

Team Sydney Inc – Board Paper

This board paper is submitted by: Warrick Chan and Geoffrey Radford

For acceptance as an agenda item in the meeting to be held on: 14 November 2006

Date: 13 November 2006

Title: Building our Membership and Board Representation

Portfolios involved: All

Proposed duration: 10 minutes

Estimated financial impact: nil

Proposed activity or matter for discussion: How Team Sydney approach the recognition of Woman in our Sporting Clubs.

At the last Board meeting in October a Task Force was set up to discuss and come up with ideas for how Team Sydney can be more relevant and attractive to woman and women's clubs. Warrick Chan agreed to head this Task Force and called for other Board members to contact him with any ideas

Roger Patterson suggested that as a suggested starting point we contact Lemons with a Twist and the Gay & Lesbian Business Association.

Warrick agrees that the best approach is to be forthright, honest and open. We recognise we are a 90% male dominated Board, however, we would like the input of women to gain their view. We need to start sending representative to meetings such as Roger has suggested, and reach out to the boards of clubs where there is a female base and try to get into their meeting agendas and really first drive our Team Sydney initiative for 2007 to gain the buy in and then to further state try and build enthusiasm for the Board.

the ultimate aim is to build female membership and Board representation, this will be a slow burn. We need to recognise that these types of shifts take time, but we need to get our there and get into our member club boards agendas to gain their buy in. What we suggest is trying to source avenues for public lesbian events where we can get an agenda item and really promote Team Sydney and try to encourage membership to the Board or in the least to the Sports Council.

Warrick will be in contact with Stephen Peoples to meet and discuss the current status of Team Sydney and to discuss how we can partner with SLGBA to first educate on Team Sydney's goals and key focus and then to build motivation for membership.

At the last Sports Council meeting last week Geoffrey approached those clubs that were there with our agenda. It was very favourably met and all realised that we had to try and rid ourselves of the Boy's Club label that many have given us. The following comments were made by some of the individual clubs:

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ATTACH IT TO AN EMAIL ADDRESSED TO ALL CURRENT TEAM SYDNEY DIRECTORS
AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING.**

Water Polo: Whilst their competitive club is in a mens only league they are aware of trying to help with women's teams. For the recent North American Games they did field teams and hope in the future to be able to enter a female team into a competition.

Basketball: The same comments about current competition as Water Polo but they are working towards have women's teams represented.

Volleyball: They do have all female teams as well as mixed and their own male teams.

Generally everyone felt that it something that Team Sydney should pursue and will all endeavour to help in any way that they can. One suggestion raised that we try and put more emphasis on this with our Fair Day Sports Village. John Baldan was present at the meeting and he will look at this with his Fair Day Task Force.

We should ask our clubs for further information on their membership. Demographic data will give us information focused on where we need to focus our efforts. We need to leverage our strengths, which is Fair Day. So the board and the council need to work on how we structure our events on the day to appeal to females.