



Report

Board of Directors Meeting Capetown, South Africa 10 – 12 December 2015

Name of the BOD Member: Helen Brownlee & Maree Burnett

Function: Continental President / Secretary General

1. Meetings since last Board Meeting

- OCA meeting held in Tahiti during October in conjunction with the Ocean Racing World Championships.
- Due to distances and difficulties in coordinating flights all meetings of the OCA Executive have been by teleconference.
- Meeting with the ICF Secretary General regarding the outcomes of the global Olympic Qualification events and planning for the Oceania continental qualification events.

2. Tasks undertaken for this period

- Oceania Canoe Marathon Championships held in Canberra on 4/5 April 2015 with record numbers of paddlers participating.
- Oceania Canoe Polo Championships held at Nagambie Lakes, AUS on 11-12 April 2015 with 30 teams participating.
- Attended the Olympic Sports Federations, Oceania (OSFO) Annual Meeting in Suva, Fiji, in conjunction with the ONOC General Assembly. At the Opening Ceremony, Helen Brownlee was awarded the Olympic Order by the IOC President.
- The President visited Vanuatu in early June and met with the potential leaders for the re-establishment of canoeing activity. Unfortunately, no action has been evidenced to date, although the boats are being actively used for some school canoeing activity. We continue to try and progress this.

- The President attended the Pacific Games in Port Moresby, PNG (July) and visited the Cook Islands in August, meeting with the President of the Cook Islands Canoe Federation.
- Administration, financial, and logistical support was provided for athletes from our developing nations competing at the Canoe Sprint World Championships in Milan, Italy. We were delighted to have a record number of nations from Oceania represented (Australia, Cook Islands, Guam, New Zealand, Palau, Samoa, Tahiti). We are grateful for the support received from the ICF development programme to assist this.
- Meeting with the International Va'a Federation Interim President, Lara Collins to discuss our on-going commitment to collaboration with Va'a federations in Oceania.
- Tahiti hosted the 2nd World Championships in Ocean Racing on 3-4 October, to outstanding acclaim from the competitors, who voted it the best ocean racing conditions they had encountered. In addition, the atmosphere created at the finish line where paddlers were brought home by native drums and met by Tahitian warriors and their beautiful maidens will remain a wonderful memory for all.

3. Issues and Main Points of Report

- The Cook Islands continue to be the most active of our island nations. They recently appointed Andre Tutaka-George (formerly a Development paddler) as a part-time Development Officer, to focus on sprint racing. Australian Canoeing are organising some boats to assist with the development, but the Cook Island Association needs \$6,800 to cover the freight costs. The issue of equipment and cost of freight to the islands continues to present a challenge to development of canoeing in the Pacific, particularly those with a very minimum economy.
- Kiribati is eager to commence canoeing activity and we will be sending a coach to run an initial programme in canoe sprint in early 2016.
- The Solomon Islands have made contact with the ICF for potential membership.
- Marina Toribiong (PWL) and Raina Taitingfong (GUM) attended Sprint TID camps and Daniel Tuiraviravi (FIJ) the Slalom TID Camp. Their on-going involvement is hampered by lack of equipment. Guam in particular has only very old and fragile K1s and no federation owned paddles. These developing nations do not have the resources to replace equipment and need on-going support to do so. We encourage NFs to seek advice and support on potential funding sources from their NOCs.

4. Future Initiatives and Tasks

- Work with the Pacific Games Council, Tongan NOC, IVF, and local federation to re-establish canoeing activity in preparation for the 2019 Pacific Games to be held in Tonga.
- Delivery of an OCA development camp for athletes from developing nations in advance of the Oceania Canoe Sprint Championships being held in February.
- Collaborate with Australian Canoeing to deliver an Olympic Solidarity funded coaching conference to cater to advanced coaches and development coaches from new nations.
- Investigate the feasibility of establishing an Oceania development programme in canoe slalom at the new white-water stadium being opened in Auckland, New Zealand where there is a very large pacific island community representing OCA's developing nations.
- On-going liaison and support with/for our developing national federations and their NOC's including support through the ICF affiliation process for Solomon Islands.
- Delivery of the Oceania Olympic Qualification events in Australia during February 2016.