

10. ELECTED DIRECTOR & SECRETARY APPOINTMENTS

Rowing South Australia Constitution excerpt:

11. Election of Officers

11.3 Form of Nomination

Nominations must:

- (a) be in writing;*
- (b) be in the prescribed form (if any) provided for that purpose;*
- (c) be signed by the nominee;*
- (d) disclose any position the nominee holds in an Affiliate Member, including as an officer, a Participant, a Delegate or an employee; and*
- (e) be delivered to the Association not less than thirty-five (35) days before the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting.*

11.4 Elections

- (a) If the number of nominations received for the Board does not exceed the number of vacancies to be filled, then, subject to clause 11.4(e), those nominated will be declared elected at the Annual General Meeting.*
- (b) If there are insufficient nominations received to fill all vacancies on the Board, nominations for the remaining Elected Director positions may be made from the floor of the Annual General Meeting. If the number of nominations received from the floor does not exceed the number of vacancies to be filled, then, subject to clause 11.4(e), those nominated will be declared elected at the Annual General Meeting.*
- (c) If at any stage the number of nominations for the Board exceeds the number of vacancies then to be filled, an election must be conducted at the Annual General Meeting.*
- (d) Elections must be conducted by secret ballot or in such manner and by such method as may be determined by the Board from time to time or if the Board has not made a determination, by the method determined by the chair of the Annual General Meeting.*
- (e) At the end of the procedures described in clauses 11.4(a) to 11.4(d) above, any Member present and entitled to vote may demand a confirmatory vote in which case each Board Member appointed or elected under the preceding clauses at that meeting (Prospective Director) must have his or her appointment or election approved by Ordinary Resolution of the meeting. If the appointment or election of a Prospective Director is not approved by the meeting, he or she will not be entitled to take office.*

As there have been five (5) nominations received for three (3) vacant Elected Director positions, an election will be required at the Annual General Meeting.

No nominations were received for Secretary so this position will remain vacant following the AGM.

The five (5) Elected Director nominees in alphabetical order (last name) are:

JOHN BENTLEY

CHRISTINA FIRTH

JAMIE GRANT

CATHERINE MCDUGALL

FEARNLEY SZUSTER

Each nominee's background is outlined in the following pages.

JOHN BENTLEY

I have a long association and demonstrated interest in School and Club rowing. Enthusiastic competitor in Masters Rowing.

As a teacher (B.Ed.), I worked at Brighton Grammar School, Pembroke School, St Joseph's College Gregory Terrace and Adelaide High School. I performed the Rowing Director roles at both Adelaide Schools and have coached first VIII crews.

I am a routine participant at Australian National Coaching Conferences.

Have been the winning coach of three Australian University Mens VIII Championships. This year I coached the winning S.A. Interstate Mens Masters VIII at the Australian Masters Championships.

Have been an eight times Kings Cup rower for both South Australia and Queensland, winning the race three times and second twice. I am a three-time Australian Coxless Pair Champion. I have been a member of four Senior Australian Rowing Teams including the Los Angeles Olympics.

I have completed a twenty-five-year career with the Queensland Police as a first response officer. (Queensland Diploma of Public Safety.) I have extensive experience in dispute resolution, criminal investigation, statutory compliance and emergency management. I am a Queensland Justice of the Peace.

I was appointed Queensland Police, Olympic Venue Commander for the British Olympic Rowing team for their pre-Olympic and Olympic year training camps in Queensland.

Have performed multiple committee roles in most of the clubs and organisations I have been involved with.

I believe I have a broad range of experience and insight that will enhance my performance as a Board Member. Enjoy exploring innovation and progressing aspirational projects.

Of particular interest to me is,

- (1) Invigorating of the languishing club rowing category in the State,
- (2) Expansion and development of Rowing opportunities and amenities in the State,
- (3) Codification of lacking Masters regulations and advancing competition innovations.
- (4) Ensuring our "organisation has clearly defined processes for resolving sports related disputes that include both internal means of handling complaints, and external dispute resolution mechanisms."

SPORT AUS Sport Governance Standards, July 2020

CHRISTINA FIRTH

I began my involvement in rowing at Scotch College in 1978 where I was part of the winning Head of the River crew in the inaugural year of Girl's Events. I followed up with another win in 1979.

