

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
THE BRITISH WATER SKI & WAKEBOARD FEDERATION LIMITED HELD ON  
SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025 AT THE QUEENS CLUB, LONDON**

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**PRESENT**

Honorary President

Lord Moynihan

BWSW Board Members

Messrs. Martin Winter (BWSW Chair), Steve Sopp (Vice Chair and Honorary Member), Patrick Donovan (CEO & Company Secretary), Margaret Curtis, Andrew Phillips and Anny Wooldridge.

Advisory Council Members

Messrs. Rod Beattie, Nicky Caine (Honorary Member), Claire Ellis and James Timothy.

Former BWSW Chairmen

Messrs. Andy Harris.

BWSW Staff Members

Keir Boissevain (Business Development), Kylie Cooper (Operations Manager), Liz Robinson (Membership Services), Jane Peel (Head of Communications) and Cathy Hughes (EDI Lead).

Voting Clubs Represented by Proxy

Access Adventures	Claire Ellis
Bluebird Deaf Water Ski Club	Simon Wooldridge
Charnwood Waterski and Wakeboard Club	Chair of the Meeting
Chichester Water Ski Club	Chair of the Meeting
Cirencester Water Ski Club	Colin Slater
CJM	Ryan Thayne
Cotswold Water Ski Club	Margaret Curtis
Eastern Rivers Water Ski Club	Simon Wooldridge
Hazelwood Ski World	Gavin Kelly
Langstone Harbour	Richard Hands-Heart
Loch Lomond Water Ski Club	Chair of the Meeting
Merlin Brae Water Ski Club	Chair of the Meeting
Rickmansworth Water Ski Club	James Timothy
Rock Sailing and Water Ski Club	Chair of the Meeting
Theale Water Ski Club	Chair of the Meeting
The Waterski Academy	Lucy Carrington
White Rose Water Ski Club	Simon Waring
Wiremill Water Ski Club	Steve Sopp
WWS National Training Site (Scotland)	Chair of the Meeting

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Michael Lock (board Member), Jeremy Nevill (Chair Boat Wakeboard), Paule Cole (Honorary Member), Andy Dyne (Boughton Lodge), Liz Hobbs MBE (Chair Lascelles Grants Panel), Katie Penn (BWSW Finance Manager), Shelley Meyern (board elections candidate), Chichester Water Ski Club, Loch Lomond Water Ski Club, Theale Water Ski Club, WWS National Training Site (Scotland), Merlin Brae, Richard Mattos (Rock Water Ski & Sailing Club), Nick McGarry (The Waterski Academy), Mandy Rix (Hunstanton Water Ski Club and Honorary Member) and Sarah Wassell (BWSW Lead Safeguarding Officer).

## **MEETING OPENED**

Patrick Donovan, CEO commenced the proceedings by welcoming everyone to what was the 74<sup>th</sup> AGM, the organisation originally founded in 1951 and introduced the BWSW Chair, Martin Winter.

## **INTRODUCTIONS OF THOSE PRESENT & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Honorary President, the board members, staff members present, and he also welcomed all the many visitors, a former BWSW Chair, Honorary Members and club/centre delegates together with representatives of the Advisory Council. He outlined the time and commitment everyone was giving to help the sport survive and thrive both at grassroots level and on the international stage. The work of volunteers was very much praised, recognising the contribution and achievements at club level and across the disciplines. As always governance was a key area of work within the organisation, the challenges of the current grant funding cycle were outlined and the tough landscape in terms of the cost of living impact on participation in the wider sport.

The Chair introduced our Honorary President Lord Moynihan outlined that he felt it was a privilege to act as President and that he was happy to offer his support where he could.

A note of thanks to board member Margaret Curtis for her work and input, she would be standing down from today and retiring.

All present then observed a moment of silence in memory of the friends from within the sport who had sadly passed away during the year. Friends lost during the year were:

Audrey Collins (Waterski Official), Barry Odell (former staff member, Waterski Official, former Committee and Advisory Council member), Thomas Ludwig (German Federation), Franz Kuhn (Former E&A President) and Anthony Mattock (Wiremill Water Ski Club member).

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2024 AGM**

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Already proposed, seconded by Gavin Kelly (Hazelwood Ski World voting proxy), the minutes were unanimously approved by the Full Member voting delegates present.

## **SPECIAL RESOLUTION**

1) That Martin Winter, who stands down and offers himself for re-election be re-appointed as a director of the Company for a period of up to one year in accordance with article 36.2.

The Chair outlined the relevant article together with the 75% of votes required to pass any Special Resolution and the current maximum limit on board tenure. Already proposed and seconded by Colin Slater (Cirencester Water Ski Club) the proposal was unanimously approved.

2) That Steve Sopp, who stands down and offers himself for re-election be re-appointed as a director of the Company for a period of up to one year in accordance with article 36.2.

