

# **DRAFT Minutes of Yachting New Zealand's Annual General Meeting**

**Held online**

**4pm on Tuesday, November 12, 2024**

**Present:** David Abercrombie, Debbie Aldred, Sarah Bacon, Dean Barker, Harold Bennett, Tim Bloy, Murray Brown, Tony Bullard, Nik Burfoot, John Butcher, Nick Cook, Doug Elder, Justin Fletcher, Kent Forsyth, Ian Gardiner, Scott Gavin, Raynor Haagh, Jenna Hansen, Ingrid Harder, Nicola Harrison, Brett Hawkes, Roger Hudson, Luke Jenkins, Joanne Jones, Angela Jordan, Mel Ker-Bell, Greg Knowles, Anne Marett, Josh Margetts, Kelly Mulcahy, Kris Perano, Adrian Percival, Colin Rickett, Andrew Robertson, Eduan Roos, Greg Salthouse, Dave Smith, Will Smith, Mike Smithies, Helen Spencer, Dom Sutton, Lyle Tresadern, Hayden Whitburn, Gillian Williams, Bridget Winstone-Kight.

## **1.0 Apologies**

Viki Moore, John Faire, Des Brennan, John Fraser, Hugh Corbett, Chris Crone.

## **2.0 Obituaries**

Yachting New Zealand chair Greg Knowles paid tribute to those members who had passed away during the previous 12 months: Sir Colin Giltrap, John Street MNZM, Simon Smith, Clive Nothling, John Seggie, Keith Elliott, Ray O'Brien, Mick Tait, John McCulloch and Brian Murray.

## **3.0 Chair's welcome**

Knowles welcomed attendees to the 2024 annual general meeting, introducing Yachting New Zealand board members and staff. He acknowledged the successes of the NZL Sailing Team at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and Emirates Team New Zealand in defending the 37th America's Cup in Barcelona, highlighting the critical role of yacht clubs in these achievements. Knowles thanked the high-performance sponsors and partners, Yachting New Zealand's high-performance team led by Ian Stewart, and John Clinton and the Yachting New Zealand Olympic Committee.

Reflecting on the past year, Knowles noted the growth of the RŪNĀ schools programme and the Clean Club environmental initiative. A key focus this year has been new strategic priorities, which were shared with clubs nationwide through visits by chief executive David Abercrombie and national sport development director Raynor Haagh.

Yachting New Zealand will continue working with Maritime New Zealand to refine yacht inspection processes for certain offshore categories, following the return of the Section 21 delegation in July.

Knowles expressed gratitude for the hard work of the Yachting New Zealand team, the board's time and expertise, Arabella Vennell, who retired from the board earlier this year, and the many committees, managers, volunteers, parents, and coaches who ensure outstanding events and experiences year after year.

## **4.0 Chief executive's welcome**

Abercrombie recognised the sailing team's contribution to New Zealand's overall record medal haul in Paris and acknowledged the achievement of other Kiwi athletes and teams this year.

Membership affiliation fees cover less than half of Yachting New Zealand's operating costs, and success in high-performance contributes to the organisation's continued financial feasibility.

The tireless work and sacrifice of our members help ensure strong, capable and sustainable clubs, through good collaboration, good people, a positive attitude and many volunteers.

Abercrombie also highlighted key strategic priorities for the next four years – including an emphasis on clear pathways for sailors, leadership development and the sustainability of our clubs through good governance and effective resource allocation.

Major events are also critical to providing our sport with inspiration, valuable exposure and often an added source of income to clubs.

Yachting New Zealand will continue to advocate for its members on issues like insurance, biosecurity, and governance and the opportunities presented by the RŪNĀ programme in connecting with certain previously disconnected sections of the community.

Membership numbers remain stable, and Yachting New Zealand's financial position remains strong due in no small part to the members' fees, which are greatly appreciated, and the ongoing support of our sponsors.

## **5.0 Confirmation of minutes**

It was proposed that the minutes of the 2023 annual general meeting on October 10, 2023, be accepted.

