

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL HOBIE CAT ASSOCIATION

2021/22 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting via Zoom video conference, Tuesday 15 February 2022 at 8:00pm AEDST

Minutes:

Meeting Open

Phil Epps welcomed state representatives and opened meeting at 8:05pm

Attendance: Phil Epps (President), James Rhodes (Treasurer), Cam Weddell (Vic Pres), Naomi Chiu (Vic Obs), Patrick Butler (NSW Pres), Mick Butler (NSW Obs), Rob Branch (Qld Pres), David Fisher (NSW Treasurer), Cam Owen (WA Proxy)

1) Apologies: Pete Skewes (Secretary)

2) Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting: Phil Epps reported that the minutes of the last AGM held at Northaven Surf Lifesaving Club, Adelaide as part of the 2019/2020 National cannot be located. Meeting was held and minutes taken, however these are not in the ANHCA Drop Box Folder nor on files or hard drive of Secretary.

3) President's Report:

Impact of last two years has impacted sailing. Good to see and congratulations to States for taking opportunities to find ways to have events for their member's albeit not at the national level.

Not a lot of communication between AHCA and National body. Annual membership and some discussions around Worlds allocations for this year, together with a discussion regarding the IHCA Executive salary and reduced support from Hobie Cat Company requiring the IHCA to examine its own fee structures and what it passes onto members.

Membership needs to be looked at state to maximise the opportunities for members with the level and method of contribution varying. The number of full members impacts the allocation of spots to World Championships, with only 7 spots being allocated to the South Pacific for this upcoming H16 Worlds. This is due to Australian numbers and the lack of engagement with IHCA from other South Pacific regions. All spots have been allocated to Australia.

IHCA is looking at increasing fees and this needs to be looked at a state level.

Personally I am not looking to continue in this role as ANHCA President due to current circumstances around my location and work commitments.

4) Treasurer's Report:

Two years of financials sent through via email.

Raise idea of benefit back to states as there was no national's regatta. 2020 no rebate back to FY2021 a rebate back to sailors.

2020 Balance sheet Healthy – snap shot as of 30 November 2020 (end of our financial year) \$13564 in bank. Income from membership contributions from state, insurance contributions; Expenses IHCA fees, fair trading fees and overall insurance fees.

FY2021 – rebate into fees for states - \$396 loss and an overall balance of \$13057 as of 30 Nov

No much movement in asset of cash in the bank and has been fairly stationary.

Invoices dated 30 November sit in accounts receivable as they sit in that financial year.

Financial go to Audit – 2020 completed and audited. 2021 still to be audited. Audit is provided free of charge as auditor was involved in sailing. He has since retired however new owners continue to provide service at no cost.

Moved: James Rhodes. Seconded: Cam Weddell. Endorsed.

5) Measurer's Report – No report.

Question from floor re measurement issue regarding H18 in fleet. NSW reported that essentially they have dropped of the Hobie earth. Need to maintain awareness for future regattas or events should a non-compliant Hobie turn up. The one design aspect of class is important priority to be maintained.

6) Manufacturer's Report – No report. Factory still supportive – will help where appropriate.

7) State Association Reports.

a) Queensland – Change to State Titles from Easter Weekend due to impact on families – gone to May Day Weekend (Queensland Long Weekend only) – still a 3 day regatta – April 30, May 1 & 2. Fleet of 14's and 16's.

Nationals – 23/24 – Two Series event at RQYS.

Hoping for membership rise moving forward, post COVID

b) New South Wales - Fresh faced committee – Online AGM, Pat President, Dougie VP, David Treasurer, Claire Secretary. States held at JB in place of Nationals – 60 boats entered 35 H14's. Leading to Eden 20 odd boats expected mostly 16's. Vincentia advised that if Nationals cannot go ahead due to COVID then they're out. Cannot go around again and planes for Qld can be set in stone.

c) Victoria – Good numbers across 3 main clubs – influx of new people, former sailors as kids, perhaps by product of COVID 33 members 24 adults – 9 youth. Solid position financially with consistency in funds. Good sponsors for recent states that goes to prizes and maintaining this position. 21 States at Safety Beach ~ 40 boats, healthy contingent from NSW. Executive: Cam President, Rowdy VP, Fletcher Secretary, Naomi Treasurer.

d) South Australia – no report.

e) Western Australia – Frustrating not to be able to travel. Local fleet maintains strong at Nedlands and regionally in Geraldton – Last year's states at Esperance that impacted numbers being a significantly long way for members and particularly Geraldton crew. About to head to Geraldton for this year's states in a few weeks. Currently an issue on committee with Jason withdrawing as President, however a new committee should be formed at the upcoming AGM. Financial situation is stable with major events, Esperance States running at a small loss due to reduced numbers, other main event being Cat Classic held at beginning of the year, holding a small profit. Membership remains stable, any profits generally go to a small travel fund to support members to participate in National or International events.

