed with 22 votes for, 1 against and 7 abstentions recorded.

Resolution 4

That the words 'Scottish Amateur Rowing Association' where they occur elsewhere in the Memorandum and Articles and Rules of the Association be amended to 'Scottish Rowing'.

Agreed.