

## **Minutes of WSRA Executive Meeting Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

**Members present:** Helen Stewart (Chair) - Llangwm, Jasmine Sharp (Secretary) - Aberystwyth, Pete Fletcher – Newport, Andy Cox – Aberystwth, Mike Miles – Solva, Phil Blackwood – Llangrannog, Andy Mayer – Aberporth, Oliver Box – Aberporth, Roger Merry – Aberaeron.

### **Apologies**

Porthmadog, Aberdyfi, Jayne Brooks, Jamie Brooks, Dave Rice.

### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record of the previous meeting.

### **Matters arising**

*Boat contract* – Mike Miles reported that all advances on getting a new boat contract have stopped until a decision has been made regarding buoyancy. A discussion followed regarding testing buoyancy and stability of longboats. Mike will liaise with Andy Cox regarding using an Aberystwyth boat for this. A discussion of the performance of Dale Sailing also followed.

*Rules and Health & Safety* – It was agreed that Andy Cox will liaise with Jayne Brooks to get rules and health & safety information online.

### **Yole Racing Calendar**

HS offered congratulations to all rowers who competed at the World Offshore Rowing Championships 2009 in Plymouth.

Andy Cox read out a proposal by Dave Rice regarding a series of yole races to be held next year under the auspices of the WSRA. Andy Cox proposed that this be supported by the WSRA. Mike Miles seconded. Unanimous decisions to support proposal such that dates will be allocated at the AGM.

### **Milford Haven Port Authority (MHPA) proposition**

HS has met with MHPA. MHPA are running a project next year which involves spending £10k in each county. MHPA want to run a rowing event similar to Ocean to City. MHPA will organise all the associated publicity and marketing. Pete asked if someone would be required to organise it. HS reported that someone would be paid to do it, but that MHPA wanted the event to finish in Cardigan. Mike Miles suggested that the only location that isn't highly weather dependent is the Cleddau, and that the event would require separate insurance to our event insurance. AC suggested that WARA could be involved. Pete Fletcher suggested the event could be a revamp of the Return of the Cleddau. HS will meet with the MHPA to ask them to set up a committee and invite us to find out more details.

### **Reports from WARA committees**

AC reported that WSRA can have a representative at all committees and asked if the following are still active:

International – Cath Havard; Development & Coaching – Helen Stewart & Simon Pendrell; Events – Maggie Collingborn.

MM has previously volunteered to attend the finance sub-committee. AC will find out whether this is

still running.

### **Welsh open regatta**

AC reported that this is not the Head of the Taff, but a separate race to be held in Cardiff Bay. WARA want us to be involved and will run the race if we design it. Proposed date is the 8<sup>th</sup> May (Saturday). AC proposed a Joint League event comprising a 30-35 minute triangular course. Entry fee would be capped to £4.50 per head. AC will ask WARA to firm up the date and bring it to the AGM.

### **WSRA funds**

Jasmine read out a report from Jayne.

MM reported that we needed to set some money aside for a new mould in the near future. Suggested £10k.

Andy Meyer (Aberporth) asked if the WSRA ever lent out money to clubs. HS said no. PF thought this suggestion would be better than a league boat. AC suggested a league boat could be rented out. A discussion ensued. MM suggested this would be risk-free money-wise.

JS suggested sending Alun Steadman on a higher level coaching course. HS suggested we also approach WARA.

JS read out a proposal from Dave Rice regarding purchasing yoles for the league. HS said that we should et more use out of the boats held in Cardiff. HS will contact Dave Thompson about using these boats.

AC suggested buying a league safety boat. HS suggested that this would be difficult logisitcally.

JS will send out an email asking for further proposals to discuss at the AGM.

### **Coaching**

Simon Pendrell is trying to organise a course in the North. 8-12 people are required, and there are currently not enough people. October course canceled until after Christmas.

### **AOB**

JS read out an email from Jayne:

*Current bank balance £18k – (we should keep some of this in reserve for contingencies).*

*Current member numbers*

*Adults 530 – slightly up (10) on last year's closing numbers and new recruits are still being registered by some clubs*

*Juniors 75 – down on last year by approx 20.*

*26 affiliated clubs – 2 more than last year so would have been nice to see an overall increase in member numbers.*

*Increase in Novices this year from 20 to 32.*

*Overall income from affiliation and personal membership levies over 10K for the year to date.*

Aberporth are now affiliated – discussion ensued about levy as club joined after end of racing season. AC proposed that member levy be made ½ price for this season. Seconded by PF. Unanimously carried.

HS asked JS to ask for race dates to bring to AGM. Clubs running a race need to submit a risk assessment and to send a representative to the events course in 2010.

Phil Blackwood asked if information regarding fundraising could be made more available. AC will put on web.

PF asked if a surfboat would be automatically covered by WSRA insurance. MM said no we wouldn't because the WSRA has no expertise in the area. AC suggested that it could be affiliated to the surfboat association in Perrenporth. Discussion ensued.

Phil Blackwood had a query regarding the Celtic Challenge. Referred to AC.

AC will propose a motion at the AGM regarding overhauling the points system in the league.

*Meeting closed at 20.42.*

*Next meeting: AGM 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010 7.30pm. Aberystwyth Rowing Club.*