

Australian Anglers Association Annual General Meeting Wallaroo, SA, 2009

The Annual General Meeting was held at Wallaroo on Tuesday 31 March 2009 with a full attendance of delegates present. George Holman and Bob Henderson were the two delegates present representing the WA Division.

An apology was tabled for Jim Strong for his non attendance at the Convention, this being the first time in many years.

The report from Richard Siudak the Chairman of the National Records Authority was tabled and formally received. The WA Division was once again given the responsibility of keeping National Records under the guidance of Richard and the team.

The New South Wales Division was then formally elected to run the next Carnival which will be held at South West Rocks situated half way between Sydney and Brisbane, from 26 July to 11 August 2011. Mr Robert Smith has been elected President General for the Convention and Margaret Riddell elected Secretary.

Subscriptions were set at \$150 per State to be reviewed at the next mid-term meeting around July or August 2010.

WA Division nominated Mr Richard Siudak for a Certificate of Honour. These are awarded at each Convention every two years. To qualify the person must have served at least 10 years continuous at National level and 10 years continuous at State level. Richard was awarded a Certificate of Honour for WA Division. Congratulations Richard, on behalf of the WA State Division. Well done.

A motion was put by Queensland to lessen the qualifications for this award but this was defeated as it was pointed out it would lessen the esteem of the award for the past and future winners.

Mr Geoff Thomas, President General for the Wallaroo Convention was awarded a Certificate of Honour for South Australia. There were no other nominations.

WA Division also nominated Mr James Strong for a Certificate of Appreciation for all he has done for the WA Division and his long association with the National scene. He is also the original State Patron for WA, the first of three. Recognising that there has only been one of these certificates awarded in the last fifty years, to receive one is very special. Jim is now the proud owner of a Certificate of Appreciation which will be presented to him by our President when it arrives in the State. Congratulations Jim from everyone.

Motions discussed and passed were:-

- By-law 7(c) The Host State shall coordinate the return of all trophies. Where applicable, freight costs will be met by the returning State Division.
- Rule 3(c) To be eligible to compete as a veteran, a participant shall be over the age of sixty (60) years on the first day scheduled for competition.

- By-law 5(d) The National Championships and Convention report shall contain a complete competition result list including the number of fish and weight. Two (2) copies of the Report, at least one to be a hard copy shall be forwarded to each State Division and one (1) copy shall be forwarded to any other competing nation.
- By-law 6(a) All business for inclusion on the agenda paper of a Federal Executive meeting shall be forwarded in writing to the Secretary-General at least ninety (90) days prior to the date fixed for that meeting. The Secretary-General shall forward the complete agenda paper to all State Divisions at least sixty (60) days before the date of such meeting.

A new bylaw is required to protect the AAA Electronic Archive as it has commercial value, having taken several hundred hours to compile and contains a number of rare documents. Its content is also unedited and it may contain information that could be protected from distribution under some privacy laws.

- By-law 5(e) The Electronic Archive is the intellectual property of the AAA Federal Body and can not be sold by its members. Care must be taken by members that they do not breach privacy laws when providing information from the archive.
- All motions put by Victoria Division to alter the team number were lost for lack of a seconder.
- The first motion put by WA Division dealing with casting was passed with an amendment, as follows:-
- Rule C.9 (c)(i) Breaking strain of ALL leaders must be up to 50kg, must be of monofilament line, with only one clip, one loop, and/or one swivel to be used. Leaders will be permitted in:-
 - Event 1. Accuracy
 - Event 3. Artificial Bait Distance - Teams
 - Event 5. Artificial Bait Distance - Individuals
- Rule C.6 Each competitor shall have two (2) casts for each Event nominated, except Event one (1). In Event one (1), two (2) casts will be allowed at each target. Casting order shall be to distance 3, 1, 4 and 2.
- The motion to allow casts at Club or inter-club events to be eligible for National records was lost.
- The motion put by WA Division dealing with the specification of pom poms was passed with an amendment to the number of strands, as follows:-
- Rule C.9 (i) For the accuracy event pom poms shall be used. Pom poms of a consistent specification shall be supplied by the Host State. They shall be dark in colour with a maximum overall length of 100 mm and a minimum overall length of 50 mm and consist of 30 strands of 8-ply wool or equivalent.
- The motion put by WA Division dealing with the method of attachment of pom poms was lost.

Federal Executive Liability Insurance covers all the State and Federal representatives attending the Federal Conference.

There were a number of queries about the definition of Australian waters. The Constitution Committee in liaison with the Records Authority is to seek clarification about this.

An invitation is to be extended to South Africa, Tasmania, and the Northern Territory to attend the New South Wales Convention and become members of AAA.

WA Division was thanked for providing the casting sinkers and the CB radios, and helping organise the event and assisting with the marking of the casting events. The Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA was thanked for supplying the laser distance measuring instrument used for measuring the casts.

Bob Henderson is now stepping down as our second WA delegate to the Conventions and our WA State Captain. He has done this for the last five Conventions. The WA Division extends our heartfelt thanks to Bob for all he has done on our behalf.

Concern was expressed at the proliferation in the number of Marine Parks appearing in all States. Delegates had a lot to say on the matter and indicated we need to keep an eye on this as our future will be affected.

Concern was also mentioned at the lack of youth in our ranks and expressed concern for the future of AAA if we are unable to do something to remedy this. There was a lot of discussion but no real solution. We look forward to any constructive input by anyone in AAA.

George Holman

Acting WA State President for Walleroo Convention.