

**Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club  
Committee Meeting, Wednesday, 15 July, 2015  
Hoppet Office, 7.30pm**

**MINUTES**

**1. Attendance**

Jim Gargan (in the Chair), Ann Bellingham, Nick Wright, Helen L'Huillier, Doug Hamilton, Marg Trnka, Kerry Lucas, Michelle Forrer.

**2. Apologies**

Ronice Goebel  
Helen L'Huillier  
Tony Keeble  
Megan Benne  
Alan Marsland

**3. Minutes of the previous committee meeting held on 17 June, 2015**

**Motion:**

**That the minutes of the previous meeting be acknowledged as a true and proper record.**

**Moved: Helen L'Huillier.**

**Seconded: Nick Wright.**

**Carried.**

**4. Matters arising from the minutes**

No matter arose from the minutes that would not be picked up in the following items.

**5. Correspondence** - See correspondence report.

A report noting only three items of correspondence was tabled. The secretary reflected it had been a quiet month.

**6. Business arising from the Correspondence**

One item arising from the correspondence report would be picked up under the item 8.1.

**7. Reports**

**7.1. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer tabled a financial report. She sought the confirmation of the meeting that refunds of membership only be paid where those refunds were requested by the payer.

**Motion**

**That the Treasurer's report be accepted and the committee endorse that membership refunds only be paid where the payer requests it.**

**Moved: Helen L'Huillier.**

**Seconded: Marg Trnka.**

**Carried.**

**7.2. Search and Rescue**

Jim Gargan said he had looked further into the matter of those potential members seeking to form an Omeo based search and rescue squad by joining BNSC. It was cheaper for them he said to join Bushwalking Victoria as individual members than to join BNSC. It is expected that this is the course they will follow.

### 7.3. Race Committee

Marg Trnka said the timing equipment had been received and it was now being held temporarily at her house. Michal Trnka had been ill and that had delayed their trials of the equipment.

She said the Birkie Classic had been cancelled due to poor snow, and that volunteers are still being sought for the Australian Juniors races on the weekend of the 1 August. She noted that the club would also assist in the conduct of the Rocky Valley Rush. She will continue to seek further volunteers for the Nationals, possibly through the newsletter or website.

### 7.4. Junior Committee

No report was received.

### 7.5. Kangaroo Hoppet Race Committee

No report was received.

### 7.6. Clubhouse

Doug Hamilton read from an emailed report from Tony Keeble. The slab heating is back on, the kitchen area seems to be functioning well.

### 7.7. Social

Roi's has been booked for the mid-season dinner.

### 7.8. Newsletter and Membership Secretaries

Helen L'Huillier reported that the following people had applied to be new either individual or family members:

- Mark McMillan
- Harvey Marriner
- Francesca Wellington
- Aimee Watson
- Oldrich Sadilek
- Malcolm Oldis

#### **Motion:**

**That the above listed persons be admitted as members of BNSC.**

**Moved: Helen L'Huillier**

**Seconded: Nick Wright**

**Carried.**

## 8. General Business

### 8.1. Working with Children Checks and Children in the Clubhouse

Doug Hamilton noted that Di Robinson-Phillips had emailed Ronice Goebel and cc'ed himself asking why Club does not require all members to be Working With Children Checked (WWCC'd). He said the email addressed two issues, the supervision of students in events and training, and the presence of children and adults in the clubhouse together. Doug noted he had prepared the circulated paper on WWCCs to facilitate discussion.

The Act does not require he said that all members of a club have a WWCC, only those who are in defined work with the children. He said he believed the club does comply fully with its obligations under the Working with Children Act 2005 (Vic) when it provides training, competition and other activities for children. The fact that the Act provides for specific exemptions shows that the intention of the Parliament was that not all members of a club which included children should have to have a WWCC. In all BNSC events he believed WWCC checked members were nominated and acted in a supervising role as required in the Act to ensure the welfare of children.

On the second issue of the presence of children, defined in the Act as anyone under the age of 18, in the clubhouse, his reading of the Act is that children being in the clubhouse was not an 'activity' as defined in the Act and therefore no supervision of children by a WWCC checked member is necessary. The situation is analogous to children being in a public place or even in a private home.

However, the welfare of children in the clubhouse is an important matter, and the responsibility for this rests principally with the children's parents or guardians. If there was any hazard to children, such as the 'sexual or physical harm' defined in the Act, or other possible harms such as accidental injury, the parents or guardians of the children bear the primary responsibility for care in the clubhouse, and this is consistent with the Act. He recounted situations where he had seen young children being extremely boisterous and falling and breaking Club equipment, and only by a matter of centimetres was a serious injury avoided which might have included an object in the child's eye. Overly boisterous behaviour could result in falls with bruises and fractured bones, to the children or to other members and or broken Club equipment. While the Club had public liability insurance, this is not a substitute for ensuring that risks including risks of injury to children from their or other children's behaviour. The club executive, who are the 'directors' of the club, have a responsibility to take all reasonable steps to ensure the welfare of all members and the public.

Notwithstanding that there is provision for an indemnity for directors' actions, in extreme cases directors who could be found in law to be liable for not having exercised due care in their actions, such as taking due care to ameliorate any risk

Doug also raised that some times during the day he had found the door to the clubhouse unlocked when there were no other members present. The Club's policy is that the last member to leave at any time should lock the dock. This might become an issue both in the possibility of theft or misuse of Club property and potentially the welfare of child members of the Club.

Members of the committee said that children up to the age of 12 should not be left unsupervised, and said that their parents or guardians should be reminded of their responsibility to ensure that they are supervised by a responsible adult if they are unable to do so themselves. They also emphasised the need for children's behaviour to be well mannered, taking account not to disturb other users of the clubhouse.

**Doug Hamilton undertook to write up drafts of policies on both WWCCs in the Club and on supervision of children in the clubhouse, and circulate them to members for comments.**

**Action: Doug Hamilton**

Further on the matter of behaviour in the clubhouse Helen L'Huillier noted that some persons had left gear in there overnight presumably so that they could pick them up again the following morning. This is an inconvenience to others. Particularly as some of the gear was left on the floor and other gear stacked against the skidoo.

## **8.2. Race Hut Electrical Upgrade**

No report was received. Members will check in the hut on progress in the rewiring when they are able.

## **8.3. SSAXC meeting report**

No report was received, as no-one present had been at the meeting.

## **8.4. Alpine Shire Youth Awards**

Doug Hamilton reminded members of emailed correspondence from the Alpine Shire seeking nominations for the Youth Awards. After discussions members suggested Philip Bellingham and Jarrah Forrer.

**Doug Hamilton will seek details from members and submit the nomination forms.**

**Action: Doug Hamilton**

**8.5. Newsletter Deadlines**

Doug Hamilton reminded members of the deadlines for the newsletter on 1/8, 1/9, 1/10

**9. Next Meeting**

As there will be no meeting August due to the Kangaroo Hoppet, the next meeting will be on Wednesday 16 September 2015.

**10. Meeting Close**

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

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