**Ski Racing Queensland General Meeting**

**21st May 2024**

**Zoom Conference Call**

Apologies for Zoom Conference inoperable. Meeting Opened at 8.35pm.

**Attendees:** Stewart Smith (SS), Jason Davis (JD), Edwina Best (EB), Zanda Haw (ZH) Colin Hockley (CH) Derek Mountney (DM) N Walker (NW) Rob Lowe (RL)

**Apologies:** Scott Cleaver, Chris Singleton, Debbie Opperman

**Minutes from last meeting** August 2023: Accepted : EB

Seconded: SS

**Business Arising from last Meeting:**

* SS stated that much had happened since last Meeting & that any Business Arising may be covered in his SRA Delegate Report.

**Financial Report** –

Expenses:- Pop up display $1,444.00

Printing for display $ 550.00

Paramedics $ 2,899.00

Total $ 4,593.00

Balance for both accounts as at 21/5/24 $7,268.69

To date there have been no entry fees paid for State Titles.

EB interjected stating that the RMS Aquatic Licence fee had not been added into expenses. A further $224 is to be added.

* Report accepted J. Davis, seconded S. Smith

**SRA Delegate Report:**

* World Titles successful Event at Gosford and this Event showed where our skiers are on the World stage. The Event also caught the SRA Board’s attention to the behaviour of some competitors which is still progressing.
* A National Series is to replace Australian Titles. Concepts for 2 river series together with Super Series at Hervey Bay, Lake Macquarie & possibly Wagga. More information forthcoming.
* The number of accidents within the Sport has made the SRA Board step up by creating a greater responsibility in sanctioning with a greater input into all Races.
* An SRA Delegate is to work with Organising Committees, Maritime and Authorities to sign off on all Events. The final say on continuation of an Event will rest with SRA Delegate.
* As Scott Cleaver is absent, S. Smith notified that both Chris Singleton on Safety Committee & Scott Cleaver on Race Committee have been working very hard around all safety aspects. Recommendations on testing of equipment, wet-suits, speed restrictions, head restraints, are to come before the Board and then introduced into Rule Book.
* D. Mountney stated that a minimum distance of front binding to front of ski should be investigated. SS advised DM to put forward suggestion to Chris Singleton.
* NSW Maritime are all over our Sport due to recent incidents and we must be ready for additional conditions that they may impose for State Titles.
* SRA are in a strong financial situation with lots of discussion on fees and moving membership renewals back to financial year, but discussions are still taking place.
* SRA Calendar 2025 will look different to this year. There is a push to reduce number of races that are available across all States and trying to get more people to more races. Reduction in races in NSW across Clubs with at least 2 weeks between Classics.
* CH queried with safety being paramount, Qld is not racing in our own backyard with X amount of time before we can race main races. SS stated that with not being able to use dams in summertime SRQ are focusing more on State Titles & Hervey Bay. CH stated that teams won’t go for that level of racing. SS stated dams and not travelling North is why SRQ left our competitors with Big River. He further stated that the State Titles budget was $7,000.
* CH asked SRA sanction fees. SS $400 for Series days & $600 for Classics & State Titles. He also stated that Paramedic costs have greatly increased and SRQ cannot afford local races – there are so many barriers to racing in SEQ. Mackay / Central Qld are also looking at coming under SRA as their insurance is now leaving them open to indemnities.
* CH informed that power boaters were more than happy to share their dates that are all in place.
* SS stated that Moggerah Ski Club were also looking at joining SRA.
* NSW Maritime’s review on inexperienced people – drivers, observers & skiers - introducing a grading system where they are to be offered membership for 5 races/day capped at 70mph.
* SS stated that 3 elements to successful racing were:-
* Competitors turning up
* Competitors helping to put Event on
* Not to lose money on Event.
* DM suggested joining power boaters at Somerset. SS informed that SRQ can’t just jump onto their Events. J. Davis pointed out that although some venue & same Event 2 different insurance policies would be involved, and these 2 policies will not allow cross over.
* SS will approach power boaters on subject.
* Rob Lowe asked about Bundaberg. SS mentioned that not many competitors wanted to travel to Bundy as in the past and that’s where SRQ racing was left up to Big River.

**State Titles**

* Entries close 2nd June 2024. 25 boats with 4 races/boat are required for Titles to be viable.

**Hervey Bay**

* Is progressing with Scott Cleaver, Brent Wisemantle & Jack Coaldrake heading sub-committee. 5klm Course off Breakwater.
* Friday Inspection Street parade Clubhouse pit party
* Saturday 2 x 20 min., Heats. 2nd heat reverse grid
* Sunday 1 x Heat with 40min Final. Presentation to be approx.., 1pm
* Fraser Coast Council and local business’s are on board with sponsorships.
* Whale Watching boats to have ticketed spectator seating.
* Course straight of Breakwater. Can no longer run parallel with Esplanade.
* All monies raised will remain in a “pool” managed by SRA & Scott Cleaver for all future Events.

**Worlds**

* Worlds are to be announced soon – venue somewhere in Europe – August/September 25. Our 3 races this year would then roll into May 25 for Selection Races then reverting to normal Super Series.

**Super Series**

* SRA Board have given green light for Hervey Bay. State won’t be out of pocket with $150,000 sponsorship. Also, a 6-year contract with Parks & Wildlife.
* Weather blow-out location further round the Bay, NE of Breakwater.
* All equipment for Super Series is to have contributions from all States. SC will sponsor a truck to transport all equipment to each location.
* Race Director, Chief Judge & Safety Officer are to have nominations called for by SRA.
* Drones, live stream & Race Live will contribute with drones assisting with Judging for on water perspective.

**State Title Trophies**:

* SS asked DM to order more U14’s medals. EB to keep DM up to date with numbers.

**SRA Memberships**:

* Tier 8 memberships valid for State Titles + 5 series races & Super Series.

**General Business**

* DM - Local races need to be in place for those not involved in Super Series.
* CH – Can SRQ take over BRSC dates? SS informed that Big River were left with Mark Stephenson & Mick Fahey – Jason Disson has stood down. They are to form Committee and take steps back into racing. SRQ will assist with organising Series Days & Grafton Bridge should BRSC Committee decide that is what they want. The Grafton Bridge will proceed regardless of it being the long course or a short course.
* This year will be the last year that Big River Park is used for State Titles due to ongoing costs.
* Substitutions for State Titles will be by the Rule Book. There is to be no more last-minute changes to crews simply because they don’t want to run. Competitors must take responsibility for their own actions.
* Rule Book is being restructured – 2 parts, 1 for Judging/Infringements & 2nd part technical. Work in progress.
* Rob Lowe asked for any travel assistance. SS advised that winners at State Titles will be awarded fuel cards as trophies.
* Mildura highlighted the outboard growth and showed disadvantage outboards have running with inboards. They will no longer run together.
* Actions/recommendations are forthcoming regarding GPS’s.

There being no further business, Meeting ceased at 9.36p.m.

**NEXT MEETING TO BE ADVISED**