

Cymdeithas Rhwyfo Mor Cymru
Welsh Sea Rowing Association
Executive Meeting Friday 13th June 2008

Present: Mick Fothergill (Chair), Jasmine Sharp, Andy Cox - **Aberystwyth**, Nigel Scott, Dave Rice, Cath Havard - **Aberdyfi**, Mike Miles (Safety) - **Solva**, Gill Allday, Arthur Williams - **Barmouth**, Andrew - **Aberaeron**, Jayne Brooks, Jamie Brooks - **Mochras**.

Apologies: Neyland, Tenby, Llangwm, Little Haven, Newport, Helen Stewart

Minutes of the last meeting were read out by MF and were considered to be a true and accurate representation of events. Nominated by CH, seconded by DR. Agreed unanimously.

Matters arising

Boat contract - MF has written to Dale Sailing 2/6/08 re. visit in December 2007. Phone & email response.

Contract and new prices attached (new boat is £5874.80 + VAT).
Repair of mould complete and WSRA part paid for by sacrifice of royalties

Cost of new mould estimated to be £10500 + VAT

Service issues to be discussed by phone

It was felt that Dale Sailing have provided a poor service generally and the meeting asked if Helen Stewart would ask for comments from clubs about their experience with Dale Sailing.

DR asked who owns mould. MF stated that the WSRA owns the hull mould but Dale Sailing own the gunnel mould.

A new builder has asked to tender for construction of the mould - Bill Piper from Porthmadog. It was agreed that MF will approach him for a price for a mould and a suggested longboat price. We are not sure how it will be funded but Jamie Brooks suggested Bill Piper may part fund the cost of the mould.

Yole Development Plan - CH informed the meeting that the World Sea Rowing Championship is in Plymouth in 2009. WSRA should be proactive towards this event. 15 4s will be provided by the race organization but it is likely these will be prioritized for foreign competitors. It is a club event for yoles only, with a very high level of competition (open & masters)

CH informed the meeting that there are currently 7 double yoles, 3 singles and 1 four in the league. Aberdyfi are planning to have an open race for all yoles at their league event.

MF suggested that an info package for yole pricing should be produced.

Jamie Brooks suggested that the WSRA could purchase one yole. MF informed the meeting that the sports council did not wish to fund this but that the WSRA could think about using disposable cash at the end of the season.

Racing situation - CH informed the meeting that several yoles now compete in the league events. The position of yoles in races needs to be considered. The consensus of the meeting was that the following rules should be in place:

- If 3 or more yoles are in any given race, the yole rowers are to be given the option of a slightly different start time (2-3 minutes before or after the main longboat start). A flexible approach to the start should be adopted with the consultation of yole rowers.
- If racing in a mass start the yoles should occupy a start position on the outside of the start line (relative to the position of the first buoy)
- GPS co-ordinates of the buoys should be available where possible
- Once underway the normal race rules are in force with regard to overtaking and buoy turns. This is for safety reasons. Coxes unclear on the rules regarding buoy turns should ask MF for guidance.

These rules were proposed by CH and seconded by DR. Voting was unanimously in favour.

Celtic Challenge - Celtic Challenge committee asked for comments about the race.

MM has compiled a list which was read out in the meeting.

MF suggested that the start could have been later as the weaker crews were exposed to the poor weather for longer.

Recommendation - WSRA will hold 1 day workshop for preparing for Celtic Challenge 2010.

Affiliation - It was noted that PYC had rowed in both Aberystwyth and Aberaeron, and the hosting clubs were not sure of the situation as they appeared to be registered as Llangwm. JB informed us that PYC had missed the deadline for affiliation but Llangwm has given 8-10 members temporary

membership to allow them to race until the current meeting when they will affiliate. PYC are now affiliated but club points to this date will go to Llangwm.

JB informed the meeting that all clubs are now affiliated with the exception of Hazelbeach and Little Haven. Total members are 495, with £8500 banked. JB informed the meeting that Little Haven had initially affiliated and paid but provided no member details. Little Haven have now requested their cheque back. Mick has written to them and they have claimed they are in a poor financial situation and will attempt to find their own insurance. MM will contact the club to inform them of the insurance situation as insurance through the WSRA is considerably cheaper than individual insurance. Cardigan have asked for financial assistance as they have only 5 members. Jamie Brooks proposed £50 towards their costs this year only. AC seconded. All in favour. Jayne Brooks proposed £10 should be given to any club for every member short of 10 people. CH seconded. All in favour.

AOB

Interim results - AC has provided interim results and will do so every 3-4 races. AC reports that there is difficulty in recording results accurately due to inconsistencies in club/crew/boat names. Could all clubs entering crews check entries and results sheets carefully and report any entry or recording errors as soon as possible

Coaching - CH asked who the regional coaches are and what their role is. MF informed the meeting that Helen Stewart and Al Ball are the regional coaches and they cover beginner, novice and junior levels.

Publicity - Jayne Brookes reported that there has been good coverage of events in the Cambrian News recently. Clubs should aim to put in a couple of items per season.

WSRA representation on WARA committees - CH reported that WARA claim the WSRA does not attend WARA committees. MF reported that Dave Thompson has attended all WARA meetings available to us, such that he is now Vice Chair of WARA.

Adaptive rowing - Andrew asked if the WSRA has a policy on adaptive rowing. MM reported that there is no policy but there is a statement. MF will find the statement and distribute it. A partially sighted crew often rows for Aberdyfi.

Meeting closed at 21.50

Next Meeting after Great River Race, September, Aberystwyth.

Meeting Closed.