

INTERNATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 18 OCT 2019

NOVOTEL SYDNEY DARLING HARBOUR

MINUTES

CHAIR Graeme Thompson

PRESENT

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS Jeremy Edwards (Asia Pacific RL Confederation), Paul Nicholson (RL European Federation)

FULL

MEMBERS

Peter Beattie, Frank Puletua (Australian RL Commission), Charles Carlson, Tai Nelio (Cook Islands RL Association), Orazio D'arro (Federazione Italiana RL), Don Natable, Mesake Navugona (Fiji National RL), Nayef Abi Said, Remond Safi (Lebanese RL Federation), Reon Edwards, Greg Peters (New Zealand RL), Reatau Rau, Sandis Tsaka (Papua New Guinea Rugby Football League), Ralph Rimmer, Tony Sutton (Rugby Football League), Fafouina Tagaloa Sua, Fritz Tuiavii-Savaiinaea (RL Samoa), Keith Hogg (Scotland RL), Ilija Radan (Serbian RL Federation), JC Strauss (South African RL Association), Brian Juliff (Wales RL)

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Paul Grundy (Confederacao Brasileira de RL), Bruno Jasiczek (Czech RL Association), Steve Georgallis, Terry Liberopoulos (Greek RL Association), David Axisa, Aaron McDonald (Malta RL), Peter Illfield, Steve Williams (United States Association of RL), Andrew Charles, Rodrigo Millar (Rugby Football League 13 de Chile)

OBSERVER MEMBERS

Carol Manga (Cameroon RL XIII), Brent Varga (Hungarian RL Federation), Ben Howard, So'oletaua Motuliki (Vanuatu RL)

PROXIES

Federation Française de RL (proxy to WRL), Jamaica RL Association (proxy to LRLF), Ukrainian RL Federation (proxy to SRLF)

APOLOGIES

Nganji Karim Tropy (Burundi RL), Mathieu Khedimi (Federation Française de Rugby 13), Yamina Abdesselem (Federation Marocaine de RL), Romeo Monteith (Jamaican RL Association), Rabie El Masri (Palestine RL), Alex Kowalski (Poland RL 13), Dave Fitzhenry (RL Ireland), Artur Martyrosyan (Ukrainian Federation of RL)

ABSENT

Albanian RL, Asociacion Española de RL, Association of (Russian) RL Clubs, Asocijacija Ragbi 13 Bosna i Hercegovina, Belgian RL Association, Bulgarian RL Federation, Canada RL Association, Danmark RL, Nederlandse RL Bond, Nigerian RL Association, RL Deutschland, RL Federation of Ghana, RL Norge, Sierra Leone RL Federation, Svenska RL Forening, Tonga National RL (suspended), Turkish RL Association

PRESENT Steve Newman (ARLC)

1.0 WELCOME, ROLL CALL & APOLOGIES



Mr Thompson welcomed the delegates to the meeting and thanked the hosts for conducting the traditional smoking ceremony. Mr Kazandjian called the roll and presented the three proxies to the members. The meeting was quorate.

2.0 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM

The Chair proposed adopting the minutes of the previous meeting, held in York on 10 November 2018. **Motion moved by Mr Juliff and seconded by Mr Beattie. There were no votes against.** The minutes were adopted.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS AGM

Mr Thompson mentioned the substantive issue of governance reform would be taken in the following agenda item.

4.0 CHAIR AND DIRECTORS' REPORT

Mr Thompson reported on the actions taken by the organisation following the membership's guidance in York 2018; on the successful Special Resolution to adopt the new articles of association and their implementation; that Todd Greenberg (ARLC), Ralph Rimmer and himself had formed the nominations committee to appoint the three independent directors, and had been joined by UK Sport's Esther Britton as an independent member; that a recruitment company had been commissioned to compile a long-list of candidates only, to save costs, which it had lodged in August; and that the nominations committee was due to commence in-person interviews in October 2019.

5.0 CONSIDER THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED ACCOUNTING PERIOD

Mr Wood reported against the accounts of RLIF (AUS) Ltd for the period ending on 31 October 2018. He introduced Mr Newman, who prepared the accounts, to the delegates. Mr Wood reported against note 8(d), distribution to members; confirmed that losses were utilized to mitigate against tax exposure; and that the company will have A\$2m cash by the end of the year and would need to monitor its position to ensure cash flow.

Mr Strauss sought clarity on the \$180k paid to the RLEF, which Mr Wood confirmed is the confederation's annual grant.

The Chair proposed to adopt the accounts. **Motion moved by Mr Rimmer and seconded by Mr R. Edwards. There were no votes against.** The accounts were adopted.

6.0 APPOINT OR REAPPOINT THE AUDITORS OF THE COMPANY

Mr Sua proposed a motion to consider new auditors, to ensure fresh oversight on the company's accounts. Messrs Wood and Newman said that the auditors were the NRL's auditors and bringing in a new company would be at significant cost. Mr Sua said that the fact that the auditors were the same as the NRL's supported the proposal of considering a new firm, but withdrew the motion on consideration of the unnecessary expenditure at this stage.

The Chair proposed to reappoint Ernst & Young. **Motion moved by Mr Beattie and seconded by Mr Peters. There were no votes against.** The auditors were reappointed.





7.0 CONSIDER ANY APPLICATIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD

Mr Thompson confirmed that the Board had received a late application by Colombia RL to become an Observer. He said that, had the application been for an affiliate or full member, the Board would not have considered the late application, for want of appropriate scrutiny.

The Chair proposed admitting Colombia RL as an Observer Member to the company. **Motion moved by Mr Safi and seconded by Mr Juliff. There were no votes against.** CRL was admitted as an Observer to International Rugby League.

8.0 ACCEPT NOTIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS APPOINTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 4.3

No independent directors had yet been appointed.

9.0 APPOINTMENT OF LIFE MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 17

Mr Thompson, on behalf of the Board, proposed John Grant as a life member of the company. **Motion moved by Mr Beattie and seconded by Mr Sua. There were no votes against.** Mr Grant was duly elected as a life member.

10.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Thompson, on behalf of the Board, thanked the services of three outgoing Directors, Messrs Beattie, Carlson and Sua. All three were presented commemorative awards as a gesture of thanks from the sport.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11am

