



Australian Underwater Federation Inc.

A.U.F. BOARD AGM

13th November, 2021

MINUTES

ZOOM MEETING

Present: Graham Henderson - AUF President

Susan Dockar - AUF Sec/Treas + Database co-ordinator/Memberships - Minutes

Mary-Anne Stacey - AUF National Director of Coaching

Helen Lane - AUF Fin Swimming Chairperson

Adrian Wayne - AUF Spearfishing Chairperson

Zoe de Vries - AUF National Underwater Rugby Secretary

Nick Martyn - AUF National Underwater Hockey Chairperson

Russell Cox - AUFQ President

Cathy Johnson -

Apologies: N/A

Meeting Opened: 10.30 am

President welcomes everyone. Apologies for late Report, to be sent ASAP. Verbal Report in General Business.

No internet access at CMAS World General Assembly in Egypt. Delayed travel

Noted UWH Report to be sent ASAP

Moved Minutes AUF AGM 2020 be accepted Nick Martyn

Seconded Russell Cox **CARRIED**

Late Items: N/A

Noted: Judy Breeze not standing again for Membership Liaison Officer due to family/work commitments.

Adrian Wayne mentioned ARFF (Aust. Recreational Fishing Foundation) position nomination he had asked Graham Henderson to stand. They (ARFF) did not get any nominations, communication issue - noted they receive excellent \$ funding from the government.

REPORTS:

Please note majority of Reports were dispersed prior to meeting and to be read in conjunction with Minutes

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Verbal Report in General Business - to be attached to Minutes

Sec/Treas/Membership Report Report supplied and details, including Financial Report

Sue gives brief description of her written Report. No questions.

Moved Report accepted Mary-Anne Stacey **Seconded:** Nick Martyn **CARRIED**

Membership Liaison Officer - Judy not standing - No Report

National Spearfishing Commission - Verbal Report by Adrian Wayne

Adrian advises last major competition was in 2019. A successful Inter-Pacific comp. Next Inter-Pacific now planned for December 2022 at Eden, southern N.S.W. coastline. Teams should be able to be ready and chosen.

No National Championships - Victoria and South Australia not able to. The Qld Nationals July 2020 cancelled. Now possibly June/July 2022 - to be advised.

Noted Luke Randell is overseeing the Rules and Regs as a Pairs Event.

Every venue has different diving conditions eg. Sharks in S.A. Luke to push through with Queensland and Draft Rules. Adrian thanks Luke for his efforts.

Adrian mentions possible new club in Tasmania - so far 15 people. They are enquiring about re-installing A.U.F..TAS.

Helen mentions the AUF TAS is no longer, but if interest from Clubs etc. it can be reinstated. She will send emails out. Avril Brown is a contact and can get in touch with Adrian Wayne.

Some positive moves re a collaboration with Tasmania, Port Lincoln and Geelong clubs. Kangaroo Island is a good venue. Discussions ongoing. Nick Martyn says mostly the North Coast of Tassie for spearfishing.

****Graham noted to Meeting that it is being recorded.**

Adrian says he is also working on interest from Margaret River.

He has been retired for a few years and needs to down-size and stand back as he is feeling overwhelmed by personal health issues, family issues as well as keeping up to speed on the multiple government entities etc. that are part of liaising with National, States spearfishing. He needs HELP, especially with the Administration/emails etc. etc.

Discussion on possibility of Lord Howe Island opening up once again for spearfishing. It was closed many years ago due to fishing charter businesses etc. and misconceptions generally.

Dave Schoelfield in South Australia has been liaising with the S.A. government in relations to spearfishing. Some areas divers have to be 600 metres from shore.

Various government bodies in Qld, like Sunfish and the Game Fishing Association need to be collaborated with. Adrian mentions Dave is a very personable and knowledgeable person to one day embrace the National entity, but he is not ready at the moment. Also Michael Pannach in Qld is their State Rep, but wanting to hand over. There are qualified people like Luke and Dave as well as some Geelong club members who Adrian would like to take over his job....just has to convince.

