



Cymdeithas Rhwyfo Môr Cymru
Welsh Sea Rowing Association
Executive Meeting Agenda
Saturday 31st January 2015

Members present –

Carol Davies, Charlie Martin, Andy Campell – **Llangrannong**, Candy Tamsett – **Fishguard**, Steve Jarret, Paul Parsons – **Ynys Mon**, Sue Edwards, Brenta Pearn – **Neyland**, Tina Gorringe – **Neyland/Llangwm**, David Thomson – **BR**, Jane O'Connor, Wendy Price-Jones, Nigel Bowen, Chrissy Canning – **New Quay**, Hayley Morris, Leanne Phillips – **Aberporth**, M Clarke, Pippa Owen – **Porthmadog**, Andrew Cotterill, Mike P – **Aberaeron**, Brian Roberts – **Caernarfon**, Sera Griffiths, Beth Thomas – **Mochras**, Chris Harding, Phil Langston – **Llanion**, Nic Thomas, Charles Kirk – **Towy**, Neil Cross, Brent Lang, Andrew Richards – **Wisemans**, Karl Webber, Stephen Harries, Emma Gent – **PYC**, Dave Reynolds, Sarah Reynolds, Helen Ovens – **Borth**, Kevin Cole, Peter Read – **Beumaris**, Chris Terry, Danielle Milliner, Christina Hole, Geoff Hulland – **Mumbles**, Chris Haines – **Aberystwyth**, John Allan – **Llangwm**, John Eddington, Dylan Evans – **Aberdyfi**

Agenda –

- **Apologies**

Pete Fletcher – Newport WSRA treasurer

- **Minutes of the previous meeting**

- **Matters arising**

Beumaris reported they had picked up their new boat from Dale – they commented that the heel cups appear to be at random heights. CH stated there seems to be random anomalies. CH (II) asked what was the intention for future production of boats. SR asked if there was to be a tender process why was the impression given that Dale would be the future producer. She asked to ensure that production of boats go out to tender. Discussion on boats. CH (II) asked about getting the specs, he will contact Dick Morgan Marine architect about drawing up specs that any future producer of longboats will adhere to. BR requested a time limit, CH will report back to CC on progress who will inform clubs.

- **Race dates**

Race dates published on website – it was agreed this year to allow clashes of North/South league races to accommodate everyone. Beumaris had requested to host a league race this year, although were unable to fulfil the criteria of 5 race attendance in 2014. As they were able to attend 4 races and as a one off for this year they will hold a league race to make up number of races in the North league. Clubs with clashing dates stated they would look again at the tides to see if other dates were suitable to them.

- **Caernarfon – Boat availability in League and other Races**

BR explained about situations where teams may be able to attend races but do not have access to boats or teams short of rowers. Discussion about being able to make composite teams up. It was stated that clubs usually contact CC to send out an email requesting a loan of a boat or for spare rowers – this will continue. Discussion on composite teams – if two rowers from two clubs come together to make a team the points are split between the two clubs at 50/50 i.e. crew X made up of two rowers from club

A and club B, they finished race in 1st place – points should be 30, these are then split between clubs giving 15 points each. If a composite team is made up of 3 rowers from one club and another from a different club, the majority club gets the points. Clubs must state if two clubs have come together to make composite team up on the race registration forms.

- **Llanion and PYC** – Novice category

PYC requested that points given to novice teams are added to the club totals at the end of the season. A lively discussion ensued with arguments on both sides. SJ stated that the novice category was introduced to give novice rowers a feeling for racing without the distance. CH stated that novice crews seem to be rowing for a long time before moving onto senior crews. Discussion about novice rowers rowing in a senior crew to make up teams then returning to a novice race – arguments against this as it was argued that if a novice can fill in for a senior crew then they could row a senior race. Some clubs put an experienced rower in with a novice crew to ensure they have a race. KW stated they never put an experienced rower in with novices, they always ask other clubs for any spare novice rowers. Clubs that put in an experienced rower in with a novice team must state this on the registration forms. Concerns raised over this in case a crew with an experienced rower in the team may come first, taking the trophy off a full novice crew. It was agreed that this would not be the case – if a crew with an experience rowers finished in 1st place and a full novice crew finished 2nd the full novice crew would be the winners of the race.

Vote on novice points to be added to the club totals at end of year – 9 for, 27 against. No points from novice crews to be added to club totals.

