

**Underwater Rugby Australia**

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**MINUTES****UNDERWATER RUGBY AUSTRALIA EXECUTIVE MEETING**

<b>Time:</b>	7:00pm-9:00pm
<b>Date:</b>	Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
<b>Venue:</b>	The Wild Fig, 190 The Esplanade, Scarborough, WA, 6019
<b>Attendees:</b>	Sophie Lamande ( <i>Secretary</i> ) Nathan Miller ( <i>Chairman</i> ) Claire Rocuet ( <i>UNSW Whales Club Rep</i> ) Carlos Ledezma ( <i>Chief Referee</i> ) Katelyn Ten Bensel Johan ( <i>Perth Raiders Club Rep</i> ) Graham Henderson ( <i>AUF President</i> ) Lauren ( <i>Tas Convicts Club Rep</i> ) Bobby Chen ( <i>Canberra Underdogs Rep</i> ) Wayne Freeman Khazmira Bashar ( <i>Treasurer/Media Manager</i> ) Cansin Artun Ors ( <i>Victoria Seadragons Coach</i> ) Nick Leahy ( <i>Gauls Club Rep</i> ) Angus Lamin ( <i>Victoria Seadragons Club Rep</i> ) Charlotte Jordan ( <i>Adelaide White Pointers Club Rep</i> )
<b>Absent:</b>	

**ITEM****WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN**

Meeting opened 7pm

Good bunch of people

There has been a conflict in the election of chairman in the by-laws. Change to bylaws in the 5.8.. Didn't honour 5.6 - chairman wasn't elected by delegates, but by the AGM. Proceeding from here, we need to decide if we want to have a revote of the chair. Conflicted the 5.5 by-law. Should respect the vote from AGM?

Graham: can continue the AGM now

Regardless of the intricacies, we should accept the outcome of the majority of the players

We will look stupid going back to the vote

Some teams only come with a few representatives to AGM (eg. ADL)

Issue with the AGM - we can due course, vote as per the outcome of the AGM.

Motion by Nathan: have a re-election now, Seconded: Sophie

For: 7; Against: 2

Chairman

Wayne: 1

Juan: 1

Nathan: 5

Nathan elected as Chairman of UWRA

### **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

Sophie read through previous minutes from Brisbane March 2017. Confirmed by committee

### **ELECTIONS**

#### **HEAD COACH**

On behalf of Steve - raised concerns on electing a coach

- Mens' national team coach - why is this happening now? We already have a team and are preparing for tournament.
- Steve proposed - that NT coach should be voted after the tournament. Already have plans in place with Ricardo. Steve is really concerned.

Think of it more of a review process rather than a desire to change the coach. Coaches don't just remain in place indefinitely.

How does the UWHA Coach get selected? 2 yearly rotation

Conflict of interest - Khaz - will not be voting for NT Coach as partner of one applicant

Vote for Male NT Coach:

- Ricardo: 4; Cansin: 5;

Vote for Women's NT Coach:

- Freydrick: 7; Cansin: 1;

### **CHIEF REFEREE**

only nomination Carlos

### **IT OFFICER**

Benton - nominated for the role cause he was already in the role

Bobby: twins would be very good for the job. They would be committed to continuing their role overseas. Designed Canberra website etc. Have design and technical knowledge. No-one has issue with both twins being nominated for the role? No

- Benton: 1; Wilson twins: 9

### **MEDIA MANAGER**

only nomination Khaz

### **UWRL/TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

Khaz: the reason we put forward the proposal - couple of reasons, most important thing is to fix the schedule for tournaments. So it's not random, it's fixed years in advance. Type of tournament has been used in Europe for a number of years.

Euroleague is over 3 rounds. We proposed 2 rounds. Round robin over 2 tournaments. Build the excitement. Then have Championship tournament like the nationals, but have a groups based tournament.

First year will be difficult to determine the rank. In the future it will be based on the ranking of the league, but first year from previous nationals. The winner of Nationals tournament goes to Berlin. Splitting it evenly over Australia.

Cansin: So basically, want you to trust my expertise. I can see the future of Australia, what we need. If you follow Euroleague, you feel excited. Quality is amazing. Strong, nice teams - proud of this tournament. Amazing thing happen, Austria got a sponsorship - free gym every player. Going to tournament for 2 days, no-one give

you sponsorship. Over a year, people will support you. Second reason, we talking a lot of things, let's fix the tournament so we can stop talking about other stuff and focus on UWR

UWRA take ownership and start organising, paying becoming more professional. Get NZ and Singapore. We can get live stream, more international players are going to come here. Winny is here. Europe wondering what we are doing.

