



MINUTES OF SYDNEY 38 ASSOCIATION AGM

7.30 PM TUESDAY 15th OCTOBER, 2013

INTERSTATE CONFERENCE CALL

1. Apologies:- Lou Abrahams (Challenge), Bruce Taylor (Chutzpah38), Jennifer Carnell Phoenix), Ian Beer (Adrenalin) Gordon Ketelbey (Zen) Chris Dawson (Eye Candy) Larki Missiris (Wild One) Geoff Payne (Risk).
2. Attendees :-
 - i) SYC (Vic) Rowan Simpson (Challenge) John Chatham (38 Degrees South) Andrew Robinson (Playground) Stephane Howarth (Mille Sabords) Frank McDermott & Gordon Mather (Clockwork) Paul Holden (Audacious) Andrew & Mel Mollison (Sierra Chainsaw)
 - ii) RGYC (Vic) Ian Murray (Cinquante) Brenton Carnell (Phoenix)
 - iii) CYCA (NSW) Greg Clinnick (Audacious) Geoff Bonus (Calibre) Mark Griffiths (Old School) Tony Levett (Eleni) Peter Byford (Conspiracy) Chris Payne (Risk) Peter Taylor (Faster Forward)
 - iv) RPAYC (NSW) Bruce Ferguson (Whisper) Rick Welch (The Bolter).
Number of attendees (17 boats) exceeded the quorum requirement of 25% of total membership (25 boats)
3. Presidents Report:- The out going President, Mark Griffiths reported that the last 2 years had been challenging but the Association remained strong with increased membership. However, the lack of fleet racing in NSW was disappointing. A lack of regular communication and regatta planning needed to be improved. He felt another reason was that a number of owners were intimidated by the racing and suggested coaching support should be considered. The strong fleet in Victoria and the growing fleet size in South Australian were encouraging at a national level. Mark concluded his report by thanking his Executive for their efforts.

On behalf of the members, the incoming President Greg Clinnick acknowledged Mark's effort over the past two years.

4. Financial Statements:- The retiring Treasurer, Greg Clinnick presented the attached Financial Statements to the meeting and reported that the association was in a healthy financial situation with \$42k in the bank. A small loss of \$142 was incurred in the last financial year. Revenue from membership subscriptions, the purchase of sail buttons and interest (\$1,140) from the term deposit was absorbed by subsidizing various social events at regattas, the purchase of ½ models for trophies, subsidizing the NSW States and Nationals (\$3k). Since the end of June the Association has purchasing a spare rudder for \$2,500 for the use of paid up members who experience rudder failure. The Treasurer's report will be posted on website. Acceptance of the Treasurer's report was moved by Greg and seconded by Geoff Bonus, accepted by members.
5. Election Of Executive Committee:- As there were more vacancies than nominations, there was no election required. Accordingly, the following nominees were elected unopposed.
President Greg Clinnick
Treasurer Andrew Robinson
Measurer John Chatham
Committee Bruce Ferguson, Peter Byford, Geoff Bonus, Mark Griffith & David Knights (S.A. Chapter)
Non Voting Secretary Rowan Simpson
6. State Chapter Reports
 - i) NSW:- Bruce Ferguson reinforced Marks comments about the need to improve communication and be better organized in the future. He felt it was important to publish a calendar with events early to encourage more participation. He also thought that there was a requirement to get back to the camaraderie that existed in the past and to provide a more social atmosphere within the NSW fleet. He suggested that a rally of all Sydney yachts (32s, 36s, 38s, etc) might be a consideration. The promotion of One Design racing would be the aim. Peter Byford added it was important to get non-members to join the Association. Geoff Bonus indicated the lack of regular sprints racing was damaging the class and he would support twilight or Pittwater events if they were to be organized. It was agreed to not be overly ambitious and not set too many races. The NSW State Championship is scheduled for the 7th and 8th of December and will be a focus of the NSW membership.