Already proposed and seconded by Gavin Kelly (Hazelwood Ski World voting proxy) the proposal was unanimously approved.

3) That the Articles be amended by deleting "Racing" from the definition of "Discipline".

4) That the following be added to article 34.1 after "Wales"

“and one representative appointed collectively by those commercial cable operators who are accredited by the Federation.”

The Chair outlined the rationale and the above minor amendments to the Articles behind these two special resolutions and the 75% of votes required to pass any such special resolution. Already proposed and seconded the Special Resolution was passed unanimously.

## **ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS**

### **ADOPTION OF THE 2024 ANNUAL REPORT OF BRITISH WATER SKI & WAKEBOARD**

#### **a) Chair's Report**

The Chair outlined some of the activity of the season to include the very hard work of our small staff team, the appointment of our new Lead Safeguarding Officer and their strong approach to achieving safeguarding compliance standards with the Child Protection in Sport Unit. He further highlighted the work and successes on communications by Jane Peel and Anny Wooldridge on social media outreach. Development programmes were outlined to include projects in partnership with special schools, provision of adaptive equipment, disability coaching sessions, inclusion workshops to share knowledge and learning and an improved female participation offer and positive examples of take up. He thanked the clubs and centres that were supporting this work which was also important from a targets perspective as part of our commitments to Sport England in improving access and reducing barriers to access to our sport.

The Chair further highlighted the medal haul at some of the international titled events to include 55 medals with particular achievements by the Barefoot and Waterski discipline to include Joel Poland with 7 World records to date, not to mention Will Asher's significant career achievements ongoing. Furthermore, GB had hosted the E&A Cable Wakeboard European Championships at Whitemills, which had proved to be a well attended, well organised and enjoyable event.

The challenges facing the sport were also outlined to include membership, which was primarily sourced from boat activity, the need to tap into the pay and play market and to promote diversity across the leadership within the wider sport. This included a greater input of young people and improved female inclusion. Membership remained a challenge though this was not unique just to our particular sport; churn, retention and reach were all part of the membership issue.

He further outlined board recruitment, the requirement to have 25% minimum Independent Directors as part of the board makeup, the criteria required and the need for the organisation to be ambitious in its outlook and strategy for the sport.

The Chair thanked the HQ staff for their hard work in dealing with the challenges, together with our Head of Communications / Editor, Social Media Coordinator and our designer. He thanked the Board for their continued support during the year and noted the very hard work of our CEO and staff team in maintaining the very diverse and pressurised operations of our HQ.

#### **b) Finance Report**

Andy Phillips outlined that the financial report and audited accounts related to the 2023/24 financial year ending on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

At the end of the financial year the summary outcome was detailed as follows in relation to the organisation's core general activities:

The Company had income of £664,397 (2024: £651,467) from 'General' activities which resulted in a deficit of £29,093 (2024: deficit £26,648). Included within general activities are non-cash depreciation charges of £9,189 (2024: £9,279). Therefore, before non-cash charges there is a cash deficit on general activities of £19,904 (2024: deficit £17,369).

Income from 'General' activities includes:

- Membership of £280,232 (2024: £286,581);
- Sport England funding of £248,344, (2024: £249,767);
- Coaching and Driving income of £72,359 (2024: £56,687); and,
- Various other incomes of £63,462 (2024: £58,432)

Andy further outlined the main expenditure of the organisation, staffing, overhead / establishment costs, insurance, development programmes and discipline expenditure being the key areas. He furthermore outlined the balance sheet position, in terms of the additional restricted funds available for specific purposes, principally supporting the activities of the disciplines in terms of youth development and athlete support.

In any particular year, BWSW is a circa £650k to £750k turnover business, with Sport England funding over the five year cycle of £1.24m which focuses on tackling inequalities by way of barriers to access sport and improving diversity across the sport. Self-generated income from membership, qualifications and the activities of the disciplines provide the other major income streams were outlined. The typical expenditure of the organisation was further highlighted to include the activities of the disciplines, back office costs, insurance and staffing costs in addition to core development programmes.

Having well developed self-generated income streams helped to reduce over-reliance on grant income, and with a broadly typical 35 to 40% split in any particular year regarding grant funding in comparison with self-generated income, this was a relatively healthy position for a not-for-profit sports governing body. Core cost support (back office admin and establishment costs) was highlighted with funding providing typically 25% of support and BWSW income supporting 75% of this operating cost area.

The financial challenges were outlined in that public funding was increasingly competitive, flat funding without indexing at a time of high inflation, access to funding was subject to eligibility and policy change and of course meeting 'payment by results' targets. In terms of self-generated income, capture points for membership / customer acquisition were key, demonstrating value as well as providing products and services with currency and recognition. A challenge was operating service delivery on a slim resource set against a backdrop of inflationary pressures in an environment of an increasing burden of compliance.

