



SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOLS ROWING UNION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING **HELD ON SATURDAY, 7 MARCH 2020**

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Mr Oosthuysen welcomed school representatives to the Annual General Meeting.

Apologies were recorded for Paul Carstensen and Karen Fisher. G Hutcheons (Mondeor) has taken an athlete to the hospital but his votes will be taken as lodged with Nadine de Reuck.

2. AFFILIATED SCHOOLS AND ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Attendance Register

Andre Oosthuysen - President

Gill Jeffrey - Vice President

Nadine de Reuck - Secretary

Assumption - Kwaku Owusu;

Bishop Bavin - Xavier Mateman

Bishops - Bradley Smith

Clarendon - Bill Godfrey;

Germiston - Delmarie Fritz

Grey High - Reinhardt Oborn

Hilton - Adrian Higgins, Declan Williams

Holy Rosary - Coreen Walstra

Jeppe Boys - Devin Cripwell

Parktown - Chris Paynter

SACS - Muhammad Saloojee

Selborne College - Murray Chandler

Somerset College - Bevan Stephens

St Albans - A J Grant

St Andrew's for Girls - Tara Nooy

St Andrews (Grahamstown) - Ed Goodier

St Benedict's - Darryn Roff

St Dunstan's - Caryne Lodge

St John's - Barry Macniece
St Mary's - Caitlin Dace
St Stithians (Boys) - Alex Cruickshanks
St Stithians (Girls) - James Buchanan

Mr Oosthuysen read through the member schools list to ascertain who was in attendance and then requested attendees to please sign the attendance register and to complete an update of their membership details. He reminded schools that although they were permitted more than one representative at the meeting, each school would be entitled to ONE vote that needed to be cast by the rowing MIC or a full-time staff member of the school.

He also indicated that it was not his intention to allow for debate regarding the motions that were tabled as part of the President's report but to proceed straight to the vote on each of the matters. The motions were circulated prior to the meeting. The exception would be the vote being held to gauge support for the three motions tabled to reduce the size of the regatta. Two votes would be held in this regard with the least popular option being eliminated for the second vote.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (including Financial report)
(Copies of the Financial report are available for collection or perusal at the SASRU offices during the course of the championships)

Permanent membership of SASRU currently stands at 25 schools. This consists of 7 Independent Boys Schools; 7 State Boys Schools; 5 Independent Girls Schools; 1 State Girls School, 3 Independent Co-Ed, 2 State Co-Ed Schools. The geographical spread of these schools is as follows: 16 Gauteng Based schools (64%); 4 Western Cape schools (16%); 4 Eastern Cape Schools (16%) and 1 Kwazulu Natal (4%). It is important that the SASRU footprint in Natal be protected and rowing at Hilton College safeguarded.

The President then shared some statistics from the 2020 Championship:

There were 38 clubs participating at the Championships: 25 South African Schools (15 independent and 10 state); 9 Rowing Clubs and 4 African School (3 Zim, 1 Zam).

The 1342 Athletes participating are broken up as follows:

SA school boys - 820 boys from 19 schools (728 from monastic and 92 from co-ed schools)

SA school girls - 336 from 11 schools (275 from monastic and 61 from co-ed schools)

SA Clubs: 60 boys and 51 girls from 9 clubs

Visiting athletes: 22 boys and 41 girls from 4 African clubs

The greatest challenge facing schools rowing remains to increase the number of girls participating. There are a number of challenges that SASRU faces in this in that regard:

- Densification of facilities and saturation levels Roodeplaat and VLC. There is little room on the available Gauteng water to accommodate additional participants.
- Gauteng has and is also experiencing the loss of historical rowing venues (Florida Lake, Wemmer Pan) due to crumbling municipal infrastructures
- The rise of stock-market schools sees schools and parents who could potentially afford to row reluctant to make the investment.

- Is it interesting to not that monastic / single sex schools send 75% (1003 of 1342 athletes) to the Championships. Is it possible for us to identify traditional girls schools as potential recruits?

Mr Oosthuysen and Mrs Jeffrey will be calling for the establishment of a SASRU subcommittee to chart the way forward to meet the needs of girls schools. There has been some vigorous debate in this area across the course of the 2019/2020 season: some schools have argued for gender parity in boat classes whilst others have argued that it is crucial to adopt a more cautious and staggered approach that will protect and increase the depth of participation and the quality of performance amongst Junior Women.

At the 2019 plenary, a vote by regional reps saw Gauteng's motion to stall the rollout of the JW8+ being outvoted by EC, WC and KZN. The decision created much discontent amongst the Gauteng girls schools who constitute the majority of participants. It soon became apparent that attempts to navigate a resolution would not be successful. The placement of JW8+ on the regatta programme was not put to the vote (as the President had indicated at Boat Race) as it became apparent from the proposals received that there was very little common ground amongst schools. The decision was made to call instead for a one-school one-vote on the matter at this AGM. The event is included on this year's programme and its placement was unilaterally decided by Paul Carstensen and I in an attempt to honour the decisions that had been made at the plenary and to arrive at a workable solution for the 2020 Championships.

The second half of the season will be remembered for the devastating aftermath of the 2019 December floods which seriously damaged the Alan Francis rowing course and resulted in an extensive hyacinth problem emerging. The President acknowledged the immense and invaluable contribution that has been made by all role-players in order to repair the course. Without the input of participants, parents, coaches, umpires and officials and the broader rowing community who came to assist, this year's championships would not have been able to take place. The President thanked the Roodeplaat Facilities Commission chaired by Keith McIver, Greg Chamberlain of GRA, Selwyn Jackson, Phillip Muller, Jamie Croly and Gary Lodge in particular.

