

MINUTES OF BWSW ADVISORY COUNCIL 'ZOOM MEETING'
SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2020

Persons Present:

All Regions - Richard Mattos (RM)
Boat Owner/Recreational - James Timothy (JT) / Tony Green (TG)
Boat Wakeboard - Jeremy Neville (JN)
Cable Wakeboard - Matt Crowhurst / Suzi Nightingale
Cable 3 Event - Nicky Caine (NC)
Disabled - Claire Ellis (CE) (Athlete representative)
Ski Racing - Bradley Cannings (BC) / Barry Frame (BF)
Tournament - Steve Sopp (SS)
Scotland - Carol Cooney (CC)
Wales - Rod Beattie (RB)
Barry Odell

BWSW Board Members - Martin Winter (MW) / Steve Sopp (SS) / Peter James (PJ) / Margaret Curtis (MC)

Apologies Received: - Patrick Donovan (PD) / Vince Turp (VT) / Jason Ellis (JE) / Tim Cooke (TC) / Sue Creedy (SC) / David Field (DF) / Robert Crewe (RC) / Philippa Curtis (PC) / Alan Murray (AM)

Chairman's Address: - (TG) welcomed everyone to the AC meeting, and requested all present for a minute of silence to acknowledge and respect AC member Robin Nichols (MBE) who recently passed on. Robin was a long term stalwart volunteer for BWSW as a Tournament Judge, Homologator, past Chairman of BDWSW, and 'grandfather' of the Ski Boat Driver Award Syllabus. Also to acknowledge the tragic, loss of Michael Woodgate, an inspiring young man and water skier from Yorkshire who whilst studying in the USA, died in a vehicular collision.

Confirm Minutes of Wednesday 26th February 2020: - On a proposal by (SS), seconded by (NC), the minutes were unanimously approved.

Matters Arising from Minutes of Wednesday 26th February 2020:

Board Response to AC Comments - (MW) reported that BWSW Board had already sent out a collective Board response to all AC members arising from the last minutes. (Copy attached to these minutes for record purposes)

SBD1 & SBD2 - (SN) outlined that there was still some confusion for SBD Principals over the difference between the two qualifications. (MW) responded that the matter was a priority consideration for BWSW, that (SS) was working on all SBD aspects and would be ensuring that the matter was clarified with urgency to all SBD principals.

Board Updates: - (MW) reported on the following updates.

Water Skiing Profile - BWSW in seeking to improve its promotional profile of the sport had had recent positive success via Jane Peel and Flo Morgan-Wood gaining wide television and press cover of the Turps family in tournament competitive training, following Ben (20), Tilly (17) and Seb (12) Turp all being selected for the GB National Water Ski Squad in their respective age categories. Additionally Irving Stone (a former British over-55 competitor slalom record holder.) received tremendous press and ITV news coverage in celebrating his 80th birthday at South Lake. Although Flo Morgan-Wood will soon be leaving her post, a replacement will be recruited.

Membership Initiative - An initiative for 2021 to increase BWSW membership is to introduce a low cost 'E' membership targeted at cable sites and water based fun parks for which persons would receive newsletters throughout the summer period, with an emphasis being to persuade their upgrade to full BWSW membership.

Commercial Affiliates & VAT - (PJ) had undertaken an exercise that would benefit BWSW's Commercial Affiliates to receive a 5% VAT return on their affiliation fees. He had also provided guidance on applications to Sport England for 'Return to Sports Grants'.

Emerging Issue – Water Ski Racing Insurance - This matter had been ongoing for some considerable time, whereby suitable insurance could not be found for ski racing since GJW had pulled out of the market. (BC) and (BF) were in attendance to seek clarification for the Waterski Racing Discipline. (BC) outlined that despite the best efforts of Ski Racing, they were unable to find any insurer willing to provide identical cover. This means that to organise any Ski Racing UK events can only be achieved with event Public Liability Insurance (Off water covered by incumbent BWSW policy and on water would to be topped up by 3rd party policy @ £750.00 per event) and basic personal injury cover (Min 30k cover @ £75pp). This means that we cannot provide cover for 3rd party liability claims between competitors or material loss. To conclude we are ready to announce the 2021 calendar and all we need is the nod from BWSW board to endorse this proposal. Time is of an essence as our sport has

