

## 2024- 2025 Balmain Sailing Club Management Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date and time of Meeting: 6:30 PM Wednesday 4 June**

**Location: Balmain Sailing Club.**

**Type of Meeting: Management Committee**

**Attendees:** Campbell Reid (CR), Chris Price (CP), Joost Bekker (JB), Ray Mill (RM), Louise Blair (LB) & Dave Stenhouse (DS)

### 1. Apologies:

Colin Grove (CG), Geoff Watkins (GW)

**Secretary / Minutes:** Sharon Harvey (SH)

### 2. Approval of the Minutes from 1 May 2025

- The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm.
- The minutes of the Balmain Sailing Club (“BSC” or “The Club”) Management Committee Meeting of 1 May 2025 were approved without amendment.

### 3. General Business

#### Agenda Item:

General Business was moved to item 3 to hear from the Race Protest Chair Erica Kirby regarding issues that arose at the race protest meeting held at the club in February 2025, Unfortunately Erica due to a late diary change could not attend the June 4th meeting as she was chairing another meeting elsewhere.

**CR Proposal:** it was proposed the Committee hold an informal discussion regarding conduct at the Club in general.

### 4. Action Items Arising from Previous Minutes

There were 4 action items arising from previous minutes:

#### I. Code of conduct.

LB raised the issue of the Code of Conduct, noting the Club we will require a code drafted specifically for Balmain Sailing Club going forward. CR circulated the Australian Sailing website information on Codes of Conduct. LB noted she had drafted a General Conduct document specifically for the BSC.

LB had also reviewed the current BSC constitution and proposed it be adopted (old document) with amendments to include non-members and crew in the language and definitions used. The right of appeal for members was also discussed. LB also reviewed terminology in clause 4 regarding non-members versus members. CR raised additional issues including remediation and arbitration in dispute matters and the Code of Conduct.

**Action item:** LB will provide a marked-up version of the revised BSC Constitution and Code of Conduct documentation to the Committee for the next meeting, including terminology updates. The Committee discussed this proposal and agreed. It was also agreed that CG would present this revised, updated documentation at the next AGM.

## ii. Update on priority projects

- The placement of bathrooms in the dinghy shed was raised by CR. (Next steps, actions??)
- It was agreed that DS would leave the meeting before the end of the meeting to allow the committee to discuss his remuneration package.

## iii. Discussion re FY25/26 fees and projected budget

DS discussed the Club income and fees. The number of entries in the West Harbour winter series saw us increase the number of divisions from 3-4. The dinghies fleet had an impressive 17 starters

DS had feedback from Dinghy sailors who were wanting a second division due to dock congestion. CR noted we could decide the Dinghy course early and go. It was noted that there is a great dinghy fleet with new sailors. These matters were raised in detail and further reviewed with JB's financial data presentation.

## iv. Aquatic licence:

DS completed his submission for the Aquatic Licence for the Regatta with the application submitted in conjunction with the Work Boat Convoy approvals.

### Additional Discussion Points:

## v. Working Bee

DS advised a list of the proposed Working Bee priorities. DS advised that ideally the majority of the could be completed by mid-July. CR advised we need to call on more volunteers for Working Bees especially to paint windows and the front of the Club.

**Action:** It was a hold the Working Bee on June 14 and email all club members accordingly to boost participation.

**vi. Club Sailing Calendar:** DS is currently working on the Calendar. RP suggested June 18 or 25 to have a discussion regarding courses, formats, and starting time changes and to communicate this to all crew and captains. Variable (potential) start times, spinnaker races and maps were also discussed. DS suggested this information be incorporated into the Skippers Briefing.

**Action:** DS proposed setting up Rev Sport for membership and joining fee information. He agreed to set this up before race season commences to include race fees. This is in conjunction with the agreed increases in membership and storage fees. (The committee agreed to discuss membership and storage fees. DS will set the budget up for race fees.)

## 5. Matters for Discussion

### • Report from BSC Manager

JB required further clarification as to when the membership year commences and finishes. DS advised that we followed the Australian Sailing Club year (July 1 to 30 June). However, membership is valid at BSC to October for Australian Sailing (not BSC).

DS discussed the proposed annual fee increase spreadsheet.

- I. Adult fee was to increase by 7.5% per person.
- II. Family membership to increase by 7.5%.
- III. Youth membership - no increase
- IV. Life member was initially to be in line with Yachting Australia, but it was agreed to be in line with Youth membership at \$100 p.a.
- V. All fees included GST (@10%).

