

# MANLY DRAGON BOAT CLUB

## Annual General Meeting Minutes

12 November 2008 – Wynnum Manly Yacht Club

### Attendees:

- Debbie Robinson, Andrea Baggoley, Wendy Jordan, Joe Martin, Greg Chinn, Marie McMahon, Brian McMahon, Heather Day, Carmen Que, Elizabeth Richards, Heike Gusten, Maggie Boyce, Paul Eardley, Bernie O'Grady, Stephanie Oliver, Tina Fiegel, Helen Healey, Ross Boyce, Sharon Steeden, Pia Mitchell, Pat Ryan, Mike Martin

### Apologies:

- Peter Ensley, Michelle Huston, Jill Praeger, Rosemary Thwaites, Michael Thwaites, Chris Christiansen, Delma Stormant, Tony Thompson, Bernadette Little, Kelly Tanner, Sarah Gusten, Elke Marino, Tracy Fry, Janet Simpson, Sean Banfield

### Minutes:

Heather Day requested the minutes of the previous annual general meeting held on 28 November 2008, having been previously distributed to all club members be accepted as true and correct. Motion to accept the minutes as true and correct was proposed by Joe Martin and seconded by Ross Boyce. Unanimously accepted.

### Business Arising:

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

### President's Report 2008 – Heather Day:

This time 12 months ago we were a very new club, using a single borrowed boat, with a complicated white board booking arrangement with 2 sessions a day to try and accommodate all the paddlers, storage in the back corner of the buoy shed belonging to the Yacht Club, a small coaching team with limitless enthusiasm and trying hard to build on their knowledge and expertise with the help of other clubs, and a temporary team shirt provided by the local pizza shop owner

Now 12 months on we have 2 brand new Champion dragon boats, a new spacious shed in which to store our growing quantity of gear, a team of coaches working towards their accreditation, a number of trained and accredited first aid officers, successful track record of competing at all regattas, major sponsorship support from BMD and Michelle Rodgers, steady income from the regular BBQs at the Manly markets, growing membership base and a healthy bank balance. We really are in a very enviable position.

Some of the highlights for the past year for me include working with a great team of helpers – not only the members of the executive and sub-committees but also all the other members that assist with helping the club to run so efficiently. We held our "Doting of the Eyes Ceremony" to officially launch the new boats and achieved excellent publicity from the event. Successfully acquitted our grant moneys for the Gambling grant and the Dept of Sport & Rec and immediately backed them up with a further round of applications. Spent many hours developing our wonderful website and for this I must single out Debbie Robinson for the excellent job that she did to bring this to fruition.

Designed and manufactured the new race shirt with the bright colourful purple and green. New brochures, posters, safety equipment, lights, PFD's. Two successful Real Adventure Women events for the BCC. And some great racing. In our first season we learnt so much about this new sport – the rules and regulations – some ups and downs. We have been on a steep learning curve and still do have much more to learn, but we do know that we can succeed. We collected the trophy at the Tin Can Bay regatta in Division B and finished overall in second place on points – a remarkable result for such a new club. We are now considered by most of our peers to be a Div A competitor and our excellent performance at the Pan Pacs last weekend is testament to that, despite the fact that our team training is lacking for most regattas and we need to start concentrating on our overall fitness and strength.

So this is the beginning - I believe that our club has now reached a crossroad in its development and it will be up to the new committee together with all its members to decide the best path to take. We have an immense range of experiences, qualities and abilities amongst all our members and the challenge as always is to ensure that these are put to best use.

Personally I wish to say that I am extremely thankful to each and everyone for your support and encouragement over the past year and in particular to the members of our great management team: Paul, Maggie, Debbie, Joe, Greg, Peter, Mike, Ross, Sharon, Elizabeth, Stephanie, Bernie and Helen. Without everyone's efforts we would never have achieved so much. For here it can only get better!