been in limbo for over a year now and we are losing competitors and in a small minority faith in the racing committee to deliver this. (MW) responded by indicating that BWSW Board with Patrick Donovan had throughout the year worked hard to assist Ski Racing to find a suitable insurer, and currently had convened a Board meeting for 13th November to hopefully take matters further. However we need Tim Mayers as Ski Racing chairman to confirm the current position so that there is an audit trail in place. (BF) contributed to the discussion, indicating that Ski Racing is fighting for its very existence and without insurance cover it would mean the end of competition and the sport as we know it, and BWSW Ski Racing membership would fall. The Directors of BWSW have only to sanction the use of the policy from Tony Cracoft for which they already have details, for us to be able to race within the BWSW structure that we have previously enjoyed and would fervently hope to continue to do so. Providing that we receive agreement on the policy, thereby enabling us to compete under the BWSW umbrella, the Race Committee intend to offer entry fees at a nominal charge for 2021 to further encourage participants to resume racing. We would therefore appreciate a 'Zoom Meeting' as soon as possible. (MW) again responded by indicating that BWSW Board do need the paper trail in terms of a request from Racing Committee which should include a paper relating to claims experience within the UK and other supportive evidence as soon as possible. The insurance issue was a very difficult one and needed the careful consideration of the full BWSW board given its fundamental importance. (SS) outlined that the Board acknowledges that in the past 43 years there has been only one or two fatalities, but that there are lots of small claims coming in which has made insurers very wary. (MW) indicated that BWSW does everything possible to support all disciplines and we will do everything we can to ensure that the right level of insurance cover is reached.

E & A and IWWF - (NC) reported on the following matters:

- Due to Covid there is not much to report from E&A and IWWF however I am aware of that there have been many "meetings" held via Zoom/Teams to ensure compliance and to keep everyone up to date on any developments.
- This weekend the E&A "November" meetings were actually scheduled to be held in London which obviously had had to be cancelled and all Discipline Councils were holding their meetings "virtually". During this weekend each Council would be "visited" by the AdminCom Bureau for an hour for an exchange of information. Nicky advised that the E&A Cable Council were going to raise a couple of items.
- Hall of Fame - clarification would be requested as to how the new regime under Geoff Blaauw, who has taken over from Des Burke Kennedy, as Chairman, was proposed to be administered.
- EMS – A request that the financial obligations and aims of the new system would be set out within the IWWF "rules" so that these, if necessary, can be shown to Sports Ministries etc confirming that until fees of \$7.00 for 1 competition, or \$25.00 for the whole season are paid then the athletes will not be able to compete in rankings list competitions. If anyone wishes to find out "how to" within the EMS system that if they go to the main page and scroll to the bottom there is section called "resources" where all the online tutorial videos are listed. If they still have queries they can email Morten Froulund - morten.froulund@mail.tele.dk who is the AdminCom member assisting with EMS system)
- Potentially 2021 was going to be a very busy season for all disciplines as any competitions that had been postponed for 2020 was hoped to be held together with any competition due to be hosted in 2021.
- At the present the IWWF World Congress is scheduled to be held during the 2021 IWWF World Waterski Championships at Lake County, Florida, USA on 11/17th October, 2021.

Regional Coordinators - (TG) provided a progress update outlining that Regional Coordinators were now in place for 5 of the 7 new Regions, but difficulty was occurring in finding suitable volunteers for the South West Region, and one person was deciding whether to take the position for the Eastern Region. (TG) was however confident that the two positions would be filled by the new year. In a recent meeting with Keir Boissevain the contact details of all Clubs and Centres within all regions would be compiled ready for distribution to the Regional Coordinators in the new year, ahead of the new season. It was also intended that Regional Coordinators would be free to use internet meeting mediums, social media or any other medium 'that works for them' in maintaining contact with Clubs and Centres.

Reports From AC Disciplines / Sections Representatives:

Cable Wakeboard - (SN) reported that;

- 'Just Wake' will happily take up BWSW 'Join Us On The Water' initiative, but felt that it requires improved communications to Commercial Centres.
- Additionally, although many events had to be cancelled because of Covid-19 lockdown measures, 2 National competitions and 6 other competitions had been held.
- Of note, Cable Wakeboard would be changing the age groups for competitors for the 2021 season.

