



**Cymdeithas Rhwyfo Mor Cymru  
Welsh Sea Rowing Association  
AGM Minutes  
23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016**

**Members Present**

Barry Davies, Sharon Davies, **Llanberis**, Andrew Richards, Dan McDermott, Simon Collins, **Wisemans**, Chris Harding, Phill Langston, **Llanion**, Brynony Jones, Nicola Thomas, **Towy**, Jane Norris-Hill, Jane O'Connor, Mike Parkhurst, **Aberaeron**, Sue Edwards, Janet Holmes, Lindsey Jones, Joanne Osborne, **Neyland**, Paul Parsons, Tina Parsons, **Ynys Mon**, Charlie Martin, Ian Flounders, Carol Davies (*Membership sec*), **Llangrannog**, Hayley Morris, Samantha English, **Aberporth**, Elin Powell, Bethan Jones, **Caernarfon**, Tony Peters, Paul Fisher, **Barry**, Greg Miller, Emma Gent, Karl Webber, Stephen Harries, Mark Eagle, Sharron Kollins, **PYC**, Gerry Smith, R Aherne, Maggie Clarke, Jill Gloster (*CPO*), Richard Gloster, **Porthmadog**, Peter Reed, **Beumaris**, Tina Gorringer, **Llangwm/Neyland**, Justin Reynolds, Paul King, **SARC**, John Eddington, Dylan Evans (*Vice chair*), Ian Andrews **Aberdyfi**, Rhian Rees, Helen Peake, **Cardigan**, Pete Fletcher (*Treasurer*), **Newport**, Mike Miles (*H & S*), **Solva**, Wendy Price-Jones, Chrissy Canning (*Secretary*), Nigel Bowen (*Chair*), **New Quay**

**Apologies**

Danielle Milliner (Publicity) Pwllheli, Conwy, Tenby

**Minutes of last meeting** – Agreed as correct

**Matters Arising** – None.

**Chairman Report** - Nigel Bowen:

First I would like to thank everyone for coming to the AGM today. Following 2 years as Vice Chairman I was privileged to take up the position of Chairman of the Welsh Sea Rowing Association.

I remember that day very well. Chrissy and I received a non-existent handover from an invisible Chairman and Secretary.

At that point I felt like Jason Bourne. History, records and information was very limited and at times a complete mystery. You will be pleased to know that Chrissy has put this situation in order and the new committee will receive everything in a drop box.

Throughout the years my priority has been Health and Safety. Maybe at times this has caused concern and conflict, and I may even have annoyed or offended. Whatever people may have thought I have always put the safety and wellbeing of WSRA members at the top of the list. People are more important than boats, winning, points and popularity and on that I will never bend.

I am pleased to report that clubs and membership have increased beyond expectation in the last 5 years. At present we have 950 members and 32 clubs across Wales. Race days have gone from strength to strength and fortunately very few have been cancelled.

Last season was trying due to the amount of race day complaints that occurred. One request, as I step down, would be, that during the Executive Meeting, this issue is addressed and hard and fast rules are set in place.

The highlight of the year for me was the Millennium Centre's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday in Cardiff. 26 of our Celtic Longboats invading Cardiff Bay, and 160 rowers with oars and flags held high proved a spectacular sight.

To lead the procession in front of the centre and 12 thousand people was a moment I will never forget and the pride I felt will hold a special place in my heart for ever. (Yes, I do have a heart) The Celtic Challenge, what can I say other than a massive Good Luck to all who are taking part. I hope the weather is kind to you, and you enjoy every single stroke, even the most painful ones.

Over the years I have made many friends through the WSRA, both in the clubs and as a result of sea rowing. In April I shall be making a trip to Ireland's Vartry Rowing Club. They have borrowed a boat from New Quay and are training hard in order to compete in The Celtic Challenge.

