

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - 11.00.AM WEDNESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2020 - BDWWA HERON LAKE WRAYSURRY TW19 6HW SURREY

Persons Present:

<u>All Regions:</u>	- Richard Mattos (RM)
<u>Boat Owner/Recreational:</u>	- James Timothy (JT) / Tony Green (TG)
<u>Boat & Cable Wakeboard</u>	- Matt Crowhurst
<u>Cable 3 Event:</u>	- Nicky Caine (NC)
<u>Disabled:</u>	- Claire Ellis (CE) (Athlete representative) / Robin Nichols (RN)
<u>Kneeboard</u>	- Tim Cooke
<u>Ski Racing:</u>	- Tim Mayers (TM) Derek Blackmore
<u>Scotland</u>	- Alan Murray
<u>Tournament:</u>	- Steve Sopp (SS) John Battleday (JB)

Apologies Received: - Patrick Donovan / Richard Mattos (Report submitted) / Vince Turp / Jason Ellis / Rod Beattie / Jeremy Neville / Sue Creedy / Suzi Nightingale / Barry Odell / David Field / Robert Crewe / Nick McGarry.

Note Items for A.O.B. (TG) outlined that during the meeting he would verbatim submit for consideration an email from BWSW Chairman Martin Winter relating to revised Terms of Reference for the Advisory Council.

Confirm Minutes of Thursday 24th October 2019: - On a proposal by (RN) seconded by (CE), the minutes of the last meeting were unanimously agreed.

Matters Arising from Meeting of 24th October 2019:

a. **Ski Racing Boat Insurance** - (TM) & (DB) wished to stress the total dilemma facing the Ski Racing Discipline in obtaining insurance for racing boats which could result in UK domestic planned competitions being cancelled, and international competitions not being entered by ski racing teams. Despite ongoing work by BWSW staff to secure a new insurer (which was appreciated), the issue had now become a very imminent crisis, with no firm solutions in place before the ski racing season starts.

A full & lengthy & full debate on the matter ensued with salient points being made as follows:

- (SS) outlined that it was believed that normal club boats would continue to be insured by GJW.
- (TM) It is the case that racing boats can only be insured for a period(s) when they are laid up, yet the reality is that Ski Racing as a whole has had a negligible claims history over the past 10 years.
- (JT) expressed the fact that boat insurers have increasingly become 'risk averse' to claims that could potentially involve 'lifetime care' to a severely injured person.
- (TC) outlined that one of his Club members is an insurance company managing director who may be able to help or suggest a company who could provide cover. (TC) would provide details).
- (JT) stated that insurance companies seem to believe that a run of the mill boat is less dangerous than a ski racing boat.
- (RN) outlined that Dudley WSC had found satisfactory specialist cover with Euro Marine under their 'Blue Wave Policy' who may be able to assist Ski Racing – (contact Tele. No. 01843 86899).
- (SS) expressed his personal concern that Ski Racing Discipline could disappear long term unless a new insurer could be found.
- (JB) considered that if BWSW / Ski Racing could not find an insurer, the effects could impact on membership & SBD2 income, therefore all efforts should be made to find a new insurer.
- (TM) expressed his thanks for all comments and suggestions made during the debate.

In summation, on a proposal by (TM) seconded by (TC), the Advisory Council Members felt that there was an urgent necessity for BWSW to establish an 'insurance working group' to pursue the matter to successful conclusion. The proposal was unanimously supported.

b. **SBD Syllabus Confusion** – (TG) outlined that following the last AC meeting (October 2019) he had contacted Nick McGarry seeking to establish exactly when all the proposed new Level 3 SBD requirements for commercial operators & coaches, and the intended introduction of new SBD modules for Inflatables, Tournament & Wakesurf would be implemented, and when persons (i.e. SBD Centres & Coaches) affected by the changes would be informed in order to end uncertainty and confusion within the sport. (N.McG) stated that Development Committee meetings had been sporadic in agreeing and finalising all aspects for implementation. Even though he intended standing down as BWSW Director he intended to continue serving on the Development Committee would seek to bring matters to conclusion at their next meeting & distribute relevant information prior to the 2020 season.

(JB) outlined that Mike Lock and other qualified persons would in 2020 be visiting Clubs/Centres to ensure robust compliance & consistency of all SBD courses.

