

## MINUTES

Of the meeting of the **British Water Ski & Wakeboard Board** held on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 Via Video Conference Call**

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### 1. To Record Attendance and Apologies for Absence.

**Present:**

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

Keir Boissevain  
Kylie Cooper  
Jane Peel

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

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

### 4. Matters Arising not Covered by this Agenda.

a) Insurance & Operations Protocol Document – Martin updated everyone on his ongoing review of the supplementary documents and policies provided as an annex. Patrick would follow up with the Sport & Recreation Alliance on our submission re the pro bono legal support offer they provided to sports governing bodies.

b) Visits to Clubs – Log to be circulated by Keir re Board potential member visits to affiliates.

c) Club Grants – two applications received so far from those who had met the eligibility criteria of increasing their club membership during the previous season. Keir and Patrick would review the applications at close of the application window (31<sup>st</sup> of May).

d) Kickstart (Government youth employment scheme) – a very low level number of referrals for the roles advertised, the roles currently remained advertised / available however. An email notifying all members of the positions and other BWSW vacancies had been circulated also to try to find a suitable candidate. Everyone was asked to consider if they knew of any suitable candidates who met the criteria (18 to 24 years old, unemployed on Universal Credit and at risk of long term unemployment).

### 5. To Note Items for AOB.

a) BWSW Patron – Steve highlighted that since the passing of our long term former patron Lord Snowdon, BWSW had not appointed a new patron. Food for thought for all to consider any “well connected” potential patron who might be suitable for the role. Martin stated that Lord Moynihan was very effective as Honorary President. A further high profile appointment would be a positive but was likely to require a personal contact.

b) COVID guidance – Patrick and Keir had attended a recent Sport England / DCMS meeting

on the pending changes to COVID guidance from 17<sup>th</sup> May.

**Action:** Patrick would liaise with Keir on putting together some summary bullet points for circulation together with links to the latest published guidance by the Government and Sport England.

## 6. Ongoing Priorities.

a) Marketing – Patrick / Kylie / Keir. A meeting of the marketing group had been set for 20<sup>th</sup> May, Kylie and Patrick had very recently interviewed a candidate for the (voluntary) social media role which proved very positive (close date for applications 14<sup>th</sup> May). There were a number of initiatives currently being worked on in terms of promotion. Kylie outlined some of the planned filming currently being scheduled for the season to include diversity, inclusion / adaptive sport and a project to encourage the number of qualified female coaches. Positive role models within the sport being highlighted across our various communication channels was also an aim.

A note of thanks to Jane and Tony Fisher our designer and all who had contributed / assisted with the production of the bumper 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue of the BWSW magazine. Jane would continue as editor currently and outlined some of the current magazine planning and related upcoming media friendly communications / PR opportunities to include the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

b) UK Anti-Doping – Nick outlined that UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) had very recently announced the launch of their new National Governing Body (NGB) assurance process as part of their long-term strategic vision to create and maintain clean sport in the UK. This Assurance Framework covered a variety of matters across anti-doping, broken down into six key areas: Organisation and Governance, Legal, Education, Communications, Intelligence, and Investigations and Testing. A key aim was to ensure that any NGB had in place a comprehensive set of steps that would help to mitigate the risk of doping within a particular sport and that NGBs were compliant with the 24 points of the Policy. It was important to note that compliance with the Policy would be a condition of eligibility to receive current and future public funding; a window of time to meet UKAD approval for each aspect of the overall framework was set as 1st April 2022. An educational and strategy plan had to be filed by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021 and all and all evidence submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. For small NGBs, particularly those without a funded performance programme and a relatively limited staff resource the overall evidence driven process and scope of subject matter represented a very significant amount of work; Martin had responded to the Chair of UKAD's introductory letter to highlight this point whilst also recognising the need for clean sport. Martin had previously asked Nick if he would be able to lead on the compliance process considering the very "paper thin" and over stretched staffing situation currently at our HQ.

