



**Cymdeithas Rhwyfo Mor Cymru
Welsh Sea Rowing Association
Executive Meeting Agenda
Sat 25th January 2014**

Members present – Bethan Hughes, Elin Powell **Caernarfon**, Jeff Jeremiah, Julie Jeremiah, Chrissy Canning (sec) Nigel Bowen (chair) **New Quay**, Debbie Phillips, Mandi Chesterman (mem sec) **Llangwm**, Tina Gorridge **Neyland**, Kevin Cole, Roy English **Beumaris**, Pete Fletcher **Newport** (treas) Andrew Cotterill (cpo) **Aberaeron** Jan Cannon, Chris Haynes **Aberystwyth**, Pete Lowton, Charlie Martin **Llangrannog**, Chris Miller-New, Leanne Phillips **Aberporth**, Eva Rees **Fishguard**, Darrell Willington, Richard Jelley **Llanion Warriors**, Neil Cross **Wisemans Bridge**, John Eddington (assist) Dylan Evans **Aberdyfi**, Dave Reynolds, Sarah Reynolds **Borth**, Nicola Thomas **Towy**, Simon Owen, Jo Owen **Conwy**, Hannah James, Karl Webber, Rachel Parfitt, Annie Conroy, Shaun Manche **PYC**, Nicola Jordan, Phillipa Owen, Jill Gloster, Richard Gloster, Lesley Thomas-Pugh **Porthmadog**, Carol Davies, David Thompson, Mike Miles **Solva**, Jackie Southworth, Mike strawson, Dewi Strawson **Ynys Mon**

Apologies – Cardigan, Bob Allen Towy,

Agenda –

- **Minutes of the previous meeting**
- **Matters arising from last meeting** –

- **Boat mould/dale sailing**

PF has been in contact with Dale since the last exec meeting. PF is transporting Caernarfon boat down to Dale, there is a lot of issues with the boat. He plans to arrange a meeting with Dale with a specific agenda of items to discuss. He has also spoken to the owner of Dale, who is keen to sort out issues and have a meeting. There are currently 3 boats on order, which need to be completed as some are being used in the Celtic Challenge in May. On the 1st of March, construction of the new mould will begin. The mould while substantial is transportable should the decision for future production of boats be put out to tender. RE questioned the mould and Dale stating that the clubs order/buy the boats not WSRA, also stated that a smaller company may more effort regarding quality of boats. MM suggested quality control as this seems to be the issue. PF suggested to get the original specifications and have an independent maritime inspector to check the boats. SR said the fitting out of the boats was an issue with them. DT stated that we need to have more quality control, possibly paying for the inspection of each boat. BH stated they paid £70 for a marine survey. PF wants feedback from clubs within a week to compile. NB queried more royalties from Dale, PF stated that Dale do not lose out by paying royalties, it is inclusive of the cost of boats and can be set at any amount. CH suggested that a team of experienced rowers to check the boats by taking out on the water for testing before clubs take ownership. RE is concerned by the negativity and is wary of purchasing boat. Way forward – Speak to maritime architect, clubs to report back to PF with complaints/issues, arrange meeting with Dale.

- **DBS – Andrew Cotterill**

AC put forward the following motion – AC explained the following

Child Protection/Club Welfare and DBS issues

Every club should have a Welfare Officer.

Every club who has junior rowers [definition: Under 18] should have a Child Protection Officer. (This may be the same person)

The role of the CPO is to be there for any issues the child might have with her/his treatment in the club or by the club coach. It is to do with preventing any sexual, verbal or physical bullying, so it is essential that the CPO is NOT INVOLVED in the coaching of youngsters at the club.

In fact the CPO/Welfare officer does not need to be involved in day-to-day rowing activities as long as she/he is known to the club members as an approachable person.

To this end, every club who has junior rowers should provide the name of their CPO to the League as soon as appointed. Any club who has not notified the league of their CPO will not be allowed to race junior teams.

The CPO together with any coach or club member who has routine access to juniors should be DBS checked.

Majority agreement, carried.

➤ Juniors

A lengthy discussion ensued with many points for and against.

Decision to allow U14 rowing – carried. JS & SR wanted it noted they were against.