Further debate ensued which resulted in agreement that one person within the Development Committee should swiftly seek to drive the required changes to completion.

BWSW Board Update(s) - (TG) verbally tabled a very recent email he had received from BWSW Chairman Martin Winter shortly prior to this meeting viz:

Tony, many apologies for not making this. Hilary and I are currently in Florida on the way to the Moomba Masters.

I would welcome the opportunity to come to all future advisory council meetings and if there is a chance of the cycle being late January/early October (this year before the Seaton Classic) then there should be no difficulty in my making it.

Through no fault of anybody there still seems to be some confusion around the essential role of the advisory council under the BWSW constitution (ie to be a conduit between the grass roots of the sport and the board). I will call you, as I said I would at the AGM, to canvass but I would appreciate it if you could reiterate that fact to the advisory council members at the meeting. The AC is not constituted to have an executive function but hopefully to be an extremely influential body through what it feeds in to in to the board.

In this respect the board would, I am sure really appreciate it if a bullet point summary on one side of paper (two max) with the AC's thoughts on how things could be improved for the member clubs and raising any other important issues (including as to what the board is doing right/needs to do better) could be produced, after each meeting. Given that the Sport England governance requirements are such that we have independent directors who cannot initially be expected to be so conversant with the sport (and are therefore reliant, at times, on other directors for input), I think this additional perspective would be really valuable to them - as it would be, in any event, for the rest of the board. It may be that it would also help focus AC meetings in terms of product. We would ensure that report then was considered as a top agenda item at the next board meeting.

Even if there was nothing to communicate to the board (I expect unlikely) it would be helpful to have that fact reported to us.

In terms of the democracy aspect required under the Sport England Governance I think that can best be achieved by your asking each discipline committee each year to confirm (email fine) that it has had a vote as regards its nominees to the AC. It may be that smaller AC meetings with only one of the appointed nominees present may help make the meetings more efficient but that is a matter for the AC to consider.

I will call to canvass but would like to tell the board that we are seeking to ensure the reporting lines are in place by such a twice yearly very brief report.

I will meantime Patrick to send you the amended BWSF structure chart and, once ready, slightly tweaked Committee Terms Of Reference to better reflect the current position.

(TG) invited debate on the content & suggestions on ways of improving communications and service enhancement between the AC & the Board, & the below 'Way Forward' suggestions/comments emerged:

Way Forward:

- Has the Board become isolated because of their very necessary work relating to income source / finance / grants / governance / structure which are intrinsically linked, whereas BWSW core business is about clubs and members.
- Attendance by the BWSW Chairman or any Board member to any AC meeting is welcome as 'BWSW Board Update Topics' is a standing AC agenda item that needs Board representation.
- Improved communications between the Board and the AC are required as the AC members are, realistically all representative volunteers at local Club/Centres & Disciplines and, at the AC level, can also see the 'big picture' in representing the sport as a whole.
- Clear clarification of wider terms of reference for the AC, is definitely required.
- Do the Board members really understand the changing nature of 'membership clubs' within most sports?
- The AC devotes much time at each meeting to important issues as they arise, and have prepared several documents to the Board with constructive comments and solutions, yet do not receive feedback, or see their ideas /comments put into practice.
- Feedback to the AC is really important.
- Time limited decisions/action taken by the Board to provide feedback to AC may be a way forward.
- The AC put effort into seeking ways to re-invigorate the 'All Regions' but was not supported by the Board in their efforts - Why?
- The 'All Regions' structure (or another smarter way), is a key missing link to BWSW succeeding in most of its initiatives & programmes.
- Now we are reasonably sure that water skiing will never become an Olympic Sport, do we really need to jump through Sport England hoops in the future?
- With BDWWA having an uncertain future – should each discipline seek to accommodate disability skiers?
- Is a review required of the Excellence & Development Committees? (Follow up comment to SBD Syllabus Confusion)

Membership

- Even more membership benefits are required to retain membership.
- A new membership pricing structure for straight line & circuit cable skiers should be considered to enhance new memberships & income, otherwise there is danger that Cable Skiing sites may form their own organisation.
- BWSW to consider an initiative of a National 'Come & Try It Weekend' for all affiliated Clubs/Centres / Disciplines / Cable sites to increase membership.
- BWSW to interact with coastal harbourmasters to promote BWSW membership & SBD Syllabus.