Cable 3 - (NC) reported that:

- As a Guardian of the General Lascelles Fund Nicky wished to advise all the Disciplines that it had been decided to delay awarding the "main grants" for the time being and that the Guardians were due to "meet" again on 14th January, 2021 to assess the situation. However, BWSW has kindly agreed that they would make available a

- further £4,000.00 so that there were additional funds, which would not deplete the funds already held, for some “smaller” grants to be agreed and awarded in time to be presented at BWSW AGM scheduled to be held on Sunday 24th January, 2021. Nicky would pass on the good news to the Guardians who would agree the criteria for these new “Covid” awards.

Ski Racing - (BC) reported that because of the ski racing insurance situation all planned races for 2020 had to be cancelled, but looking ahead to 2021 we have a full complement of races planned subject to insurance cover being resolved.

Tournament - (SS) reported that UK athletes had done well on the international stage at the Moomba Masters and the Mastercraft Pro Tour series. Freddie Winter was second in the men’s slalom at the MasterCraft Pro in Florida, enough to win the 2020 Pro Tour series by a substantial margin, while Jack was second in the jump event, joining the elite few in the 70 metre club. (MW) praised the skiers and also the streamed coverage of the event by The Waterski Broadcasting Company.

Boat Wakeboard - (JN) reported on the following matters:

- Very successful Virtual Wake Open in September.
- Similar entry numbers to Nationals.
- Numerous new young riders entered.
- See Wakeboard Boat Virtual Wake Open at <https://www.wakeboard.co.uk/Articles/Details/539>
- Had multiple BBC radio interviews and great feedback from athletes.
- Will have another virtual wakeboard event plus a virtual Wakesurf event next season.
- Will continue to work with Martin Winter on the formal sponsorship paperwork update.
- Squad selection will be based on 2020 plus our additional selection criteria.
- 2021 Boat Wakeboard Nationals planning underway to include the UK’s first Wakesurf Nationals.

Disabled - (CE) reported that the transition of Heron Lake from BDWWA to ‘Access Adventures’ (AA) had now taken place, and that a wider use of the lake from water skiing to other water based sports could be anticipated. There was therefore a need for all BWSW Disciplines to consider access to events for disability / adaptive skiers.

Regions - (RM) reported that to date, he had not received feedback from the clubs of the Southern Regions.

Barefoot - (RB) reported that Barefoot had staged two major competitions and held a ‘virtual’ barefoot World Cup event at Cirencester WSC, the results of which are pending. (MC) added her thanks to Rod for driving the boat, and to Andy Harris for acting as Judge.

Wales - (RB) reported that in total there are 11 affiliated clubs throughout North & South Wales, of which 5 are commercial sites. Historically since the devolution of many powers from England to Wales, Sport Wales is jointly funded by the Welsh Government & National Lottery, and is currently funding Covid-19 grants to assist voluntary sports clubs.

Scotland - (CC) introduced herself as the newly appointed Chief Operations Officer for Waterski & Wakeboard Scotland (WWS) & reported that throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic most clubs had simply been trying to exist. However, a new Development Officer had been appointed, new national plans were being developed.

Any Other Business:

BWSW Ski Racing Survey - (BF) queried why BWSW had distributed a survey to Ski Racing members without any prior consultation with the Ski Racing Committee, as this had served to undermine the Committee? (MW) responded by indicating that the Board had received a complaint from ski racing members, but Tim Mayers (Ski Racing Chairman) was informed prior to the survey being distributed as the Board knew that they would be in a ‘no win’ situation, but we had to respond to the complaint, so we devised and distributed what was a very balanced survey. The whole situation was difficult to sort out without it seeming contentious, and we have a meeting taking place next week to bring the situation to some form of conclusion. (SS) added that the survey was considered by the Board to be a fair way forward. (BF) indicated that as the past Chairman of Ski Racing Committee he was aware that comments had been made by persons seeking to undermine the current Ski Racing Chairman and Committee, but was not aware that Tim Mayers had been informed about the survey, for which he now apologised. (MW) responded that apologies were not needed, but the Board needed to respond to the complaint received & to Ski Racing Committee to resolve matters.

Date of Next Advisory Committee Meeting: - agreed to set meeting for February 2021 - Date to be confirmed.