

# MINUTES



Of the meeting of the **Advisory Council** held on  
**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 at 11am Via Video Conference Call**

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## 1. To Record Attendance and Apologies for Absence.

### Present:

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| The Regions             | Richard Mattos / David Field               |
| Boat Owner/Recreational | James Timothy / Alan Murray MBE            |
| Cable Wakeboard         | Suzi Nightingale                           |
| Boat Wakeboard          | Jeremy Nevill                              |
| Cable Ski               | Nicky Caine                                |
| Adaptive                | Claire Ellis / Jane Sowerby                |
| Kneeboard               | Jason Ellis / Tim Cooke                    |
| Barefoot                | Robert Crewe / Philippa Curtis             |
| Wales                   | Rod Beattie                                |
| Observer                | Barry Odell (club and environmental input) |

|                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Martin Winter   | BWSW Chair               |
| Patrick Donovan | CEO                      |
| Peter James     | Board Member             |
| Nick Fellows    | Independent Board Member |

### Apologies:

Carol Cooney (Scotland), Steve Sopp (Board Member), Matt Crowhurst (Boat Wakeboard), John Battleday, Vince Turp, Ali White (Tournament) and Barry Frame, Bradley Cannings (Ski Racing).

Martin highlighted the work of Tony Green, former Advisory Council Chair and staff member responsible for safeguarding who very sadly passed away in March this year after a lifetime of service to the sport. A moment of silence was held to remember Tony.

## 2. To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

The minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved by those who were at the previous meeting.

Matters arising from the minutes were highlighted to include SBD1, 2 and 3 updates, details were on the website and Michael Lock could answer any specific questions from particular clubs. The Areas (in effect formerly Regions) were detailed on the Board page of the BWSW website outlining the various affiliates in each area and Area Coordinators where appointed. Finally, the Ski Racing community survey was briefly highlighted of late last year which proved to be very inconclusive with very split views on the work of the Racing Committee and the state of the sport.

## 3. AC Role & Governance (Martin).

Martin outlined the role of the Advisory Council as defined in the articles; its principal function was to keep the Board informed of the views of the participants at a grass roots level in the various Disciplines. Additionally, advise and be a sounding board as requested from time to time by the Board together with reviewing the current-year activities of the Federation. A specific query on the Lascelles Committee's status from Nicky on governance and structure would be dealt with in more detail offline re the detail of liability cover for those operating on behalf of the organisation / the sport. Meeting to be arranged with Nicky and Liz Hobbs MBE after the matter had been canvassed with Board members.

#### **4. Membership & E-Membership (Patrick).**

It was outlined that currently the number of paid subscribing members stood at 4350, compared to 3500 at the same point at end of May in 2020, the figure was slightly higher in 2019 with 4750 members. In terms of affiliates there were 84 out of 112 affiliates paid / up to date. This included voluntary clubs: 56 / 65 complete, all commercial clubs: 12 / 12 and accredited centres: 12 / 39 complete. In total 84 / 112 affiliates complete and up to date, it was known that some affiliates would not operate this year e.g. all standalone (non-club) SBD centres and a small number of other clubs were unable or it appeared unlikely to operate for a variety of reasons.

On E-Membership a slow take up at 150 signed up though this was being promoted ongoing, some centres unable to embed sign up into their disclaimer as for example they were using a generic online booking system. Several other centres had however incorporated sign up into their club disclaimer so mixed results however this was a work in progress. Martin added that E-Membership, as well as being a means to capture data on casual participants in the sport, was also a means of bolstering our overall membership numbers to include paid subscribers, honorary members and those who simply signed up to our e-newsletter as a sole benefit. Numbers and scale were of course all important in terms of funding and demonstrating a reasonable scale of impact for the investment of any public funds. Jane Peel (Editor and PR) provided content for the E-newsletters with some assistance from our HQ. Again, it was highlighted that this was a work in progress and aimed to be a means to promote the benefits of BWSW outside of the current membership. An incentive scheme for centres was due to be circulated shortly. Claire highlighted that it would be useful to promote this scheme to non-affiliated clubs also – Patrick would highlight this to HQ for immediate action.

#### **5. Other BWSW Updates (Martin / Patrick).**

##### **Insurance**

Racing – whilst there was a partial solution to motorised race insurance for the current season with GJW prepared to insure those with *current* boat policies for racing during season 2021, this represented a limited number of boats (lapsed policies could not be renewed under the current terms nor would new policies be issued). There was however no simple immediate solution on the table that provided competitor to competitor liability cover for the future despite a most extensive search for over 18 months; the uninsurable risk status remained within the UK marine underwriting market. GJW would end all racing boat insurance after this season at current policy expiry; this had been confirmed by GJW both verbally and in writing. Their new boat policy wording moving forward would not contain any references to BWSW or any form of racing or speed trials. Other more creative solutions were being assessed e.g. a mutual scheme was still on the table however it was clear more data and a model as to how this could work needed to be outlined. Tim Cook would provide the details of a contact who he felt could look at this issue with fresh eyes – Tim would forward the details and this would be followed up by Patrick re the key point of competitor to competitor cover. Bradley Cannings and Alfredo Longhi had been added to the HQ insurance working group in relation to racing issues.