8) Election of Office Bearers for 2022/23

Positions declared vacant. No formal nominations – nominations from the floor.

President: Cam Weddell, nominated. Seconded: Rob Branch – Unanimously carried

Secretary: Naomi Chiu, nominated. Seconded: Patrick Butler – endorsed.

Treasurer: James Rhodes, Nominated, Seconded: Cam Weddell – endorsed.

State Delegates: primarily State presidents unless otherwise advised by state associations.

Members discussed (and thanked) Pat for doing a lot of behind the scenes with website and social media, working with Zoe and team from factory. Discussed a role for a Media Role / Social Media Director. Pat would be on ANHCA committee as President of NSW and was happy to work in this role with new executive.

Manufactures Rep. Phil recognised need to re-establish or strengthen links to factory to support ANHCA members and sailing.

9) National membership Fees. James reporting that IHCA to have Junior, Youth and Senior with respective pricing. Thought of bring this structure into States bodies, to ANHCA, to IHCA. Question of supporting this fees structure moving forward. Intention from IHCA to have the following fee structure from Jan '23 (in USD): Junior \$7, Youth \$15, Senior \$25. This is generally an increase in membership fees.

Naomi made observation re Information for merit of IHCA in relation to what does it do for members, particularly with an increase in fees.

Pat raised aspects of membership and benefits. Has a few ideas in working with the factory – possible National newsletter, with some sort of deal for members to get benefit for equipment or parts etc.

10) Website - update AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL HOBIE CAT ASSOCIATION

Phil raised issue of coordinated information through Webpage and need for WA to get on board with ANHCA server platform. Reflections need to be made on how social media – Facebook / Instagram vs Webpage information, and how these can be developed.

Concern raised over Hobiecat Nationals Webpage. No one is sure who actually has access to this now. Pete Skewes reported that he does not have access anymore. Pat believes due to recent changes in host locations that Zoe (factory) now has access. Pat raised issues of whether Hobie Cat Nationals page comes under ANHCA pages as opposed to separate page. Consensus that this goes to ANHCA site.

Pat to work in Media role with Cam and Naomi. WA web page needs aligning, there is support from WA for this to occur but just haven't happened as yet. Phil to bring this back to HCAWA at their next AGM.

12) General Business

IHCA Membership Number: Rob asked in relation to a question to him, that the Worlds Entry had asked for a IHCA member number. No one was particularly aware of this specifically, but thought this was in regard to entrants being active Hobie sailors as opposed to walk in competitors. Perhaps Aus Sailing Number could be used here, indicating being active sailor.

Worlds Prequalifying: Cam W asked if the spots had been locked in already. 7 spots allocated to South Pacific and all allocated to Australia due to non-compliance of other South Pacific countries to IHCA membership requirements. Phil informed meeting that the allocation of spots was undertaken prior to the postponement of the worlds and was based on the results of the last two nationals, 2018 & 2019 with the results of the most current states sitting alongside this. These results and events were used to formulate a ranking system where names were then sent to Kevin Winchester (IHCA South Pacific Delegate) for endorsement and submission to IHCA. Phil informed the meeting that in creating and presenting this list that he took himself out of the ranking. Cam asked if there should be a conformation cut-off from those 7 teams should they not attend and therefore allow other sailors to take these spots. Phil informed process and highlighted that rankings did not allow for new members or updated information but could be include with upcoming states. Cam asked if list could be shared as normally at an event it is public based on results who gets the spots. Pat suggested this could be shard on website. Cam thought that it would be appropriate to reallocate spots should the nominated sailors not attend.

Phil shared list: Cam Owen, Darren Smith, Phil Epps, Fletcher Warren-Myers, Peter Bates, Mick Butler & Cam Weddell.

Suggestion made to post in a site and or confirm who is going first. New committee to sort.

Minor Premiership promotional idea: Pat proposed idea of ranking based on significant events to be announced at Nationals H14 & H16 as a lead into the 'final' Nationals event.

Promoting sailors to travel: How do we promote sailors to travel to events? Not just the 'elite' sailors. Suggestion of a travel fund, however dependent on an income stream. Radius based support eg >400km then get a \$50 fuel voucher. That would depend on dollars – although most assocaitions do have money in the bank. Although, issue can be financial, however other factors can be time also. Could be demographic also. Pat wants to survey members (generated mailing list from event entries – google doc) re travel concerns etc.

National Meetings: Regular national meetings has merit based on the positive outcomes and discussion from recent WebEx meetings conducted.

CLOSE 9:42pm AEDST