

**Minutes of WSRA Executive Meeting**  
**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

**Present**

Dylan Evans (DE)(Chair), Paul Chesworth –Aberdyfi, Andy Cox (AC)(Vice-Chair), Rhian Davies – Aberystwyth, Mandi Chesterman (MC)(Mem Sec) – Llangwm, Jasmine Sharp (JS)(Sec), Nigel Bowen, Hannah Thomas, Chrissy Canning – New Quay Community RC, Dave Reynolds, Martyn Davies (MD), Sarah Reynolds – Borth, Oliver Box, Andy Mayer – Aberporth, Cynyr Ifan, Richard Thomas – Llangrannog, Julie Castle – UKRS, Angharad Rayner, Lesley Thomas-Pugh – Mochras.

**1. Apologies**

Helen Stewart, Mike Miles, David Thompson, Ynys Mon, PYA, Jayne Brooks, Sion Bowen.

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record. Proposed AC. Seconded NB.

**3. Matters arising**

*Boat contract* – AC informed the meeting that there is no movement on the condition of the mold. Dale Sailing are fully paid up with regard to royalties. DE informed the meeting that Ian from Aberdyfi would be willing to act as 'Clerk of works' if WSRA pays the expenses. This was unanimously voted in favour.

*CRB checks* –David T is stepping down from his child protection role at the AGM. Anyone who thinks they might to undertake this role would be most welcome on the committee. JS reminded the members present that all clubs with juniors require a child protection officer with a valid CRB check.

*Spare boats* – JS requested that the members her know if there were any spare longboats (Celtic or Pembrokeshire) currently unused so that new clubs might borrow these. NB informed the meeting that New Quay Community RC would be acquiring a boat within the next 2 weeks, so the WSRA boat will be free for use of another club.

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

Welsh Rowing has held their AGM. There was an attempt to increase the sea rowing presence on the committee, but this was lost in a membership vote. David T has also retired in his role as Vice-Chair. AC informed the meeting that the WSRA is entitled to representation on all the Welsh Rowing Committees. DE will as Alun Steadman if he is willing to sit on the coaching committee. Mike Miles is considering attending H & S committee. AC asked if anyone is interested in attending the events committee. AC informed the meeting that in the wake of cutbacks, he envisages Welsh Rowing cutting funding for 1 community coach.

**5. Affiliation**

MC reported that there were no new affiliations. There has been interest expressed by Mumbles, but no paperwork has been submitted. There are also expressions of interest from Saundersfoot, Llanelli, Carmarthen and Aberdaron.

## **6. WSRA Boats**

The WSRA longboat is currently with New Quay Community RC for 2 weeks, after which the WSRA is wanting to loan the boat to another club. AC is to organise boat loans. NB informed the meeting that the trailer for the WSRA longboat doesn't have a trailerboard. The WSRA will look into this.

AC informed the meeting that the WSRA has now purchased a double yole. This will be loaned at £15 per week (inc VAT). Aberporth & Borth Rowing Clubs expressed an interest at the meeting. Clubs are to liaise with Andy Cox.

JS reported that she has drawn up an agreement for those wishing to borrow the league boats. JS will circulate these documents.

## **7. Member survey of WSRA function**

AC informed the meeting that as the WSRA has grown and we would like to get a collective view on how to take the league forward. AC would like to collect data on: the nature of current clubs, the nature of the meeting, communication, equipment, services, fees, races, executive committee, paid staff, relationship with Welsh Rowing. AC will send a survey around to all clubs to be returned mid December so that any suggestions can be raised by the next meeting.

## **8. Proposal for paid admin role**

There is a proposal within the executive committee to hire an admin person. There was much discussion on the topic including suggestions for doubling up of each role e.g. assistant secretary, assistant treasurer etc. There was also the suggestion to pay an honorarium to the WSRA secretary. It was agreed that this would be added to the items on the club survey for wider input. MC suggested that the exec members should keep time sheets of how much work is currently done to help establish how much work would need to be covered.

AC also suggested that it might be a possibility that WSRA could merge with Welsh Rowing in order to move some of our administrative function whilst maintaining the identity of the WSRA. He will include this idea on the member survey and it will be considered at a further meeting whether a group to look at this possibility should be set up.

## **9. Coaching**

Only 5 people from the WSRA attended the sea rowing coaching course in Aberystwyth in September. OB stated that this was because the course was held on a race weekend. DR suggested that there should be more rowing specific courses. DE said he would talk to Alun Steadman about running coaching workshops. AC suggested that clubs wanting to send people on coaching courses should look at the Welsh Rowing website.

## **10. Health & Safety**

AC reported that he has received 2 articles of guidance from Welsh Rowing; one regarding Weil's disease, and one regarding cold water immersion. AC will send them to JS for email distribution and to DR put on the website.

### **11. Second venue at races**

OB noted that 3 races were cancelled at the end of the season and suggested that there should be a plan be e.g. alternative venue. DE suggested that that would require an alternative risk assessment but there is no problem with this. There was a discussion regarding venues and alternative racing. JS informed the meeting that there will be an events workshop next year and the provision of planned alternatives will be discussed at the workshop.

### **12. League trophies**

OB suggested that there should be trophies for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the WSRA prize giving. JS stated that with the number of categories, this would give a huge number of trophies. AC also mentioned that some categories are not so highly contested that 3<sup>rd</sup> place would be possible.

OB also suggested that for the overall club contest only the best 2 crews from each club in each race should count towards the overall championship AC said he would add this to the member survey.

It was also noted that several clubs did not have trophies at races. NB suggested that clubs should make certificates for races to ensure if clubs do not return trophies on the day that winning crews still have something to take home.

### **13. AOB**

Llangrannog asked if clubs with cancelled races could have priority for fixtures next year. This will have to be considered at the AGM. It was also suggested that races on estuaries should be later in the season. AC told the meeting this can often depend on other factors. Mochras suggested that the first events could be brought forwards. JS informed the meeting that there is nothing to stop clubs from requesting these dates. JS will request fixture dates in December.

NB asked if there would be any winter racing. This was discussed and JS will email clubs to request organisers for winter events.

Andy Mayer suggested that events could be made more spectator friendly with the use of GPS units and/or PA systems. Andy Mayer is to look into ways of doing this.

AC thanked everyone for their attendance.

**Next meeting: 19:30, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2011 AGM followed by executive meeting.**