

28th October 2007-10-28

Hey Bruce mate what the hells going on!!

After our time together at the world juniors I developed considerable respect for your commitment to youth surfing and the time you were prepared to devote to the cause.

Now that Pauline has explained the events of Saturdays SNZ AGM that respect is somewhat diminished.

There are several points to be considered,

1/ The rules clearly state that proxy votes are not allowed, the dictionary and legal definition of proxy will not be too far apart and most definitely identify 5 of the votes cast by Clark Flannigan as Proxy Votes.

2/ The vote cast by Steve Ria on behalf of Te Roopu Ngaru Toa is of doubtful veracity, but your committee was very pleased to accept it but made difficulties re the Eastbourne clubs vote. You offered a semantic argument when they arrived with their cheque to cover their oversight re SNZ affiliation payment and only resiled when cash was proffered, disingenuous to say the least.

3/ A clear conflict of interest exists when votes for the committee are cast by paid employees of SNZ. e.g. Ben Kennings and Steve Ria, that may not be covered in SNZ rules but Internal Affairs and SPARC will probably find that unacceptable

I don't know why you seem hell bent to stave off the introduction of new blood, what do you have to hide?

The dog seems to be wagged by the tail. I have to date, respected the confidentiality of our discussions at dinner on our last night in Portugal but I don't think your stand at the AGM was acceptable.

I want to know why you and the committee have not dealt with the widespread unhappiness with Townsend's performance that is felt by the majority of people who have any interest in the performance of NZ Surfing's national body.

You have acknowledged to myself and Pauline that there is a GT problem that needs to be dealt with but don't seem to have the bottle to deal with it.

Speaking of the tail wagging the dog, some of your sponsors seem to be presuming too much, I suspect this is because your EO is operating way above his competence level and is intimidated by the sponsors or has been suborned in some way.

It is almost unbelievable, that when a hugely competent candidate offers himself for service to SNZ, the staff and committee mobilise to prevent his election.

This guy had so much to offer; I am gob-smacked to learn the lengths your team went to in a bid to shut him out.

I suspect he could have increased your useable income significantly in a very short period.

It is pretty obvious from the financials that there is huge room for improvement in all aspects of SNZ's operations and new blood should have been welcomed with open arms, particularly talent of the level on offer.

There is one explanation (the charitable one) that you, the committee and GT are suffering from founder's syndrome; the less charitable is one of "What are you guys afraid of, what have you got to hide"??

Bruce mate the shit is about to hit the fan, I suggest that you eat humble pie and call for a new AGM and do it right this time, so be it if there are a few changes.

It would be pretty arrogant for you to believe, that of all the surfing supporters in New Zealand, you (Incumbent committee and staff) are the only ones in the country who can make SNZ work!!

I acknowledge that you and a number of the committee have done your best as you see it to improve the performance of SNZ, but change is not necessarily a bad thing and fresh perspective is often the catalyst for big improvements.

I look forward to hearing that you have reconsidered and reconvened the AGM and done it right this time, there is a real groundswell of disquiet over the weekends meeting.

These people are not the trouble making losers that GT likes to call them, many are successful business people and long time surfers with a real commitment to the sport, they are annoyed, articulate, have large resources and want things to be done properly.

Failing to address the issue will lead to considerable acrimony and damage to NZ Surfing.

I don't think they will go away quietly, please deal with it Bruce.

Regards

Ross Mackenzie

PS: A word to the wise, it might be a good idea to get a forensic audit of SNZ's internal financial system carried out, better to be informed and comfortable than be surprised and embarrassed.

Trust me I've been there!!!