



**Cymdeithas Rhwyfo Mor Cymru  
Welsh Sea Rowing Association  
Executive Meeting Minutes  
23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016**

**Members Present**

Barry Davies, Sharon Davies, **Llanberis**, Andrew Richards, Dan McDermott, Simon Collins, **Wisemans**, Chris Harding, Phill Langston, **Llanion**, Brynonny Jones, Nicola Thomas, **Towy**, Jane Norris-Hill, Jane O'Connor, Mike Parkhurst, **Aberaeron**, Sue Edwards, Janet Holmes, Lindsey Jones, Joanne Osborne, **Neyland**, Paul Parsons, Tina Parsons, **Ynys Mon**, Charlie Martin, Ian Flounders, Carol Davies (*Membership sec*), **Llangrannog**, Hayley Morris, Samantha English, **Aberporth**, Elin Powell, Bethan Jones, **Caernarfon**, Tony Peters, Paul Fisher, **Barry**, Greg Miller, Emma Gent, Karl Webber, Stephen Harries, Mark Eagle, Sharron Kollins, **PYC**, Gerry Smith, R Aherne, Maggie Clarke, Jill Gloster (*CPO*), Richard Gloster, **Porthmadog**, Peter Reed, **Beumaris**, Tina Gorringe, **Llangwm/Neyland**, Justin Reynolds, Paul King, **SARC**, John Eddington, Dylan Evans (*Vice chair*), Ian Andrews **Aberdyfi**, Rhian Rees, Helen Peake, **Cardigan**, Pete Fletcher (*Treasurer*), **Newport**, Mike Miles (*H & S*), **Solva**, Wendy Price-Jones, Chrissy Canning (*Secretary*), Nigel Bowen (*Chair*), **New Quay**

**Apologies**

Danielle Milliner (Publicity) Pwllheli, Conwy, Tenby

**Agenda:**

**Minutes of the previous meeting**

It was agreed that the production of a booklet containing information on all aspects of rowing/racing which will be given to clubs at affiliation for the forthcoming season should go ahead.

All actions to be carried. Seconded by Nicola T, Towy.

**2016 Race Dates**

Dates provided and ratified. (See attachment)

***Discussions from 'Grey Areas' Paperwork***

**Points Allocation - Splitting Points:**

Discussion was held regarding the fact it must be decided prior to the race on the entry forms if points are to be split between clubs and how the points should split if not 50/50. It was stated that splitting points just made submission and entry of results more complicated and that point sharing should be scrapped.

Proposal: Chrissy C (Secretary) and Dylan E, Aberdyfi to scrap point sharing.

Seconded by Mike M, Solva – agreed by all.

**Penalties**

Chrissy confirmed that out of all the clubs emailed the 'grey areas' document only 5 responses had been received. Complaints had been received regarding host clubs not following race start procedure, Dangerous coxing, crashes, provision of food after races, and host clubs ignoring complaints. Also mentioned in the grey areas document was the lack of a fixed penalty structure.

Much discussion was had on this subject. It was confirmed that a penalty system was already in place but that there was inconsistency within the clubs on applying it and that it needed to be enforced across the board to be fair to all clubs. It was also noted that sometimes it is hard to enforce penalties as a result of incidents on the start line or at buoy turns due to a lack of evidence. It was suggested that more use of 'Go-Pros', being worn by coxes, might help with dispute decisions.

Proposal: Ian F, Llangranog: It was suggested that every boat length over the start line should deduct 1 place, i.e. 1 place per penalty (offence), unless it were safety related / dangerous incident, in which case a more severe penalty of multiple places should be applied.

On the occasion of a dispute where a loss of multiple places may be applied, this must be decided in liaison with the WSRA representative officer on the day. (This Officer should have been identified prior to any races commencing and could be made known to the racers in coxes briefing). A maximum of two representatives from each boat involved in the incident, one of which must be the cox, should join the WSRA Officer to discuss the incident and a form should be completed and signed by all present once a decision on the penalty has been made. This form should be sent to the WSRA secretary after the event to be filed.

Penalties to be applied to the race results by the host club, and the penalties made clear on the race results sheet sent back to the WSRA Secretary.

In the rare event that it is decided that there was intent to damage or harm, this will result in disqualification of that boat from the race.

Proposal seconded by Pete F (treasurer) – agreed by all.

**Action all clubs:** Every club should adopt this penalty approach for the next season – to be reviewed at the next AGM.

**Action WSRA Secretary:** Send copy of form to all clubs ready for race events.

Proposal: It was suggested by Elin P, Caernarfon that the WSRA keep a record of all clubs/crews who are repeat offenders and repeatedly incur penalties, to be reviewed at the end of the season by the WSRA committee.

This was seconded by Andrew R, Wisemans – Agreed by all.

**Action WSRA Secretary:** Start a file to record penalties incurred to be reviewed at the end of season.

### **Provision of Food**

All clubs should acknowledge their attendance at a race to the host club, by the Wednesday prior to the race day at the latest, in order for the host club to ensure they have adequate food/drink etc ordered. If clubs fail to notify host club and just turn up on the day, the host club may not be able to cater for them, and are within their rights not to do so.

### **Calculation of Points for Club Championships**

It was asked how this was decided and whether it was done purely on accumulated points over the season. It was confirmed that this was the case. It was felt by several members that this was not the fairest way to allocate the award as it will always go to the largest club who can enter the most boats, not necessarily to the clubs who have performed best in relation to the number of boats they have entered.

The following proposal was put forward by Chris H, Aberystwyth:

- Club championships become a two tier competition:
  - WSRA Cup (North, South, Joint)
  - WSRA Shield (North, South, Joint)
- For each regatta, a clubs best two results from each race category (Seniors, Ladies, Mixed & Juniors) count toward to WSRA cup
- All other results go towards the WSRA shield

Seconded by Ian F, Llangrannog. Agreed by all.

All clubs must have the joint league races in their final 7, they cannot choose to drop any of these three. Having the joint league unifies the clubs, and the overall winner takes place of 'best in Wales' rather than just in a region.

### **Junior Rowers**

It was agreed at a previous meeting that no Under 14s juniors should race competitively and that they should only be permitted to enter a participation event with a distance of approx ½ to ¾ mile. In previous years it had been left to the discretion of the juniors' club to decide whether they were big/strong enough to row in an Under 16s event but these new rules stopped that. Nigel B (chairman) felt that clubs have suffered as a result of this and junior numbers have dropped. Nigel proposed that as soon as a child reaches their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday they be permitted to race in the Under 16s race. Seconded by Elin P, Caernarfon. Agreed by all.

Juniors should be permitted and encouraged to come rowing from the age of 11. They must be a minimum age of 11 at the beginning of the season.

It was confirmed that from an Insurance perspective, we are covered for children from the age of 3 right up to adults to the age of 80, so insurance was not an issue.

### **Grab Bags**

Nigel reminded everyone that it was an expectation that every boat should take out a grab bag containing (see website) every time they went out. The VHF radio should be strapped to the cox's life vest, which the cox must wear on every outing. Mobile phones can also be taken as a back-up to the radio, but not as an alternative to the VHF, it was noted that in some areas VHF coverage is not as good as the mobile phone network. It was also mentioned that a licence is required for a VHF radio unless a person in the club has completed a VHF radio course.