

**Minutes of the General Meeting held at the RNLI Support Centre, Wadebridge, Cornwall.
Sunday 25th November 2007**

AGENDA ITEMS

Attended by:

Andy Cox, Cris Ballinger, Gary Walters, Braden Collins, Nick Healey, John Richards, Emma Gaisford, Phil Martin, Dan Berriman, Andrew Smith, Peter Gaisford, Richard Meadmore, Corinne Meadmore Berset, Jon Williams, Nick Beringer, Steve Instance.

The meeting opened at 15:21hrs

1. Apologies

Louise Gapp, Simon Elsy, Jane Mansfield, Alan Richards

2. Minutes of the previous UKSRL General Meeting held on 19th November 2006

The minutes of the previous UKSRL general meeting were agreed and signed as a true and correct record.

Proposed: J. Williams
Seconded: P. Martin

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

4. Ocean Thunder Europe

R. Meadmore representing OTE, gave members an update as to the current status of the proposed OTE event and the ESRF Open event. An enormous amount of work has gone into securing the venue in Biarritz on the 5th and 6th Sept 2008. The proposed event is now at a critical stage requiring confirmed financial commitment from sponsors and crew participation from Australia and Europe. The date of the 31st January is to be the date by which time OTE will decide to proceed or cancel the event.

5. UKSRL Pointscore review

P. Gaisford informed the meeting that through the 2007 Summer Series event, crews had questioned the fairness of the current pointscore system and that by relying on the heat draws it did not promote high level racing between the better crews. Twickenham RC had submitted an alternative pointscore system which members felt would be too complicated and with the increased number of races would require too much time to complete. D. Berriman presented an alternative whereby crews would secure points from 1st place to 6th place. Crews would also receive 15pts upon starting in their first race as an incentive to attend. No extra start points to be given for the additional races. The top six crews on points after 3 races would then race in a final for a "golden" point, thus preventing too greater gap developing between the leading crews and the rest of the crews as they progress over the five events and amass an overall pointscore.

It was also suggested that prior to the final, the crew with the highest points would select their preferred lane for the final and so on down to the 6th highest scored points. This would give added incentive for the crews to race the 3 earlier races.

Members agreed to the pointscore changes for the Summer Series in 2008 put forward by D.Berriman

Proposed: E. Gaisford
Seconded: J. Williams

6. UKSRL 2006 Rule Book changes

P. Gaisford highlighted some errors and anomalies in the current UKSRL rule book and advised the following amendments and changes for the 2008 UKSRL Rule Book.

To now read:-

Rule 1.3 Entry and Entry Fees

vi) rowers who do NOT hold a recognised RLSS, SLSA GB or ILS lifesaving qualification, must perform a 200m pool swim (no time limit) to be assessed by their club official or club coach prior to competing in UKSRL events.

Rule 7.1 UKSRL pointscore Summer Series
See item 5 above

Rule 8.1 The Course

ii) The boat buoys or turning marks shall be of distinctive colours in the following order from left to right - No 1, Red; No. 2 Green; No 3 Blue; No 4 White; No 5 Purple; No 6 Yellow. The buoys shall be secured by short lengths of rope, 23m apart on a mooring line of 250m length from anchor to anchor (for a set of 6 buoys).

Rule 8.4 Racing Conditions

iii) To complete the race a boat must be in an upright position as the boat crosses the finishing line from the seaward side under control and properly equipped. If a boat rolls over on the return journey to the beach, the crew will be disqualified from the race.

Note 1. "Under Control" is defined as a boat being in an upright position with a crew of at least three members and in contact with the boat, and the boat moving in a direction towards the finish line.

Note 2. "Properly equipped" is defined as a boat equipped with a rescue tube, a minimum of three oars or two oars and a sweep oar which shall be in the boat or in the rowlocks, and controlled by a crew of at least three members.

Note 3. "Once a boat crosses the finishing line or has beached, whether or not it is under control and properly equipped, it is deemed to have completed the race. A boat cannot be taken back into the course to be then controlled and/or properly equipped in order to cross the finishing line again.

7. Rename UKSRL Summer Series to UKSRL Surfboat Premiership

P. Gaisford advised members that as we hold a UKSRL Championship we should consider changing the title "Summer Series" to "Premiership", to fit in with the football analogy which would make it easier to explain the two different events to sponsors etc. E. Gaisford proposed that the title UKSRL "Grand Prix" would be a better alternative. N Beringer put forward an amendment for the title to remain as it is "The UKSRL Summer Series". A vote was taken and members agreed to keep the current title The UKSRL Summer Series.

8. 2008 Event Calendar, venues and Dates

Members agreed to lengthen the season by having the first UKSRL Summer Series event in May and the final event in mid to late September. Due to the number of crews participating, members felt that an evening event was no longer viable. Agreed to hold the events on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon depending on the venues and to hold 1 x Wales, 1 x Bournemouth, 1 x Devon, 2 x Cornwall dates and venues to follow.

9. UKSRL Open Surfboat Championships 2008

The venue will be Saunton Sands, N Devon on Saturday 26th July 2008.
High tide is at 12.03pm so the event will require a 9am start.

10. AOB

i) G. Walters asked if we could find a better start sound than the horn as it was difficult to hear if upwind from the starter. He also advised whether the UKSRL could invest in a small GPS distance finder in order to set the turning buoys at an agreed distance from the beach and to set buoys No1 and No6 the same distance from the beach to keep the course fair.

ii) A. Smith asked for S. Instance of the RNLI to accept a vote of thanks on behalf of the meeting for allowing members to use the RNLI facilities at Wadebridge.

Meeting closed at 16:28pm