### Treasurer's Report 2008 – Maggie Boyce:-

The 2008 Auditor's report was tabled at the meeting. Motion to accept the report and to appoint Graham Whyte as auditor for the coming year was proposed by Maggie Boyce and seconded by Stephanie Oliver. Unanimously accepted. Refer to Appendix 1 – Auditors statement and report.

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### Coaching Report 2008 – Peter Ensley:-

*Maggie Boyce read the following report on behalf of Peter Ensley in his absence:*

#### Introduction

In looking back at this time last year, it is interesting to note what plans were made and what outcomes have come to fruition. One year ago we were waiting with excitement for the arrival of two new champion boats, anticipating how this would be of benefit to the club and coaching within the club.

Since this time the Coaching team has grown and now has four MDBC Coaches. They are: Maggie Boyce, Ross Boyce, Mike Martin and Peter Ensley. Additionally, Maggie, Ross and Mike attended the QDBF Level I Coaching course in Mackay with Joe Martin, representing the sweeps, and all came away new and exciting ideas for coaching. Please support these people as they implement their new found skills and coaching styles. They really do want to help YOU and YOUR CREW and YOUR CLUB.

The forward focus of the coaching team in November 2007 was to be able to step up the training and competitive levels within the club, selection of defined crews, as well as continuation and development of new members and those members wanting to paddle in a more social context.

The following coaching recommendations were made in 2007

- Time trialling be held to be used as a measurement tool for crew and regatta selection
- Coaching team to partner closely with Club Captain and introductions officer to ensure new / social paddlers are getting the correct level of skill development and therefore enjoyment.
- A regular time (maybe every two months) where a general club coaching meeting is held to act as a communication vehicle from the coaches to members.
- Selected regatta crews to have one coach per crew.

#### Strategic Outcomes

A Coaching Strategy was created and implemented encompassing three levels: Competitive, Semi Competitive, and Social; each level having defined goals, focal points and training guidelines. Whilst feedback from members was positive, only a small percentage of members proactively responded with their interest. This needs to be circulated and explained again seeking input from all members.

Time trialling has been started but is still in early stages of progression. We have managed to run a standardised practice for about 25 members and plans for more are on the way. Maggie was also successful in implementing a regatta specific time trial for the crew(s) involved in the recent Pan Pac Masters games.

A regular coaching meeting has unfortunately not been successful at this time due to time constraints of people and getting groups of people together at the same time and place. This form of communication pathway is important and we will be working on ways of reinvigorating some kind of regular coaching feedback.

Our only long term selected regatta crew this year has been our recent Pan Pac crews where we set the defined coaches as Maggie and Mike, which seemed to work well. This will be an ongoing goal of the coaching team, as the club grows, to have more long term, set crews with defined coaches. It has been difficult to date with the number of dropouts and last minute changes to regatta crews for this to be implemented earlier.

#### Paddling Outcomes

We have been able to enter crew(s) at every regatta this year with overall improved results. A year ago we would have been happy to qualify for a minor final; this year we have managed to win some minor finals as well as make the cut for many Major finals, culminating in an overall 5<sup>th</sup> placing in the women's crew at the recent Pan Pac Masters games. We are yet to win that elusive first place in a major final but our time is coming!

In terms of race times, a year ago we were paddling around 2.20 – 2.30 for 500m and anywhere from 1.00 – 1.10 for a 200m event. Our Pan Pac ladies team achieved 2.18 for 500m and at the Currumbin regatta our Mixed Premiers paddled the 200m in 52.47. These improvements in times are reflective across the club for all our regatta teams. Well done to all!

#### Difficulties / Challenges

As with any group of people, there can be difficulties and challenges to overcome in order to progress forward in a positive manner. I list the problems that were faced by the coaching team in the spirit of open communication so as a club we can move forward collectively in a positive manner.

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- **Consistency of calls in the boat from different coaches and sweeps.**

As we grow and more people get involved in coaching and sweeping there needs to be uniformity in this point. This can be achieved by an MDBC Coaching manual (currently on the drawing board) as well as including all sweeps in coaching meetings and decisions so that shared understandings are gained. For example, whilst the sweep is the master of the vessel on the water, the coach is responsible for setting the program for sessions and the sweep and coach need to work together supporting each other to achieve smooth running of a training session.