As a club they have little else other than determination and a passion for Celtic Longboats and rowing. To share Deryn Du with them was easy. I cannot stress enough how important it is to share our wonderful Celtic Longboats. I wholeheartedly encourage boat sharing as this will ensure interest and membership is maintained and growth of the sport.

On this note I would like to say a huge thank you to Aberystwyth Rowing Club for donating 2 old and very tired Pembrokeshire boats to the Moville Men's Shed Project in Ireland. The project is for volunteers to rebuild these boats which will then be used to teach youngsters to row to raise money for charity. I continually receive emails from the volunteers showing the progress of the boats. These are forwarded to Aberystwyth.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported me in my term of office as Chairman. I would especially like to thank Chrissy who has been my rock on this 3 year journey and between us we have waded through some interesting episodes, giving it 100% every time. Thank you Chrissy and every active member of the committee, for helping to make the WSRA move forward so much in the last 3 years.

Finally I would like to thank all the members of the WSRA for organising, coxing, rowing, feeding, supporting and taking part in such a fantastic inclusive sport.

Thank you.

#### **Treasurer Report – Pete Fletcher**

Expenditure was down considerably on 2014

This was due in the main to the 2014 cost of £13000+ on new equipment (Replacement Mould)

Only item of note was the replacement of championship trophies at a cost of £2051.16.

And £900 extra on equipment insurance.

Overall expenditure for the year 2015: £24194.78 compared to £37946.50 in 2014

Income: Total income for 2015: £29541.98 compared to £30809.15 in 2014

Membership income was a healthy £16209.00 with equipment insurance up £1200 (more boats insured)

Bank Balance: 24th Dec 2015: £15106.46, compared to 24th Dec 2014: £9768.26

(Spread sheet attached)

#### **Secretary Report – Chrissy Canning**

As you all know, I am stepping down today. There is still a lot to do within the WSRA to make sure it is where clubs want it to be. During the last 3 years, documents have been updated and made more consistent. We've introduced an online storage system for the WSRA officers to access documents, which will be used by future WSRA officers.

A few weeks ago myself, Nigel and David had a meeting with a rep from British Rowing – over the course of the next few years they are looking at fixed seat rowing across the country and the WSRA will be a part of their focus. The relationship between ourselves and Welsh Rowing is getting stronger, with a coaching course in the south and Laura is working with members in the north region to hold a course up there this year hopefully. I am still hopeful that the WSRA will have it's own courses in the next few years which will be tailored to our needs.

Thank you to all those who have helped me over the last few years and to the clubs for their support.

### **Election of Officers**

No nominations received for any of the vacant positions. Lengthy discussion for nominations of officers ensued, with a break in the AGM for members to discuss positions. CD suggested that a female take position of Chair this time and was nominated. CC suggested a male for the secretary post. Volunteers came forward for the vacant positions. Some members present stated they had not received notice of vacant officer positions.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Proposed by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>	<b>carried</b>
<b>Chair</b>	Carol Davies	Ian Flounders	Pete Fletcher	yes
<b>Vice chair</b>	Dylan Evans	Dave Reynolds	John Eddington	yes
<b>Secretary</b>	Tina Parsons	Wendy Price-Jones	Nigel Bowen	yes
<b>Membership sec</b>	Wendy Price-Jones	Gerry Smith	John Eddington	yes
<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>	Tony Peters	Wendy Price-Jones	Andrew Richards	yes
<b>Treasurer</b>	Pete Fletcher	Ian Flounders	Dylan Evans	yes
<b>Child Protection</b>	Jill Gloster	Nigel Bowen	Gerry Smith	yes
<b>Publicity</b>	Danielle Milliner	Ian Flounders	Andrew Richards	yes
<b>Assistant to committee</b>	Andrew Richards	John Eddington	Nigel Bowen	yes

### **AOB**

A race day workshop was held prior to the meeting to refresh/reinforce race day rules and expectations. (Notes attached)

### **Date of next AGM**

To be confirmed