NB said the number of juniors participating last year had increased and this was a positive sign, also suggested that all junior crew members receive a certificate as a minimum as juniors were really happy to receive a certificate that they could show family and friends. NT stated that lots of juniors were rowing recreationally, the amount of juniors participating was great and would be great if U14 taking part continues. CC - if clubs weren't happy to have U14 juniors it would be their choice. CC mentioned that the majority of U14 rowers were not under any pressure to race and participated for fun. DW suggested that juniors under 16 be known as an event not race. JS stated that at some events last year, their U18 were rowing in the same event as U14 crews. CH stated during last year's race event they felt under pressure to allow a junior crew to enter the mixed race even though conditions were deteriorating. It was noted that the decision to enter junior teams into races was ultimately the clubs choice. Also, if the hosting club makes the decision to alter the course for juniors or cancel the junior race, it is done on the ground of safety and the decision is final. The following was decided –

- No U14 in the U16, U18 and novice race
- Hosting clubs encouraged to have U14 participation event not race. Course to be different to the U16, U18 and novice, suggested course length ½ - ¾ mile.
- A junior aged 14 can row in U16 team – junior must be 14 before start of season not turning 14 during season
- Certificate for all juniors. MM suggested that there be template of certificates available should clubs need them. NB said certificates were reasonably easy to produce and could be personalised to the hosting club.

It was also noted that members coxing juniors must be 18 or over. Age limit for a junior to cox is 14

MM stated that the more inexperienced the crew, the need for a more experienced cox is needed.

Majority in agreement, carried.

Transporting juniors to events - some disagreed with some aspects – nothing agreed upon.

The guidelines recommended were -

Written consent for juniors to attend race events under the care of their club should be a minimum.

Written consent for juniors to travel in a vehicle with club members to race events is highly recommended. *Ideally there should NEVER be a group of juniors in a motor with only one adult. There should always be two adults; but not a couple.*

Ideally there should always be two juniors in a motor with club members, obviously with the exception of family-so mum and dad with their child. If a child regularly travels to rowing with a friend in the car, that would be acceptable and would count as 'outside rowing' and a family matter.

Consent forms could include counter signature of the two DBS club members they will be travelling with - It can also be signed and dated by junior coach or captain. It could include Coach/captain contact details, costs, emergency contact for parents/guardians, special requirements or medical details and any other relevant details. It should include where juniors will be going, what time to drop off and collect from club house and expected time of return.

The vast majority of the guidelines are from BR, a link to their SPCG policy can be found here - <http://www.britishrowing.org/sites/default/files/pages/22685/SPCG%20Policy%20Feb%202013.pdf>

- **Race points allocation system**

NB suggested that point be allocated per boats entered regardless of category, due to the amount of boats being entered into races. Points will cross over into categories. SR stated that if clubs didn't attend one race they would could miss out massively.

SR suggested operating the points system like the sailing fraternity, of first place receiving 0 points in descending order of boats entered. Crews that have the least amount of points at the end of the season would win their category. CC stated that this may cause confusion as points have always been allocated in a descending fashion. DP stated that as super vets team she want the points they've received to go to her club. PF suggested 30 point maximum per race regardless of entrants.

Race allocation for this 2014 season is as follows –

30 points for all races regardless of entry numbers, points to cross over into categories. Should more than 30 teams enter, the crews after the 30 boat mark will receive 1 point each.

CC asked for clarity on the best of 7 rule as some queries were raised last season. Best of 7 means –

The 3 joint league races must count along with the 4 best results from respective north or south league

Majority agreement, carried.

- **WSRA funding trophy for Juniors at GRR**

JS explained that some Celtic longboat junior crews entered into the GRR last year but did not receive a trophy. To qualify as a category there must be at least 3 crews entered, which there was. Proposal – WSRA to sponsor a trophy for juniors at the GRR. Proposed by PF to spend in the region of £100-£125 on trophy as the WSRA Great River Race Junior Celtic Longboats, seconded by JS

All in agreement, carried.

- **Affiliation & Hire of equipment**

No increase for this year for affiliation or hire of equipment, will review in a years' time

- **2014 Race dates**

Dates attached

- **AOB**

- JE explained that Aberdyfi and Solva had participated in the European rowing fixed seat cup in Italy last year, the federation would like to send some rowers from Savona over to participate in a few WSRA events this season. JE is firming up details.
- DP explained that her husband Tony would be driving around Wales this year in his vintage car, stopping at every RNLI station in a bid to raise money for them. Request to send discrete email out to clubs if they can offer him a bed for the night on his travels.
- NB explained that NQ had attended a water safety course at the RLNI. He stated that the RNLI frown upon the bum bag style lifejackets for a number of reasons all based on health and safety. DR agreed with this. Proposal as of this season – all juniors must wear the correct lifejackets, waistcoat style not the bum bag style. All in agreement, carried.
- DT reported that Alun and Mel were progressing well with their assessors' course.
- Request to establish the differences between both WR and WSRA organisations and the reasons for affiliation.

- **Date of next meeting**

To be confirmed