

**Minutes of WSRA Executive Meeting**  
**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

**Present**

Andy Cox (AC)(Chair), Rhian Davies – Aberystwyth; Chris Terry (CT)(Publicity) – Mumbles; Mandi Chesterman (MC)(Mem Sec), Stephen Buy – Llangwm; Nigel Bowen, Alison Bibby – New Quay Community; Andrew Cotterill (ACo)(Child Protection) – Aberaeron; Dylan Evans (DE)(Vice Chair) – Aberdyfi; Mike Southworth, Dewi Strawson - Ynys Mon; Eva McManus – Fishguard & Goodwick; Charlie Millar, Andy Mayer - Aberporth; Simon Pendrell, Saz Metcalf, Steve Pass, Elaine Hackett – Porthmadog.

**1. Apologies**

Jasmine Sharp (JS)(Secretary), Tim Ogilvie (TO)(Safety), David Thomson, Maggie Collingborn (MCo) (Treasurer), Roger Merry, Mochras, Caernarfon.

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting**

Minutes were proposed as accurate by Nigel Bowen, seconded by Andrew Cotterill.

**3. Matters arising**

*Member survey* – AC advised that this had not been circulated. When getting into the task it became clear that the task is huge as the remit of the WSRA is broad. A revised approach of carrying out thematic surveys on particular topics such as racing would be taken instead.

**Action – AC to devise**

**4. Report from Welsh Rowing Committee – AC.**

AC informed the meeting that he had been unable to attend the last few Welsh Rowing board meetings as ring-fencing the necessary 6 hour round travelling time around other commitments was proving problematic. In addition a number of changes of key personnel on the board mean that there is now less of a sports-specific focus than there previously has been. Therefore AC's views on the potential for the two organisations becoming more closely related in the future had changed and proceeding with caution was now the recommended course of action.

It was noted that Sarah Hayward has resigned as Welsh Rowing Coaching Co-ordinator. AC advised that he had written to the WR board on this matter.

The WSRA are still entitled to nominate representatives to each of the Welsh Rowing Committees. If any individuals would be interested in pursuing this they should contact AC in the first instance.

**Action – interested parties to contact AC**

**5. Affiliation**

MC reported that Tenby had not affiliated to the WSRA this year. Little Haven had only partially affiliated having provided a club affiliation but no individual levies or member details. The new Towey club were known to be interested in the GRR and would therefore probably affiliate shortly.

It was noted that clubs should provide updates to MC periodically of any new members gained during the season.

**Action – all clubs provide update and fees to MC as necessary.**

## **6. Coaching**

The next fixed seat specific course (provisionally scheduled for Spring 2012), is in doubt with the departure of Sarah Hayward from Welsh Rowing.

**Action – AC continue to pursue with Welsh Rowing Board**

DE reported that Alun Stedman has been working with Mawddach RC to provide coaching support. Alun would be willing to work similarly with other clubs, subject to their paying his travelling expenses. Alun can be contacted via e-mail: [alun.stedman@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alun.stedman@yahoo.co.uk)

## **7. Health & Safety**

TO had offered apologies for the meeting, but had provided comment that the issue of starts during races was beginning to pose some safety concerns together with the wider issues around fairness.

AC brought a motion to resolve to hold a running events workshop in November '11 and for attendance by at least 1 representative from each club to be contingent on applying for a league race date in 2012. This was put to the vote and carried unanimously by those present.

## **8. Allocation of races to non-attending clubs**

Nigel Bowen commented that clubs should support each other's' events and mooted the idea of having a minimum percentage of attendance at races in order to qualify to hold an event the subsequent year. AC responded that this was part of a wider issue on racing as a whole and that the survey on racing (see item 3) would help to inform a motion on this topic which he would bring to the 2012 AGM. This motion would be drafted and circulated in good time, to allow any clubs feeling that they have additional points to raise to draft their own motions for the meeting.

## **9. Publicity Update**

CT reported that Mumbles had been arranging interviews with the BBC, Western Mail and Sporting Wales. In addition to club-specific information, these would also promote the wider activities of the Association and of the Celtic Challenge event.

Clubs were asked to provide copies of any local press releases to Chris ([chris@welshsearowing.org.uk](mailto:chris@welshsearowing.org.uk)) for use by the wider Association and also to promote the WSRA Facebook group among their members (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Welsh-Sea-Rowing-Association/175907025763307>).

**Action – clubs liaise with CT and promote WSRA Facebook group.**

## **10. Race Visibility**

CT had some ideas around the use of tall flags, hoarding and other publicity materials to raise awareness of the WSRA brand among the wider public at our race.

**Action – CT develop proposal and bring to future meeting.**

## **11. Unused boats**

CT had managed to get hold of a production list of Longboats from Dale sailing. This was not entirely complete, but made a useful reference on what was where, especially when read alongside the WSRA equipment insurance overview. AC had produced a side by side summary from these two sources. Ideas are invited from clubs on how equipment can be better utilised, perhaps with the WSRA renting un-used boats and passing on to clubs who need them if the boat owners would be agreeable.

### **Actions – AC circulate boat summary**

- **Clubs liaise with CT over any potential ideas**

## **12. AOB**

Mike Southworth queried whether the WSRA had a policy on minimum ages of rowers. It was noted that there is no formal guidance.

AC advised that there would be a Celtic Challenge again in 2012 (to be held on the weekend of 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> May). This would be the last event for some of the organising committee, but work is going on to safeguard the future of the event beyond this date. Plans were advancing and information would be made available online at [www.celtic-challenge.org.uk](http://www.celtic-challenge.org.uk) as things progress.

**Next meeting: 19:30, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2011, Aberystwyth Boat Club.**