Emerging Issues: - Covered as at items 'Matters Arising' - no other matter tabled.

E & A / IWWF Matters: - (NC) reported the following information:

- i. The European Congress was held in Athens on Saturday 1st February 2020. This was an election congress where once more Great Britain has a representative on all Councils and every candidate that stood was re-elected.

Administration Committee - **Andy Harris**

Barefoot - **Paul Turner**

Cable 3 event – **Nicky Caine**

Disabled - **Paul Airey**

Racing - **Mike Waterman**

Ski Racing - **Steve Cox**

Boat Wakeboard - **Colin Hart**

Cable Wakeboard - **Suzi Nightingale**

The following persons were co-opted

Cable 3 event - **Nigel Talamo**

Tournament (Water Ski) - **James Timothy**

- ii. The next Admin Com meeting will be in France on 15/17 May, 2020 & and the November meetings for both the Admin Com and Councils will be held in London between 7th/10th November, 2020.
- iii. There will be an Executive Meeting (IWWF) during the Cable 3 event Worlds being held in Katowice, Poland on 9th/13th September, 2020.
- iv. The next European Congress will be held in Monte Carlo on Saturday 6th February, 2020 and there will be Admin Com and Council meetings on the same weekend.

BWSW 'ONE VOICE' Safeguarding Campaign' 2020: - (TG) in his role as BWSW Lead Safeguarding Officer tabled new & updated safeguarding documents, and talked the AC members through the individual elements of the 2020 year long BWSW 'One Voice' Safeguarding Campaign as follows:

- i. **'One Voice' Concept** - That all BWSW Members /Club Committees & Approved Centres / Officials & Disciplines Committees / Coaches / Voluntary & Paid Staff / Parents & Guardians of young persons have a role to play within the safeguarding of children, young persons or adults who may be at risk.
- ii. **New 'One Voice' Safeguarding Summary Guide Document** - Which outlines the role within safeguarding that everyone involved in the sport (as outlined above) should play.
- iii. **New / Revised Policies & Procedures Documents** – Details of the updated 'One Voice' Safeguarding & Protecting Young People Policy & the new 'One Voice' Safeguarding and Protecting Adults at Risk Policy.
- iv. **BWSW Promotion of Safeguarding Training for Committees of Clubs/Centres & Disciplines** - (TG) gave a short power point presentation of a 2.5 hour training package he had designed and already trialled within a BWSW Club specifically for the Committees of Clubs / Centres & Disciplines to provide knowledge of the their duties of care within safeguarding & our sport, and their roles at competitions at home and abroad. (TG) planned to provide this training regionally from Spring 2020 onwards over a 3 year period. BWSW in supporting the clubs and volunteers in the 'One Voice' overall initiative would provide the relevant training without cost to the participants.
- v. **BWSW Promotion of Refresher Training for Club Welfare Officers ('Time to Listen')** - (TG) talked through the NSPCC / CPSU 'Time to Listen' 3 hour refresher training package for Club Welfare Officers for which he was now a trained tutor and planned to provide the refresher training regionally from Spring 2020 onwards over a 3 year period. BWSW in supporting the clubs and volunteers in the 'One Voice' overall initiative would provide the relevant training without cost to the participants.

(TG) Further outlined that the two types of regionally based safeguarding training would take place on the same day, i.e. 'Time to Listen' for Club Welfare Officers in the morning period, and the Power Point Safeguarding Training for the Committees of Clubs / Centres & Disciplines in the afternoon period.

For the training to be successful regionally, it would require an individual Club within a traditional region or particular part of the country to offer up their Clubhouse without charge as a 'host club/centre' where a 'cluster of clubs' would attend to receive the relevant session of training.

The overarching 2020 'One Voice' Safeguarding Campaign would be the subject of a feature article in the April/May edition of BWSW Magazine and would include details of the Training Initiative with an appeal for clubs to volunteer their clubhouse as a 'host site' by contacting him directly at contact details in the feature article.

In concluding the presentation, (TG) asked all AC members who represent Disciplines or serve at their local club/centre as a volunteer, committee member or site owner or manager to consider being a 'Host Club', to take their own Committee training course, and to regionally promote the 'One Voice' Safeguarding Campaign and Safeguarding Training initiative.

Any Other Business - There was no further business.

Next Advisory Council Meeting: - To be confirmed.