

Minutes of WSRA Executive Meeting
Friday 28th October 2011

Present

Andy Cox (Chair), Mick Fothergill – Aberystwyth; Jasmine Sharp (Sec); Oli Box, Andy Mayer – Aberporth; Geoff Wood – Porthmadog; Martyn Davies, Pip Nicholas – Borth; John Eddington – Aberdyfi; Andrew Cotterell (Child Protection) – Aberaeron; Dai Rees – Fishguard.

1. Apologies

Helen Stewart, Mandi Chesterman, Dave Reynolds, David Thomson, Jayne Brooks, Dylan Evans, Maggie Collingborn, NQCRC.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record. Proposed Andy Mayer. Seconded Oli Box.

3. Matters arising

All matters arising are otherwise on the agenda.

4. Report from Welsh Rowing Committee – AC.

AC informed the meeting that there had been an AGM of Welsh Rowing during which most of the committee has changed. Jasmine has sent out the newsletter.

5. Affiliation

MC sent apologies. Next renewal date is April so this item is deferred to the next meeting. Updates of club members is requested.

6. Coaching

The next fixed seat specific course will be held in late March/early April, administered by Welsh Rowing. Clubs should start writing Community Chest grants for this now. The 4 day course is approx £400 per person. Porthmadog (Geoff Wood) has offered their club as a venue for this course to increase accessibility to Northern Clubs. Porthmadog will give potential dates to Andy Cox

Action – Porthmadog advise of available dates

AC suggested that we continue to use WR for coach educators until we can get Alun Steadman on a L3 course. If any L2 coaches would like to be a coach educator, please contact AC.

Action – Jasmine to email for volunteers for coaching educators.

7. Health & Safety

MF would like a message to be sent to clubs to remind them about the importance of water safety audits/risk assessments for training as the paper trail is important. ACott suggested calling it a

weather observation if this encourages further usage. JE suggested a register of all members is useful for logging who is on the water.

AC reported that a seminar from the H&S representative of WR had been poorly attended. Perhaps this is an area in which we can collaborate more in future.

ACott informed the meeting that Milford Haven Coastguard is to remain open, but there will be further campaigns against the current proposals.

Action – Jasmine to send this information to clubs.

8. Number of races discussion

Mike Fothergill spoke for a suggestion made by Helen Stewart that the WSRA should consider moving the balance of the league structure toward the southern clubs, making the Aberdyfi event a Northern League event, and moving the Joint League further south. It was suggested that this would allow more of the Southern clubs to host events.

Jasmine put forward an alternative suggestion made by Jayne Brooks that the total number of races should be restricted to 4 events per league, plus the 3 joint events. This was suggested to avoid more than one event being co-hosted.

There were additional points discussed, including introducing Saturday races; weekend races where 2 local fixtures are over the same weekend.

No decisions were taken on any of these proposals pending item 9 below.

9. Member survey

AC stated that he had prepared and circulated a member survey to ask for member views on the racing calendar, and all aspects of race regulation etc. AC told the meeting that this was intended to be used as the basis of submitting a proposal at the AGM. AC will collate & disseminate the results of the survey, and publish a proposal by early December.

JS stated that the events workshop could be used as a soundboard for further ideas from attending clubs.

It was suggested that the membership needs to consider what the role of the club championship is – entry or excellence. The possibility of operating a separate junior championship on a few weekend fixtures, possibly including novice racing was also muted.

10. Celtic challenge

AC reported that over 30 crews had already expressed interest. The maximum number of entries is currently 25, although there are discussions about getting an extra event boat to allow more crews to enter. AC urged all Welsh clubs to get their full entries in ASAP. 10 crews are already fully entered. For full entry, the entry form and fees must be submitted. Spaces are allocated on a first come first served basis. AC suggested there may be a pool for 'find a crew' teams.

11. Indoor racing

JS put forward an idea suggested by Jayne Brooks to set up an indoor rowing league on the WSRA website, in addition to the C2 ladder already set up. AC questioned how many clubs would have access to a C2 rowing machine to make a meaningful league in this way.

JS to ask how many clubs have access to C2 machines

MF suggested occasional winter fixtures and will look into running an event at Bala lake.

MF to investigate possible races

JS to ask clubs for suggestions of non-league winter events

12. Continuation planning

AC informed the meeting that the WSRA will be looking for a secretary and treasurer for the AGM. WSRA reps are also required for the Welsh Rowing committees. AC suggested the use of 3 year terms for key officers (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer) to facilitate smooth succession planning and creating a forward vision in the WSRA. Ideally renewal of these roles would be staggered over a 3 year cycle as is the case in the WR constitution.

JS will ask for nominations for all positions, particularly secretary & treasurer.

13. Merchandise

AC suggested that the WSRA could raise its profile using casual wear etc. Asked if funds could be used to purchase casual wear items for re-sale or car window stickers to promote the WSRA brand. There was support for the idea of window stickers, but not casual clothing. Chris Terry has quotes for promo flags. The meeting agreed Chris should purchase 4 flags at £126.35 each for promotion at races.

CT to purchase flags

CT to purchase car stickers

14. End of season event

AC informed the meeting that the event will be held on the 12th November in Aberystwyth. AC asked if the WSRA will pay £210 for the band. Proposed AC. Voted 10 for, 0 against.

15. AOB

JS noted the events workshop is scheduled for the 26th November.

AC thanked everyone for their attendance.

Meeting closed at 9.17pm

Next meeting: AGM & Exec Meeting, 19:30 on Friday January 20th, Aberystwyth Boat Club.