Sue mentions her St. George Spearfishing & Freediving club hold mainly Social club dives, with a few members attending the various Championships when held. Mainly Narooma, Coffs, Eden and representing the club. We have a large number of Juniors, a few Ladies and some very keen new members, so Social diving is the norm. This of course stymied by Covid as well and some cancelled events due to unsafe weather conditions.

Adrian mentions Adam Stern who is an Australian Record Freediver who runs Courses. He is very much safety orientated and has accredited people to Level 3. Discussion and interest in starting up a Freediving Commission. Many videos online at YouTube.

Graham asks Adrian whether he can ask Dave Schoelfield to take over his position. Graham to liaise.

Adrian also mentioned a good way to improve perception in respect of spearfishing etc. is to bring in underwater photography initially. Members learn safety, species and many other aspects of shallow diving with marine interaction a key to learning experience overall.

Nick Martyn says he will help along with Helen Lane re chatting with the Tassie clubs re AUF TAS, as well as Rules and Regulations etc. Adrian thanks Nick and Helen for their interest.

Moved Report accepted Russell Cox **Seconded:** Sue Dockar **CARRIED**

Nat Director of Coaching - Mary-Anne Stacey discusses.

In respect of our new membership db platform. It needs some tweaking still to allow New Coaches to access, upload their appropriate paperwork. Currently Re-accrediting Coaches can go online and renew. A work in progress to change old habits basically.

Mary-Anne mentions there are various online Coaching courses for Theory and the ability to show video requirements to attain re-accreditation.

There was a November 2020 Course planned which had to be cancelled. More Courses will be organized in the near future for 2022.

Moved Coaching Report accepted Russell Cox **Seconded:** Susan Dockar **CARRIED**

****Noted whilst doing Minutes that 2020 Minutes held a large amount of relevant information re training etc.****

Underwater Hockey Report

Verbal Report - Nick Martyn - Report to be supplied

Nationals were on in Tasmania Feb, 2021. Good roll out.

Need to work on a Strategic Plan in respect of Coaching and Admin. A WIP for Office positions. There is only one hub in Tasmania.

Need to access AUSPORT online Coaching, High Performance, Development of Juniors via Sporting Schools - discuss with Mary-Anne. Possible \$ incentive to make happen and set up.

Russell asks Nick about having an approved short term Sporting School Project. Look at viability.

Sean and Anton (Qld) very interested in this aspect. Need for a framework for positions before sending out for interested parties.

Russell says more involvement between each State. Nick mentions New Zealand have a very good school sports program which is also funded. Can be inclusive of all our underwater sports.

Graham mentions Institute of sport, AUSPORT send out information from various government bodies to all. Need Strategic Plan - a WIP.

Moved U/water Hockey Report accepted Mary-Anne Stacey

Seconded: Adrian Wayne **CARRIED**

Underwater Rugby Report - Report submitted

Zoe mentions not too much happened due to Covid hence motivation now needs to be renewed. Pools in Sydney and Melbourne now re-opening. There was a competition in June 2021 just prior to lockdown. It was like a mini Nationals with Regional NSW players.

Positions elected for National team for World Cup 2023 in Montreal. Lyle Taulai nominated as Mens Coach.

Lyle had asked before meeting re. whether AUF NSW could be reinstated in respect of grant funding.

Sue mentions Fisheries and Maritime have attended our St. George Club meetings. Grant funding could be available for Clinics. Adrian says a good idea re AUF NSW. Nick to email relevant interested sports. Graham mentions the pros/cons since AUF re-structure in 1997.

Good to revisit State Branches, either formal or informal. Need to check Constitution - a WIP so 12 - 18 months

Note Qld is the stand out State re AUF Branches It also gets government funding. Motivation is there when funding available.

Graham mentions and will send out after meeting - email from "thegrantsguy" who could be engaged by our sports to help out.

Moved UW Rugby Report be accepted Russell Cox **Seconded:** Susan Dockar **CARRIED**

Fin Swimming Report - Helen Lane reads out and discusses

National Champs in January 2021 - Tassie members only.

Perth Australian Masters postponed again, now 23rd April 2022 in Perth.

