

**ROTTNEST CHANNEL SWIM ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**DATE:** Tuesday, 28 July 2015

**VENUE:** Executive Suite, Challenge Stadium  
Stephenson Avenue, Mt Claremont

**TIME:** 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Shane Cartwright, David Corney, Shelley Hatton, Patrick Henning, Rebecca Manley, Jon McARDell, Stuart Moran, Sue Oldham, Tyron Scott, Les Stewart, Chris Turner, Hannah Waters.

**OBSERVERS:** Natalie Beevis, Hayley Chandler, Iain Freeman, Tarlina Martyn.

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**1. Welcome**

David Corney opened the Rottneest Channel Swim Association annual general meeting at 7.35pm and welcomed members, committee members, Iain Freeman from Lavan Legal and other guests.

David Corney advised that special resolution 4 has been withdrawn and will be discussed later in the meeting.

David Corney asked the floor if there were any interests to be declared. No interests were raised in relation to this meeting agenda. It was also noted that the declaration of interests is a standard part of our committee meeting processes.

**2. Apologies and Proxies**

Apologies were received from Annkathrin Franzmann, Richard Verboon, James Back, Tony Kriening, John Matthews, Nick Wyatt, Tim Lefroy, Gail Parsons, Mary-Anne Paton, Barbara Pellick.

General authority proxy nomination forms were received from:

- Annkathrin Franzmann (nominating Sue Oldham)
- James Back (nominating Chris Turner)
- Gail Parsons (nominating David Corney)
- John Matthews (nominating David Corney as Chair)
- Tim Lefroy (nominating David Corney as Chair)

**3. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous AGM held Tuesday, 24 June 2014**

David Corney (DC) informed the committee there was some business arising from the previous meeting he would like to address.

We advised we would remove part of Bylaw 12 relating to providing the list of solo record holders at the AGM. We have done this and at the same time reviewed the Bylaws as a whole. The revised version has been circulated to members. The timing of this was so that members had the opportunity to provide feedback at the AGM. DC asked the members if they had any feedback they would like to raise. No comments were received.

Mary-Anne Paton had queried the option of having customised licence plates for solos who have completed multiple crossings. The Department of Transport has advised we cannot have two series, so this is not possible.

DC asked if anyone required any changes to the minutes from the previous meeting. Shelley Hatton advised that her response within General Business isn't reflective of what she said. She requested that this be changed to: *Shelley Hatton responded advising that this tradition began because there weren't many solo female swimmers and it was a solution to having place-getters in the second wave.*

With this amendment, the minutes from the meeting held on 24 June 2015 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

#### **4. President's Report**

David Corney provided a verbal report to the members. This included the following:

##### **RCSA**

- The Association currently has a total of 1,013 members, comprising:
  - 795 Ordinary members (committee, life and solo)
  - 218 associate members

##### **Personnel**

- Committee changes – Andrew Rose retired from the committee in July 2014 and Chris Turner filled the casual vacancy created by Andrew's departure. I thank Andrew for his contribution to the committee over for the five year period for which he was involved.
- Our staffing during the year remained the same from 2014. Hayley Chandler is our Executive Officer and Natalie Beevis is our Event Officer.
- We welcome Tarlina Martyn to the Association. Tarlina has joined us on a fixed term contract.

##### **Out of Event Solo Crossings (Fastswims)**

- We have had a material increase in the number of solo crossings undertaken outside of the event.
- Fastswims accounted for 35 non-event solo crossings, including double crossings by Naomi Watters, Ian Gordon, Lynette Hewitt, Mark Lewis, Julie Isbill, Kate Scanlon and Heather Snowdon. A particular acknowledgement of Lynette Hewitt's fundraising efforts; she raised in excess of \$50,000 for SIDS for Kids. A fantastic achievement for a wonderful cause.

##### **2015 Karma Resorts Rottneest Channel Swim**

- 2015 Solos – there were 324 registered; 289 started the event; 260 completed the swim. Over 16% increase in registrants from 2014 and 38% from 2013.
- 2015 Duos – there were 161 (322 swimmers) registered and selected to race; 152 (304 swimmers) started the race; 149 completed the race.
- 2015 Teams – there were 425 (1,700 swimmers) registered and selected to race; 418 (1,672 swimmers) started the event; 381 (1,524 swimmers) teams completed the swim.
- 2015 LLCC Teams – 55 (220 swimmers) registered, 54 (216 swimmers) started the race; 53 (212 swimmers) completed the swim..
- Overall, there were 965 registrations (2,570 swimmers) and 843 entrants (2,145 swimmers) who finished the race. This means that 87% of those registered completed the race. Of those

solos, duos and teams who started the race, 92% finished the event. This is a decrease from 2014 when 99% finished the race. The decrease is largely attributed to the conditions.