- **Club Members' behaviour.**

On several occasions and with different coaches, crews and sweeps, there have been incidents of member disgruntlement for such things as crew selection (inclusion or exclusion), seating position (theirs and others in the boat), training and race strategy. At times this disgruntlement has manifested in negative behaviour from some members to include, but not limited to: temper tantrums, verbal abuse of other members (at all levels of the club), threats of resigning their membership, refusing to follow coach directions (both overt and covert).

In my view, these behaviours are negative for the club as a whole and should not be condoned at any level within MDBC. We have tried to address concerns through articulating communication pathways via any member of the coaching team or Club Committee, however, these "blow ups" are still occurring. I feel that it is time to look at the club adopting and enforcing a Code of Conduct.

From a coaching perspective, all members of a crew should be aware of and ready to adhere to some general guidelines.

Coaches' decisions are made with the best intentions for individuals, crews and the club. This interplay is often difficult and at times impossible to reconcile. **Respect the coach's decision as final & in the best interests of the group.**

If anyone has a concern in a particular crew they need to speak calmly to the relevant coach. You may not get what you want but hopefully you will be able to understand what the coach is trying to achieve.

Dragon Boating is not a sport of individuals – it is a holistic team sport.. As such no-one person's personal agendas / wants or needs are any more or less important than anyone else's. It is about what is best for the crew / club at that particular time. **The coach and coaching team will make these decisions.**

If any member cannot reconcile themselves to the above, the other option is to step forward, nominate yourself as a coach and be responsible for enacting outcomes that you believe work.

### **Conclusion / Recommendations**

- Increase frequency of Time trialling with video footage where and when possible
- Distribute Coaching Strategy and encourage all members to have their preferences included
- Build a stronger, clearer communication alliance between the Coaching and Sweep Teams
- Reinvigorate coaching feedback sessions
- Compilation of Coaching Manual focussing on consistency for all club members and visitors
- Club Code of Conduct & behaviour
- The purchase of OC 1 to use in time trialling and individual technique work
- Enforcement of regatta nomination deadlines

Finally I would like to thank the Coaching Team for the work they have done and continue to do this year and to all members for their paddling efforts. Well done to all.

Heather Day moved that the Coaching Report be accepted, seconded by Elizabeth Richards.

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### Head Sweep/Safety Report 2008 – Joe Martin

Club growth continues with new training – Bernie O’Grady, Tony Thompson, Elke Marino and Nicola Brown and Laurelle Endean. On 1 November Bernie O’Grady and Tony Thompson were recommended for accreditation and only awaiting QDBF qualification. Elke Marino requires further training. Joe Martin congratulated the new sweeps and made a special mention to Bernie who did exceptionally well in his sweeping at the Rose Bay exhibition paddle under difficult circumstances.

In relation to safety swim tests will continue in 2008/09. Previous year has seen 30 swim tests completed.

Safety on the ramp when loading/unloading boat needs to be reinforced to members. Precautions when alighting from the boat and when launching the boat need to be taken seriously.

Sign on sheets need to be signed by everyone at training. This safety procedure is not always followed.

Members need to be mindful to keep the area we occupy at the WMYC clean and tidy at all times. All equipment should be returned to the shed, all rubbish should be disposed of in the rubbish bins provided, and all members’ drink bottles, etc. should be taken home.

Joe Martin proposed that the report be accepted, seconded by Ross Boyce.

### Equipment Report 2008 – Bernie O’Grady:-

Bernie thanked club members for their assistance over the year (particularly Ross Boyce). Paul Eardley thanked Bernie on behalf of the club for the job he has done for the club. Maggie Boyce commended Bernie on the condition of our dragon boats.

