

PROPOSED RESOLUTION - HYBRID MEETINGS TO IMPROVE MEMBER INVOLVEMENT IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE OF ROYAL PERTH YACHT CLUB

In accordance with the Club's Constitution 2021, Clause 24(2)(f) and Clause 24(2)(g), I propose the following:

All future Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings are run as hybrid (in-person and virtual) meetings with equal rights (i.e. voting and asking questions) whether attended in-person or virtually. Nothing would be put in place that increases the burden on members to attend these meetings virtually vs in-person and members should be able to attend these meetings virtually even at late notice (i.e. they get sick and can't attend in-person).

Proposed by: **Mark Arena**

Seconded by: **David Hepburn**

Background:

In order to increase the number of members attending our Annual General Meeting and any Special General Meetings, I propose that we mandate that these meetings going forward become hybrid meetings in which they are run in-person and virtually simultaneously. Members would have the same rights whether they attend virtually or in-person, i.e. the ability to ask questions and vote. This will ultimately increase member involvement in the administration of our club. I was advised by General Manager Rick Coate on 21 March 2024 that no change to our constitution would be required to enable this given section 54 of the Associations Incorporation Regulations 2016 (WA) titled "*Use of technology to be present at general meetings*".

My efforts thus far on this have been to write to the General Committee on 7 March 2024 but I heard back from General Manager Rick Coate on 15 May 2024 that unfortunately the General Committee did not agree that hybrid meetings should be held currently but rather proposed online streaming only meetings where members cannot have a say or vote on resolutions. I was disappointed with the response as I submitted a number of options (none of those included online streaming with no true participation) and I believe that online streaming will not be a well supported idea by members given the lack of active participation offered. I see little benefit to only live streaming meetings and a better option for viewing the AGM without participating is simply recording the meeting and providing access to the recording via the members section of the club's website. It would be a waste of time to wake up at 3am (my situation) to view a live stream which could be watched later. As a result I am submitting this proposed resolution which has the support of a number of members.

Why?

A number of members (like myself) have young families (I'm on thin ice attending sailing on Wednesdays as it is!) or weekday work commitments find it hard to attend events on week nights. Also the AGM is typically held in July or August which is a busy time for people to be away on holidays (many club members leave Perth during July/August to escape winter) or

for my specific case, I travel regularly overseas for work. The fact I couldn't attend the AGM or SGM is no reflection on my lack of interest in the governance and administration of the club nor should I or others be excluded from these meetings if for example in my case we are prepared to wake up at 3am local time (that's where I would be during the AGM) to attend virtually. I'd also point out that the special meeting organised for Tuesday, 27th February 2024 did not have enough members to meet quorum and quorum would have likely have been reached if the meeting was a hybrid meeting.

In summary, hybrid meetings for AGMs/SGMs offer several benefits:

1. **Increased Accessibility:** Members can participate in the AGM/SGM regardless of their location, eliminating barriers to attendance such as travel constraints.
2. **Flexibility:** Members have the option to attend either in person or remotely, accommodating diverse preferences and circumstances.
3. **Cost Savings:** Hybrid AGMs/SGMs can reduce expenses associated with catering, and travel, contributing to overall cost-effectiveness for the club.
4. **Wider Reach:** Hybrid AGMs/SGMs will enable the club to reach a broader audience, including members who may not have been able to attend in-person meetings previously.
5. **Enhanced Engagement:** By offering remote participation options, hybrid AGMs/SGMs can facilitate increased member engagement, fostering a more inclusive and participatory environment.
6. **Adaptability to Circumstances:** Hybrid AGMs/SGMs provide flexibility to adapt to unforeseen circumstances, such as public health crises or travel disruptions, ensuring club continuity and maintaining member communication even in challenging situations.
7. **Overall,** hybrid meetings for AGMs/SGMs can promote greater inclusivity, efficiency, and resilience in club governance practices.

Not approving this resolution will continue to decrease the number of members actively involved in attending AGMs and SGMs going forward. Hybrid meetings are standard practice across many other organisations of all shapes and sizes hence the Associations Incorporation Regulations change in 2016 to facilitate them (8 years ago). This is why no change to Royal Perth Yacht Club's constitution is required. As an example, The Cruising Yacht Club of Australia (hosters of the Sydney to Hobart) runs their AGMs in hybrid form from at least 2022.

Ultimately our club needs to start embracing change, not for the sake of change, but to actively make progress towards achieving the aims of increased younger membership, active participation and financial stability. Hybrid meetings open up the opportunity to contribute to these goals. Royal Perth Yacht Club has been around before all of us were born and will hopefully be around after all of our deaths. We are custodians of this club and

it's on all of us to make the hard decisions required for the best long term success of the club. This **isn't** one of these hard decisions.

Costs

Royal Perth Yacht Club uses Microsoft products, specifically Microsoft 365, as part of current club operations. Microsoft Teams is already included in the cheapest tier of Microsoft 365's offering for a maximum of 300 virtual attendees which would be more than enough for the foreseeable future. If for some reason Royal Perth Yacht Club doesn't have access to Microsoft Teams, Microsoft Teams can be purchased for \$72 per year. Other technology products (i.e. Zoom) are available to do the same thing for a negligible yearly cost. Zoom would be less than \$250 per year for a meeting with 100 maximum virtual attendees. Any cost to run hybrid meetings less than \$1000 per year should be considered negligible and not a barrier to adoption. A member virtual attendee guide would need to be created and a laptop used during each meeting which is already done anyway.






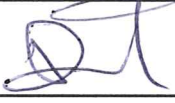
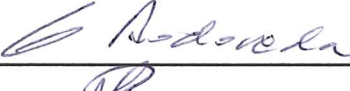

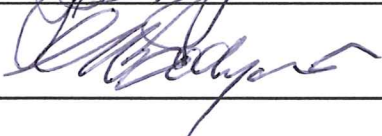



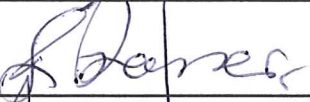



References for more information:

- <https://www.wolterskluwer.com/en-gb/expert-insights/organising-agms-with-microsoft-teams>
- <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/add-a-poll-to-your-teams-channel-or-chat-a3f9112c-01e1-4ee4-bd88-25e4e243b80b>
- <https://www.communitydirectors.com.au/help-sheets/how-to-take-your-agm-online>

Verifying Members Who Attend AGMs/SGMs Virtually

One common objection to virtual attendance at AGMs/SGMs is based on the misconception that the club will be unable to verify someone who joins the meeting virtually. Solving this is as simple as requiring members to set their real names in the online meeting application used and turn on their camera for at least the start of the meeting when they join so they can be positively identified. Members attending virtually could also be asked to show their club membership cards.

Supporting Members

Name	Signature	Date
MARK ARENA		22/5/24
DAVID HERRON		22/5/24
PHIL HARRIS		22-5-24
SADIE BLESSAS	Blessas	22/5/24.
PETER MARSHALL		22/5/24
MARTIN BOX		22/5/2024
Tony Mills		22/5/2024
Gary Rodoreda		22/5/24.
JOHN BERRY		22/5/24
GREG BODYCOAT		22/5/24
DAVE TIERNEY		22/5/24
SIMON PUNKETT		22/5/24
Phil Sennell		22/5/24
John Rossiter		22/5/24
John Rossiter		22/5/24
GRAHAM WHITE		22/5/24
BRIAN HENNESSY		22/5/24

