

# **WEST AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL DRAGON ASSOCIATION INC.**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club on  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

## **Meeting opened at 18:00**

**Present:** 21 Members - John Anderson, Sandy Anderson, Craig Archibald, Freek Biljsma, Ray Chatfield, Graeme Fardon, Neil Ferguson, John Longley, David Lynn, Jack Lynn, Ian Malley, David Meager, Willy Packer, Kevin Palassis, Susan Parker, Emma Shand, Geoff Sinton, Jeremy Shellabear, Brad Stout, Geoff Totterdell and Rodney Williams.

**Apologies:** Penny Anderson, Peter Bowman, Robert Campbell, Steven Cole, Jennie Fitzhardinge, Trish Ford, Caroline Gibson, Deborah Henderson, Robyn Johnston, Andrew Locke, John Low, Richard Lynn, Gerry McGann, Ross McLaren, Ethan Prieto-Low and Shane Yensch.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Minutes 2022 AGM meeting be accepted as a true and correct record. Proposed Willy Packer and seconded by Susan Parker and agreed unanimously.

**Matters Arising:** Geoff Totterdell questioned if there had been any developments with AIDCL re voting rights given WA having a significantly larger fleet and contributing more revenue than the other 3 member States. The President advised there had not been any discussions and the Committee would look into this matter. **Action: Committee**

## **President's Report – David Meager:**

David Meager welcomed everyone and thanked them for their input and participation in a busy and successful year both on and off the water.

The full report has been circulated via email to all members. Highlights include winter talks on sailing dragon class, a pre-season Ladies Skipper Regatta with a successful après event, strong turnout throughout the season with 21 boats competing with an average of 12 per race. A fleet of 17 took part in the State Championships.

David thanked the retiring Fleet Captain Kevin Palassis and retiring Committee Member/ former President Rodney Williams.

## **Treasurer's Report - John Anderson:**

The full report has been circulated via email to all members and the Treasurer spoke to the Report noting the Association was in a sound financial position and responded to questions arising. He noted that WAIDA has 2 mast labels, 8 sail labels and 2 masts in stock.

The Report was accepted and the following Treasurer's resolution re WAIDA subscriptions was passed unanimously.

"The WAIDA membership subscription fees for 2023/2024 to be \$220 for each yacht (\$100 for boat and \$40 each of three crew members), \$40 for each additional crew member and \$20 for social members not aligned with a boat." **Action: Treasurer**

Geoff Totterdell raised the issues of time delay and the higher costs of replacing masts and proposed that prices of masts held in stock be increased to reflect the price of importing new masts from overseas. Following discussion it was agreed the Committee take this on board taking into account the pricing and number of masts in stock. **Action: Treasurer**

John Longley proposed that funds should be used for promotion of the Western Australian Dragon fleet, including support for international events. **Action: Treasurer**

#### **Handicapper's Report - Steven Cole:**

The full report, which has been circulated via email to all members, was tabled and accepted. The President and members thanked Steven for his work and continuation as an ex officio with no offers to take over the role.

#### **Election of Office Bearers:**

The President noted that signed nominations for available positions were received with only the number of nominees to match the positions available and accordingly under Article 10.8 of the Constitution the following were duly appointed to office for 2023/2024:

- President - David Meager
- Treasurer - John Anderson
- Secretary - Gerry McGann
- Committee Members (8 max) – Sandy Anderson (Fleet Captain), Ian Malley (Technical), Ray Chatfield, Kevin Palassis, Jack Lynn, Robyn Johnston, Susan Parker, Willy Packer.

The new members to the committee were welcomed, noting that it was good to have both crew and ladies represented on the committee. Fleet Handicapper ex officio Steven Cole as noted above was welcomed by all.

#### **General Business:**

Jennie Fitzhardinge email request to consider shortening races given lighter winds towards the end of the summer season. Following discussion it was agreed the Fleet Captain pursue taking on board notification by the start team re club line starts and avoiding Melville water, use of the safety boat to shorten races whilst in progress. **Action: Fleet Captain**

Trish Ford email request on Draft Strategic Plan. The President and Ian Malley provided a brief overview noting consultation and inputs over the last year had occurred with a number of skippers, previous IDA President Rob Campbell, Steven Cole re document template and RFBYC CEO Andy Fethers. Committee had reviewed current draft which seeks to promote and facilitate Dragon Fleet continuation in WA, nationally and internationally towards time frame of 2032 Olympics on the Gold Coast. Two, Four and Six Years horizons using 5 strategic pillars are identified which include development of New Skippers and Crew; Events and Regattas; Training & Support; Membership and Technical & Promotion.

Finalisation of The Strategic Plan is targeted end July with issue of the draft in mid-June to boat owners/skippers to be shared with crews for collated comments to be returned in mid-July.

**Action President/Ian Malley**

Geoff Totterdell spoke of the importance of the Dragon fleet in Australia to reflect its international status including:

- a desire to have an Australian representative on the executive committee of IDA;
- the aim to conduct the next allocated southern hemisphere World Dragon Championship in WA; and
- the need to preserve WAIDA's funds to finance the conduct of future National and World Champion events for the Dragon class.

**Action: Committee**

PPC Perth 2025 January 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. Brad Stout questioned the timing in January and requested consideration be given to holding the event in late February early March when conditions are more ideal for sailing. The President advised the Committee had considered the February timing last year and also put it to AIDCL. AIDCL advised they preferred the January timing. Trish Ford and RFBYC Sailing Administration have advised that getting suitable water space on Melville Water at this time is problematic and not possible due to Yacht Clubs midweek and weekend sailing program. It was also indicated that getting adequate resources including volunteers to run the event at this later time would also be difficult. Based on this advice and lengthy debate we have secured the water space in January. Following further discussion, it was noted the majority of members present indicated a preference for later in February and it was agreed the Committee would look into timing for future PPC's in Perth.

**Action: Committee**

Meeting closed at 1905 hrs and attendees enjoyed finger food and drinks provided by WAIDA.