I rediscovered the sport again when my daughter began rowing in 2009 and am currently an active masters rower with Phoenix Rowing Club, having represented South Australia in the Women's State Team in 2014, 2015, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

I worked for Rowing SA for over 3 years from 2009 to 2012 as Regatta Operations / Finance Manager during which time I helped run the Award winning Australian Rowing Championships in 2011.

I have had over 30 years' experience in Office, Business & Financial Management including Bookkeeping, working in various industries. I have also had experience being on numerous committees past and present which include Secretary - Adelaide Hills Dressage Club, Secretary - Dressage Club of SA, Vice President - Equestrian SA Dressage Council and currently Secretary/Treasurer of Phoenix Rowing Club.

My business and committee experience has resulted in an ability to find practical solutions to complex problems and to steer a middle course between differing and competing opinions and objectives. The key qualities I would bring to the Rowing SA board include a close knowledge of the Rowing SA business as well as the relationship with Rowing Australia.

JAMIE GRANT

Jamie has a strong interest in rowing that has grown over the last 10 years, with the involvement of his son and his niece. He believes that if your children are participating in a sport, then the parents should contribute as well, and in Jamie's case, the sport of rowing has become a passion for his whole family.

Jamie and his siblings operate three family businesses and have done so for the past 30 years. Operating his own business has taught him many skills, such as: financial management, effective communication, marketing & advertising, time management, logistics, corporate due diligence and event management. It is through these skills that Jamie can make a positive and effective contribution to the South Australian Rowing Community.

Jamie has previously held the positions of Vice President and President of the Prince Alfred College Rowing Club. The time spent in these roles led to his interest and successful nomination to the Board of Rowing SA in 2015, and Jamie has enjoyed carrying out the role with due diligence, for the betterment of rowing as a whole in South Australia.

Recently, Jamie secured several business partnerships with Rowing SA, which has significantly boosted Rowing SA's revenue and connection with the SA business community.

CATHERINE MCDUGALL

I developed a love for rowing through my school years where I was fortunate enough to row for the Wilderness School. From there I was picked up as a coach where I found my true love of the sport in inspiring the next generation.

As a coach I believe in fairness, optimism, and teamwork. With these values I have been incredibly successful in working in and running school programs and am currently the Head of Rowing at Seymour College.

I have been an active member of the Pathway and State Teams from 2014 until 2019 which enabled me to really involve myself in the South Australian rowing community. Sitting on the Adelaide Rowing Club Committee for the last 2 years has given me the opportunity to see athletes at all levels and assist in their growth. This varied involvement in the community, I believe would give me the unique skill to bridge the gap between the South Australian Directors of Rowing and the Rowing South Australia Board. I also have the perspective of a coach, assistant state team manager and athlete which gives me the ability to speak for all. In addition, I can also offer my insight to the daily community life and concerns of Rowing SA.

In seeking this position, I wish to ensure the policies and procedures are in place to support our athletes throughout their rowing journey, whether it be at state level, school level or club level. I also want to hold people accountable for their actions and see real positive change in the South Australian rowing community.

FEARNLEY SZUSTER

Fearnley has been involved in rowing from his school days at Pulteney Grammar School in the 1960s, as a senior rower at Adelaide University in the 1970s and as a masters rower in the 2000s. Since the early 1980s, he has coached at Pulteney, AUBC, Unley High School and the Australian National University, with many of his rowers gaining National selection and becoming national standard coaches. In addition, he has been an SA and NSW State coach.

He has been an active member of the rowing community for most of his life. In the 1970s Fearnley was a Foundation Life Member that originally funded the establishment of the Aquatic Centre. In addition, in the early 1990s he was Treasurer of the SA Rowing Association when the West Lakes shed was expanded, and in the last 12 seasons he has been a SA State Team Selector.

Professionally, Fearnley is a retired statistician with an honours degree in mathematical statistics, a masters degree in Applied Social Research, national statistical accreditation and a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society. He was employed in the SA and National Governments before working for over 20 years as a health statistician at Adelaide University.

In his professional background as a statistician, he has shown that he has an independent mind, combined with a thoughtful and diligent work ethic. In his role as a SA State Team Selector, he has demonstrated that he is able to fulfil the obligations and duties of an elected Director to the Board of Rowing SA. He will provide a well-considered and independent voice to act in the best interests of the SA rowing community.

With the many challenges that our sport faces in this COVID-19 pandemic era, Fearnley will bring to the Board an understanding and appreciation of our sport that covers the broad community of school, club, masters, SASI, State and Interstate rowing levels.