



**Cymdeithas Rhwyfo Mor Cymru
Welsh Sea Rowing Association
AGM Minutes
Friday 20th January 2012**

- **Present**

Andy Cox (chair), Chris Hawes, Carol Davies, Ian Cavanagh, Mick Fothergill **Aberystwyth**, Pip Nicholas, Martyn Davies **Borth**, Andrew Cotterill **Aberaeron**, Chris Terry **Mumbles**, Oli Box, Andy Mayer, Charlie Millar **Aberporth**, Ffiona Edwards, Dan Seymour, Nic Thomas **Towy**, Steve Jarrett, Mike Strawson **Ynys Mon**, Kevin Brown, Ross Fairbairn, Trefor Boston-Williams **Llangrannog**, Mandi Chesterman, Debbie Phillips, Julie Bland, Ani Reid, Helen Stewart **Llangwm**, Julie Jeremiah, Chrissy Canning, Nigel Bowen, Jeff Jeremiah **New Quay**, John Eddington, Dylan Evans **Aberdyfi**, Mike Miles **Solva**, Pete Fletcher **Newport**, Brenta Pearn, Sara McLoughlin **Neyland**, Sarah Roberts, Malcolm Jones, Brian Roberts, Debbie Parsons **RWYC**, Eva McManus, Jackie Jones, Candy Temset **Fishguard**.

- **Apologies**

Jasmine Sharp (sec), Maggie Collingbourne (treasurer), Porthgain, UKRS, Mochras, David Thompson.

- **Minutes of last meeting**

Proposed by PF, seconded by AM.

- **Matters arising**

None

- **Chairman Report**

2011 was a better year for racing than 2010, with only the Aberdyfi event being lost due to poor weather. In all there were 13 league events with a further 6 non-league events held under the auspices of the WSRA.

Our recent return to Welsh Rowing suggests that the Association now comprises in excess of 800 individual members across our 29 member clubs. With a further two clubs hoping to affiliate shortly and on-going growth in a number of existing clubs 2012 may well be the year that we reach the 1000 member mark.

Looking to the future, with the London Olympics there are a number of opportunities to capitalise on increased interest in our sport. Welsh Rowing are keen to develop new initiatives in this area and with the recent appointment of new Chair Steve Osbourne, a non-rower, we have the potential to hold parity with the river rowing community for the first time. A restructure of WR is currently being discussed and there are early indications that development officers will be tasked to help develop quick-wins in Gwynedd, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire.

Within the committee, there has been a lot of good work undertaken. Mandi has done a good job of administering the membership process, John has done a lot of much appreciated behind-the-scenes work in relation to the various insurances, Andrew has done some solid work on child protection and Chris has developed a number of new ideas to help raise the profile of the Association both within the wider-sport of rowing and the Welsh sporting community at large. Special mention is also warranted for Jasmine who is stepping down as secretary after 4 years' service. During this time she had fielded the vast majority of member queries and has helped to

ensure the smooth running of all things WSRA. I extend my personal thanks to all who have contributed to Welsh Sea Rowing in 2011 and I look forward to working with many of you again during the year ahead.

- **Treasurer Report**

I start with an apology for not having been able to give this the attention it deserves. I went down to full time at work at the beginning of last year, so expected to have time on my hands. In fact I have been working more than before, so I am standing down.

Finances are quite healthy. We started the year with £9,700 in the bank, and finished with £10,300. Apart from membership, the biggest input was £520 in royalties for 4 boats from Dale Sailing, which accounts for nearly all the increase.

I noted that we are claiming VAT refunds where possible, but have never declared these royalties as a VAT liability. It is possible to correct previous under- or over-payments from several years back just by putting the numbers on the latest VAT return, but on discussion it seemed that to suddenly admit to such a liability now might trigger an investigation. So I am leaving it to the committee to decide whether it should be declared.

A decision is also needed as to whether to use the same firm as last year (Pritchard + Co, Fishguard) to do the accounts for 2011, or use someone nearer to the new treasurer.

MF suggested we take advice re VAT, it was agreed that the new treasurer would action.

- **Secretary Report**

It has been an interesting year for the WSRA. Yet again we have been unfortunate with the weather causing the cancellation and rescheduling of several races. Of the races that have been run, I have had a mixed response from the WSRA members who have attended. Several members email me after races to inform me (complain) of issues from the race. It is unfortunate that people do not tend to email me to tell me what was good about the races, but that is human nature.

Of the comments, many people have commented on the increasing difficulty of race starts and marshalling. In the coming year, it would be nice to see an improvement on these issues. Hopefully the running of the 'Events Workshop' will have gone some way to deal with this.

