

**Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting
of the UK Windsurfing Association (UKWA)
Held at WPNSA, Weymouth on 12 July 2014**

45 people signed the attendance sheet (29 x 1 vote and 15 x 2 votes) = 59 voters

Welcome and thanks to all for attending from Bob Ingram

Exec Apologies: Peter Davis, Nigel Treacy, James Palin, Rod Davis, David Bradley, Paul Sibley

1. Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM:

The AGM Minutes from 2013 were Approved and signed.

Proposed: Chris Bond **Seconded:** Dave Coles

Floor Vote: APPROVED, None against

2. Matters arising from the Previous Minutes (not covered in the Agenda Items)

None received from the floor.

3. Chairman's Report (Bob Ingram):

Thank you/s:

The association wishes to send its sympathies to the friends and family of Howard Plumb and thank you to Robert Kent for speaking so well of Howard this morning at registration.

A big thank you to everyone who supported the UKWA during 2013. The committee had thought that we had weathered the storm of the recession this year but numbers did still drop a little during 2013 and it turned out to be another difficult year for us, and for the trade in general, lots of windsurfing outlets didn't sell much kit, but I guess they were very much supported by the growth in paddle boarding and without that growth there may not have been so many shops out there now.

2014 seems to show a little bit of an increase so far so let's hope that this holds up through the year and please support your local shop which will help the sport in the long run.

Particular thanks to our safety crews and our race officers and administrators behind the scenes, without whom the races wouldn't happen and a personal thanks to Brian and Ann who turn up at every event we run, hours in advance and who stay long after people have left, helping out at registration and setting things up and putting it all away again.

Additionally, thanks to Jon Eskdale who scores at events but who also does a lot of hard work behind the scenes collating the Series, etc and to everyone else who helps with the administration.

Thanks to our volunteer support/committee boat crew who give up their time without any payment.

Thanks to Alastair for the website, which again he does completely free of charge. He has made some upgrades and changes behind the scenes which has taken him a lot of time and has made it a lot more user friendly for us behind the scenes.

I'd like to thank the Committee and sub committees for all their hard work on tasks set during the year and thanks to John Ellis for preparing the Accounts.

A special thanks also to Paul Robinson (Treasurer) who works tirelessly with John and Arabella to make sure that the Association is on a sound financial footing.

Thanks to Rod Davis for all his hard work with sponsorship, he puts a lot of hard work in behind the scenes to try and bring sponsors in to the Association. Stena Line was a great asset to the Association in 2012 but it is hard to get any sponsors to commit long term. The Committee has worked hard to put a policy document in place, which is now published on the web, to attract potential sponsors in the future. Any leads are welcome; it helps us all by keeping costs down.

A big thanks to all the sponsors who support the Wave and Slalom activities, without them these disciplines would probably not be possible.

Thanks to David Bradley for taking on Freestyle during 2013. Unfortunately so far this year we haven't been able to run a Freestyle Tour, but we hope to do so later in the year.

Thanks also to Nigel Treacy for his continued success with the BWA and to Pete Davies for maintaining the high profile which Speed deserves.

Thanks to James Palin who is standing as Boson. James has done a fantastic job getting our boats into a good condition and organising the necessary logistics required to run a successful event.

Also thanks to Arabella for her admin work behind the scenes.

Last but not least a big thank you to my family, Sue and Tessa for their help. Thank you very much.

Disciplines:

In general 2013 was a good year for events UKWA, but as I previously said numbers could have been better.

Slalom

- Thanks to Fanatic North, Starboard, Tushingham, Quayside Windsurfing, The OTC, Puravida and RRD for their support through the year.
- In 2013 we ran a full program of 6 events. The BSA branding has been a fantastic success, with growing support from competitors, the brands and magazines. Participants included 53 Pros, 22 Amateurs & 26 Masterblasters, a total of 104 (although down 39 on 2012 all events were very lively and well supported). The guaranteed income negotiated with the sponsors has helped with planning and has been a really positive development for the Association. The 2014 season will see 8 events with new Sponsors coming on board and a re-negotiated financial arrangement to enable 3 boats rather than 2 to attend events.

