



🏠 Location: St Anne's Church, Penparcau

📅 Date: 25 January 2020

🕒 Time: 1.00pm

Cymdeithas Rhwyfo Môr Cymru / Welsh Sea Rowing Association AGM Agenda – Proposals Documentation

1. Proposal for new Governance status of WSRA from Andrew Richards

The Welsh Sea Rowing Association has been operating over a number of years since its transformation from the Welsh Longboat Association. During 2019 the WSRA Committee received governance training from Serve Sport to ensure that the association provides good governance to its members.

The association has developed appropriate framework that provides a structured committee with officers having clear roles. Short- and long-term strategy has been focused on promoting the sport of sea rowing within Wales at grass roots level for all abilities. Established values are retained, and a culture of good sportsmanship is encouraged throughout the sport. The committee oversee the implementation of the defined controls and procedures within the league, challenge events and social rows to ensure all boats and crews enjoy their time within safe parameters out on the water. The committee have proven their leadership over the sport within Wales over a length of time and are widely recognised as the Governing Body for the sport of Sea Rowing within Wales.

To ensure that the committee is able to continue to provide this necessary leadership for the sport the legal status of the association has been explored and we are currently an Un-Incorporated Association. This form of unregistered association does not exist legally and therefore there are no safeguards for members/officers on liability on its debts/obligations.

Serve Sport has provided governance guidance to the committee on the options moving forward and your committee have made a choice to ensure that sufficient safeguards are put in place to protect the members/officers moving forward. Therefore, a motion is put before members to agree for the Welsh Sea Rowing Association to become an Incorporated Association in the form of a Limited Company by Guarantee. This form of incorporated organisation is widely recognised within the sport of sea rowing and other sports.

If the motion is supported the committee will work with the relevant authorities to establish this legal status and to ensure all the necessary information is provided annually to the HMRC in the appropriate form via the accountant. Members are unlikely to notice any other changes to the association on this aspect and the committee would welcome any comments or concerns raised so that this can be fully considered at the forthcoming AGM.

Andrew Richards
WSRA Chairman

2. Proposal to maintain status quo for race points system from Chris Haines, Sam English & Jane O'Connor

- a. Criteria for competing for regional trophies - a club/crew has to compete in 50% of regional fixtures, not including the joint/national events.
- b. League tables to be included for coastal sculls.

3. New WSRA website proposal from website sub-committee.

The Welsh Sea Rowing Association has been using Pixelwave Web Design for its website and hosting services for a significant period and it has been noted that the website appears dated and is not mobile friendly which is recognised as a basic requirement for any new website. The committee assembled a sub-committee to consider options on moving over to a new website, design and improving the communication lines between the committee, clubs and members.

This process has been progressing over a number of months with four companies providing quotes for a new website which have been carefully considered by the sub-committee to ensure that any new website meets the needs of the Association whilst also providing the necessary backup and support to keep the website current and informative. The association has also been experiencing issues with its e-mails over several months and this aspect also needs to be overhauled to ensure that these lines of communication are robust and fit for purpose.

The services offered will cover the new website, hosting provider, e-mail systems including domain together with secure storage within the website for clubs and members to access all the necessary WSRA information. The four companies to provide quotes were:

- Pixelwave Web Design
- Webfactory
- Web Design Wales
- Webzer

These companies range from a very small company with one employee up to companies with ten employees. The association has recognised that the support network needs to be in place to cover all technical issues within the digital world and therefore any provider moving forward needs to have appropriate support in place 24/7 whilst also have a forward thinking focus which immediately reduced the options on providers for consideration. The cost of any new website and associated services is also a very important consideration and the association needs to ensure value for money.

After careful consideration the sub-committee have reduced the options down to a preferred option and an acceptable quote from Webzer, which is a company based in Solva within Pembrokeshire.

However, it is noted that the current WSRA Association Secretary is a director of Webzer and whilst they have had no involvement at any time within the process of selection for a new website provider, a motion will need to be brought before the AGM to ensure that the affiliated clubs/members consider this selection to be acceptable.

