



MINUTES OF THE TWENTYFOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AMATEUR ROWING ASSOCIATION LIMITED held on Saturday 29th September, 2007 in The Council Chamber, Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrew's Place, Regents Park at 1.30pm.

PRESENT –

Directors: Mrs. D.M. Ellis, Mrs. F. Dennis, G. Harris, M. Humphrys, C. Llewellyn, Miss K. O'Sullivan, R. M. Paterson, Mrs. A. Phelps, W.C. Thomson, S. Ward, M.D. Williams.

Company Secretary: J.R. Allsop.

Members: C. Anton, J.E. Biddle, M. Blandford-Baker, M. Brandon-Bravo, Mrs P. Churcher (substitute for C. George), J. Cobbett, M. Carr, S. Darnbrough, J.C. Davies, T. Edwards, A.J. Evans, P. Fenoulhet, M. Green, R. Hatton, B. Hawden, N. Jackson, J. Lee, P. Lorenzato, R. Mallett, R. Phelps, P. Rees, C. Smith (substitute for Mrs B. Millns), Mrs P. Sondheimer, J. Turnbull, J. Veats, A. Weekes, R. West.

In attendance: Mrs. R.E. Napp, D. Tanner, Mrs P. Randolph

The Chairman invited the meeting to stand in silence to pay tribute to the following members of the rowing community who had recently died. Derek Eardley Regional Chairman and Chairman of Regional Umpires (Stratford upon Avon BC), Ronald Cox who had served as an Officer and been a member of his club for 60 years (Gravesend RC), Alex Buchanan (Dartmouth ARC), John Hutchings (Bideford), John Ibbett (Exeter RC), Steve Charles Davis (Exmouth RC).

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman gave the following report to Council.

The most important statement any Chairman can make at an AGM is that the organisation is in good shape financially, but we should not be complacent as a huge part of our income comes from public funding tied to programmes that we have to deliver. The reserves are certainly lower than would be expected for a company the size of the ARA with 104 staff. While this should not cause concern it is important, and we are working at ways that this can be addressed by a marketing review of the organisation.

The financial support from UKSport and Sport England is greatly appreciated, as is the DCMS funding through the Community Club Development Programme which



has made such a huge difference to so many clubs throughout the country where it has been used for rebuilds, extensions and refurbishment.

We are extremely grateful for the support we receive for the international team through Camelot, Siemens and other sponsors, as we are for the donations from the HSCT and the Rowing Foundation for our development work.

Our aim last year was to consolidate on what we had achieved following the organising of the World Championships and I believe we have achieved this. Yet again the past year has underlined how fortunate we are as a sport in being able to call upon so many talented volunteers. What is being delivered by everyone when there are so many other pressures is amazing.

There have been: completed reviews of the Child Protection Policy and the Anti-Doping Code, ongoing leaflets and publications for water safety, new water facilities in terms of courses, new or refurbished club houses, coach education and the UKCC, ongoing development of adaptive and recreational rowing, events policy and bids for future international events, managing regionalisation, identification of new talent and many other initiatives at local club and regional level.

The international results have been both encouraging and outstanding, particularly through the growth and success of the lightweights and the winning of the World Cup and the Team Prize at the World Championships.

Our thanks to Rosemary Napp, David Tanner and John Allsop and their teams for their dedication and hard work in management, development, finance and performance and in keeping rowing in the forefront of sport.

There are still challenges ahead; we have to produce a new four-year plan, the Beijing Olympics, regionalisation, a competition programme which must be tailored to our competitors within clubs, while taking account but not being dictated to by the increasing number of paid coaches in the sport when sometimes the winning can overtake the wider good. And last but not least ensuring we have a structure for our sport which will be fit for purpose long into the future.

A Medal of Honour this year goes to Noel Casey for his outstanding contribution to coaching. Two additional awards are made to two people who have driven projects in their own particular way which have made a major contribution to our sport; Roderick Watson for Dorney Lake and David Sheriff for Caversham.

2. Apologies for Absence

Dr S. Bailey-Cooper, J. Clayton, C. Eales, Miss A. Faiers, C. George, M. Mansfield, Mrs B. Millns, P. Moore, M. Stallard, Mrs L Thomas, H. Trotter.



ORDINARY BUSINESS

3. To approve the Minutes of the Twentythird Annual General Meeting held on 30th September, 2006

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. The Accounts of the Association for the year ended 31st March 2007

Together with the reports of the Executive Committee and Auditors, the accounts were presented to the meeting. Having outlined the accounts the Treasurer asked for any questions from the floor.

R. Paterson explained that the surplus following the World Championships was committed as funding for a future event and did not represent a profit; this is why a breakeven figure was recorded. It was noted that the organisation had grown considerably in the last six years. Looking back to the accounts recorded in the British Rowing Almanack 1965, £14.15.0 had been committed to international coaching. This was agreed to be excellent value especially, as D. Tanner pointed out, GB rowing had won a Silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics.

The Treasurer said that part of the international surplus could be explained by reclaimed VAT, bank interest and by equipment funding released to income over a five-year period. D. Tanner added that Caversham was now a large facility and was the responsibility of the Association. The business rates were considerable and the bund had been damaged twice in the current year. Referring to the level of rates being charged, D. Tanner advised that Sport England were conducting a general appeal on behalf of a number of sporting establishments, including Bisham Abbey. He welcomed B. Hawden's offer to pass on advice from the Eastern Region, and J.C. Davies' offer to put him in touch with experts in this area.

The meeting having received the accounts previously approved by the Board, the Chairman thanked the Treasurer and the Financial Controller for their hard work in preparing them.

5. The appointment of *haysmacintyre* as auditors of the Company

The meeting was asked to approve the appointment of *haysmacintyre* to hold office until conclusion of the next General Meeting at which Accounts are laid before the Company and to authorise the Executive Committee to fix their remuneration.

The appointment of *haysmacintyre* was approved.

6. Amendments to the ARA Articles of Association

Council had already approved the following amendment to the ARA Articles of Association and this was presented to the AGM for ratification:



Delete Article 5 (1) (c) Corresponding Members:

~~*Corresponding Members:* being any person or body nominated by a majority of two-thirds of the Council as Corresponding Members, who shall be entitled to receive such circulars and information about the Association as the Council may deem appropriate but who shall have no more rights or obligations.~~

And renumber (d) Affiliated Organisation members as (c) Affiliated Organisation members.

The proposal was ratified.

7. Any Other Business

There was none.

Having concluded the formal business, the Chairman thanked members for attending and formally closed the meeting.

2.05 pm