BWA Report 2013 sent in from Nigel Treacy (apologies not in attendance)

- **Wales:** No wind. Good attendance assisted by fact that Wales runs as a back-to-back event with Ireland.
- **Ireland:** Event ran at a loss and sustained by BWA/Sponsorship funds. Marginal winds. Excellent competition and memorial to Mikey Clancy.
- **Scotland:** Tiree Wave Classic continues to enjoy support from Event Scotland and Puravida Boardriders. Although ES funds are greatly reduced (50% that of 2009), Tiree Wave Classic continues to enjoy excellent exposure on Sky Sports, showcasing British wavesailing and benefiting UK Windsurfing.
- **England:** Event ran by Puravida Boardriders. The event coincided with the PWA Maui Classic but BWA Cornwall enjoyed extreme weather conditions which combined to capture the imagination of the public and press.
- Entry / Membership performance: Down 45 entries on 2012

	Wales	Ireland	Scotland	England	Total
2009	45	28	37	37	187
2010	35	36	31	53	155
2011	37	34	52	81	204
2012	55	43	50	76	224
2013	33	38	39	69	179

- BWA is proud to be a part of UKWA and we wish you all great success in 2014,
Nigel Treacy

Freestyle Report from David Bradley (apologies not in attendance)

- 2013 saw 6 events. The good news is that due to fantastic support from a group of younger Freestyle sailors, mainly from a university windsurfing background, we had an excellent season.
- A very big thanks go to Julian da Vall for doing his utmost to keep the costs of running the events to a bare minimum. Minimal expenses have been claimed by Julian and I personally have not claimed any expenses myself.
- Moving forward, the Committee has had many discussions with interested parties to run a 2014 Tour, as yet without success but we are continuing to examine the possibility of franchising out the Tour to Adam Sims, a well-known International competitor. We have now issued a contract and there is still the possibility of some events being run later in the season.
- If this does not work the UKWA will explore running a one-off National Freestyle Championships itself to keep the discipline alive.

Speed Report *Pete Davies* (apologies not in attendance)

- Speedsailing in the UK is still going strong, with over 80 entrants for Weymouth Speed week, of which 30 were UKWA members. 2013 UKWA Speed Champion was Kevin Greenslade. 2014's event is well underway and we are hoping for over 100 entrants this year.
- GPS speed sailing is also still going strong, with riders from all over the UK posting their fastest times. We are planning a 2014/15 online UK competition which I am suggesting is endorsed by the UKWA to encompass this side of the sport.
- Internationally the ISWC European Championships have taken place on Fuerteventura, with Zara Davis retaining her European Championship Crown for a record 4th time. The Men's European Champion was Bjorn Dunkerbeck. Jim Crossley was the highest placed Brit at the event with a very creditable 8th place overall.

Racing – Bob Ingram

- 2013 saw 6 Cup events with the sixth event being in conjunction with the RYA Youth & Masters, which we are now running for them.
- There were also 5 Inland events supported by the UKWA, plus the National Junior Championships.
- Formula numbers continued to be disappointing, with 15 (down 3); Raceboard 30 (down 12); RS:X 29 (up 1) and Techno 64 (down 8).
- The 2014 season will see some radical changes with 5 National Championship events, 3 Inland events plus the big event with the RYA at the end of the season at Rutland in September where we hope to get between 200 and 250 boards out on the water.
- There will be a review at the end of the season and your feedback is always most welcome.
- I have had continued meetings with the RYA. Our main contact has been on maternity leave and Duncan has been replaced by Mark Nichols.