The Sa Schools Rowing Championships remains one of the biggest and most popular sporting event on the school calendar. It is staged through the commitment and dedication of a well-oiled organising committee, supporters and sponsors. The President thanked all the stakeholders for making the event such a success.

The 2019 Championships cost R350 000 to stage and saw a profit of R91 000 (R15 000 less than in 2018) being made. Security costs increased by 66% due to schools arriving very early in the week preceding the regatta. Equipment hire also makes up a substantial cost with R80 000 being spent on the fencing for the trailer park alone.

The main points of income for the Championships were:

Regatta entry fees - R55 030 (R62 000 this year)

Gate takings - R 193 000

Programmes - R 51 000

School tasks - R35 000

Vendors - R 22 000

Clothing and merchandise - R 38 530

The President expressed his greatest gratitude to SAVUKA for their cleaning services and Rand Merchant Bank for their annual R150 000 sponsorship which makes a significant difference to the bottom line.

The following motions were tabled and voted upon:

Motion 3.1. Introduction of SASRU Affiliation Fee

The President proposed the introduction of a SASRU Affiliation/Membership fee of R1000 per annum payable by 31 October each year which would permit member schools entry into Boat Race and SA Champs.

Membership requirements will be introduced and include:

- An application from the head of school.
- Confirmation that the school has permission from any relevant authorities
- Confirmation that pupils are registered and participating in the correct age group.
- Confirmation that the school has appropriate liabilities and indemnities in place to cover all eventualities.
- Confirmation that all participants have not only passed a sculling test but are also watersafe.
- Vetting of coaches in terms of SOA.

The fee is an attempt to move the Union to a greater degree of compliance and to decrease the liability risks being faced by the Executive Committee members and the organising committee.

This motion was passed with 23 members voting for and 0 against.

Motion 3.2. Exclusion of Junior Club Events

Together with the sculling proposals, the motion to eliminate club events is proposed to assist with the reduction of the regatta size and time. Junior Club events are invited to prepare their athletes to enter as school athletes and non-composite crews into school events. Composite clubs crew should ideally participate at the National Championships. In this regard, it is emphasised that the SA Schools Championships is not a national selection regatta.

This motion was passed with 18 members voting for and 2 against.

Motion 3:3. JW8+ Inclusion (Motion is passed 8 for / 3 against)

A motion was tabled to gauge support for the continued inclusion of the u19 JW8+ as a Championship event. The President clarified that was not a vote for the permanent exclusion of the event but “for the time being”. It was also not a vote to remove the U14 or u15 girls octos from the programme.

The motion was passed with 8 members voting against and 3 for the continued inclusion of the JW8+. The event will therefore be removed from the programme for the time being.

Motion 3.4. Points scored by Grade 7 Pupils at SA Champs

The Heads of the Gauteng Boy's Schools have proposed that the points earned by Grade 7 pupils at the annual Schools Championships should not count. Not all heads - in particular, the heads of the girls schools, are not in agreement with the proposal.

The Motion is was rejected 6 to 14.

Motion 3.5. Reduction of Sculling Entries

Three options have been presented to reduce the number of sculling entries on Friday:

Option 1: Head races held on the preceding Sunday

Option 2: Proportional regional seat selection with provincial qualifiers - **6 in favour**

St Andrews (Girls), St Benedict's, St Albans, Hilton, Jeppe, Parktown

Option 3: Restriction on number of sculling entries - **12 in favour**

KES, Bishop Bavin, Germiston, Somerset College, Mondeor, St Johns, St Andrews (Grahamstown),

Grey, Bishops, SACS, St Dunstons, Holy Rosary

Option 1 was reject during the course of the meeting. Some MIC's indicate that they had not had sight of Option 2 which had been submitted by Jamie Croly from St Andrews (Girls), Regional reps were requested to circulate the proposal and MIC's were asked to lodge their vote with Nadine de Reuck, the secretary, over the course of the weekend.

The results of the vote are outlined above.

CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

The following school reps volunteered to assist with the review of the SASRU constitution: Adrian Higgins, Jamie Croly, Kawku Owusu, Bill Godfrey, Reinhardt Oborn.

5. NOTIFICATION OF REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Constitution requires regional reps to be elected 10 days before SA Champs. Please can we adhere to that specification in future.

Natal: Adrian Higgins

The remaining regions - Gauteng, EC and WC - were requested to submit the name of their representative to Mr Oosthuysen by the end of the first week of April.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

One nomination had been received for Mr Oosthuysen as President and Mrs Jeffrey as Vice President. A vote was, therefore, unnecessary.

Mr Oosthuysen draw attention to the fact that in terms of the Constitution, this would need to be his final year as president. Item 3.3. of the SASRU constitution indicates that "*no office-bearer shall be permitted to hold the same office or position for more than eight years*".

7. CONFIRMATION OF REGATTA DATES

- 7.1. Boat Race - 4 and 5 December 2020
- 7.2. SA Champs - 5, 6, 7 March 2021

8. **SASRU U16 DEVELOPMENT TOUR**

Caryne Lodge indicated that the tour would only be cancelled if it is absolutely necessary. In the interim, everything else regarding selections stays the same. Athletes will still be awarded SASRU colours and coaches will be recognised. Training will start in the week following SA Champs. The announcement of the coaches will be made on Monday, 9 March. Coxes have been shortlisted, confirmation of coxes still needs to take place and this will include some discussions with MIC's. If the tour is cancelled, an alternative will be contemplated - perhaps a camp of sorts.

Mr Oosthuysen concluded the meeting by reminding coaches to display the utmost courtesy and respect to one another and the officials.

The meeting then concluded.