

Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches Inc.
Board of Education and Assessment

Minutes of Meeting – Thursday 16th June 2011 commencing at 7.20pm
Branch Headquarters

1. Attendance

As per attendance book.

2. Apologies

As per attendance book

3. Minutes

Motion: that the minutes of the April 2011 meeting are adopted.

Moved: Paul Taylor

Seconded: Graham Howard

Motion carried

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

No business arising

5. New members

Frank Traugott (Nth Steyne) – full assessor Bronze Medallion

Adam Traugott (Nth Steyne) – full assessor Bronze Medallion and IRB

Craig Poppleton (Bilgola) – full assessor Bronze Medallion

Phil Mickan (Collaroy) – full assessor ARTC

Motion: That these members are accepted as listed.

Moved: Michael Wasley

Seconded: Shannon Job

Motion carried.

6. Correspondence

6.1 SLSNSW – Applications sought for Australian Safer Communities awards

6.2 SLSNSW – Reminder to observe new CPR protocols from 1st June.

6.3 SLSNSW – Updated bronze medallion and SRC resources in line with new CPR protocols

6.4 SLSNSW – Position vacant at SLS NSW Academy

7. Reports

ARTC:

The final ARTC assessment for this season was held on Tuesday 31st May. The lack of training for some of the candidates presented at this assessment was quite disappointing, and not all candidates were deemed competent on the night. As an ARTC holder these members will be the ones to take control in an emergency operation and it is imperative that these candidates are adequately trained to cope with these emergencies. The assessors feel that some of our training officers are training squads that are too large. There should be a minimum of one trainer per 6 candidates for all squads (this also applies in all disciplines), and candidates need to attend the majority of training sessions. Trainers also need to spend more time on specific scenario training using all of the equipment available to them.

Clubs are encouraged to work with their surrounding Clubs when training. This will assist Clubs without ARTC trainers have access to training and, as they will need to provide a trainer to assist, can also allow them to be mentored through the ARTC training to assist the Club in the future. Louise Lindop from Avalon SLSC has offered to assist Clubs with their training and to mentor new trainers if required. She also has a training plan she is willing to share with Clubs to assist their training.

8. General Business

Resuscitation changes for this season:

SNB Branch will be holding a trainer's update session for all Club trainers to outline the changes to resuscitation for this season. This will set out the training and assessment process for the season, and outline the aquatic versus non-aquatic resuscitation definitions and processes for training and assessment. Date/s will be advised.

ARTC:

Gary Beauchamp and Michael Wasley will go through the overview of assessments for ARTC from this season and the results from the validation meeting held in January 2011 to identify problems in this area. They will also look into the number of ARTC assessments each assessor should attend each year to remain current, and review trainers/assessors to ensure that their skills are also current. If Clubs have a history of poorly trained candidates they can be appointed a mentor to assist them until they are back up to speed.

Central Venues:

The feedback from Clubs from assessments for the last two seasons has been that there is a lot of difficulty in finding assessors for many assessments. Some Clubs were running assessments for three candidates – requiring 3 assessors. If we combine resources and streamline the procedures, we can run assessments for 50 – 60 candidates with 9 – 11 assessors. This will avoid assessors having to back up every weekend to complete yet another assessment. Dates for the central venue assessments will be scheduled prior to the season for Clubs to work around.

Some of the feedback from the chief instructors and assessors present included:

- Ongoing problems in the level of quality and consistency in our assessments.
- Loss of networking skills by attending assessments with the same people all the time.
- Some assessors are indicating there is harassment at some of the assessments – we need to ensure this stops immediately. We need to share ideas and methods as we can all benefit and learn from others.
- The Northern end of the Branch has been having central venues for most of last season. These worked well and dates set early enabled the trainers to plan their training. Our assessors do a tremendous job but we need to ensure they are not always assessing.
- Central venues will benefit trainers, assessors and candidates. It will make it easier to find assessors.
- We took candidates to one of the Newport assessments and found it worked really well.
- This will assist with mentoring new assessors. The Senior assessor will be able to place them with experienced assessors and oversee the process.
- Some of our Schools have expectations that they have paid the Club to put them through an award and they will all receive their certificate. It needs to be explained to these Schools and teachers that candidates do not receive a certificate for attending the course – they need to be deemed competent in all components. We need to ensure that the trainers at these Clubs are not giving the schools unrealistic expectations.
- The Manly Clubs and Freshwater have been combining resources and are virtually doing central venues a lot of the time anyway.
- There is more to be gained than lost from Central venues. We should also look into conducting the dry component assessments in the same way.
- Assessors also need to attend assessments out of their own area to encourage sharing of ideas and methods.
- We should also have centralised dry component assessments to increase our standards further.
- Central venues will stop Clubs enlisting "friendly" assessors to get their candidates through.
- We need to ensure there is a backup venue and plan in place in case of bad weather/surf.

The consensus was that all Clubs will attend central venues for both dry and wet assessments for this season. For those Clubs that run an intensive one week course in the holidays, or Clubs that have exceptionally large squads of their own, exemptions could be made on a case by case basis. Please contact the office if this occurs.

Motion: That assessments for the 2011/2012 season are conducted at central venues for both dry and wet components.

Moved: Michael Wasley

Seconded: Steve Haggett/Graham Howard

Motion carried.

Branch Planning weekend:

Michael Wasley asked the meeting if there was any other feedback for him to take to the upcoming Branch Executive planning weekend. No other matters were raised.

Higher awards:

Michael Wasley and Steve Faddy (Director of Rescue Services) are going to encourage all Clubs to promote higher awards to their members this season to ensure that all Clubs have sufficient numbers of members qualified in all awards to meet their lifesaving agreement requirements.

BoEA postions:

Nominations will be called for the following BoEA positions for next season:

- Deputy Director
 - Advanced Life Support advisor
 - Powercraft advisor
 - Bronze Medallion/Gold Medallion advisor
 - SRC advisor
 - Junior education advisor
 - Senior assessors – multiple positions.
- Nomination forms will be emailed.

Certificate IV in Training and Assessment:

The cert IV course is starting this weekend for limited numbers of our trainers/assessors. It is hoped these members will assist the Branch with facilitating our courses in the future.

Facilitators:

Michael Wasley will be looking at our endorsed facilitator numbers to ensure that all these members are assisting our Branch with courses. Those not assisting will not be re-endorsed next season.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

<p>Next Board of Education and Assessment Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 21st July 2011 This will also be an election meeting for nominated Board positions.</p>
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