General

- Windsurfer of the year was awarded to Farrel O'Shea and the Windsurfing Hall of Fame continues to grow.
- The UKWA continued to support the NWF and will do so again in 2014.
- It is clear to the Committee that we need new young blood on board in the Exec with fresh ideas and we also need much more assistance on and off the water with new crew. Please let us know if you are willing to get involved in the Association's future or on the water/beach at events.

4. Treasurer's Report and to receive the Financial Statements and Accounts for the year to 31 December 2013

- (Bob Ingram) **Accounts to 31st December 2013** were prepared by John Ellis, with support from Paul and Arabella.
- The Accounts have been approved and signed by the Chairman and Treasurer and have been sent to John Ellis (Accountant) to be lodged with Companies House.

Treasurer's Report (Paul Robinson):

- We did think 2013 was going to be a pretty tough financial year. We weren't able to secure sponsorship so started the year £2K down.
- We had purchased a new rib in 2012 but we had to replace Buska's engine in 2013 as it was well past its sell by date.
- The recession did have a sting in the tail over the year, our event and membership income showed a fall of -17% which overall we showed a £6.5 deficit on the year.
- Whilst our expenses were up, primarily due to the higher cost of fuel and transportation to events, administration costs were 4% down but we knew we had to buy a new engine for Buska and we have also updated the computer equipment and software for the office.
- Having spent the money on new equipment, we hoped that our maintenance and repair costs would decrease, which they did by 17%. So this was the right decision for us to have made during the year.
- As a result of increased capital expenditure during this last and the previous year, the capital depreciation costs as shown in the accounts do show a corresponding increase from £1,500 last year to just over £6k this year, contributing substantially to the year's deficit.
- It is very clear that the profitability of the Association does rely on the number of entries and there is a break-even point. We have been looking at introducing other things to try at events, such as kite surfing and paddleboarding, which will help bring in the extra income needed.
- We are going to have to buy another outboard, but the purchase of this will be slightly offset against the sale of the jet ski which will replace a bit of our capital.
- Income and Expenditure – deficit for the year due to the reduction of some of our income, but it does look like things are improving already this year so we are not too worried at the moment about the future but we will keep monitoring it.
- No questions from the floor.

PROPOSED that the 2013 Accounts are agreed and signed by the Directors: Kevin Proffitt

SECONDED: Rob Kent

FLOOR: none against

5. Resources Report – James Palin, Boson (apologies had to go home before AGM meeting):

(Bob Ingram):

- 2013 has been a year where we have significantly tried to minimise expenditure in line with the anticipated income, however we have had to undertake necessary maintenance on a number of boats in order to ensure we adequately meet our current racing requirements.
- One of the items decided was that it was financially worthwhile to keep all four boats (we had initially decided to sell one) but due to reasons of logistics and wear and tear on the fleet (for the timebeing at least) we would keep all four, which has so far been relatively successful and the crew have benefitted from having better kit to use this year.
- Buska had a replacement engine; Tarifa has been in for a rebuild of its gearbox; Rescue One has had a replacement gearbox and Legs and the new rib (now known as Marmyte) has been attended to free of charge by Rib Craft due to running issues, which James assures us have now been resolved.
- All trailers are also now being maintained and serviced on an annual basis.

- We undertook a review of our Insurance policy, put out to 6 specialist insurers, but James was pleased to confirm that our renewal quote from Porthcawl, our current insurers who have insured the fleet for quite some time, have held their price again this year and came out on top. We do go through this exercise from time to time to make sure that the Association is getting good value for money.
- The crew have worked on a new check list system regarding ground tackle (ropes, weights, anchors etc) which has significantly reduced the amount of losses that we normally get through and saved approximately £1K.
- We purchased some additional equipment for first aid (defibrillator and medical oxygen, etc) which are now taken round to all the events. We hope we never have to use them but if we ever need to we now have the equipment available on site.
- In summary James reports that we are in a good position with all of our boats and which have been maintained and are ready for the forthcoming 2014 Series; however we are always looking to grow the team so would really like to see some new faces coming along for taster mornings or afternoons. Please speak to the race officer if you are interested.
- We are all looking forward to the 2014 season and hope to provide some great racing – *James Palin* (Bob Ingram) - Thanks to James for all his hard work.