The proposed increased fees were agreed, to be communicated by DS to all members. Copy attached to these minutes .

- **Storage**

DS proposed an increase in storage fees like those charged at a nearby marina location due to the number of kayaks (11-12). CP and CR discussed dinghy storage noting the limited space available, concluding there was a need for higher fees. CP thought the fees could increase by \$300. This was agreed by the Committee.

**Note:** Storage is only available to financial members of the club .

CR thought sail and dinghy storage should be the same cost. It was proposed to raise dinghy fees up to \$550 per annum (plus membership), with kayak fees up 7.5% to \$410. Sails storage should be increased to \$410. DS recommended installing dividers so kayaks can be stored. This was agreed by the Committee.

**Action:** DS to install dividers

- VI. The Balmain Sailing pass should be \$15.
- VII. Race fees: block races were to have a \$10 increase. Please refer to the spreadsheets for details.

**Resolved:** All Committee members agreed with the fee proposals and storage installation.

**Next steps:**

- DS to go to Rev Sport to update data and send out early renewal notices.
- It was agreed for an early payment scheme as per last year for the first hundred members to renew to go into a draw with the prize of a \$250 Royal Oak Hotel gift voucher

- **AGM:**

No further action required. The AGM will be held at the club commencing 7pm Wednesday 16 July 2025 . The Committee is to advise CG of the changes proposed to the Club's Constitution and additional Code of Conduct.

- **Working Bee**

It was agreed that 14 June would be the working be for general Club cleanup, paint and facade maintenance.

- **Update on Woolwich Marina**

CR shared the revised Marina plan, noting the reduced size and redrafted plans. He advised there are only four weeks available to lodge an objection. All interested clubs previously grouped together to object on a unified basis, but latest opinion now advised to lodge separate objections. Individual objection is viewed as more powerful. CR advised the BSC objection must be focussed on waterway congestion. The Committee agreed that the current revised proposed plans are dangerous, leaving little space for yacht manoeuvring, ferries and other harbour users.

**Action:** CR and LB will liaise and draft the objection. LB will refer to a marine lawyer connection to assist with this process. The objection is to be ready in four weeks' time.

- **Update on Regatta**

CR submitted 2 draft posters. JB suggested a QR code could be added to the posters and the BSC website to provide more details. He also suggested this included in Regatta materials. It was agreed to have the QR code in our landing page and on our website.

**Action:** CP will update and include QR codes in all relevant BSC materials. This will include a QR code on our landing page.

- **Discussion and approval of the BSC Managers Bonus & Salary Package**

In response to the budget projections ,DS indicated that he would be prepared to work a reduced number of hours per week, however, to maintain the current level of duties undertaken by the club manager , club members would need to volunteer to undertake some of the current workload .

## **6. Finances**

JB circulated a draft budget for discussing projecting a loss of 18.6k, the committee went through budget / income improvement solutions including donations, increasing hall hire fees and options to add paddle boarders as members. It was also noted that a kayak

captain should be nominated. (The latter could possibly result in more races and greater use of the bar). Other adjustments included increasing expected Bar and Food sales, membership fees, sailing school and Regetta Pub Challenge (aiming for 7 boats). DS suggested we increase opportunities to have more events, such as wine tasting nights. Agreed but no other suggestions made. CR mentioned that fleet numbers are dropping off and that we should be more operational to increase revenue. He also raised the need to appeal to more people to join the club.

On the cost side Building maintenance cost reductions were discussed along with the “austerity programme” currently in place. Solution proposed – request more assistance and support from Club members via volunteering, to reduce to maintenance cost. JB recalculated the finance draft based on these discussions and this brought the budget to a projected surplus. This budget was agreed by the committee with the request for JB to recirculate the updated budget to the committee.

**Action:** JB to use recalculated draft budget papers and circulate the updated financial spreadsheet to the committee.

Management remuneration matter discussed in private by the committee with salary and bonus agreed. The meeting concluded.

**The next BSC Management Committee will meet on Wednesday July 16 at 6:00 pm at the Clubhouse. The AGM will commence at 7.00 pm that night.**

*The BSC committee usually meets once a month on a Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM to discuss and agree actions in respect of a general club matters. If members would like to attend or wish to have an item raised at the meeting, please email [info@balmainsailingclub.com](mailto:info@balmainsailingclub.com) at least one week prior.*

*A question or concern may be dealt with before the meeting. If not, it can be added to the agenda if time permits or the following months if the current agenda is already full. All members are encouraged to access and read the committee meeting minutes which are posted on the club's website.*