



## November 2023 APF Board Meeting Outcomes

The Board met on 20/21 November. The new APF CEO Stephen Porter was welcomed to the meeting by the Chair (Trevor Collins). The outgoing CEO, Richard McCooey, was thanked for his work as STM and CEO roles over the past 10 years.

The Board acknowledged the deficiencies in administering the 2023 Australian National Championships (ANC). Steps have been taken to remedy these problems, including the appointment of a new National Competitions Officer, Kristina Hicks, as well as National Judging Officer, Sandy Nieuwenhoven, to ensure a successful ANC in 2024. This will be an on-year for Australian Parachute Team selection.

The CEO reported to the Board on progress regarding a range of operational and management issues. Of course, the CEO keeps the Board updated on all legal actions and potential legal actions.

The Board reviewed how APF are tracking financially, and provisionally approved the 2024 Budget which includes an 11% membership increase the first fee increase in over a decade.

Elections and appointments were made. Of note, Mark Szulmayer was elected as International Skydiving Committee (ISC) delegate (as Gail Bradley had not sought re-election) and Sandy Nieuwenhoven as the ISC alternate delegate. Those elected and appointed can be viewed on the APF website.

The Board extended a vote of thanks to Gail Bradley for her years of service as ISC delegate.

The Board reviewed a previous decision made in 2019 relating to automatic Honorary Life Membership for long serving members. The APF recognises that we have many members who have diligently paid their membership and supported APF continuously, without a break, even during COVID. Within this group lies a cohort that holds a high level of experience and skill that we want to retain. The Board has resolved going forward to award Honorary Life Membership to those who have accumulated 30 years or more of continuous unbroken membership.

The results of the recent member survey were tabled and discussed by the Board. This data was deemed to be valid due to the 24% return rate and the methodology. A selection of charts showing the raw data is [attached](#) for member interest—these are the same that were seen by the Board.

As previously flagged, the Board has been reviewing the APF Awards system. One change resulting from this review is a new Lifetime Service Award to sit alongside the Lifetime Achievement Award in the “awards tree”. Some existing service award holders may already meet the requirements for the new award. These will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the Awards Committee.

The Board will next meet on 20 February 2024.