

NSW/ACT Laser Association AGM 9.00am 23rd November 2014

Venue Belmont 16's Sailing Club

Meeting opened at 9.05am

Present

Rob Lowndes, John Sprague, Kevin Phillips, Stuart Plenderleith, David Edmiston, Kath Herrmann, Damien Boldyrew, Clare Alexander, Vanessa Dudley, Philip Marsh, Rod Nairn, Tony Ryan, Rod Gardiner, Jack Sprague, Stephen Walsh
Apologies Geoff Lucas, Chris Meech

Minutes from 2012 AGM

Minutes from AGM held at South Lakes Sailing Club 12th October 2013 were tabled.
Minutes were adopted.
No business arising from the minutes.

Chairman's Report

Report presented by Kevin Phillips as attached. Report accepted.

Financial Report

Report prepared by Geoff Lucas. Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet as attached.
\$7,864.97 negative trading in 2013/14 leaving a balance of \$72,020.43 in accounts.

Our main outgoings other than race expenses are for affiliation fees. Last season 2013/14 we paid affiliation to YA NSW \$220, ALCA \$3,066.00 and ILCA \$2,094.55, Total \$5,380.55. We received \$6,880.00 in membership payments. The difference was \$1,500 where as in 2012/13 this positive difference was \$4,825. The combination of this and payment of team shirts for two World Masters events (which both fell in our one season) totalled \$7,949 which was most of the deficit in 2013/14.

This season our membership and regatta attendances are up and we will not be supplying Australian team shirts so we anticipate a return to neutral or positive trading which is our budget aim.

Moved Rob Lowndes seconded Davis Edmiston that accounts be accepted. Passed

Election of Office Bearers

Thanks given to all committee members for their sterling work throughout the year.

- Chairman
Elected Kevin Phillips
- Vice Chairman
Elected John Sprague
- Treasurer
Elected Geoff Lucas
- Membership Secretary
Elected Kath Herrmann
- Race Secretary
Elected Position Open
- Measurer
Elected Mike Mills

- Masters Representative
Elected Rob Lowndes
- Youth Representative
Elected Stuart Plenderleith
- Women's Representative
Elected Vanessa Dudley

Clare Alexander expressed interest in the Race Secretary's role but reserved a decision subject to gaining a better understanding of the responsibilities. Discussion to be undertaken.

General Business

- A few clubs have participated in training and coaching sessions in 2013/14 season. The Association has funded the coach and the club has organised and managed the logistics.
- Regatta participation was down 10% on last season with 300 entries. The NB Sailsports Winter Sprint Series participation was up 20% at 125. Participation so far this season 2014/15 is up 27% on last season.

We have some great venues and the lowest entry and membership fees as well as allowing late and beach entries at no extra cost to help encourage participation.

- The Nationals and National Masters events will be held in NSW/ACT next season 2015/16.
 - Nationals will be at Belmont 16's between 27th December 2015 and 4th January 2016. Racing will start on 29th December 2015. We plan to make this the best Nationals ever with a major push and focus on participation of junior and 4.7 sailors in particular.
 - National Masters will be at Port Stephens Sailing and Aquatic Club between 12th and 15th February 2016. We plan for a record fleet for this event.
 - We will need wider involvement and assistance to run these events and will be seeking individuals and club groups to volunteer for on and off water tasks.
- Because of the big events in 2015/16 it was discussed and agreed that the State Championship next season would be combined with the State Masters and be held in November 2015.
- Venues for 2015/16 regatta are not yet locked down and clubs wishing to host these events should express their interest ASAP.
- The issue of communication was raised and it was suggested that more frequent email updates (as some other classes use) might be used along with posting of information on the www.laser.asn.au web site.

Meeting Closed 9.50am

Chairman's Report NSW/ACT Laser AGM 23rd November 2014

NSW/ACT Lasers have had a successful 2014/15 season and a good start in season 2015/16.

NSW/ACT Sailing

In the past year we have run four regattas which attracted 411 entries in total and increase of 37% over last year. The four main regattas had the following entries - Coasts Port Kembla 59, States Belmont 95, Masters South Lake Macquarie 131 Metros Double Bay 126. We had good conditions for the majority of races and thanks to our top notch RO's Col Chidgey and Andrew McLachlan the events ran without a hitch.

State Champions for 2013/14 were Colin Cheng Singapore Sailing Standards, Ashley Stoddart RQYS Radials and Anthony Hawke RPAYC 4.7's. Congratulations to the winners and all participants in these regattas.

Thanks to the host clubs for putting on a great show for us. Though we pay \$2,000 per event to the clubs this would probably just cover their running costs. The on the water and in the club house teams make the events work. They do it just for the love of the sport and we thank them one and all.

Our events this season will be top notch with great sailing venues, the States here at Wangi, the Nationals at Belmont over Christmas/New Year, the National Masters at Port Stephens in February and the Metros at BYRA.

Thanks to generous sponsorship from NB SailSports we had the NBSS Sprint Series again last winter. The races were run at 5 venues (Georges River, Avalon, Belmont, Gosford and Double Bay). 13 of the scheduled 15 races were completed (12 for the 4.7's) and a total of 115 sailors participated (41 Standards, 50 Radials and 24 4.7's).

The winners overall were Nic Skulander and Finn Alexander in the Standards and Radials and Jack Littlechild in the 4.7's.

The big prize in the draw for the new Laser trade in was won by Peter Stephinson from MHASC. Peter has performed vivisections on many a Laser in his scientific quest for the perfect foiling Laser. Hopefully his new prize will be spared from the procedure.

We are already planning the 2016/17 season venues so if you or your club have an interest or suggestion now is the time to act.

International Sailing

Great to see Tom Burton and Matthew Wearn going head to head at the top of the Laser ISAF rankings. With the Olympics coming up next year we wish whichever is selected the best for the big event. Ashley Stoddart from RQYS who has been a regular attendee at our events is currently Australia's highest ranked woman Laser sailor at 11.

Australia and in particular NSW/ACT Laser Masters Sailors did very well in the recently completed World Masters in Kingston Ontario Canada. With 35 sailors among the over 247 competitors Australian had a strong team and came home with three wins in the various fleets.

Outstanding was Brett Bayer who convincingly won the Standard Masters. Other winners were Mark Bethwaite DBSC in the Standard GGM's and Rob Lowndes MHASC in the Radial GGM's.

NSW/ACT Membership

Overall our Association membership has increased 17% to 230.

Administration

Hopefully we are keeping sailors informed on sailing, events, results and Laser sailing happenings through laser.asn.au. We try not to barrage members and others on our email list with endless messages. If you have any suggestions about communications or other aspects of administration, please feel free to pass them on to me.

A special thank you to our own small team of helpers in particular RO's Col Chidgey and Andrew McLachlan, our treasurer Geoff Lucas, membership secretary and regatta helper Kath Herrmann, measurer Michael Mills, regatta helpers Dave and Elaine Edmiston, Youth and Women's representatives Stuart Plenderleith and Vanessa Dudley and advisor and masters representative Rob Lowndes for their work and support.

With the Australian Laser and Laser Masters events coming up shortly we need a few more hands on the water and on land to make these vents truly memorable. As well and in particular we need some more RIBs and crew for the National Masters at Port Stephens.

Cheers

Kevin Phillips

Chair NSW/ACT Laser Association