

MPASC- General Meeting Minutes

Date: 9th January 2024

Meeting Open: 7.00 pm

Chairperson: John Skewes

1. **Present:** J. Skewes, B. McWhirter, M. Pilgrim, A. Whitbourne, J. Carr, T. Peters, J. LeLaen, B. Curran.
2. **Apologies:** N. Hord, K. Dalton, C. Tzaidas.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting (General Meeting held 12th December 2023)**

Moved: T. Peter

Seconded: A. Whitbourne

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

Item 1 (Previous Item 2) Grant Applications – Current Status:

1. Central Coast Council (Community Activities/Programs Grants) – \$5000 - Purchase of a Drone. Grant successful for lesser amount of \$2000 – waiting for funds to be deposited.
2. Federal Government – 2023 Volunteers Grant (Fuel Expenses - \$2129). Funding of \$1500 approved. Waiting for funds to be deposited.
3. Level the Playing Field Program 2023/2024 - \$875,000 – Clubhouse 2nd Story Extension Project. Grant application submitted. Decision expected in March 2024.
4. Lake Macquarie Council - Women in Sport Festival (March 2024) - \$670 for MPASC to hold our Ladies Day Race on Saturday 2nd March 2024.

Item 2 (Previous Item 72) Water leak in the Storeroom: Andy (Whitbourne) had previously advised he had followed up with Council, with pictures, on this ongoing issue. Andy stated Council advised they will re-examine the problem and are looking to run a new pipe along the side of the clubhouse to the front tap and disconnect the old pipe from the main. No action by Council as at the time of this meeting.

Action Item: Andy (Whitbourne) to monitor Council's response to fixing the water leak.

Item 3 (Previous Item 75) Erosion issue along the foreshore and beneath the Club's Boat Ramp:

Andy (Whitborne) had previously advised the best way to fix the erosion issue beneath the ramp was to fill the gap with concrete. The Club has a few concreters as members, so Andy volunteered to approach these members for advice.

Action Item: Andy (Whitbourne) to approach club members (Tyrone) for advice on concreting beneath the boat ramp.

Item 4 (Previous Item 83) Flag Sets for Regattas: Nick (Hord) had previously advised the current flag sets available for regattas were inadequate with missing or deteriorated flags. Nick recommended purchasing just the common flags we use rather than full sets. The Meeting agreed with Nick and asked him to provide a list of flags needed so they can be purchased.

Action Item: Nick (Hord) to provide a list of flags required.

Item 5 (Previous Item 86) Clubhouse 2nd Story Extension Project: Andy (Whitbourne) had previously advised two quotes had been obtained, one from DACH Constructions (\$875,000) and the second from Weyn Construction (\$1.14M). A grant application for \$875,000 has been submitted, by the Club's Grant Coordinator (Nilli Parker), under the State Government's "Level the Playing Field Program 2023/24 grant program". A decision is not expected until March 2024. If successful construction would need to start in September 2024.

Item 6 (Previous Item 87) Equitable Access and Usage Policy: Nikki (Parker) previously briefed the meeting of the need for the club, as part of the application for the Level the Playing Field Program, to commit to a Statement of Intent that gender equality is considered and prioritised in all current and future planning, policy, service delivery, and practice, as they relate to community sports infrastructure. As a club we need to submit a draft Equitable Access and Usage Policy that address the aims of the Equitable Access and Usage Policy and provide a supporting action plan, by 30th June 2024, to remain eligible for funding under the Level the Playing Field Program. We have a template available to us, to develop and adjust to personalise and make suitable for MPASC current requirements and ongoing needs, to be adjustable, inclusive, and accessible for all our members and community. A brief overview of the policy includes:

- eliminate gender inequality, ableism and cultural bias in sport infrastructure design and delivery,
- provide equitable facility access to the best* facilities available,
- ensure equity in the allocation for training and competition and address other elements of inequality in program design and delivery,
- ensure all genders have the opportunity to fully participate in sport, be encouraged, welcomed, supported, and rewarded.

(* best looks different for everyone. For some it may mean more family friendly or convenient training times, safe and private access to change facilities, cultural change to include women and girls in social events and on club committees, increased access to sports fields for training or scheduling of grand finals at a time suitable to allow spectator support). Over the coming months, as a committee we will continue to address, develop, and consider the priorities of planning and delivery of this policy and how they relate to our community, members, and our infrastructure.

Action Item: The Committee to develop Equitable Access and Usage Policy.

Item 7 (Previous Item 89) Local Surf Club – Learn to Sail Class (2nd – 5th January 2024): Andy (Whitborne) advised the class had seven (7) kids who thoroughly enjoyed the experience. **ITEM CLOSED.**

Item 8 (Previous Item 91) Pontoon Cracking: Andy (Whitbourne) had previously advised some cracking was evident on the pontoon at the end of the jetty. Nick (Hord) volunteered to have a closer inspection, to determine what action is needed to fix the issues. Andy also stated we should consider a “No Mooring” sign, to discourage boats from tying up to the pontoon.

Action Item: Nick (Hord) to inspect the pontoon for cracking.

Item 9 (Previous Item 92) Upgrade of the NBN Connection to the clubhouse: The Commodore advised an NBN technician would be coming out to install the new NBN fiber to the premises connection on Thursday 11th January 2024.

