

## **RL24 AGM 2016 minutes of the meeting**

**Venue: Royal Motor Yacht Club Toronto**

**Date: Thursday January 7, 2016**

At 3.40pm at the RMYCT the 2016 AGM for the Australian RL24 Association began.

### **1. Present:**

Paul Corben, Simon Walsh, Mick Shannon, , Wayne Hill, Luke Ratcliff, Rod Smith, Gretta Hill, Wayne Hill, John Knight, Paul Harris,

**Apologies:** Ross and Jan Corben, Rob Legg, Darren Dyer, crew of Dipsomania, Tim Jackman, Andrew Pike, Simon Vaughan, Brad Taylor, Geoff Onion

### **2. Correspondence & business arising**

President Wayne Hill moved that the minutes from the last AGM have been read and that they be accepted. S.Walsh moved the minutes be accepted. Seconded by M.Shannon.

L.Ratcliff had the action item of pricing making an RL24 mould. He spoke to the person who makes 18ft skiffs and he the mould at \$80-\$100K.

Bavaria has a B1 rudder box/blade. L.Ratcliff said you can order a rudder blade as a spare part from the importer who lives in Brisbane. An owner would buy the box and tiller arm with the blade then custom make the blocks.

### **3. President's report**

It's been a regular year. W.Hill reiterated the RL24 Association's three main aims:

- Support the states
- Promote the class – make better use of social media
- Look after owners

3.1 In Victoria you can enter the RL24 state titles. If owners in other states want to put an event on the Association will consider supporting it.

3.2 Trailable Yachts Division of Yachting Victoria has indicated the RLs are the envy of other classes in terms of the depth of website, the media coverage and Facebook being the key drivers. RL24s are still one of the leading classes in terms of publicity.

3.3 Fate of Tiki II - original boat that kicked off the class has been found in a paddock near Ballina. Investigating photo documentation getting some of the hull for future trophies.

3.4 Rob Legg wishes the class well at the 2016 nationals. He's advised he's unlikely to get to another titles in person.

W.Hill is enjoying representing the class.

### **4. Treasurer's report**

P. Corben advised the Association has 15 financial members and \$3765.62 is in the account with all expenses from these nationals paid. The Association is in a sound position. Money was spent by the Association spent money on a promotional video from the RQYS nationals.

The Treasurer asked for a motion to be put forward that the membership fee remains the same. The Association needs as many paid-up members as possible. Account details for an EFT payment are on the website.

P. Corben questioned what would happen if the Association crumbled, where would the money go? The committee discussed a minimum balance.

S. Walsh said the balance has been \$4K for many years & he's not concerned leaving the money sitting. M. Shannon is also comfortable with the amount in the bank.

P. Corben put up a motion regarding membership fees. M. Shannon proposed the motion forward that membership fee remains at \$30. Seconded by S. Walsh.

G. Hill said if the situation arose, an Extraordinary AGM can decide where the money is to go. W. Hill said the balance is being used to deliver National Championships, support owners, promote the class and and explore new offers such as a muster with the titles.

## **5. Media report**

There is good traffic on the RL Facebook page 1300 views on the announcement of the nationals being held at the Royal Motor Yacht Club and 1.4 views for one of the short videos posted when racing was postponed on January 7.

Our news is getting in the yachting news mix.  
Take up of Julie's photos after the 2015 nationals was low key.

W. Hill passed on the Association's formal thanks to Lisa Ratcliff & to Keith Merkley for the work they are doing on the publicity side.

## **6. Office bearers**

L. Ratcliff is happy to stand again as publicity officer.

P. Corben will remain as Treasurer/ Secretary

W. Hill is happy to remain as President.

## **7. General Business**

7.1 One letter of significance has been received, sent by Rob Legg asking the Association to have a discussion about horizontal foils as he's seeking feedback. He also passed on his thanks for the enthusiasm of the class via the same letter.

The group had a lengthy discussion about whether the horizontal foil will change the shape of the hull. They agreed will create a step in the cabin aft of the centreboard case, adding to the righting moment and the lifting effect to get the boat on the plane earlier. Modifications are possibly best

suited to drop keel boats as a swing keel might place the foil too far to the stern. A foil should allow lighter crews to carry more sail in stronger breezes. Class rules say 'keel unrestricted'.

In summary the owners agreed on the following key points:

- A. The Association encourages people to experiment with rig, foil & hulls and testing the rules
- B. The Association will offer an opportunity to benchmark any modifications at the nationals
- C. While not eligible for drop/swing keel trophies, any development RL24s will be invited allowed to race and made welcome. A specific handicap for the development phase could be facilitated. The group agreed to compete for a trophy you have to race within class rules
- D. The Association will evaluate proposed developments on their merits once they are on the water
- E. Class rules would then need to be reviewed in light of the costs and benefits of modifications that improve the design

P. Corben said these proposed mods would require major changes to the Constitution.

M.Shannon is concerned about the cost of development deterring people W.Hill said there is a push to keep boats within class rules and that the sports boats are struggling with numbers due to the cost of high tech gadgets and keeping pace with the development of new boats.

Once agreed between owners, a statement will be sent about supporting compliant class rule boats and supporting development. The President to write words and confer with key owners.

7.2 The announcement can be made regarding the 2017 titles to be held at Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club from Jan 2 – 6. The RLs will be sharing the course with the Javelins. S.Walsh said he's happy to share a racetrack with other classes. P.Corben suggested booking accommodation early. The Hills might be able to share some accommodation. At least 5 RL24s not at the 2016 have expressed an interest in attending a Gippsland title.

W.Hill thanked Paul Corben for the work he has put in the nationals.

The Association is looking for venues in NSW for the 2018 title.

7.3 Andrew Pike's wife is fighting cancer. P.Corben will arrange a card from the Association.

7.4 L.Ratcliff said he doesn't want owners to go away from this event disappointed with the turnout. W.Hill said owners had a lot of notice that the titles were on. Owners agreed that high and low attendance runs in cycles. It was noted that despite lower numbers and weather cancellations family crew members were have fine time on group rock climbing, go- carting etc. events. Thanks went to organisers of these supporting events.

7.5 The Association could provide a Bay to Bay trophy for RLs.

7.6 The Association talked about organising an RL muster prior to the nationals, on the weekend before the Melbourne Cup.

7.7 Geelong Festival of Sail's entry fee was increased and the class doesn't attend anymore.

7.8 W.Hill has a complete list of owners. It is still under refinement but used to convey state and national racing opportunities.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5pm.

DRAFT