Nick Cook/Andrew Robertson

Carried

## **6.0 Reports**

### **6.1 Chair's report – taken as read**

### **6.2 Chief executive's report – taken as read**

### **6.3 Financial report**

Audit and risk committee chair Nik Burfoot said Yachting New Zealand made an overall deficit of \$476,000 for the year to June 2024, compared to a surplus of \$670,000 in 2023. This deficit is due to the timing of expenses and revenues related to the Olympic and talent development programme which this year reflected a deficit of \$544,000 compared to a surplus of \$ 573,000 in 2023. It is expected that the Olympic and talent development programme will get close to breaking even for this Olympic cycle once all related costs have been accounted for.

Club services and sport development have seen a surplus of \$68,000 in 2024, compared to a surplus of \$96,000 in 2023.

#### **6.4 Annual report**

It was proposed that the 2023/24 annual report be accepted.

Tony Bullard/Anne Marette

Carried

#### **7.0 Appointment of auditors**

It was proposed that HLB Mann Judd be appointed as auditors for the coming year.

Andrew Robertson/Nick Cook

Carried

#### **8.0 Affiliation fees**

##### **8.1 Club affiliation fee**

It was proposed that the Yachting New Zealand club affiliation fee for the 2025/26 season will be the club affiliation fee for 2024/25 plus an increase of the annual New Zealand government consumers price index (CPI) of 3.3 per cent as of June 30, 2024.

- \$32.20 plus GST for every club individual person.

- \$79.82 plus GST for three or more members in a family.

Anne Marette/Kris Perano

Carried

##### **8.2 Other affiliation fees**

It was proposed that the Yachting New Zealand affiliation fees of the following amounts be accepted:

- Class association fee \$164.25 plus GST

- Non-commercial maritime fee \$164.25 plus GST

- Commercial maritime fee \$547.49 plus GST

- Individual member fee \$87.60 plus GST

Anne Marette/Dean Barker

Carried

#### **9.0 General Business**

Abercrombie said an update on insurance, the maritime operator safety system (MOSS), club leases, engagement with local iwi, funding and best-practice in building club membership will be likely talking points at next year's club conference in Auckland.

Nick Cook (Taikata Sailing Club) noted that charities' priorities for funding seem to have changed. Knowles reiterated that programmes like RŪNĀ are a good way to increase the likelihood of funding applications being successful as it offers clubs access to audiences that they may previously not had access to.

Gillian Williams (Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron) identified pathways for race officials as one area that requires attention. Haagh said this was a key focus for Yachting New Zealand over the next year and that it will be one of the agenda items at the club conference.

Tony Bullard (Devonport Yacht Club) and Mike Smithies (Macandrew Bay Boating Club) sought clarity on insurance-related topics – especially boat insurance (for berthed and moored boats), as well as liability cover for committee members.

Andrew Robertson (Milford Cruising Club) asked that Yachting New Zealand considers a change to its affiliation fees model for social members to increase engagement with the local community.

Adrian Percival (New Zealand Multihull Yacht Club) asked for more detail on Yachting New Zealand's decision to return the Section 21 delegation – for the management of the safety inspection system for recreational craft and their crew departing for overseas – to Maritime New Zealand this year.

Abercrombie explained the decision was made as the current five-year delegation had expired on June 30, 2024, and after careful consideration and communication with various stakeholders. He added that, as it is a regulatory function, Maritime New Zealand is best placed as the regulatory body, to adequately manage the system.

The decision affects only a small number of clubs and roughly 70 affiliated vessels and was no longer financially viable. Abercrombie said Yachting New Zealand continues to manage category 1-5 inspections for boats competing in yacht races and remains committed to providing safety support to its members through safety and technical officer Cris Brodie.

## **10.0 Sport Integrity Commission update**

Sport Integrity Commission chief executive, Rebecca Rolls, and general counsel, Paul O'Neill, presented an overview of the new body and its integrity code which, if adopted, could affect how New Zealand yacht clubs operate.

The code has three key focus areas - anti-doping, participant protection and competition manipulation – and six minimum standards that organisations must meet. While the code's adoption is voluntary, organisations will have 12 months to implement these standards.

Rolls and O'Neill provided further detail on the code's scope, rationale, its adoption and application, and highlighted its benefits to clubs.

Abercrombie said that, should Yachting New Zealand decide to adopt the code, its member clubs would also be required to do the same. This would be voted on at the next annual general meeting and would require 75 per cent of member support to be adopted into Yachting New Zealand's constitution.

Knowles thanked everyone for their attendance, and their support with all the motions passed during the AGM.

5.39pm: Meeting closed.