

MINUTES

Minutes of the General Meeting held at the RNLI Support Centre, Perranporth , Cornwall.
Sunday 20th November 2011

AGENDA ITEMS

Attended by:

Nick Beringer - President, Louise Gapp - Chair, Dan Berriman, Peter Gaisford, John White, Gary Walters, Cris Ballinger, Amanda Pilgrim, Kate Roberts, Sarah Clarke, Kim Marie Clothier, Ian Knowles, Rebecca Lloyd King, Andy Cox, Ed Hartgill

The meeting opened at 13:50 hrs

1. Apologies

Jane Mansfield, Emma Gaisford, Gethin Edwards, Lowenna Bradley, Pete Postle, Phil Matrin, Mike Lord, Ellis Hagger, Nick Healey, Phil Martin

2. Minutes of the previous UKSRL Management Meeting held on 27th March 2011

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

A question was raised about the learn to sweep DVD. PG responded that he had been advised that the DVD concentrated primarily on safety and did not contain the Sweep technical skills. There is a 2nd DVD coming out and PG will keep an eye out for this.

4. 2012 UKSRL calendar

The venues used for 2011 were discussed. Points raised included:

- i) Concerns about Widemouth Bay were raised due to its stoney beach and the conditions this year. Additionally, as safety cover and vehicle access could not be provided until the end of the day it made it a difficult venue.
- ii) A suggestion was made that an alternate venue for Saunton be found, so that the venue is not used twice in a year – parking and other costs are high.
- iii) It was important to maintain a venue in Wales and in North Devon.
- iv) A suggestion was made to reduce the 2012 summer league to 4 events due to the Olympics.

It was agreed that the committee would attempt to secure a 5 event summer league as follows:

UKSRL Summer Series 2011

Round 1 – 19th May – Poppit Sands, West Wales
Round 2 - 23rd June – Portreath, Cornwall
Round 3 – 14th July - Watergate Bay, Cornwall
Round 4 – 15th September Westward Ho, N Devon
Round 5 – 29th September – Bournemouth

Points System

A draft document was presented by Dan Berriman that detailed the proposed changes to the points system – this is a major review. The intention is to encourage participation and good competition. The points system proposes:

- i) Removing the turning up points – this will mean that a crew who cannot attend one regatta will not be put off from continuing to contest the league despite missing a round.
- ii) Awarding points based on the number of competitors. For a heat with 5 boats, the winner will be awarded 5 points, 2nd place 4 points and so on. A heat with 4 boats, the winner will be awarded 4 points, 2nd place 3 points and so on.
- iii) Those points will be added up and will translate into a position table for the Round. The crew with the most points after the heats are complete will be awarded points equivalent to the number of competitors. 9 crews = 1st place is 9 points.
- iv) The golden point race enables a final point to be awarded to the winning crew.

A discussion followed the explanation.

- a) Concern was raised that where there were an uneven number of competitors, the best crew could be in the draw with the lower number of crews and so be beaten or equalled by crews that were not so good.
- b) A suggestion was made that there should be a lower limit on the points so that e.g. a winner could secure a minimum of 5 points even if only 3 crews showed. This was to ensure that if word got out that a few crews could not attend there would still be incentive for others to show. If a crew is only racing for 2 or 3 points, they may decide not to attend either.

It was agreed that clubs would take the proposal away and discuss with their members, with a final decision on points to be made at the March 2012 meeting. Suggestions on alterations to the scheme can be emailed to Dan Berriman.

5. UKSRL Open Surfboat Championship 2012

Saunton Sands is the venue for the Open Surfboat Championship on 28 July 2012.

6. Queens Diamond Jubilee Pageant 2012 (surfboats on the Thames)

PG referred to the letter from the Australian High Commissioner's office. The UKSRL has agreed to assist in sourcing 9 surfboats for this event on 3 June 2012. The UK surfboat clubs will receive a letter asking them to indicate their commitment to providing a boat, a sweep and a driver. This will be followed up by a requirement for a firm commitment in due course. There is a payment of £1500 per boat inclusive of towage, fuel and accommodation; Twickenham RC to receive £500 (due to the close proximity to the London venue) to cover the costs of getting the boat and people to London. This will be paid to the UKSRL by the High Commissioners office in April 2012. Payment to the clubs with boats being used will be issued 14 days after the event.

It was proposed by the Chairman that the UKSRL retain 10% of each fee payable to cover the costs of extensive preparatory work that has been necessary to generate this opportunity and the possibility of a windfall for successful clubs.

Proposed: Louise Gapp
 Seconded: Ed Hartgill
 Carried.

Nick Berringer explained that the boats will need to be free of all markings including sponsorship and club names. A separate exercise to prepare low tack vinyl strips to cover the majority of sponsorship on boats and this will be paid for separately by the Australian High Commission. This will not include transom markings and the clubs will need to cover that. Nick is able to assist in signposting clubs to appropriate suppliers.

The boats will be insured by the Australians, and rowed by Australian rowers with 3 years experience.

7. ESRF European Surfboat Championships 2011

The European Surfboat Championships 2011 were held at Soulac Sur Mer. PG noted that the hospitality was superb, the logistics good and one of the better events that he had experienced in France.

Due to the talk of an Ocean Thunder event in Biarritz in 2013, it was agreed that a UK venue for the Championships be held for 2012. Perranporth SLSC approached the UKSRL as they wished to host the event on the same weekend as the 25th anniversary of their Surf Challenge Triathlon. The European Surfboat Championship will therefore take place on 1st September 2012 at Perranporth. Consideration is being given as to an appropriate back up venue. Consideration is being given as to whether we can arrange for 2 days of racing by the addition of another international event. Discussions are ongoing.

8. Surf Sports – Sport England

The letter from Surf Life Saving GB to the Chief Executive of Sport England was circulated to the meeting. PG explained the aim of SLSGB is to give those surf based sports / pastimes a greater voice when accessing Sport England finance and support. A forum is being developed to be a web portal to the sports organisations, including UKSRL, to funding or other opportunities. UKSRL is supporting this work and going along with it for the time being. A member expressed a cautionary note concerning the potential for over regulation of surf sports through closer integration.

9. AOB

- i) IK asked whether opportunities for demo events had been explored, with a view to growing the membership e.g. demo events at Boardmasters. Clubs can pursue this if they wish.
- ii) EH noted the potential for participation in the Rescue 2012 event in Adelaide in November 2012, an opportunity to get European surf boat crews racing in Australia. It was agreed that any club with an interested crew contact Ed Hartgill / Porthtowan SLSC. If there were incomplete crews, then there could be scope for composite crews. EH to explore whether this is the best event to attend or whether there were other opportunities for crews to race elsewhere in Australia around the same time.

Date of next Management meeting 11 March 2012

Meeting closed at 16.40.