



MINUTES of the BWSW ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING held on THURSDAY 10th MAY 2018 at British Disabled Water Ski & Wakeboard Association, Wraysbury

1. Record Persons Present & Apologies Received

Present:

Tony Green (Chair)
James Timothy
Barry Odell
Robin Nichols
Robert Crewe
Richard Mattos
Nicky Caine
Alan Murray
Claire Ellis
Steve Cox
Tim Cooke
Nick McGarry
Patrick Donovan

Apologies:

Jeremy Nevill
Sue Creedy
Vince Turp
Steve Sopp
Jason Ellis
Karen Brooks

2. Note Items for Any Other Business

a) Robert Crewe outlined that Barefoot Discipline (as with several other Disciplines) was suffering from a lack of competitive barefoot skiers. With a view to encouraging more persons to become involved, he queried whether there was a possibility of BWSW considering an initiative which sought to attract competitive skiers to all disciplines through "Come and Try It Days" around the country. Tony outlined that the Racing Discipline was already implementing such an initiative during the current year by advertising through the magazine an invitation to BWSW members to take part in a novice Ski Race attached to their calendar events, whereby a Racing Licence was not required. Steve provided further detail of how the initiative was working. Other AC members agreed that 'Come & Try it Days' were a way forward to increase Discipline competitiveness and Robert offered via the AC members to provide barefoot training to BWSW members at any Club or Region that wished to take up the offer. Tournament had also scheduled a series of talent spotting days across the country this season though of course the discipline was better positioned due to its scale to self-generate funds to support this activity. This was of course activity that was also supported by UK Sport grant pre 2012 and the termination of funding for non-Olympic sports.

3. Approve the Minutes of Thursday 15th February 2018

The minutes were reviewed, proposed by Tim Cooke seconded by James Timothy and unanimously approved by those who were present at the previous meeting.

4. Matters & Action Points Arising from Minutes of 15th February 2018

a) Team attire – request for Team ties and blazers to be supplied to Team members for closing ceremonies etc. It was highlighted that National Championships medals were still available and could be ordered via Stuart on 07496 735129 / email derrysinfo@gmail.com – ask to see a sample image before purchase to ensure the medals are as expected in terms of the design. A medal order form was available from HQ, the format of which assisted the supplier in terms of fulfilment and invoicing.

Action: Patrick D would raise team attire with the Board and whether this was feasible in terms of the limited budgets available.

b) Kneeboard IWWF Recognition – the fact that Kneeboard was not a recognised competitive discipline of the IWWF was on the agenda for the May E&A meeting for discussion (situation clarified by Nick Caine).

c) All Regions Committee – it was clarified following on from a query from Barry Odell that while some regions were active and hosted club meetings in various areas of the country the All Regions Committee was no longer active. The All Regions Committee was historically the meeting of the Regional Chairman which met up to three times per year. Nick outlined the current Board position on the organisation's committee structure which was a change of focus with the Advisory Council being in effect a replacement for the All Regions Committee though any regional input and representation was of course welcome at Advisory Council meetings. Tony Green outlined that regional activity was a useful route within the organisation and provided a connection with affiliated clubs and promoted volunteering. Regional roadshows and club conferences were outlined as a potential means of creating connections within the sport and sharing knowledge.

5. Board Update Topics

The minutes of all Board meetings were available online – a current topic of ongoing discussion was the acquisition of an existing Straightline Cable qualification for BWSW use. In terms of promotion BWSW had engaged on a short term basis external expertise in terms of Facebook and driving more traffic though paid for “acceleration” of posts. Nick highlighted the success of the recent coaching conference – rebooted and reformatted for the second year since re-launch the conference provided a very professional face of BWSW as an organisation.

6. E&A / IWWF Matters

E&A AdminCom meeting being held in Minsk in May. A topic promoted by E&A was concussion and BWSW had circulated an E&A working paper on this subject via email and the magazine. Nicky provided an E&A concussion tool / guide for the meeting – this could be published / promoted in the forthcoming magazine subject to copyright being explored and permission to reproduce obtained.

Action: Nicky to explore with the provider if BWSW could customise and publish.

7. Emerging Issues:

a) The use of 'Vegetable Based Dye' to prevent the growth of Weed / Algae – Tony outlined a club in Yorkshire & Humberside region which had been contacted by English Nature re the need for permission to be obtained to apply dye to natural lakes. A meeting with English Nature was pending to obtain an understanding of which statute was in force requiring any permission to apply dye on any lake whether private or public water. James Timothy outlined the use of solar powered sonic sensors at his club which monitor and sense algae levels and use ultrasound to control the spread of blue green algae. Expensive but effective – used over for two seasons at the club (cost £15K per unit with the club lake utilising two units). Robin highlighted the fact that the BWSW website had an environmental resources section in the members area on various issues to include algae, noise and erosion. Watch this space on this issue ongoing.

8. Reports from AC Disciplines/Sections Representatives

Boat Wakeboard – written report circulated prior to the meeting outlining the success at the 2017 Worlds held in Argentina in March 2018. Malibu boats on board as a National Championships official sponsor, new website launched and increased use of social media to help raise awareness of the discipline. As always funding and supporting athlete attendance was an issue for which there were no easy solutions (both finance and ability to attend overseas events which could clash with college work and examinations).

Boatowner & Recreational – Richard kindly circulated a written report outlining his involvement with Tournament and the lower level / more informal “backyard” league, club visits and the threat of HS2 rail line to Denham WSC. From the South West and Rock WSC he reported that the harbourmaster had banned the use of foils (similar to air chair) until clear guidelines were in place.

Barefoot – Robert briefly outlined an E&A issue within the sport at international competitor level which had now been resolved. Struggling to populate the junior team with new blood was an ongoing challenge.

Racing – season had not really started as yet in terms of events. E&A Championships to be hosted in Scotland in September 2018. Steve outlined some of the issues within the sport re the value perceived in paying sanction fees. Nicky offered to assist with pursuing at E&A level transparency of the various steps in the competition ladder and how events are supported in terms of officials.

Disabled – key volunteer changes at Heron Lake in terms of the office resource. Quiet start to the season at the moment. Welcome news from BDWWA was accessing Sport England grant via BWSW to support disabled equipment purchases to form an “equipment library.

Scotland – youth and female programmes were a current point of focus in the region. Even slower start of season in Scotland!

Kneeboard – Marnham event this weekend launched the start of season’s events for Kneeboard.

Cable 3 Event – Worlds in Ukraine and Europeans in Holland. Nicky outlined some of the technical advances in the sport in relation to two pylon cable rigs and actual skis.

9. Confirm Date & Venue of next AC Meeting

Thursday 8th November at 11am at Heron Lake * note date change from last published minutes

The meeting closed at 2:30pm.

Minuted by:

Patrick Donovan
CEO