

**Minutes of WSRA Executive Meeting**  
**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2010**

**Present**

Jayne Brooks (JB), Jamie Brooks – Mochras, Andy Cox (AC) – Aberystwyth, Dylan Evans (DE), Paul Chesworth –Aberdyfi, Mike Miles (MM) – Solva, Mandi Chesterman (MC) – Llangwm, Sion Bowen, Nigel Bowen – New Quay, Andrew Cotterill – Aberaeron, Martyn Davies (MD), Pip Nicholas (PN) – Borth, Chris Terry – Mumbles, Kevin Brown – Llangrannog.

**1. Apologies**

Jasmine Sharp, Helen Stewart, Aberporth, Porthgain, Porthmadog, Fishguard, Wiseman's Bridge,

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

**3. Matters arising**

*Boat contract* – AC informed the meeting that the mold is still useable and several more boats can be produced from it. JB noted that £600 royalties had been received from Dale Sailing.

MM stated that the additional buoyancy design is still in the discussion and planning stage and is being taken forward with Dale Sailing. As a new gunnel design is being developed, MM advised that the WSRA should purchase the gunnel mold. MM proposed that the WSRA should have a "Clerk of Works" to approve new boats produced. DE offered to discuss this with an Aberdyfi colleague who may wish to act as "Clerk of Works". **Action: DE**

*Coaching* –Date for WARA run Southern session has been issued by AC. Booking is essential and places are limited to 20, to cover all types of rowing. Clubs can access funding through Community Chest Grants

*Milford Haven Port Authority race* – A.K.A. Cardigan Mermaid Race – noted that organisers had not yet collected the WSRA one-off grant of £500 for trophies.

*Janousek yoles*

These are sales demo boats that were offered to WSRA for all members to try. They are currently at Neyland but do not have oars supplied with them. WSRA have no claim on these boats so it may be worth reviewing their use. WSRA to investigate purchasing a double yole at approximately £6,000 for a start up package.

AC suggested making enquiries for 2<sup>nd</sup> hand double yoles that could be utilised. It was proposed to charge a higher rent than longboat as it would be established clubs that would wish to rent.

Chris Terry – Mumbles, offered to enquire about yoles based in Mumbles but not being used.

WSRA interest in yoles is expanding and there may be the opportunity to host a novice Yole event as part of Aberystwyth's Celtic race weekend.

### *CRB Checks*

There is a new format for ongoing reviews and new checks. AC to liaise with David Thompson regarding what has changed and general advice.

#### **4. Report from WARA Committee – AC.**

WARA will fund level 3 coaching courses but their main funding is going to the “Tall & Talented” programme.

Community Coaches – Helen & Simon have since stood down and these positions are still vacant. AC requested that anyone interested in applying must have done level 2 coaching course before hand.

#### **5. End of Season Event**

This is to be hosted by Aberystwyth on Saturday 2nd October 2010, trophy presentations and end of season party. AC requested WSRA to fund £250 for a live band for the party. It was felt that due to the lateness in the year there may be a strong possibility of the race being cancelled due to bad weather. If a band was provided, it was felt that members would attend the festivities regardless of if the race took place or not. Those attending voted to accept this proposal with no objections. It was suggested to hold the party immediately after the race.

#### **6. WSRA Boat**

The new boat is currently rented by New Quay, who are organising the construction of the trailer. It was noted that this is taking longer than planned. Although the new boat is provided with Croker oars, Sion Bowen – New Quay, is testing different types of oars as Crokers may no longer be imported. A suitable replacement and supplier needs to be found. Currently the boat has sponsorship/advertising from WARA and E&M Promotions Ltd.

Chris Terry from Mumbles Rowing Club expressed an interest in renting the boat with the intention of attend WSRA events and proposed organising a Mumbles event. In order for Mumbles to affiliate to WSRA, they are required to adopt the new constitution and to follow the full WSRA affiliation process.

JB suggested trawling for old Pembrokeshire longboats throughout the rowing community with the suggestion of utilising any unused boats for new clubs wishing to start up. JB is continuing to compile the list of numbered boats.

There was a discussion around the loan period if more than 1 club was interested in renting the new boat. It was proposed that a minimum loan period of 3 months, with 4 weeks notice from both parties. It was stressed that new clubs would take priority when WSRA allocate the boat. It was noted that one element of deciding on length of rental would be based on how far along the club is with its formation. It was recommended that a “check in and out” form be utilised to note the repair state of the boat as WSRA is responsible for the boat and equipment insurance.

#### **7. Affiliation**

MC updated the meeting regarding affiliation. It was noted that the only club that had not fully affiliated was Little Haven. MM would liaise with Viv Grey, Little Haven, regarding this matter.

## **8. Food at regattas.**

MD & PN, Borth, requested to know if food must be provided at races. Those in attendance agreed that clubs hosting a race must provide food. Borth raised concerns regarding their catering facilities outlining that they would take a significant financial hit if the event was cancelled due to bad weather as they are hiring a local community hall. JB shared her clubs experiences of hiring catering facilities and that financial losses could be limited by a number of actions such as working in partnership with the community hall and explaining the situation regarding weather and providing food that could be frozen and therefore not wasted.

## **9. Novice Races**

MD & PN, Borth, suggested holding a novice category race at their clubs event. Those in attendance agreed that a novice race could be held but that this race category does not count towards the WSRA league points. It was advised that the novice race should be held at the same time as the junior race.

## **10. Pool of Spare Rowers.**

JB suggested that if there are spare rowers wishing to take part in race events, they should be encouraged to take part but there needs to be prior communication to the event, so that rowers can link up and potentially form a crew on the day. It was suggested at race registration to adopt a "spare rower" list and make use of the WSRA web site and Twitter to publicise spare rowers.

## **11. AOB**

Aberaeron raised a query regarding WSRA news published on Twitter and whether the information could still be accessed on the main web site. AC advised that information is easily accessible and would advise on how to access Twitter.

MM asked if there was scope for the WSRA to offer financial help to clubs that have lost their trophies. JB offered to email everyone regarding the rules on providing trophies. There was a discussion regarding the lack of trophies at Solva race and it was agreed that clubs must make every effort to retrieve trophies in time for race day.

Caernarfon Race – this was cancelled at very short notice and this caused some unhappiness with clubs that were planning to attend. Aberaeron noted that they were disappointed with the change of date that their crews could not make the new date.

JB requested that the "race pack" be placed on the web site and be sent hard copy to clubs. In light of a number of disorganised races it was suggested that in the future it may be best practice to run a workshop on "how to hold a WSRA race".

WSRA meeting attendance – JB raised the point that affiliated clubs are not attending the WSRA meetings to their detriment. There was a general discussion about this and it was suggested that clubs who do not attend could potentially not be granted a race day but WSRA needs to find out why clubs are not attending prior to any proposals and changes to how races are allocated.

It was suggested that for 2011 season that an "affiliation certificate" be formally issued to clubs and that caveats need to be added to affiliation such as attendance at meetings and other responsibilities.

AC suggested that the possibility of race weekends, rather than single race days. Clubs situated near one another could double up e.g. Ramsey race and Fishguard race on the same weekend.

Another suggestion was to hold some Winter race events, however venue would be a sticking point due to weather and sea conditions but it was suggested that clubs such as Llangwm who row on River Cleddau could offer a venue. It was noted that a number of members thought that having a few social rows through the Winter would be a good idea. JB outlined Mochras Mackerel row & BBQ fun day that has happened in past years.

**Next meeting: 19:30, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October.**