As per Report WA pool/s not approving of Monofins nor breath-hold events. Need to work with Royal Lifesaving to educate.

A Powerpoint Apnoea presentation + Scientist input would be beneficial, like UWH & UWR. All about physiology.

Need to have some Online Coaching courses.

Look into various software packages that can be done online for Theory. Helen downloaded Trial software. Russell (Qld) to also look at commercial coaching software as a positive tool for members.

Mary-Anne says we still need the practical, but are able to have RPL with video practical as proof of ability.

Graham asks for input re. costs of software. Helen to check out as well as others to check out. This would be a good learning platform and positive for all aspects of our various underwater sports.

Graham says CMAS may have software in respect of Training.

Moved Report be accepted Zoe de Vries **Seconded:** Adrian Wayne **CARRIED**

STATE REPORTS

AUFQ Branch Report - Russell Cox submitted a comprehensive Report. To be read for specifics and details.

Russell mentions he needs help via the new db to extract all financial members.

Graham says to send email re this and he will check db. Was easy with the old db, just have to access in the new db.

Discussion on how to set up a Freediving Commission within Qld and discuss with Graham how to set up Nationally. Graham to talk to Insurers re this.

Also have "product" in the new db to allow for Freediving as a separate fee. Graham to investigate.

Helen asks "how would this affect Insurance?" to be checked. Adrian asks "what happened with CMAS Insurance?" Graham had investigated and not conclusive.

Adrian says there are various videos re Freediving. Need to be a generic course re Spearfishing/Freediving/snorkelling re basics like floats/flags etc. Still able to spearfish at Bondi, with restrictions/guidelines.

Moved AUFQ Report be accepted Helen Lane **Seconded:** Mary-Anne Stacey **CARRIED**

Elections:

President: Graham Henderson (Nominated Russell Cox, Seconded Helen Lane) **CARRIED**

Membership Officer: Cathy Johnson (Nominated Graham Henderson, Seconded Adrian Wayne)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY and accepted with thanks.

Nominations for "Sportsperson of the Year" and/or "Beau Beere" Award

Nomination from Underwater Rugby for Emma Miller for her service to the sport.

Sue reads out brief excerpts of Application and Meeting fully endorses nomination.

MOVED be Accepted: Nick Martyn **Seconded:** Graham Henderson **CARRIED**

Late Nomination from AUFQ for Beau Beere Award - Sandra Milner.

Russell advises Meeting of multiple areas of Admin and work done by Sandra over many years for our AUF sports.

Nick Martyn also mentions she should be recognized and befitting of this Award for her work in Tasmania. She encouraged Junior Development and had participation in organizing World and National Championships.

MOVED be Accepted: Russell Cox **Seconded:** Nick Martyn **CARRIED**

Sue asks AUFQ to download online nomination form at our website and have as record for meeting.

Graham to organise plaques for all current and outstanding nominees - Not able to happen due to lockdowns and Covid.

Names are: Stuart McCallum - Beau Beere Award (2019)

Lyle Taulai - Beau Beere Award (2020)

Adrian Wayne - Life Member Award (2021)

Emma Miller - Sportsperson of the Year Award (2021)

Sandra Milner - Beau Beere Award (2021)

General Business:

Membership System

Graham mentions new database and transition at end of March 2021 has seen a large number of memberships join via this system. Also a large number of members in the old db with expiry June 2022, who will transition over to new db when expired.

A few issues and initial problems along the way, have been 99% successfully dealt with.

Noted a major amount of work to set up and navigate done by Graham over many hours to cater to the multiple issues of individual members, Clubs and sports. Not able to please everyone, but a WIP.

Graham mentions issues with the inbuilt transaction fees between members/clubs and the Gameday software not being compatible - due to separation of fees and \$ percentage.

Graham having ongoing discussions with Gameday Tech Support.

Various queries from Russell and Sean in Qld, acknowledging fee issues and costs.

Russell asks if Graham can visit Qld and have some Training Sessions with key AUFQ participants.

Possibly able to make happen next April, prior to the planned National UWH competition at the Gold Coast.

