

MINUTES

Of the meeting of the **British Water Ski & Wakeboard Board** held on **Thursday 25th February 2021 Via Video Conference Call**

1. To Record Attendance and Apologies for Absence.

Present:

Martin Winter
Steve Sopp
Peter James
Simon Waring
Margaret Curtis
Nick Fellows
Clare Lobb
Patrick Donovan

Keir Boissevain
Kylie Cooper
Carole Cooney

Apologies:

John Battleday

2. Declarations of Interest.

There were no changes made to the register of members interests.

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 13th January 2021.

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

4. Matters Arising not Covered by this Agenda.

a). Sport & Recreation Alliance (SRA) – Patrick would follow the SRA calendar re the DCMS Committee / Parliamentary Sessions in relation to sport that might be pertinent to BWSW in terms of input on outdoor sport and related policy.

b) SRA attendance at a future Board meeting – Patrick would invite a contact at the SRA to attend the next Board meeting to outline their organisation's work and objectives.

c) Social media / potential volunteer – required an additional chase up with two other suggested names (Keir to follow up).

5. To Note Items for AOB.

None recorded.

6. Key Priorities 2021.

a) Tangible result for diversity in participation – following on from trial sessions in partnership with the Salford cable facility, further projects were planned this season with other urban centres due to their proximity to more non-traditional / diverse customer bases. An aim was to provide an opportunity to experience a sport outside of traditional school sport and a very different sporting experience that could attract new participants from these communities. It was highlighted that defining an actual baseline for diversity in casual participation across the sport and measuring results in relation to this baseline were a significant challenge due the ability to capture data and sample sizes. However, it was clear that there were individual

activities, coaches and affiliates who could contribute in this area e.g. through working with BWSW and Active Partnerships on achievable projects. Any current limitations in collecting data / measuring baselines did not however mean that these projects were not worthwhile and could have a positive impact.

Action: Keir would progress this project and Patrick / Kylie / Nick were happy to assist considering the similar programmes which had run during the 2013-17 funding round. Keir would produce a paper for the next Board meeting summarising the action taken / to be taken. This would if possible, include, following a suggestion from Maggie, a video for our website / social media from an identified former water ski champion promoting the initiative.

b) Insurance coverage across the sport – there were significant challenges for the sport with what appeared to be an increasingly hardened marine market. Racing, inflatables, and competition represented areas where there were difficulties in sourcing cover and there was a question mark over the level of third party liability cover. While there had been a very significant effort to find a solution to the issue of insurance within Racing there was currently no availability of cover to include competitor to competitor liability and training. A recent lead was being followed up re the international powerboat race organisation UIM's broker / their underwriter and Patrick would report back to include IWWF / E&A contacts on any developments. In terms of boat insurance, discussions were ongoing with a new provider to explore a potential mutual scheme (initially regarding boat cover at voluntary clubs). A survey of voluntary clubs was imminent on this point to assess viability of how such a scheme could be structured.

c) Review of operational procedures on insurance, incorporation of competition rules / accreditation procedures / protocols and policies e.g. re inflatables – the Board sub-group were currently working on a draft document which outlined the organisation's approach to affiliate obligations, insurance cover (to include business insurance, member cover, motorised cover) and the various procedures / controls across the sport and guidance / rules issued (including consideration of adopted protocols and procedures incorporated from E&A and IWWF World rules). The aim would be to seek imminently legal advice on the NGB's discharge of its duties in relation to:

(i) its procedures for issuing safety rules and policies to the facilities that make up its membership base.

(ii) certain of its rules and policies including those relating to inflatables which is not an activity formally within its constitutional remit.

(iii) its approach on recommending or giving guidance on insurance arrangements to the said facilities.