- FVSRG/Medivac Stats
  - 11 swimmers were treated by on-water medical staff
  - Three swimmers were evacuated from the water (two hypothermia; one for a cardiac condition)
  - 47 swimmers received medical support at the finish line. Over 70% of these were for hypothermia.
  - Three teams were disqualified, two for going astern and one for cutting through the finish channel inside the 19km 'no boats'.
  - Two swimmers have been excluded from the 2016 and 2017 swims following their (separate) abusive behaviour to RCSA staff. The incidents occurred at our shared premises in Nedlands.
  - Two medical evacuations from Rottneest Island (pulmonary oedema)

#### **New finish line**

- The finish line was relocated from the Hotel Jetty to the south side of the Fuel Jetty. This move was motivated by the congestion issues in and around the hotel finish line. We identified the grassed area in front of Dome Café as the alternative location for the finish line, as it had greater space for participants and spectators. Access from the water to the finish enclosure was made via a ramp (built over the dunes). The finish line will likely remain there, with some minor adjustments to the set-up. The majority of feedback was highly supportive of the new finish area.

#### **RCSA Premises (Office Fire)**

- In October 2014, an electrical fault in the roof caused a fire at the RCSA premises located at Sports Lotteries House in Mount Claremont. The fire damage was confined to the RCSA office and the roof of the building. The smoke damage, however, contaminated everything in the building. With the smoke soot being highly toxic, we were advised to dispose of everything in the office and, only if we absolutely needed to, we could salvage critical items.

Our insurance policy was sufficient and our pay-out covered contents that needed to be replaced.

While this was an extremely unfortunate event, we were humbled by the support from the 'Rotto Swim' community. The small gestures, such as the 'thinking of you' and 'glad you are okay' phone calls to the RCSA staff, went a long way. We had sponsors, contractors, volunteer organisations, members and the broader community offer to help. I believe this is a testament to our brand that we have collectively built over the years.

Thank you to Stavely Minerals for housing the RCSA until after the 2015 swim. Their flexibility and assistance allowed minimal disruption to RCSA operations.

The rebuild of Sports Lotteries House is expected to take approximately two to three years, so we have found a semi-permanent office space with Nature Play WA in Crawley.

#### **Sponsorship**

- During the year, we welcomed three new sponsors. Karma Resorts became our new naming rights sponsor for the Rottneest Channel Swim. The Sunday Times and PerthNow became our official print and online media sponsor, and Hit92.9 became our radio sponsor. Rottneest Express continued its official partnership for a further three years. Sponsorships take considerable effort to secure and renew. I acknowledge the efforts of your committee and Hayley and Nat in this regard.

### **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book and Function**

- In December we celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rottneest Channel Swim with a breakfast function in Cottesloe. At this function, we launched the book *Champions and Everyday Heroes* and announced the first inductees into the RCSA Hall of Fame. Congratulations to these Hall of Famers: Peter Tanham, Barbara Pellick, Rohan Hollick and Ceinwen Roberts.

### **WA Tourism Awards**

- Supported by the Rottneest Island Authority, the RCSA entered the WA Tourism Awards and was successful in receiving a Silver Award in the Major Festivals and Events Category. As a major sponsor, the RIA was delighted that we were recognised in our first year of entering.

### **Other noteworthy items**

- **Registration system issues:** During the 2015 registration period, we experienced some major issues with our registration system. This has resulted in moving to a new provider for 2016.
- **Swimmer declaration forms:** A new insurance requirement required the RCSA to obtain signed waivers from all event participants (not just captains). We used an online signing function via the Docusign website in an attempt to make the process as easy as possible. We had some difficulties with getting all team members to comply. We thank and acknowledge those who did. Moving forward, we will be integrating this process as part of the new registration system.
- **Online skippers briefing:** We introduced an online briefing for skippers this year. The aim was for skippers to watch this short, 10-minute video prior to completing an online questionnaire. Boat safety and skipper education continues to be a focus for the Association.
- **Boat Safety Sub-committee:** We have identified the need for a boat safety sub-committee. With our greatest risks on event day being boat/skipper related, we believe that these matters need to be considered by marine safety experts. The sub-committee is advisory group that will make recommendations to the RCSA committee relating to boat safety rules, responses and education.
- **Partnership with FSC:** We are pleased to share that during the year we formed a partnership with Fremantle Sailing Club. As part of this arrangement, we had access to three boats that were used for race official responsibilities, as well as race official volunteers. They also offered the use of their Ward Room for the international/interstate briefing. Our first year of partnership was a great success. Following personnel changes at FSC, we are waiting to confirm support for 2016.
- **Volunteers:** In the lead up to the event, we had six volunteers help out in the RCSA office on numerous occasions. At the main briefing, we had ~40 people who volunteered their time to help with the briefing. On event day, we had ~40 volunteers at the start line, ~15 volunteers on-water and ~60 volunteers at the finish line. There are also volunteer organisations involved with the event, such as Fremantle Volunteer Sea Group and a number of surf lifesaving clubs. We are grateful for the ongoing support of our community!
- **Committee and Staff Involvement:** Committee and staff also work very hard to ensure a safe and successful event. During the 2015 year, we had 14 committee meetings and two half-day