Item 10 (Previous Item 97) Removal of the first Tree on the lake side of the Clubhouse: Andy (Whitbourne) had previously advised the DA for the club’s 2nd story extension and amenities upgrade had approved the removal of the first tree on the lake side of the clubhouse which was causing considerable damage to the concrete slab. Andy sought approval from the Meeting to arrange for the removal of the tree and for the stump to be ground. Once that was completed, we could examine options to repair the concrete slab. The Meeting approved Andy’s request.

Action Item: Andy (Whitbourne) to arrange for the removal of the tree and the grounding of the stump.

Item 11 (Previous Item 98) Sailing Rules Night: Mick (Pilgrim) advised he was waiting on the presenter (Damien) to return so he could organise a “Sailing Rules” night.

Action Item: Mick (Pilgrim) to organise a “Sailing Rules” night.

Item 12 (Previous Item 99) Inspection of the Club’s Rib by NSW Maritime: Jim (LeLaen) advised the torch on the Club’s rib was still to be replaced following the inspection by NSW Maritime. Jim stated he could conduct an audit on all of our support vessels to ensure all safety equipment met the requirements of NSW Maritime.

Action Item: Jim (LeLaen) to audit all support vessels to ensure equipment met NSW Maritime standards.

5. **Reports**

Treasurer’s Report: The Commodore tabled a Profit & Loss Report for December.

Moved: J. Skewes **Seconded:** J. Carr **Report Accepted**

Race Committee Report: Mick (Pilgrim) advised he had replaced the light on marker No 8 (Start/Finish Marker) and it appears to be working well.

Regatta Committee Report: The Big Cat regatta was held over the weekend 9th – 10th December, with 50 boats attending over the two days.

6. **Correspondence In:**

- Nil.

7. **Correspondence Out:**

- Grant submission - Lake Macquarie Council (Women in Sport Festival – March 2024).

8. **General Business.**

Item 13 Kid’s Learn to Sail Class: Andy (Whitbourne) advised a kid’s Learn to Sail Class would be held 17th – 19th January and on the following three Saturdays. Seven kids have been enrolled with the majority coming from the Newcastle/Upper Hunter areas. Only two kids were locals.

Item 14 Drone Grant - Central Coast Council (Community Activities/Programs Grants): Jim (LeLaen) advised Council only funded \$2000 of the \$5000 grant submission for the club to purchase a drone. Jim went on to discuss the options available with the lesser amount. Jim stated ideally, we need to have a drone that is both waterproof and has an obstacle avoidance capability. A drone with these capabilities will be more than the grant funding approved by Central Coast Council. After some discussion the Meeting approved Jim to purchase a drone that met the club’s needs using both the grant funding and club funding.

Action Item: Jim (LeLaen) to price a suitable drone for the club.

Item 15 Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) “Women in Sports Festival – March 2024: The Commodore advised the club would participate in the “Women in Sports Festival” by holding our Ladies Day race on Saturday 2nd March 2024. LMCC is providing \$670 in funding to support this event, to assist the club in covering fuel costs and holding a function at the clubhouse after the event. The Commodore stated we would need to have receipts for all expenditure so we can acquit the grant by council and provide an after-event report detailing numbers and other details of those participating in the race. A TryBooking registration has been setup, and a notice will be placed on the club’s website and our social media outlets. Council will promote and advertise the festival in the local media, including MPASC’s event.

Long Term Issues.

Disposal of the Club’s Flying Ants: The Club’s Flying Ants fleet will be sold off.

Action Item: Ken (Dalton) and Jim (LeLaen) to manage the sale of the Flying Ants.

Renewal of Council Lease: Council is working through the renewal of the lease, as it is with all other long-term leases within the council area. Until the lease was finalized the Club would continue a month-to-month lease arrangement.

Renewal of RSA Qualifications for Club Members: Any club member undertaking the RSA training or renewing their RSA would be reimbursed the cost of the course by the Club.

Monitoring the Club's Radios during Sailing Days: For safety reasons club members and Duty personnel will need to be continuously reminded of the importance to monitor the radios during race days. The Commodore had recommended we change the radio call sign for the clubhouse from MP1 to MPASC Clubhouse to remove any confusion to who was being called and this was accepted by the meeting.

Development (through Australian Sailing): Australian Sailing (AS) were embarking on a program to engage clubs to improve club development.

Control of Roadway/Entry Way to Property): The Commodore advised the club's DA for the second story extension has now been approved by Council and the traffic assessment for the property is covered under the DA approval.

Rental of the Clubhouse for functions: The Meeting (12/9/2023) discussed the use of the clubhouse for functions and should all users pay a fee for renting the facility. The Commodore advised the club's current policy was that members could hire the clubhouse at no cost, but non-members had to pay a fee. Over the last few years only the Mannering Park Country Women's Association (CWA) had rented the facility, while their own hall was undergoing repairs, and they paid a nominal fee for using the clubhouse. All other bookings of the clubhouse were made by club members. The meeting decided any decision to establish a fee to members, for hiring the facility, should be made at an AGM by all members.

Future NSW Youth Regattas: The Commodore advised he had written to Australian Sailing stating the club would be interested in hosting a future NSW Youth Regatta, but we needed to have a number of key infrastructure projects completed before we would be in a position to host this event.

Meeting Closed: 8.00 pm.