**Action:** Nick would act as the required board lead with our talent staff member (Richie) to act as our executive lead / Anti-doping Lead. Introductory meeting to be set up with Kylie / Nick / Patrick / Richie initially to outline the current anti-doping athlete process re licensing and squad contract matters etc. for background on our current position. Update reports on progress on the compliance process to be provided at board meetings as appropriate on a regular basis. Patrick would additionally invite Nick to the board sub-group meeting next Tuesday. Nick would circulate to those present the schedule of introductory UKAD webinars / support clinics which all were invited to attend if they wished to do so.

c) Insurance – Steve outlined some of his recent research and discussions with clubs who had responded to the voluntary boat insurance survey. It was clear that some had bespoke cover and / or specific arrangements in order to acquire cover e.g. one club had negotiated their premium / cover on the basis of the fact that the club would solely cater to members and no guests nor "come and try" groups. Richard Ward of IRCM Ltd had very kindly attended a recent board sub-group meeting to outline some of his research into the current marine market re top up cover for motorised boat liability (many could only acquire currently £1m liability cover). The sport in the UK had been affected by a contraction in the marine market though this had little to do with the actual sport itself and more to do with global losses and the risk appetite of insurers / underwriters during a particularly bad "cycle". Richard had further clarified alternative insurance schemes to include capture and mutual schemes though significant sums were required to create any initial fund. It was clear there were also ongoing significant

management costs to include auditing and regulatory costs should BWSW wish to venture down this route in the future. Richard Ward would report back at the beginning of June on his search for top up cover.

Steve reported that the situation with Racing remained unchanged, racing cover solely for this year by GJW for those who had current policies and had been invited to renew on the current policy terms. GJW had confirmed unequivocally that they would not consider any form of powerboat racing insurance beyond the current season or this season for any new or previously lapsed policies. The BWSW insurance group aimed to meet in later May with two representatives of the racing community to be invited to discuss the situation. The simple fact remained that competitor-to-competitor cover for racing events and athlete training at the speeds involved remained an uninsurable risk in the UK. All leads via various brokers and consultants and most recently via the IWWF (through the broker of the international powerboat racing body Union Internationale Motonautique) had led to the same stark underwriting fact. However, there was in any case an open mind and wish to find a way or / innovative solution moving forward with this existential matter for Racing.

**Action:** Patrick would circulate a date / agenda today to the insurance group with two identified racing representatives to be invited to attend.

d) Membership – Keir. Membership numbers were so far positive considering the point in the season (though down on 2019 currently). A number of clubs (mainly racing it appeared at this stage) were unlikely to affiliate this season. 44 clubs/ centres had currently completed the affiliation / accreditation process. He outlined progress with the membership “kick back” scheme for commercial providers which aimed to incentivise membership take up. Circa 130 E-members had signed up to this particular scheme, promotional material on this scheme was available and some clubs and centres had included E-membership as part of their sign up / waiver process though more progress on this was needed.

**Action:** Keir / Kylie to provide a summary update on membership numbers / affiliation status at end of May and middle of June.

e) Diversity – Clare / Martin. The BWSW board were committed to diversity and inclusion across the leadership of the organisation (currently an ongoing work in progress) and wider participation within the sport. A number of centres were on board with a funded diversity initiative to introduce participants from more diverse communities to the sport. Kylie provided some further detail on the diversity video production schedule with the first filming taking place at the RAF Championships next week.

**Action:** Kylie would liaise with Jane on an agreed schedule to release promotional videos across the various BWSW communication channels and seek to show a more diverse participation base on our website.

f) Board Action Log. The action log was reviewed, compliance with the UKAD Assurance Framework had been added to the log as a current action. Patrick had added the Sport England Performance Learning System as a standing item which represented a live log of progress and measures in relation to the agreed shared goals between the NGB and Sport England for the current rollover Year 5 funding.

## **7. Confirmation of Future Meeting Dates.**

### **Board**

Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	14:00 Sport & Recreation Alliance to Attend
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	14:00
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	08:15 Conference Call re Action Log
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	14:00

### **Advisory Council**

Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	11:00
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### **AGM**

TBC

The meeting closed at 10:15 AM

**Minuted by:**  
Patrick Donovan  
**CEO**