



J B SHARP MEMORIAL REGATTA SERIES INC.

Established 1924

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"Committed to Growing Rowing"



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2021 J B Sharp Memorial Regatta Series Report



The JB Sharp Cup

This is the 2021 JB Sharp Memorial Regatta Series Committee Annual Report, in respect of the 97th year of the JB Sharp Memorial Regatta Series.

In reviewing the previous year's annual report to prepare the report for the 2021 season, being the 97th year of the JB Sharp Memorial Regatta Series, I was reminded how miraculous it was that the 2020 Sharp Series was able to occur, given the pandemic that had newly gripped the nation and the world at that time.

Unfortunately, the positive comments in the 2020 annual report were somewhat premature, as the 2021 Regatta series was unfortunately cancelled due to the rise of the then Delta variant of the COVID pandemic.

While the series had prepared to proceed for the 2021 year, and preparations had been in full swing for the first regatta at the Glebe Rowing Club in July, the pandemic caused the cancellation of the first round, but we still held out hopes that the balance of the season would be able to occur. However, with case numbers rising



and lockdowns again imposed, The balance of the season reluctantly had to be cancelled following the cancellation of the second round at the UT S Haberfield Regatta.

Despite this, however, we were, and are, extremely grateful to BMG Aviation, who agreed to continue their support and sponsorship of the series, with their \$10,000 annual sponsorship for the series events. In a world in which there were unprecedented business challenges and economic peril, it was very gratefully received, and a marker of the long term support and encouragement that BMG have provided to young rowers in NSW and indeed in developing the next generation of the representatives in our sport.

Various options were conceded for holding the series in some format, including a solo indoor rowing competition, or in providing fitness challenges that individuals could do while under lock down in their own homes. However, none of these options appeared to provide the encouragement and direct support for on water rowing that the JB Sharp series has always stood for. Further options were considered, such as sponsoring an event in the New South Wales rowing summer season regatta calendar, However, due to both timing and cancellation of some of those regattas, this option was ultimately not pursued.

Accordingly, we intend on applying the sponsorship funds provided by BMG Aviation to the 2022 Regatta Series, and extending the term of. Sponsorship for BMG from the 2021 year for the 2022 season. The current season to be fully funded and for the scholarship funds to be preserved, and utilised as they were originally intended to be, albeit one season later than intended.

As I did last year, I would also like to express our deepest gratitude to Mr John Sharp AM and the Sharp family for their ongoing support of the series. Despite the cancellation of the series, being only the second time in history that the JB Sharpe series has been cancelled following its inception in 1924, the other being as a result of World War Two, the number of rowers who were unable to compete as they were participating in the battlefields of Europe and Asia.

Looking ahead to the current season, we look forward to utilising the technological benefits that have been applied during the covid pandemic, including continuing with the online entry system through Rowing NSW's regatta manager, the most efficient regatta entry and management system in use at least in Australia, and if not the world. We also intend to continue live streaming the regattas as was commenced during the COVID pandemic. As we have seen in the summer season, at the Sydney International Regatta Centre, live streaming of regattas is a great benefit for family and friends of the participants who are able to experience the sport, in a way they may not have before

I am pleased to be able to confirm that the series has applied for a further grassroots recovery grant, and expects to receive \$1000 from the state government towards its costs of restarting the series this year. Further, we will be able to recoup some of the costs of the medallions that were minted last year.



Although the series was unable to occur, it would be remiss if me to not thank the JB Sharp Committee, the volunteers and the boat race officials, Rowing NSW, and of course the coaches and participants who were training and getting ready for the conduct of the series. Having seen first-hand the rowers that were on the water prior to the start of the series, it's devastating that the series was unable to proceed, but I have no doubt that the row as we back this year bigger, stronger and faster, and look forward to watching the return of racing on Iron Cove and Blackwattle Bay.

Special thanks must go to both Terry and Barry Moynahan, who have both tirelessly worked behind the scenes to ensure that the series is in the strong position that it is today. Thank you to Terry for his unwavering leadership of the JB Sharp Committee, and to Barry for the many hours that he puts in, in both ensuring that this Convenor is able to continue with the organisation of the series, and also in managing the finances and the books of the organisation. Both have given significant time to the sport, and to the JB Sharp series in particular. Their contribution cannot be overstated.

I also take the opportunity to again thank our front-line health workers and the community more generally, and all those who have been a part of Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Finally, I acknowledge the efforts of BMG Aviation in its support of the JB Sharp Memorial Regatta Series. As I said last year, BMG Aviation had an extremely turbulent year with the shut down of international travel due to the pandemic, but nevertheless found a way to ensure they were able to support the series in 2020, and continued in 2021 (which will now benefit the series in 2022).

We look forward to the return of the series on the water in 2022, and as always, remain committed to growing rowing!

Sincerely,

Liam James

Convener

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