planning sessions. In addition, meetings were held with various stakeholder organisations. To give you some indication, we have ~40 stakeholder organisations—many of which we have almost daily contact with, others that are confined to a three month window (event time), and some that are somewhere in-between. Further, committee members take on various tasks and projects – Safety sub-committee, drafting discussion papers, ongoing liaison with particular stakeholders, dealing with the association’s financials, drafting and reviewing correspondence and external communications.

- **Future of Event:** The RCSA committee made some decisions about the future of the event. We identified the critical need to grow and enhance our annual event to ensure the ongoing appeal of Saturday’s Rottnest Channel Swim. As part of our overall strategy to enhance the experience for swimmers and crews across the whole weekend, we are introducing an elite event on Sunday morning, namely Champions of the Channel. In conjunction with this we are enhancing the on-island experience for swimmers and their supporters. The Rottnest Island Chamber of Commerce has taken the running with much of this with the building of a festival atmosphere on the island. Swimming WA has indicated an enthusiasm to run some Sunday junior events in Thomson Bay. This will all help to create a Festival of Swimming over the RCS weekend.

#### **General notes re future**

Over the past 18 months, the RCSA has been actively trying to find ways to operate the event. We have considered a number of options:

- Solos and duos on Saturday, teams on Sunday
- Solos Saturday, duos and teams on Sunday
- Two starts; two finishes
- One start; two finishes
- Have a second event on a different weekend

Each option has its flaws. Our biggest concern is the safety of competitors. Another major concern is losing or lessening the atmosphere that exists on event day. The event continues to grow and we want to facilitate that, but we can’t change the event that people love. It wouldn’t make sense. All of the options compromised either safety or atmosphere. In any case, to run a two day community event, requires approvals from various authorities. Fremantle Ports have given a very strong indication that they are unlikely to provide approvals over two days for a community event (due to the time it takes to clear the shipping channel).

## **5. Financial Controller’s Report**

Stuart Moran (SM) tabled the financial report noting that it (and the accompanying financial statements) had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Referring to the Balance Sheet, SM commented on the financial position of the Association. We have \$353k of net assets, so we appear to be very strong. These funds, however, form the majority of our strategic reserve. SM explained the purpose of the strategic reserve fund.

SM highlighted a few items with the Profit and Loss report. This included the decision to raise the price of entry fees, the reduction in sponsorship income and the costs associated with the new finish line.

SM asked if members had any questions relating to the 2015 financial report. No questions or comments were received.

Jon McARDell moved that the finance report be accepted and this was seconded by Shelley Hatton. Carried.

## **6. Election of Committee Members**

### Committee Member

Nominations were received from:

Shane Cartwright: nominated by Shane Cartwright  
seconded by Warren Salamone

Tyron Scott: nominated by Tyron Scott  
seconded by Patrick Henning

Chris Turner: nominated by Stuart Moran  
seconded by David Corney

With one general committee member position available and a total of three nominations received, it was confirmed that an election will take place.

DC invited Shane Cartwright, Tyron Scott and Chris Turner to each provide an overview of their background and interest in joining the committee.

A ballot was conducted.

DC disclosed that there was one additional ballot paper among the votes, making a total of 18 returned ballot papers. As it is blank, it was likely stuck to the back of another ballot paper. DC asked the members if they would like to vote again, keeping in mind it would not have affected the result. It was agreed the votes would stand.

The counting of votes for committee positions was completed and DC advised that Chris Turner was elected to the position of general committee member. DC thanked Tyron and Shane for their interest and hoped that they might be interested in assisting the RCSA should the opportunity arise (to fill a casual vacancy or to sit on an advisory committee).

## **7. General Business**

- **Motions and Special Resolutions**

DC proposed that we discuss each special resolution and then cast votes at the same time. Members agreed to this approach.