Finally, it was reported that overall as a business, the governing body remained financially sound with a robust balance sheet, good cash flow and appropriate reserve funds to buffer the seasonal nature of the business.

#### **Adoption of the Annual Report and Approval of the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024 & To authorise the appointment of Menzies as the auditors for the current financial year and to fix their remuneration**

It was outlined that the experience of working with the current auditors was excellent and that their fees were competitive. Already proposed and seconded, the re-appointment of Menzies was unanimously approved by the voting members present.

Already proposed the adoption of the Annual Report to include the audited accounts, was seconded and unanimously approved by the voting members present.

#### **AFFILIATION FEES & MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

It was highlighted that the club liability scheme for voluntary clubs was still under review, a market increase was anticipated in what was a hardened insurance market, with BWSW aiming to achieve a

reasonable rate for our affiliates covered by the scheme. A nominal increase to club affiliation fees was outlined from £115 to £120 per annum.

A planned inflationary increase on membership subscriptions was outlined within an environment of increasing operating cost pressures and increased personal accident insurance premium. He highlighted that the fees represented good value to members and that the subscriptions would assist BWSW to be an effective governing body to support the sport.

## **BOARD ELECTIONS**

The Chair outlined that board roles (apart from the CEO) were entirely voluntary, and each board member had given up a great deal of time during the year from their busy working week. Attendance records for each board member were provided for the attendees. Attendance had been extremely good overall and met the requirements of the Articles of Association.

The Chair thanked everyone for the very significant amount of time and input from the board members during the season, he very much appreciated their support.

The Chair reminded those present of the elections / board appointment procedure i.e. that each year one third of the directors (excluding the CEO) needed to stand down by rotation having completed a three year term and offer themselves for re-election (if they wished to re-stand). Michael Lock was re-standing following on from having completed an initial term, a note of thanks to Margaret Curtis who was standing down from the board due busy life and work commitments however, she would continue to be an active board member at her own club Cotswold Water Ski Club.

This year there were three vacancies and two candidates standing for election:

Michael Lock                Non-Independent

Shelley Meyern            Independent

Summary resumes for each candidate had been circulated prior to the meeting; the candidates introduced themselves (Shelley via a pre-recorded video) and highlighted the skills and experience they felt they brought to the role and their wish to be elected / re-elected. It was highlighted that with available places for all of the candidates standing, each candidate would require more than 50% of the votes cast at the meeting.

**Non-Independents Vote** – with one candidate standing for one available place, Michael Lock was elected by a unanimous vote.

**Independents Vote** – Shelley Meyern was elected by a unanimous vote.

The Chair congratulated the candidates and welcomed them to the board of directors and thanked all the candidates for their interest in continuing to support the sport at board level.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Lord Moynihan introduced this part of the meeting, reminiscing about his time as a youth when he skied at Heron Lake, he outlined the lengthy service of Steve Sopp and the current Chair and the need for succession planning. A successful Sport England strategy and meeting key objectives was also detailed as key to supporting the organisation's ambitions.

**The Lascelles Trophy Awards** – Harvey Coster (Waterski) was awarded the Junior trophy, Joel Poland (Waterski) was awarded the Lascelles Open Trophy with Steve Sopp highlighting the considerable achievements of both recipients.

**The Lascelles Fund Memorial Awards** – this year's recipients of grants from the legacy fund originally bequeathed by our former Honorary President received their awards to support their ongoing athlete development within the sport. Nicky Caine (Lascelles Grants Panel member) outlined the history of these memorial awards and ongoing aim to support young athletes. Today 20 young athletes were awarded a grant to support their continued involvement.

Nicky thanked those who had contributed to support the fund and encouraged others to donate to support the annual awards.

**Volunteer of the Year** – these presentations were outlined and it was highlighted that volunteers were the very foundation of the sport and these unsung heroes ensured the sport could function at every level. The nominations had been assessed by a panel and this year's winners were:

Joe Howie (access Adventures) – Young Volunteer of the Year  
Steve Grice (Chichester Water Ski Club) – Volunteer of the Year

**Honorary Members** – there was one award of Honorary Membership this year introduced by Derek Blackmore (Honorary Member and former Racing Committee member):

Tim Mayers – awarded for a lifelong service to the sport, very much involved in all matters related to the Racing discipline as a judge, committee member, driver, competitor and event organiser.

Following on from the conclusion of the award presentations the Chair congratulated all the young athletes and other awardees who had made a significant contribution to the sport this season.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None recorded.

There being no further business necessary, the Chair thanked the delegates for attending and thanked all the staff members who had attended and helped with the organisation of the AGM. Thanks additionally to Queens Club for hosting the event and their assistance.

He wished all present a very enjoyable and successful season 2025.

**END**

The meeting closed at 14:45

**Minuted by:**  
Patrick Donovan  
**Chief Executive Officer &  
Company Secretary**