



MINUTES

Of the meeting of the **Advisory Council** held on
Thursday 21st October 2021 Via Video Conference Call

1 To Record Attendance and Apologies for absence.

Present:

Rod Beattie (in the chair)
James Timothy
Jeremy Nevill
Nicky Caine
Jason Ellis
Claire Ellis
Jane Sowerby
Tim Cooke
Robert Crewe
Matt Crowhurst
Barry Odell
Alan Murray OBE
Ali White

From the board:

Martin Winter
Steve Sopp

Apologies:

Bibby Curtis
David Field
Vince Turp
Richard Mattos
Suzi Nightingale
Bradley Cannings
Barry Frame
Patrick Donovan

2. Discipline Reports.

a) Regions - no report

b) Boat owner/recreational. A particular issue was raised with no action point in terms of the very high cost of new boats. A challenge for our sport generally.

c) Cable Wakeboard - The Nationals had gone well but there were issues around organisation at committee level and getting youngsters involved in representing the country internationally. There had been no representation at the Europeans.

ACTION: Keir Boissevain to get involved in committee meetings to work through this issue

d) Boat Wakeboard - A good and active year. The discipline had held Wakeboard and Wakesurf nationals (a first) and re-engaged with the boat brands. The sponsor for the Nationals was being approached regarding the contract under discussion before the pandemic set in. Friends of Wake had been set up.

ACTION: Nicky Caine to pass on IWWF communication to BWSW re wakesurf, copied to her, to

the Advisory Council. The environmental issues around wakesurf were noted.

e) Cable Ski - Successful age group for UK at the senior Europeans and lots of enthusiasm. The discipline was currently constrained in really only operating at one lake.

f) Adaptive. A good year with new entrants to the discipline but all disciplines needed to ensure adaptive was given the possibility of entry at all nationals and engagement generally. The opportunity at the tournament nationals had been well received. There was a call for more publicity on Adaptive and Claire Ellis reported she had been left out of a BWSW inclusivity video. She was congratulated on being IWWF athlete of the decade.

ACTION: BWSW and all disciplines to ensure Adaptive was part of all planning. Martin made the comment that the wider profile raising capability had been greatly enhanced from a very low base in the last couple of years.

g) Kneeboard - Seemed more support was needed from the Federation.

ACTION: Keir to canvass with committee. A nationals had been held with just under 30 competitors. There was a committee of 7/8.

h) Barefoot - Various major competitions had been cancelled. However, lots of promising talent and enthusiasm and there was a positive view for 2022. EMS was mentioned and Kylie was confirmed as the person to contact at BWSW. Each discipline was meant to appoint a lead on EMS. Steve Sopp commented on how EMS had worked well in practice. Martin said that BWSW licences were necessary, in any event, so that competitor waivers (on the website) were entered into.

h) Racing - No representative present but it was noted that a competition series had been held in 2021. GJW had been unequivocal they would not provide third party motorised cover in 2022 and beyond. Martin had raised important issues with the IWWF on third party liability insurance cover in respect of Racing which he had left with them. The BWSW board had determined it could not sanction the operation of a discipline with no substantive third party liability cover.

i) Tournament - The recent outstanding success of Joel Poland as world overall tournament champion as well as pending new world record holder was recognised. Also, the achievement of Team GB with a silver medal position beating the US team into bronze in their own backyard. The success of parent supervision enabling representation at international junior events was noted. A comment was made about the relatively small number watching the Waterski Broadcasting Company's coverage of the Worlds but as a positive the superb quality was considered to represent a highly scalable product to e.g. show to sponsors.

j) Scotland - No report.

k) Wales - Rod Beattie was looking to set up a Waterski Wales in the same mould as Waterski Scotland ie a governing body for the geographical area but also a BWSW member.

3. BWSW Update.

Martin very briefly mentioned issues (some of which had already been canvassed).

- Martin had been informed that membership was now ahead of 2019 numbers. This would be the first time in very many years that there had not been a year on year decline (2020 as a pandemic year had seen a decline for obvious reasons). This was a real positive but more work to be done.

- Some proposed changes to the articles at the AGM were run through; to reduce directors to 8 from 10 to seek more nimble decision making, slightly mitigate the very atypical top heavy nature of the board and save time and resources on induction. This change would mean 2 independent directors rather than 3. The board was putting out a communication to members in advance of this proposal being formally put at the AGM as they were keen to seek to flush out any contrary

views.

- Insurance was a real issue in terms of third party liability cover and many clubs had motorised cover at only £1m which was significantly below the level of claim that could arise in the event of a serious incident. Steve Sopp from the insurance working group [other members Patrick and Kylie Cooper] commented on the survey that had been carried out with clubs and the very limited number of underwriters. Many leads have been followed up, following recommendations, on public liability. On every occasion the level of motorised cover available had been low or non-existent. This included a lead from the IWWF. Rod mentioned the critical importance of insurance actually covering the activity in respect of which insurance was required.
ACTION: Tim Cooke to pass on details of his club's broker to Steve Sopp.

- Significant work was going on, or required to be done, in terms of our insurance communications to members, risk warnings, inflatable guidance, delineating more clearly the accreditation "kite mark" scheme, event sanctioning documents and getting the insurance input right in the affiliation checklist.

- The accounts to 31 March 2021 would show only a small deficit which was a testament to much hard work at HQ.

- The Sport England submission was underway and we should have an answer in later December. This represented half our funding so was obviously particularly critical.

- We had to comply with the new UK Anti-Doping protocols. This was described as a one size fits all process across all sports and necessary to achieve Sport England funding. The resource drain v value was commented on.

4. New Chair.

- A priority item. It was reported that Patrick's discussions previously referred to had not resulted in any positive leads. Rod was happy to chair meetings but did not want to take on a more formal role at this point. Other longer term possibilities were still being explored.
ACTION: HQ

5. Other Issues.

- There was a debate over whether written reports would be requested in terms of meeting efficiency. There were views either way. Rod would take soundings but it might be that reports could be submitted but would not be mandatory.

- Jason Ellis was concerned other issues be canvassed including the new Chair. The next meeting would therefore be sooner rather than later.

- There was discussion around boat licensing/SBD etc. To be referred to the Development working group.

General thanks to Rod for chairing the meeting and ensuring a wide canvassing of views.

6. Future meeting dates.

Thursday 25th November 11am