### Club Captain’s Report 2008 – Greg Chinn:-

Greg thanked everyone for their support over the past year and advised that he will not be standing for Club Captain this year.

### Membership Report 2008 – Stephanie Oliver:-

At our 2007 Annual General Meeting our membership was 65. Since that time we have had 11 members resign (for various reasons) however we have managed to increase our membership base to 74. Summer brings us all back on the water and we have recently had many people coming down for a trial. We currently have 15 triallists still in their 30 day trial period. I expect that we would have 80-85 members by December.

Maggie Boyce thanked Stephanie for the outstanding job she is doing for membership.

### PR/Communications Report 2008 – Sharon Steeden:-

The Manly Dragons Newsletter is a bi-monthly publication with all up to date information on regattas, both previous and future, State, National and International news.

All Executive and Coaching Teams had an avenue to voice their contributions to the members with their valued knowledge and team support.

The Newsletter also advertised our wonderful sponsors and important notices from either the President or the Coaching Team.

The Newsletter as the year progressed introduced a “Social Scene” where certain evenings and events took place and photos were included of our members to showcase just how social our club can be.

A section of the Newsletter was introduced to welcome new members and bon voyage the old, and in turn it also encouraged some of those missing members to update the club on their whereabouts and what they were doing. Alan Poole was always good for a laugh when he was a member and still continues to amuse us of his antics.

Editions of the Manly Dragons Newsletter consisted of the following dates: July 2007, February 2008, April 2008, July 2008 and September 2008.

Other avenues of communication for MDBC in 2008 were Soundings (WMYC Members Monthly Magazine), Wynnum Herald and the Manly Harbour Village Magazine (a big thanks to Ross Boyce for his efforts in obtaining the coverage in the latter publication).

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### QDBF Representative Report 2008 – Helen Healey:-

Helen has been attending monthly meetings with the QDBF. Some changes were made at the AGM with Ross Boyce taking on the role as Marketing/Communications Officer but has since resigned.

The courses scheduled for 2008 did not eventuate. Helen has resubmitted the MDBC member names of those who were interested in the courses but has not heard anything. The Level 1 coaching course did eventuate in Mackay (with three MDBC members in attendance).

State Squad nominations are now being called for.

Future QDBF meetings will not require the attendance of a club representative on a monthly basis. Envisaged attendance will be every 2-3 months.

### Club Development Report 2008 – Ross Boyce:-

I was elected to the MDBC Sub - Committee on November 28, 2007.

After accompanying Maggie to the ramp for nearly 10 months and acting in various support roles felt the club needed much needed direction and offered my time and experience for the benefit of all club members.

Achievements covered in the first 7 months of office:-

- December 2007 – Club closed for Xmas. I assisted in the Customs clearance and monitoring arrival of our new boats.
- January 2008 - Supervised the delivery of the container which housed our 2 new boats purchased with the aid of the GCBF Grant that Kelly Tanner assisted in the preparation and application.
- Negotiated with Michelle Rodgers of Remax a sponsorship arrangement for the Year to the amount of \$5000.00- in return her name was to be affixed to one of the new boats.
- During the remaining weeks of January with the assistance of David Wilson established a legal document to take to BMD who was also being sought for Sponsorship. BMD joined as a major sponsor in early February.
- February – Blessing of new boats “Dotting of Eye Ceremony” with Maggie doing a lot of the background work before the ceremony
- March – MDBC Minor Mixed Masters State Champions at Quad Park
- March – April With a huge amount of effort by Debbie Robinson the website [www.manlydragons.com.au](http://www.manlydragons.com.au) went live. Also during the month 3 club members Jill Praegar, Maggie and Ross Boyce travelled to Perth as part of the Queensland contingent of paddlers for the National Titles – Manly has arrived on the Australian Dragon Boat scene
- May - With assistance from Heather Day the Sport and Recreation Grant was prepared for lodgement.
- June - A meeting was held with councilor Peter Cumming regarding a Summer Protection Grant, however the BCC Budget was deferred until late July.
- October – Notified we have successfully obtained Sport and Rec Grant of \$4000.00. Funds will be forwarded in November.
- November – Again successful with the GCBF Grant Application – this time to the tune of \$29,150.00.

