MINUTES

Of the meeting of the **British Water Ski & Wakeboard Board** held on **Wednesday 20th August 2025 via Video Conference Call**

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1. To Record Attendance and Apologies for Absence.

Present:
Martin Winter
Steve Sopp
Andy Phillips
Michael Lock
Shelley Meyern
Anny Wooldridge
Simon Sinclair
Patrick Donovan

Keir Boissevain

2. Board Related Matters.

a) IWWF Congress – Martin and / or Steve would attend as appointed GB Federation voting delegates at the Congress later this month. BWSW had in mid-June submitted a number of resolutions for consideration by the voting delegates:

1. **IWWF to adopt an IOC compliant code of ethics which includes, amongst other things:**
   a. The adoption of the Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance (as defined and set out in the IOC Code of Ethics (2024)) which includes
      i. the requirement to produce audited financial statements compliant with IFRS; and
      ii. the adoption of polices for accommodation/travel expenses and allowances, per diems and benefits for officials (including members of the governing bodies) and the total amounts of all such line items shall be separately set out in the audited accounts.
   b. The prohibition of sponsor interference in the running of the sport (abolished at the last Congress in 2023);
   c. The appointment of an ethics commission, the members of whom will be independent of IWWF (abolished at the last Congress in 2023);
   d. The adoption of appropriate terms of reference for the ethics commission;
   e. The appointment of a designated ethics compliance officer within IWWF whose duty is to monitor compliance with the code of ethics and refer matters in question to the ethics commission.

An explanatory note had also been provided to outline the rationale for the points above, however it was disappointing to note that IWWF had not circulated the explanatory statements of BWSW and US Waterski & Wakeboard to the items submitted for Congress discussion with the conference agenda - as required by the IWWF articles and as specified in the notice of meeting.. This had now been rectified but only as part of general lodging of paperwork on the IWWF Congress website (with likely less member focus as a result)

A draft working document had been circulated for today's meeting oultining board concerns re the Congress on a number of points to include:

- Democratic process, to include distributing resolutions submitted explanatory statements and providing other Federations will not have had the due opportunity to consider and consult internally on the contents

- Olympic goals and due financial governance in relation to core requirements of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance, to include the need to have externally audited financial statements to the relevant accounting principles (e.g. IFRS/GAAP) in the preparation of such financial statements

- Appointment of an Ethics Commission, its make up / credentials of members and their independence

- Technical issues in circulars detailing the proposed move of the IWWF to Switzerland; IWWF was currently registered with Companies House in the UK with the registered office address the BWSW HQ address

After due consideration it was unanimously resolved that the BWSW board, via their appointed voting delegates, would vote against the proposed move to Switzerland ***unless*** there was in place firm assurances:

- To produce audited accounts on the basis contemplated by the IOC code of ethics applicable to recognised federations like IWWF

- To ensure the terms of reference of, and appointments to, the Ethics Commission conform with the requirements of the IOC Code of Ethics

- Visibility is given to the meeting agenda and minutes of the Bureau (a sub set of the Directors) to provide transparency for voting Federations

Action: Martin would take a copy of the resolution concluding item 1`of these minutes to Congress.
b) HQ Property – the HQ building was purchased in late 2009 at a time of a much greater staff head count and funded elite programmes via UK Sport. Currently with excess space for the much smaller headcount and usage e.g. with committee meetings now taking place online, rental of part or the whole property was being considered with the assistance of an estate agent. An offer to rent out to the whole of the building had been received and was under consideration. However, this offer was not feasible in circumstances where the cost of new premises (and the disruption involved) did not make sense. Given the current business rates bill approaching £20k renting out one of the floors gave the opportunity for a straightforward and and worthwhile instant saving. It was observed that if the market for Chertsey was not a strong one to rent out, the same should apply on taking new premises.
Action: Patrick would contact the agent re Unit 6 on the business park (BWSW occupied Unit 3), where one floor with 1,100 square feet had been available to rent for an extended period of time (over 2 years). He would also ask the agent re the BWSW HQ top floor the level of rent that should definitively attract interest. Without any announcement of any reduction from the headline rental an agent could explore, as part of a confidential discussion, with specific individual would be renters on their books, the possibility of a mutually advantageous deal.

c) EDI Update – overview of the current activity which mapped to the agreed BWSW Sport England goals and related actions briefly discussed. A meeting arranged with our EDI Lead for tomorrow (Andy, Shelley and Patrick to attend) to discuss the workflow further and meeting the ongoing targets in the current funded EDI plan and Diversity & Inclusion Action Plan.

d) E-membership Update - with over 1900 e-members registered in total, an additional 700 received and waiting to be processed this indicated the numbers signing up were growing very positively. This initiative potentially provided a significant step forward in terms of reach into the casual / recreational pay and play market as well as a material enhancement to BWSW credibility. This was an opportunity that should not be allowed to fail. Currently use of AI as a content creation tool was being trialled to potentially provide a next issue draft e-newsletter and Keir was liaising with Anny (social media) and Jane (magazine editor) on engaging content creation going forward. Andy enquired about using materials from the upcoming World Championships and Martin reiterated his view, from interaction at Thorpe skis that the pay and play market would have often have wide watersports / sport action interests and we did not just have to stick to cable news even though that would always be a key component. The "open" level on e-member communication appeared to be at over twice the level of "normal". That was also very positive. Keir was asked to thank Ben Jury on behalf of the Board for his huge success in achieving this opportunity for the sport.

Action: Keir to send a note of particular thanks to Ben Jury at New Forest re his efforts and the boost to our sign-up rates through his integrating sign up into his site booking system.

3. Confirmation of Future Meeting Dates.

Board

Thursday 11th September	09:30AM
Thursday 30th October	09:30AM
Thursday 4th December	09:30AM

Some additional meetings may well be required to address ad hoc issues and the proposed time for these meetings is 9am on Wednesday mornings.

Board Sub-Group

Wednesdays 9AM

Advisory Council

TBC

AGM

Sunday 18th January Virtual Online AGM

The meeting closed at 10:00AM

Minutes by:

Patrick Donovan
CEO