The quote and services offered from Webzer were considered to meet all the requirements set by the sub-committee and can provide a good level of support to ensure that the website and new e-mail system will be fully supported moving.

4. Proposals from Rob Barlow (Coastal Rex – Chester)

We have four items we would like discussed, in descending order of importance:

1.1 Cancellation of Races – in order to ensure (probably) that a race is held, we suggest:

- a. **Llanberis Lake and specifically Padarn Country Park is nominated as the reserve location should any Northern League Race be cancelled at its initial location:**
 - i. Someone be found to be the co-ordinator: risk assessment, safety boat, turn buoys etc – I believe there are a couple of people from Llanberis available
 - ii. All proceeds to the original club, who might continue to be able to provide food and drinks or simply divert us to the café, who would also provide the admin., marshals etc.
 - iii. The timings of the races remain as advertised
 - iv. Advantages:
 1. Races will be held more or less whatever the weather
 2. Clubs can cancel in good time without having to worry that they made the wrong call.

1.2 Average Age – we suggest:

- a. **It should be the average age of the rowers in a boat and not the minimum age which decides on the age classification:**
 - i. Primarily this matters because the minimum age rule is causing stratification in clubs with the younger newcomers not being welcomed by the older established crews

1.3 Too many age classes – currently nearly everyone is a winner, with only two or three boats per class, we suggest:

- a. **There are two racing classes: Open and Average age of 55:**
 - i. This is because there seems to be a notable decrease in performance during peoples 50's
 - ii. Agreed it starts in the 30's and decreases rapidly after 60 but 55 seems a reasonable threshold to combine young and old.

1.4 Class Flags or Bibs – we suggest:

- a. **Each boat carries a distinguishing flag, bib or something to inform the other boats as to the class they are in:**
 - i. This will encourage more competitive class racing – when racing being second in class and knowing it, is more inspirational than being fifth in the overall race.



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5. Proposal regarding adjustments for junior scullers within WSRA from Sam Owen.

I wish to submit the following proposal with regard to Junior Scull racing for the upcoming 2020 WSRA season. Currently the rules of WSRA state that to race, somebody over the age of 18 has to be in the vessel. However, this is a barrier to progress and development when it comes to Junior Single/double Scull competitors. This is not a rule that is applied in National and International competitions and therefore places WSRA Junior scullers who wish to race at a large disadvantage. As such, I propose the following:

- I propose that the rule is adjusted to take into consideration the skills and experience of the individual Junior Sculler.
- I propose that the junior is 16 or over at the start of race season.
- I propose that the junior is signed off by their qualified club coach in respect of a list of specific skills and safety criteria. (Or visiting coach if no competently skilled qualified coach is at their club.) List of criteria can be made available to you should this be needed before the AGM.
- I propose that the junior is trained & signed off in Single and Double Scull Capsize and Recovery.
- I propose that the Lifejacket/buoyancy rule continues to be implemented for all Scullers under the age of 18, as it is when training & racing in the Celtic.

My rationale for this proposal is the developing popularity in Coastal Sculling. This means that Juniors are now able to compete in a variety of organised events both Nationally and Internationally.

16+ Junior Scullers being able to compete in WSRA events would help ensure a high standard of Junior representation in future events; such as the upcoming beach sprints hosted by Welsh Rowing, whereby the entry criteria is 16+.

The safety and organisation of the local WSRA league race days would allow for, assessed 16+ Juniors, to develop their competitive skills in a safe and welcoming environment. This will support in building their confidence and experience in a race environment. It will also serve as fantastic preparation for National and International Coastal events and aid in development.

It could also draw more people to race days, including families who may then also take an interest in having a go in a Celtic - therefore allowing further integration into different aspects of coastal rowing.

I'd welcome any feedback or input into this proposal and hope that we can work together in the best interests of the development of WSRA Junior Scullers.

Please could the above proposal be considered, and a decision reached before the start of the 2020 race season? Sam Owen



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6. Delegation to attend 'Fixed Seat Conference' in Greenock in February 2020.