### **Special Resolution 1 – Adoption of Revised Constitution**

The committee has had Lavan Legal conduct a review of its constitution. This review has stemmed from interpretation and ambiguity issues that have arisen in recent years. The intent of this review was to address these in an attempt to remove any future uncertainty around interpretation. The constitutional changes proposed have been recommended by Lavan Legal, are not material, and is a move toward best practice for an incorporated association.

Special Resolution 1 is asking members to adopt the revised constitution.

DC asked the floor if they would like to make any comments, for or against the motion. Shelley Hatton said she feels that a general review should be done periodically, and all the changes look good.

### **Special Resolution 2 – Addition of Rule 10(8)**

The Rottnest Channel Swim Association Committee is proposing that an additional rule (10(8)) be added to the constitution. The proposed wording is listed below:

*If that Committee member is unable to compete in an annual Rottnest Channel Swim event he or she is entitled under sub-rule 10 (6) for any reason, that Committee member may assign their entitlement under sub-rule 10 (6) for the Rottnest Channel Swim event for that particular year to an immediate family member of that Committee member.*

DC asked the floor if they would like to make any comments, for or against the motion. Shelley Hatton said that Rule 10(6) was introduced to compensate committee members for not being able to swim due to general Association commitments on event day, and was not intended to be a reward.

### **Special Resolution 3 – Amendment of Rule 20(3)**

The Rottnest Channel Swim Association Committee has proposed an amendment to 20(3).

Rule 20(3) currently reads:

20(3) A maximum of one proxy vote will be recognised for each member attending a general meeting.

It is proposed that Rule 20(3) is amended to read:

20(3) A member present at a general meeting is entitled to hold a proxy vote from a maximum of one appointing member to vote on behalf of that appointing member.

DC asked the floor if they would like to make any comments, for or against the motion. Shelley Hatton queried whether the Chair is entitled to hold multiple proxies under the proposed rule. DC confirmed that this limitation also applies to the Chairperson, meaning that the Chair can only hold one proxy. Shelley said that it is usual practice to have the Chair holding multiple proxies and asked Iain Freeman to comment on this. Iain agreed that it is common for a Chair to hold multiple proxies, but that is not what is being proposed.

### **Special Resolution 4 – Addition of Rule 19(5)**

DC reconfirmed that this motion has been withdrawn. This rule needs to be supported with some other constitutional adjustments. DC asked the members for feedback on the matter to see whether there was general support for the motion. No comments were received.

DC requested that the members vote on Special Resolutions 1, 2 and 3.

While the votes were being counted, DC moved on to other general business.

- **Lavan Legal Recognition**

DC advised he would like to make a special presentation to Lavan Legal and invited Iain Freeman to accept a small gift from the RCSA in recognition of their support over the past eight years. We are pleased to share that Lavan Legal has just renewed its sponsor agreement with the RCSA for a further three years.

- **5, 10 & 30 Solo Crossing Presentations**

DC advised that there are no badge recipients in attendance this year, but would like to acknowledge them nonetheless. David congratulated the following swimmers:

- **5+ Crossings**

- **Naomi Watters** (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015(x2))
- **Jaime Bowler** (2005, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015)
- **Ian Gordon** (2013, 2014(x2), 2015(x3))
- **Rachel Duczynski** (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)
- **Jon Turner** (2009, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)
- **Chris MacQuillan** (2005, 2006, 2010, 2012, 2015)
- **Mark Lewis** (2009, 2013(x2), 2015(x3))
- **Fletcher Barr** (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015(x2))
- **Tony Kriening** (2000, 2001, 2008, 2013, 2015)

- **10+ Crossings**

- **Lisa Delaurentis** (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011(x2), 2013(x2), 2014(x2), 2015(x2))
- **Daniel Soanes** (1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2010, 2012, 2015)
- **Wayne Morris** (2006, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013(x3), 2014(x2), 2015)
- **Bruce Dewar** (2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2015(x3))
- **Brad Hardingham** (2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2015)

- **30+ Crossings**

- **Peter Tanham** (1983, 1985, 1991(x2), 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995(x3), 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000(x2), 2001, 2002(x2), 2003(x2), 2004, 2009, 2010(x2), 2012, 2013(x2), 2014(x2), 2015)

- **Results of Ballot**

As the votes were still being counted, DC declared the meeting adjourned at 8.24pm.

DC reopened the meeting at 8.29pm and advised the results.

**Special Resolution 1**

Yes = 17. No = 0. Special Resolution 1 was carried.

**Special Resolution 2**

Yes = 12. No = 5. Special Resolution 2 was not carried.

**Special Resolution 3**

Yes = 17. No = 0. Special Resolution 1 was carried.

**9. Meeting Closed**

David Corney closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

**David Corney**  
**President**

**Date:**

DRAFT