Maggie and Ross Boyce represented Manly DBC in a composite Queensland team which travelled to Hong Kong for an International and Cultural Festival – Manly is now on the World Dragon Boat circuit; this follows publication in The May issue of Dragon Boat World the photo of the MDBC boat in BMD livery.

### Committee Positions and Elections 2008 – Tony Shoemith:-

Heather Day moved the meeting on to voting for the 2009 committee positions. Tony Shoemith (WMYC Commodore) was introduced to conduct the voting process.

Tony Shoemith advised nominations were called (via email) and are now closed with all positions declared vacant.

No nominations were received for the position of President. Nominations were called from the meeting floor. Maggie Boyce proposed Heather Day for the role of President, seconded by Debbie Robinson. Heather Day accepted.

**President** **Heather Day**

No nominations were received for the position of Vice President. Nominations were called from the meeting floor. Heather Day proposed Paul Eardley for the role of Vice President, seconded by Ross Boyce. Paul Eardley accepted.

**Vice President** **Paul Eardley**

No nominations were received for the position of Treasurer. Nominations were called from the meeting floor. Stephanie Oliver proposed Maggie Boyce for the role of Treasurer, seconded by Paul Eardley. Maggie Boyce accepted.

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**Treasurer** **Maggie Boyce**

No nominations were received for the position of Secretary. Nominations were called from the meeting floor. Paul Eardley proposed Pat Ryan for the role of Secretary, seconded by Sharon Steeden. Pat Ryan accepted.

**Secretary** **Pat Ryan**

The following positions involved no more than one nomination, so nominees are duly elected as follows:-

**Head Coach – Peter Ensley**  
 **Sweep/Safety Officer – Joe Martin**

No nominations were received for the position of Club Captain. Nominations were called from the meeting floor. Carmen Que proposed herself for the role of Club Captain, seconded by Heather Day.

**Club Captain** **Carmen Que**

The following positions involved no more than one nomination, so nominees are duly elected as follows:-

**Membership Officer – Stephanie Oliver**  
 **Club Development Officer – Ross Boyce**

No nominations were received for the position of Equipment Officer. Nominations were called from the meeting floor. Paul Eardley proposed Bernie O'Grady for the role of Equipment Officer, seconded by Joe Martin. Bernie O'Grady accepted.

**Equipment Officer – Bernie O'Grady**

No nominations were received for the position of PR/Communications Officer. Nominations were called from the meeting floor. Paul Eardley proposed Sharon Steeden for the role of PR/Communications Officer, seconded by Maggie Boyce. Sharon Steeden accepted.

**PR/Communications Officer – Sharon Steeden**

No nominations were received for the position of Uniform Officer. Nominations were called from the meeting floor. Pia Mitchell proposed herself for the role of Uniform Officer, seconded by Maggie Boyce.

**Uniform Officer – Pia Mitchell**

No nominations were received for the position of Webmaster. Nominations were called from the meeting floor. Heather Day proposed Debbie Robinson for the role of Webmaster, seconded by Ross Boyce. Debbie Robinson accepted.

**Webmaster – Debbie Robinson**

No nominations were received for the position of Social Director. Nominations were called from the meeting floor. Paul Eardley proposed Heike Gusten for the role of Social Director, seconded by Heather Day. Heike Gusten accepted.

**Social Director – Heike Gusten**

In concluding the voting process for the 2009 Committee, Tony Shoemith thanked Manly Dragon Boat Club and congratulated all incoming club committee members.

Heather Day advised that after discussions with committee members the QDBF role was incorporated into the Vice Presidential role.

This concluded the Annual General Meeting formalities and a short break was convened so that members could view and order new club shirts, any uniform requirements and to place votes for the RP White Perpetual Trophy.

**Meeting closed at 8.30pm**