Nick Martyn mentions that the Tassie UWH members are very happy with the new db and have been able to use the Event area for running their Pennant competitions.

Adrian mentions the National Spearfishing Comm. Records Officer - Kelvin Rushworth needs some help for access to all members for his fish records. Graham already spoken to "Vin" and will assist.

Adrian mentions that he could access the old db and input a group of members renewing who attended a competition and needed to become financial. Easily done previously, but need to be able to make happen with the new db.

Graham mentions that this could be "worked around" to make happen and info/form could be sent to Graham and/or Sue to assist. Email info back for members with their password which can then be amended by the member.

N.I.F. to be checked out.

Graham mentions online shop available.

Zoe mentions a good idea to access and be able to sell UWR shirts etc. Need to set up a credit card or alternate payment facility to make happen. Positive idea and good to have this available for members.

Adrian says he could also use to sell raffle tickets for fundraising events and has someone with IT capability to help out.

National Recreational Diving Commission (NRDC) had been disbanded due to various commitments.

Graham mentions that he can utilize CMAS and be able to support via Tech Advice especially as AUFQ have the majority of Rec Divers. Other States and individual members can have somewhere to go to for renewing "older" licences etc. as they have in the past.

There are various courses and we have access to "Aqualink" for 1* CMAS etc. then can move forward.

High Performance Development discussed in respect of UWH and UWR. Possibility of an overall Manager?? Needs to be a framework in place for requirements etc.

Zoe mentions should be a separate position, someone to oversee as a need for someone suitable and consistent.

Our partner portal AUSPORT can be used as a good tool with partnership with AUF.

Coaches Training - Accreditation needs to be in place by 2023 - a WIP by all Commissions

Needs online Courses, selling good governance.

Insurance - Graham notes our Insurance has been cheaper this year - all good.

CMAS GA

Graham goes over many aspects of attending in person. Very beneficial to meet other members from other countries and a learning curve into the behind the scenes workings of CMAS.

President was elected - nominees from Tunisia and Russia. Tunisian elected.

There was block voting which was not conducive on the whole to good outcomes. Some countries have multiple Federations within their country, with separate voting rights. Also various proxy votes given which did not reflect subjective outcome.

Australia had New Zealand proxy - also U.S., England and Canada as well as Kuwait.

Difficult to address inequalities with voting system where Board of Directors can be chosen from a small Federation like Quebec Diving, with 80 votes and 1000 Canadian members have only 1 vote.

Also an IOC member cannot be a member.

On the whole Underwater Hockey, Rugby, Fin Swimming and Spearfishing areas all good.

Also Recreational Diving positive.

There were NO Minutes of CMAS past Meetings - Not on their website. Definitely something that needs to be addressed.

Also almost ZERO communication from CMAS to their Federations around the World.

Many aspects of what they are doing and can help with are not able to be utilized due to this lack of communication.

The Secretary General now a Russian. We have close ties.

Beneficial to attend every 4 years when voting occurs.

Half yearly Zoom Meeting - discussed and proposed for May - TBA

Hall of Fame Inductees - Graham Henderson proposes Life Membership for Adrian Wayne.

Agreed by all present

Adrian previously thought History of AUF is important and recognition etc.

Catch up on past outstanding members, then perhaps nominate 2 per year.

Need to write criteria for Hall of Fame nominees from National as well as State.

Include attended 2 Aussie Championships in different States as well as Overseas. Also an Immortal category.

Graham asks for Framework from everyone present to come up with their thoughts etc.

Russell mentions State Life Member then National Life Member.

Graham mentions it would be good to hold an annual function to present inductees.

Other Gen Business: Zoe mentions National Team Selection in relation to Covid regulations.

Graham had just received a government email in this respect and will email after Meeting.

Next Meeting date: TBA

Location: TBA

****Please note these Minutes beneficial to be read in conjunction with Reports from Commissions as much more detailed and relevant to respective positions and a small reflection on all Chairpersons and achievements over the year.****

All attendees thanked for their time, input and efforts in attending.

Zoom Meeting Closed: 1.15pm

Minutes: Susan Dockar - 14th Nov 2021