Voluntary Clubs Motorised – it had been highlighted that providers in many cases were unable to offer the same levels of cover as in previous years with £1m cover only being available. The £1m was clearly a low level of cover to meet a significant claim hence the investigation of further potential top up cover ongoing though, despite every effort, this was proving a slow process. A broker was due to report back.

##### **Marketing Working Group**

A small working group was now active made up of Jane Peel (Editor & PR), staff members Kylie and Keir together with Kate Simon who was a marketing professional with an earlier background in the sport as a coach who had offered to assist on a voluntary basis. Anny Wooldridge had recently joined the group and had kindly taken on the BWSW social media role on a voluntary basis. BWSW currently also had a subscription with a mainstream digital press service to feed our PR releases into mainstream press, news and TV worldwide. Patrick would circulate Anny's contact details to the Advisory Council members so they could feed in any news items, forthcoming activities or human-interest stories which would contribute to our published content.

## **Diversity & Inequality in Sport**

A greater focus currently in this area in terms of promoting positive role models with a number of filming and photography sessions taking place currently to capture samples of diversity within the sport. The BWSW Board were committed to diversity and inclusion across the leadership of the organisation (currently an ongoing work in progress – Martin provided some of the details on recruitment to the BWSW Board on this point) and of course wider participation within the sport. A number of centres were actively engaged with a funded diversity initiative to introduce participants from more diverse / urban communities to the sport to include more female inclusion. Peter highlighted some of the centres to include Salford and Sheffield which were working currently with our HQ team on an initiative with local authorities and Active Partners (formerly named County Sports Partnerships) re diversity of participation. The aim was to expand this work throughout the season and complement it with wider communications to highlight accessibility to what is a great outdoor sport.

## **Anti-Doping Compliance**

UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) had very recently announced the launch of their new National Governing Body (NGB) assurance process as part of their long-term strategic vision to create and maintain clean sport in the UK. This Assurance Framework covered a variety of matters across anti-doping, broken down into six key areas: Organisation and Governance, Legal, Education, Communications, Intelligence, and Investigations and Testing. A key aim was to ensure that any NGB had in place a comprehensive set of steps that would help to mitigate the risk of doping within a particular sport and that NGBs were compliant with the 24 points of the Policy. It was important to note that compliance with the Policy would be a condition of eligibility to receive current and future public funding; a window of time to meet UKAD approval for each aspect of the overall framework was set as 1st April 2022. BWSW Independent Director Nick Fellows had very kindly offered to lead on this project and would act as the required Board lead with our Talent Programme staff member (Richie Fazackerley) to act as our staff / executive Anti-Doping Lead. Nick provided a brief update on the initial current work and scope of this project.

## **Kickstart Scheme**

(Government youth employment scheme) – a very low level number of referrals for the BWSW HQ part time roles advertised, the roles currently remained advertised / available however. An email notifying all members of the positions and other BWSW vacancies had been circulated also to try to find a suitable candidate. Everyone was asked to consider if they knew of any suitable candidates who met the criteria (18 to 24 years old, unemployed on Universal Credit and at risk of long term unemployment).

## **6. Questions / Issues from Floor.**

Jeremy thanked the representatives from Tournament, Boat Wakeboard having now followed suit with a small lottery scheme 200 Club to raise funds to support athletes within the sport. It was highlighted that this would also provide a sense of a wider community supporting our young athletes and their parents in attending international events.

Barry Odell asked re any continuity of work that Tony Green was previously working on – Area Coordinators were detailed where appointed, and this was now published on our website. Patrick would circulate a link to this document, any suggestions on who might take on or be suitable for any vacant coordinator role welcome.

Rod Beattie highlighted that the Development Committee had not met for some time (though a sub-group of the Committee had met pre-COVID regularly re qualifications and standards). To be discussed offline in more detail with Rod to be invited to a Board sub-group call on a forthcoming Tuesday to discuss in more detail.

## **7. New Chair.**

The BWSW articles detailed that the Advisory Council will elect its Chair from amongst the members of the Advisory Council and the Advisory Council shall determine such Chair's term of

office. Two names had been suggested, if anyone would like to consider further taking on the role from the current membership of the Council please contact Patrick by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June) after which Patrick would contact any suggested person. If it was found that two members or more did wish to stand for the role an election would take place. Patrick would circulate further details once known.

## **8. Confirmation of Future Meeting Dates.**

### **Board**

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> June     | 14:00 Sport & Recreation Alliance to Attend |
| Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September | 14:00                                       |
| Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October | 08:15 Conference Call re Action Log         |
| Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> November | 14:00                                       |

### **Advisory Council**

TBC Save the date to be circulated for October

### **AGM**

TBC

The meeting closed at 12:15pm. A note of thanks to everyone for attending and their input at today's meeting.

### **Minuted by:**

Patrick Donovan  
**CEO**