The WSRA has been incredibly successful outside of Wales, with many clubs representing Wales and the longboat community in the Cork Ocean to City race and the London Great River Race, including a win for Aberdyfi Men in the GRR (all veterans, celtic, 3rd overall), Aberdyfi Women (all women, women celtic) and Aberystwyth Mens' veterans came home from Cork with the trophy for Winning Veterans.

The newer teams in the league are improving rapidly, and now both leagues are highly competitive.

I will be stepping down from my role as secretary this year as I no longer have the time to dedicate to the role and traveling to meetings and races is increasingly difficult.

- **Election of Officers**

Chair: Andy Cox (Proposed Mel Hopkins, Seconded Jasmine Sharp)
carried.

Vice-Chair:	Dylan Evans (Proposed Andy Cox, Seconded Jasmine Sharp) or Nigel Bowen (Proposed Chrissy Canning, Seconded Helen Stewart) DE received 11 votes, NB received 14 votes.
Secretary:	Helen Stewart (Proposed Mel Miles, Seconded Mandi Chesterman) carried
Membership Secretary:	Mandi Chesterman (Proposed Mel Miles, Seconded Peter Owen) carried
Publicity Officer:	Chris Terry (Proposed Andy Cox, Seconded Jasmine Sharp) carried
Child Protection Officer:	Andrew Cotterill (Proposed Andy Cox, Seconded Jasmine Sharp) carried
Assistant to the Executive:	John Eddington (Proposed Dylan Evans, Seconded Alun Stedman) carried
Treasurer:	No nominations received. Pete Fletcher proposed by MC seconded by MM, carried
H&S Officer:	No nominations received. Mick Fothergill proposed by HS seconded by NB, carried

- Proposed motions

The motions proposed and circulated to clubs was discussed and a vote taken on each with the following results:

Amend the order of criteria and amend participation criteria:

- | | | |
|-------|--|------------------------------|
| 1.1.1 | Participation in at least 5 of prior years league existing joint events. | 3 races, this includes the 3 |
| 1.1.2 | Attendance of at least one club rep at the annual | running events workshop. |
| 1.1.3 | Clubs who lost league events in previous year due unable to re-arrange. | to adverse weather and were |
| 1.1.4 | Existing order | |
| 1.1.5 | Existing order | |
| 1.1.6 | Existing order | |

2.1 To address the disparity between the current 2011/2 affiliated clubs from 7 North, 3 Joint, 16 South, move the geographical boundary of the joint league further South along the coast. Clubs to be moved are done so based on order and geographical position on coast. Move 1 club that are currently in the Joint league in to the North league, move 1 club from the Southern League into the Joint League and so reducing the number in the South. **Aberdyfi to become a northern event, New Quay to become a joint event.**

2.2 The joint league (Welsh Champs) to remain as 3 events.

3.1 league events should be kept to Sundays ONLY.

4.1 To create a WSRA novice category. Novices will row the same course as juniors and will be coxed by experienced rowers. The definition of novice will be those who have been rowing for less than 6 months.

4.2 To keep existing junior categories and allow a mxj junior category

4.3 To create a mixed SupaVets category. This would use the standard SupaVets definition (ages of all crew totalling an excess of 200).

5.1 To widen the pool of WSRA officials beyond those who sit on the executive committee to those who:

5.1.1 Have been rowing in WSRA events for at least 3 years

5.1.2 Have a good understanding of the rules of racing

5.1.3 Are willing to report back to WSRA executive meetings

5.2 To make 'report from event officials' a standing item at meetings and to briefly discuss each event with a summary of positive points, negative points, issues arising and action taken.

5.3 To allow officials to issue penalties in accordance with motion 6 below. Individuals will have a right of appeal at the next WSRA executive meeting to the event in question.

6.1 To formally adopt the following penalties in the event of racing disputes:

6.1.1 Weaving in front of an overtaking boat: deduction of 1 place from final result.

6.1.2 Cutting in on buoy turns and impeding another crew [who has right of way]: deduction of 2 places from final result.

6.1.3 Causing a collision [boat to boat contact]: placed last in race.

6.1.4 Multiple offences within race: disqualification.

6.1.5 To hold an annual officials' meeting where the rules and penalties are reviewed. Any changes would be ratified at the next AGM and effective thereafter.

It was also agreed to look at the use of a video camera at the next exec meeting.

It was agreed to defer motion 7 to the next exec meeting.

• **Date of next AGM**
Friday 18th January 2013