- ii) South Australia :- In the absence of David Knights, John Chatham provide an impromptu report on the SA fleet. There were 5 boats in the fleet but only 3 were active. The E Business and Hold On were not being sailed regularly but the other 3 mainly race under the IRC and have measured for AMS handicaps. Greg added that the SA States at Port Lincoln was an enjoyable regatta with 6 boats participating. 3 Victorian boats participated with Bruce Taylor's Chutzpah38 winning the event. Whilst some distance to travel Greg encouraged the Victorian owners to support it in the future perhaps every 2 to 3 years.
- iii) Victoria :- Rowan summarized the highlight of the past season from his report which is on the class website. With a high level of participation of between 8 to 10 boats and a number of social events he felt the Vic chapter was in good shape. The addition of Phoenix (ex-London Tavern) and its immediate success was a bonus. Specific points of interest included:-
- a) The Victorian State Championship. Whilst won by Challenge racing was very close and not decided until the last race. Chutzpah38 was second with Cinquante third. The Corinthian division was equally competitive with Clockwork winning from Audacious.
 - b) Morris Finance Pre Season Regatta. This is sponsored by Ian Murray and is a fantastic weekend of sailing at Geelong. The Sydney 38 fleet has both the club and water to itself. A dinner is held on Saturday night to compliment a great weekend of sailing. The event was won by the sponsor closely followed by Phoenix.
 - c) The Winter series was won by Phoenix as reward for travelling from Geelong to compete (Brenton was heard to say 5 hours each way!) from Clockwork and Audacious.
 - d) The UK Sailmakers Summer Series. Sailed over 20 races throughout the season on Sunday mornings, the series was won by Challenge from Clockwork and Sierra Chainsaw. Sailed mostly off Sandringham Yacht Club this event attracts much interest from not only participants but from spectators as well.
 - e) Club Marine Series. For owners who utilize their yachts in Handicap events, Sydney 38's were well represented with Audacious, 38 Degrees South, Clockwork and Chutzpah all winning races. Publicity scribes affectionately report the Sydney 38 fleet as "the Colts

Rowan concluded his report by indicating a Pro Am promotion of the class has been organized for March 2014. Whilst the theme will

be “ONE DESIGN ONE PASSION’ it will be aimed at potential new owners and crews.

2014 Nationals At Geelong:- Ian Murray reported that preparations for the next National Championships were well under way. The Notice of Race was launched this week and there was a discount for early entries. Significantly the Club was offering a further incentive of \$500 for the first 4 interstate Sydney 38’s to help with costs. Racing was to be held over 3 days commencing January 24th. Rowan added that the NOR set out that conformance checks and crew weigh was to be performed on Thursday 23rd. Greg added that a social event was also organized for Saturday night at a local hotel.

(Whilst not discussed at the AGM, it should be acknowledged that Ian is not only the Commodore of RGYC but his company Morris Finance is again sponsoring the Sydney 38 event. The sailing conditions are testing but the flat water provides ideal conditions and it is an event not to be missed.)

7. Technical Report:-

The Class Measurer, John Chatham, reported that the committee of experienced Measurers in NSW (Peter Walsh) Vic (Peter Coleman) and in SA as well as a Victorian owner representative (Andrew Robinson) were in regular communication. The vinyl wrap issue was not put up at this time but a rewrite of the rules was on the agenda and would be submitted to the Executive with a view to presenting any recommendations to members by the next AGM. He invited owners to submit any rule related concerns for consideration during this process. Geoff Bonus suggested the committee write to all members for their thoughts. In addition, he was keen to be involved as an owner representative on the committee. The Technical Committee should be formed in accordance with the class rules with a balance of owner and technical representation. If the current rules are impractical, then a change can be considered.

Much discussion followed about the rudder problems the class had experienced. Replacing the existing stainless steel rudder stock with carbon material had been suggested but not formalized. A number of theories about the source of the weakness including the sharp edges of the original design, load points and the grade of stainless steel used were presented but as John acknowledged, expert engineering advice and consideration was required before a rule amendment could be recommended. Greg Clinnick thanked John for his on going efforts acknowledging the conformance checking prior to championship

events had been well received. Greg also reminded those in attendance that in accordance with the resolution at the last AGM, the masthead spinnaker adoption could not be resurrected until the next AGM and if approved could not be implemented until the following year.

8. Other Business:-

- **Sierra Clothing:** Greg invited Mel Mollison to report on his clothing line promotion. Mel has been a sponsor of class in Victoria and was keen to promote his brand in the wider Sydney 38 community. He supplies team uniforms and clothing apparel at discounted prices to Sydney 38 crews. There being no objections, he offered to display his products on the class web site.
- **Use of coaches in State championships.** In order to encourage owners to participate in regattas, Mark Griffith suggested that sail-makers or experienced sailors be used on Corinthian entries in the upcoming NSW States as coaches and that they not need to be included in crew weight. This variation to the class rules would be covered by the NOR. Whilst this was against class rules he suggested it would encourage new participation. There was a desire from some Victorian owners that this would be a significant compromise to the class rules for a Grade1 event. There was some support by the NSW owners. This will be further considered by the Executive.
- **Poll Owners.** Geoff Bonus felt it was time to send out another poll to obtain owner feedback. This was supported and will be up to the new committee to arrange.
- **Use of Association Rudder.** Mark Griffiths felt the spare rudder was for the use of financial members only.
- **Email Addresses.** Owners were reminded to ensure their email address were current as communications were reliant on correct addresses being maintained.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at approximately 8.30 pm.

Rowan Simpson
Secretary