



Executive Meeting Minutes, Saturday 27th January 2018, St Anne's Church Hall, Aberystwyth

Members Present

Dave Reynolds (webmaster/publicity), **Borth**; Richard Gloster (Northern Rep), Jill Gloster (CPO), **Porthmadog**; Tina Parsons (Secretary), **Ynys Mon**; Sam English (Training Officer), **Aberporth**; Jane O'Connor (Mid Rep), **Aberaeron**; Andrew Richards (Chairman) Neil Cross (Vice Chairman), **Wisemans Bridge**; Pete Fletcher (Treasurer), **Newport**; Chris Haines (Race Officer), **Aberystwyth**

Apologies

Andy Cox, Aberystwyth; Nic Thomas (Southern Rep), Jac Davies, Towy; Carol Davies (Membership Secretary) Llangrannog.

Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed to be a true reflection of events.
First proposer Jill G, seconded by Chris H.

Matters Arising

Dave R has spoken to the RNLI about the Man Overboard Courses, they have advised that clubs should contact their local RNLI directly to discuss MOB or any other courses, and that this was to be encouraged.

Coastal Scull Recognition in League Events

Sculls had competed in a lot of league races this season and because they were not actually competing for league trophies, at the presentation at the end of races they very rarely even got a mention. Coastal Sculling squad members had asked that clubs start to show some recognition in the presentation at the end as they were making the effort to turn up and row hard. The Welsh Coastal Sculling has its own league tables and all these races count towards those final results, but it would mean a lot to the competitors to have that recognition on the day of the race.

Action: Secretary to bring this to the attention of all clubs for the following season and also to ask who has coastal sculls, to gauge the number of sculls out there that potentially could race at league events in future.

Potential Bulk Purchase of Oars by WSRA for league Discounts

Andrew R had previously approached Croker UK for price, but they failed to respond. Aberystwyth had a price off them last year and attempted to place an order but had been unsuccessful ever since. A new supplier had taken over in the UK, but nobody seemed to be able to progress any orders with them. Dale is able to retail the oars, but at full price. Sam has contact details for the daughter of Croker over in Australia, this may be the best route to take to get a bulk buy discount. If we can get a discounted quote, we can make the offer to the league to ask who wants a set and clubs can order in advance so that the league is not actually footing the bill for the purchase. The WSRA holding a set in reserve was also discussed, however as this would require WSRA expenditure again, it would need to be agreed at an AGM or EGM

Action: Sam E to provide the contact details to Chris H so he can make enquiries regarding the cost of a bulk purchase.

Mid Region Representative

The Committee co-opted the Mid Region Representative into position. It was suggested that a resolution for a change to the constitution be made at the next AGM in Jan 2019, to include the positions of Mid Region Representative and the Vice Chairman.

Action: Secretary to put this item on the AGM agenda for next January 2019.

Club non-attendance at the Mandatory Workshop

It was noted that two clubs who had put race dates forward in the calendar this year had not attended the mandatory workshop. After discussion it was decided that the most appropriate course of action, rather than not permitting the races to go ahead, would be to insist that an individual from another club who had attended the workshop to co-host at these races, to ensure that any learning was cascaded and that the relevant support was available. This person should be nominated by the host club, and the committee be made aware of who it was going to be, it could even be a WSRA Committee member to support them if they wished.

Action: Race Officer to speak with both clubs concerned to inform them of the arrangement which needs to be put in place. Confirmation of the relevant co-hosting person to be confirmed to the Race Officer one month prior to the race event being held, to ensure there is sufficient time to cancel the event if this arrangement cannot be utilised.

Celtic Longboat Hire

The Celtic Longboat is currently in demand and once back from Langstone, Beaumaris had requested to use it again in March for some early races, then a new club in Port Eynon, that hopes to affiliate for the 2018 season, is pencilled in to have it in April/May, followed by potentially another new club in Bala for June/July. This is all subject to their completion and submission of all the relevant affiliation paperwork.

Sam E was concerned that if Port Eynon as a new club only had it for an initial 8 weeks, before it had to be passed on to another new club, they would be left with no boat as they weren't in a position to buy a new one. Neil C said that Wisemans may have a boat which they would be able to hire out, also Chris H said that Aberystwyth may possibly have a boat to either hire or sell.

WSRA Stance on VHF Radios

During the workshop earlier in the day the subject of VHF radios was discussed.

You as a club are responsible for your own boat and its crew regardless of whether it is a league race and whether there are safety boats or not.

The WSRA cannot enforce the use of VHF radios, nor enforce VHF radio training. We can only advise that all coxes be competent in the use of VHF radios and that safety boats should be clearly briefed prior to any race regarding expectations, signalling, call signs etc.

The WSRA will try to incorporate the importance of this into any coxes training.

It is WSRA's recommendation that clubs carry VHF radios even in league events. As usual if a host club wishes to make this mandatory for their own race events, they must notify the competitors of the requirement in the Race Poster and pre race information.

Sam E will be putting together a lessons learned from an event which happened in the 2017 season and will incorporate something into the slides from the morning workshop brainstorming session, which will be posted on the WSRA Facebook.

AOB

Roy E provided very positive feedback from Langstone harbour who are currently loaning the Celtic Longboat. Two other clubs had already been over to take a look at it and were also showing an interest. Roy stated that he had been told that Steve from Langstone had been very impressed by how helpful and professional everyone he had dealt with from the WSRA had been. This had been a really good advertisement for the WSRA, and for increasing interest in Longboats outside of Wales.

Simon C asked whether there was a reduced affiliation rate available for some new rowers he had trying out the sport at present. It was confirmed that there was not a rolling fee, nor a pro-rata arrangement, and that if they wished to row until 31st March they would need to pay the full £12 affiliation, and then re-affiliate for 1st April for the next financial year at the new rate of £15 per head.

The Secretary encouraged clubs to enter Pembrokeshire Longboats in the Great River Race if they have them, as this category only had 2 competitors last year and if it doesn't get supported it may well be lost.

Date of Next Meeting

March/April TBC