Email received from Robbie Wightman (Scottish Coastal Rowing Association)

I am the Convenor of the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association, and in that capacity would like to invite Welsh Sea Rowing to bring a delegation to a fixed seat rowing conference in February. It will be invitation only, with the invitees being those running recognised class associations, including Welsh Sea Rowing for their Celtic Longboats. Irish Coastal Rowing Federation (ICRF one designs, as well as one or two other classes), Scottish Coastal Rowing Association (St Ayles Skiffs) and Cornish Pilot Gig Association (CPG) are already committed to attending, so we would all very much appreciate your presence to complete the Celtic Fringe. We are also hoping that someone from your organisation will do some presenting. I am sure there is a lot that we can all learn from each other, as well as exploring ways in which we can work together going forward. Schedule yet to be agreed, and we are welcoming suggestions, but were thinking something along the following lines:

Topics possibly to be drawn from:

- Existing Research on Coastal Rowing - updated (CPGA?)
- Governance - the Irish experience (ICRF) and the Welsh Experience (WSRA)
- Competition Frameworks (SCRA?)
- Coaching/ Things we can agree on with regard to technique (🤔 ?)
- Incident Reports- Recurring themes (someone External.... RYA or RNLI?)
- Brain Storming Session - Ways in Which the Class Associations could work together
- Whole Group Discussion: Moving Forward..... ways in which we will work together.
- Date and time of next Conference?

The Venue is Royal West of Scotland Boat Club in Greenock. Capacity 50 (comfortable)- 70 (bit of a crush). We can get the venue for free, but the club will make a charge per delegate to cover tea/ coffee and Saturday lunch and dinner. Still to discuss with them what that will be, but it will not be expensive. (dont get a false impression about what our clubs are like... Royal West have 140 years more history than our second oldest club, and considerably more facility!)

Greenock in February may not sound wonderfully attractive, but it is quite handy for Glasgow by train, and Glasgow Airport. And they have a shed full of boats, if anyone wants to stay and go for a row around Sunday lunchtime. I was thinking that we could start late on the Saturday to allow folk a chance to get there. Maybe 1100? go on through to 1800. Then food and blether in the clubhouse. A round up session on Sunday morning, with folk going at lunchtime Sunday or staying for a row if they would prefer.

So, what do you think, and hopefully who and how many will you send along?

Robbie Wightman www.scottishcoastalrowing.org



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7. Proposal for ratification of Teifi Skiff from Richard James (Cardigan Rowing Club)

Proposal for the ratification of the Teifi Skiff rowing boat by the WSRA.

“To work within WSRA guidelines for rowing, racing and the protection of its rowers”.

Proposed by Richard James

Seconded Peter Whipp

The Teifi Skiff is built on the river Teifi it was originally designed for the then Welsh Long Boat League for junior rowing

the following affiliated rowing clubs possesses one or more skiffs

TWO, St Dogmaels

ONE, Llangwm

ONE, Aberystwyth

ONE, Aberdyfi

ONE, Beaumaris

ONE, Shrewsbury

Privately owned by members of the WSRA

ONE, Peter Whipp

ONE, William Colling-wood Bell.

Others

TWO in Scotland

FIVE in England

8. Proposals from Fishguard & Goodwick Jemima Rowing Club

1. We feel that Juniors are under undue pressure to take part in races when heading up to exams as they aim to get as many points as possible for that season. We would suggest that Juniors should be allocated the points for their best three races of that season.

2. We would like clarification of the insurance situation for clubs from outside the league who row in league events as we feel that their own insurance would cover their racing but that isn't clear, currently.

3. Also, Martha Owen would like to propose dropping the 'Association' from Welsh Sea Rowing Association, making it Welsh Sea Rowing. This would make the logo less clumsy and easier to reproduce on merchandise and clothing.



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9. Proposal for All Wales Event trial from Richard Aherne

I should like to propose that we trial an All Wales event along the lines of the All Ireland.

I propose that, subject to finding a host club, it is run as an extra event either as a stand alone or with points counting towards the different leagues. If league points are to be awarded, then I propose that 1 joint league race could be dropped by a club i.e. their best 3 results would count. This trial would show whether there is an appetite for this event to replace the joint events in future.