Concern, flights are expensive from Perth. Start of the year you will know where you are going to go. Trying to share over Australia, federation should make the tournaments, not the clubs. North America and Canada, they have a 3 round league. Flights equalised for teams?

There will be 1 championships

Perth want to be involved - very expensive to go to tournament. Flight equalisation, built into proposal?

Opportunity for individual players to join other teams.

Compare this proposal to what's been happening at the moment, can only be a good thing, provided there is sufficient flexibility,

Not paying upfront for all 3 tournaments. Flexibility for people to join 1 or two.

Continuously working out, want a competition

Nick - posted something late last night about the Gauls proposal, but just 2 tournaments - last minute proposal, Concerns we have as Gauls, 3 serious tournaments will kill the social tournaments like pan pacs - good opportunity to get new players inspired. Each club can decide how to mix their team so developing players can play alongside the experienced players

Tthis proposal can only help UWR in Aus. If you have a committed team you send them to the league, with clubs organising the social comps

Proposal - start in 2018. ADL hold Nationals, Melb to hold first league? and Tas offered to host second league?

Organising and planning of the tournaments - by the committee.

Vote: on slack within the next 2 weeks.

Following up: when we start

Update proposals to include equalisation of flights.

### **CHIEF REFEREE BUSINESS**

1. As chief ref - over the past couple of months, the committee has become destructive. I have seen criticism on everything that gets put forward. If you don't agree with something, you have to propose something better. Remember we are all on the same team; we are all trying to make UWR great. We are all volunteers.
2. Two situations
  - a. One of the Sydney players got expelled from 1 match due to inappropriately addressing the referees. Teams need to understand that the players need to respect the referees. Team captains only. It's a process that takes time to improve the refing
  - b. Elaborate on Katelyns comments. Did not follow due process. Want to apologise. Complaint was brought to Carlos, and took it to refs and they decided. It was wrong to start straight away so the decision has been put away. Person on the sidelines, offensive and sexist connotations. Harsh punishment is necessary as this was made in a public scenario, particularly as we are trying to encourage women. Makes the organisation look bad and discourages ladies from coming forward. Should be appointed jury for the tournament. Move to appoint a jury to make decision. Want to make a strong precedent that UWRA does not tolerate this. Sexist connotations is the big issue. Not everything merits putting forward to jury - it is chief ref decision to put this forward to the jury. Simplicity - draw a delegate randomly not in those teams. Should be a fee imposed? 30 min contest the result of the match. This is not a complaint of a match. We have a code of conduct.

VOTE to create jury to address this incident: For: 8; Against; 1

### **UWRA INCORPORATION**

Incorporating. Through ASIC? Nathan and Sophie to look into it

### **FINANCES**

Khaz hasn't had access to accounts yet. \$2k approx. waiting on AUF money

### **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BID**

CMAS will notify us outcome in July

### **AUF BUSINESS**

Only 3 players not registered with AUF

Tom Hicks, John Owen, Sam O'Neil

### **CLOSING STATEMENTS**

Nathan: I believe that club delegates, while they do provide an important role, there should be more ownership taken by club delegates. Put up your hand a bit more. Include your players more

Just from comments - real desire to have a safety net, some kind of notification

from the UWRA. Propose a quarterly newsletter - Angus volunteered.

Group email list

Active Facebook page

Keep website updated

Thank Wayne for all the work he did,

Wayne has been working hard on 2019 World Championship, continue being supported by the UWRA.

Amazing job with all the documents incorporation etc.

In terms of Nationals. Get an official feedback. What things work and what things didn't for future competitions. Receipts for all the payments.

Hosting the World Cup - concerns. Who is going to be organising it. A lot of support from Europe to help us. He wants to assist us. Take advantages of this networking. If we win the nomination, fundraise. If we wait until we see that we have a bid.

Clear jobs for everyone,

Need to see where they've been run well in the world. Reach out to people - Nathan to take ownership

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Nodex Sydney 22-24th September 2017

#### **CLOSURE**

Meeting closed 9:00pm