Action: The document would be finalised as soon as possible. Input on two areas was outstanding. An initial step would be to approach the Sport & Recreation Alliance pro bono legal helpline before seeking more comprehensive advice potentially via the same source or elsewhere.

d) Tangible result on e-membership and other membership initiatives – Peter outlined progress on these membership projects which had recently been presented to selected groups of voluntary and commercial clubs. Kylie reported that affiliates were keen to have more material / literature available on BWSW membership – the meetings were positive and good PR from the BWSW perspective.

e) Tangible result for diversity at board level – a standing item on the Board action log, diversity could be evidenced in many respects e.g. age, gender, background etc. though the Board had not as yet attracted a member from a more diverse / BAME community despite a recent recruitment drive. This would continue to be a focus of future more targeted recruitment ongoing.

f) Additional resource through Kickstart scheme (youth employment / training scheme) – there

was a change in the status of many Kickstart partners who had recently had their Kickstart provider status revoked by the Government. This related to a high number of partners not being able to source the minimum 30 applications to remain an active provider of the scheme. Due to a recent change in rules individual employers with fewer than 30 vacancies could now apply direct via the government gateway – Patrick had now very recently re-applied direct via the gov.uk portal. Timeframe for a response was currently unclear however he would follow up after one week.

g) Disciplines democratise circular – two candidates had responded to the circular requesting expressions of interest in representing the Disciplines on the Advisory Council, (Jane Sowerby, Disability and Ali White re Tournament).

Action: Steve would discuss with the Tournament Committee re current / future representatives and Patrick would discuss with Claire Ellis re disability representation. He would further ask that the Barefoot Committee formally acknowledged in their meeting minutes (if they had not already) their current representatives (Robert Crewe and Bibby Curtis). The exercise of seeking potential Advisory Council membership should be repeated yearly to ensure open recruitment of anyone who was interested. BWSW needed a clear paper trail considering the Sport England governance requirements.

h) Sport England (SE) submission – there was currently no information available on the submission for the next funding round in terms of timeline or format however the development of the SE strategy and ongoing consultation / seminars were being closely followed by senior staff.

i) Code for Sports Governance – Martin, Nick and Peter had spoken with Sport England re Board tenure and terms of office (BWSW directors were limited to three terms of three years). From this presentation there was a helpful and practical response and some traction had been found in this area. This item could therefore be removed from the imminent priorities list.

j) SBD3 – Steve had to leave the call prior to this point being discussed / to be updated at the next Board sub group call.

k) Records – progress on collation of records related to historical medal achievements at European and World Championships included collation of Cable Ski, Wakeboard and Cable Wakeboard which were now complete. These individual disciplines had recently been provided with this data as a final sanity check on accuracy / any omissions.

Action: Patrick would follow up on any final amendments and provide the data we so far had collated to Tony / Jane re the imminent 70th magazine edition. An additional task to follow up on would be publishing the historical medal achievements e.g. online in a standardised format.

l) Profile Raising – Jane Peel with our newsfeed service PA Media and the Disciplines to once again this season raise profile.

7. Finance.

a) Finance Report - update to be provided nearer to the year end when a draft year end position would be easier to ascertain.

8. Board Related Matters.

a) Board Action Log (Updated) – the Board action log was reviewed and updated during the meeting. Patrick would circulate with the next meeting agenda.

b) New Director(s) – following on from a recruitment drive, shortlisting of candidates and two rounds of interviews there were reservations expressed from some members involved in the process on appointing on this occasion (Steve highlighted staffing levels as an issue re induction, roll out of any projects etc. and Martin highlighted whether we were actually meeting the aim of the drive which was principally to recruit to diversify the Board further). There was some discussion on this point and agreement that we would hold off recruiting for a week while Martin investigated some additional potential candidates.

Action: Patrick would circulate a calendar item for Friday 5th March at 08:15 for a final decision on this matter / appointment.

c) Succession Planning – an ongoing item on the action log and discussion to be continued at the next meeting.

9. Confirmation of Future Meeting Dates.

Board

Thursday 1 st April	14:00
Thursday 13 th May	08:15 Conference Call re Action Log
Thursday 24 th June	14:00
Thursday 2 nd September	14:00
Wednesday 20 th October	08:15 Conference Call re Action Log
Thursday 25 th November	14:00

Advisory Council

TBC

AGM

TBC

The meeting closed at 16:30

Minuted by:

Patrick Donovan

CEO