A discussion then about the definition of novice rowers – it was agreed that this would be extended from the current 6 months and will change to April to April in every year instead. Members registering before the April will not be classed as novice. It was stated the need for clubs to be more honest when registering. CD will create a register of novices that clubs can check against

- **Llanion** - League membership lists to be presented to hosting clubs
Publicity/photographer with drone

Llanion requested that membership list be made available to hosting clubs to check that registering members are affiliated and requested that the membership sec sends the information out to the club prior to the race. CD stated that new rowers must be registered with her by their 3rd row. She only needs their name, D.O.B, club joining date. The registration cut off point for new rowers will be the Wednesday preceding any race so CD has sufficient time to provide up to date membership lists to hosting clubs. It was stated that club membership secretaries must be on top of memberships and all communications to the wsra membership secretary must go through the correct email link - membership@welshsearowing.org.uk and not to any personal email addresses.

Suggestion to hire a drone to cover races to take areal pictures of races to create a promotional video that can then be used as publicity for all clubs. DM will look into it.

- **David Thompson**

David informed everyone that he is stepping down and replacement tutor and assessor is needed within the WSRA, although he is still willing to help clubs it will be in an unofficial position.

The WSRA committee and all clubs would like to extend a very big thank you to David for his dedication, help and support over the years.

- **Beumaris & Aberaeron** – Coaching courses

It was suggested to try find out from British Rowing direct about coaching courses or find out how the Pilot Gigs have them. WPI suggested going direct to British rowing rather than Welsh rowing for courses. It was explained that Sport Wales will only deal with Welsh Rowing as a governing body for clubs to receive grant funding not WSRA. CT said there appeared to be pressure on Welsh Rowing from

above. Sport Wales are focussing on community based organisations. It was stated that WSRA are in a better position than WR on size and numbers. NB explained about the situation Shropshire RC had when they entered a race organised by British Rowing – BR would not recognise them. He will ask WR about this as it is believed that clubs affiliated to the WSRA, who as an association affiliate to WR who supposedly come under the umbrella of BR.

It was said that the two gaining their coaching qualification have been let down by WR and cannot move forward. DT explained that First for sport approve the coaching courses not BR and explained the route to be a coach/assessor. It was stated that most rowers are self-taught and share information etc. Wisemans and Llanion suggested having an unofficial day to share tips and information – no coaching qualification would be given.

- **Porthmadog** – North/South league races

Porthmadog stated that they felt the discrepancy had been addressed this year regards sufficient race events in the North league. Porthmadog have been helping Pwllheli and Conwy clubs. They are happy to assist opening pathways and links between clubs. CC stated that she doesn't hear a great deal from the northern clubs.

- **Cardiff Bay celebrations**

NB explained that the WSRA had been approached by a company called 'Walk the plan' who specialise in large events. The WSRA has been asked to be involved in the Millennium celebrations in September. It will involve a parade of about 25+ Celtics carrying flags. It will be run over a weekend, with camping and catering covered by the organisers. More info and details will be sent out as soon as they are available.

- **AOB**

- Race day workshop – agreed that workshops should be run every other year as opposed to every year. Carried
- New Trophies – end of season trophies need to be updated/upgraded. Carried
- There was a request from Scotland to loan a Celtic longboat to try a 'proper racing boat'. DT has links with clubs in Scotland and will invite them down to participate in a weekend event.
- Supa vets age – Suggested that minimum age of 50 should be introduced to be in the supa vets category – Voted against this. Llanion explained the age limit stated 40 on the WSRA website. Some clubs were unaware of this. Supa Vets appeared to be – combined age of 4 rowers to total 200 with a minimum age of 40. This discussion was then returned upon – to scrap the minimum age of 40 and to simply have the age of all 4 rowers totalling 200 as some clubs struggle to achieve this.
- Change minimum age of coxes in races – NT suggested to change this from 18 to 16 – majority vote agreed, carried. This is a club based choice to make informed decision on the suitability and ability of the cox on the day taking into consideration many aspects before making decision. Junior crews must still have a cox over 18.
- AC will carry on with DBS ID checks in the south until another member is found.
- Spares – Nigel usually carries a box of spares to race days. It was suggested to have other spares such as oars etc – not feasible at present due to lack of storage for WSRA equipment.

- **Date of next meeting**

April 2015 – date to be confirmed.