6. Constitution Proposals:

- The 2012 AGM flagged up the need for the UKWA to reorganise its management structure to recognise that the UKWA was no longer a single discipline body, but was in fact operating as an umbrella organisation, covering a number of disciplines and as such, needed to operate in a different and more efficient manner.
- The Company Secretary outlined a proposal in the 2013 AGM and sought agreement in principle from the Association to proceed down this route and provide revised Articles.
- The 2013 AGM agreed to proceed by having a smaller Board of Directors elected annually at the AGM and a Management Committee who would be essentially Heads of Discipline and those elected through the disciplines route rather than at the AGM
- No comments were received from the membership following publication of the AGM minutes regarding this proposal.
- The originator of this proposal, Jay Williamson has decided not to seek re-election in the post of Company Secretary.
- Following discussions and Company structure advice from John Ellis, this proposal has been modified and the proposed structure of the organisation is amended as a result. The memorandum and articles of the Association has been rewritten to reflect this.

Proposal

- The proposed concept is of a Board of Directors comprising AGM annually elected positions (6) as follows:

Chairman
Finance
Administration
Communication
Marketing and Publicity
Resources

- And nominated Directors to encompass the windsurfing disciplines under the UKWA umbrella, ie :

Head of Racing
 Head of Waves
 Head of Slalom
 Head of Speed
 Head of Freestyle

These positions will be elected annually through the disciplines concerned and co-opted onto the Board of Directors.

- In addition :

The number of those eligible to vote to achieve a quorum for the AGM has also been revised. With the reduced attendance at events, the current 50 eligible voters has been challenging to achieve. The new numbers are 25 for an AGM and 20 for an Extraordinary AGM. The use of proxy votes is encouraged.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Bond
 SECONDER: Kevin Proffitt
 FLOOR: none against

7. Election of Officers (under the new Proposal):

The following have agreed to stand for 2014:

Chairman: Bob Ingram
Finance/Treasurer: Paul Robinson
Administration: Brian Tilbury
Communication: Alastair Campbell
Marketing and Publicity: Rod Davis
Resources: James Palin

VOTED EN BLOC: unanimous in the room – None against

Committee's - Co-opted Directors:

Head of Racing: Bob Ingram
 Head of Slalom: Bob Ingram (to be replaced asap)
 Head of Speed: Pete Davis
 Head of Freestyle: Situation Vacant
 Head of Wave: Nigel Treacy

8. RYA Proposal and others

The RYA has proposed the disbanding of the Techno & RSX Classes and replacing them with Steering Groups. They are proposing that a Windsurfing Project Officer would be employed by the RYA who would work with the UKWA and its Steering Groups to further the windsurfing pathway.

The UKWA and the Classes have certain reservations, but continue to explore all avenues.

One consequence is moving the UKWA further away from its role of running just competitive windsurfing to an organization which includes a training division.

Discussions with the RYA are ongoing and any thoughts and ideas/contributions from the members would be welcome. Please contact Bob Ingram if you wish to contribute in any way.

We continue to have discussions with other Class Associations along with the Kiteboarding and Paddle boarding Associations and we are still optimistic that we may get them alongside us later this season.

9. AOB

Mike Dempsey asked the Directors to speak to the Harbour Master at Weymouth about the 6 knot markers which are hampering the safe operation of our crew and sailors on the water.

On behalf of the Membership, Brian Tilbury thanked Bob and Sue Ingram for all they do to keep the Association on track. Applause all round.

Meeting Closed: 8.50pm

Thank you to all those who attended

AA/21 July 2014

BRIEF NOTES FROM THE SAILORS MEETING continued after the close of the AGM

RYA talk by Mark Nichols

Mark outlined the new RYA Steering Group proposal to the meeting and asked that any comments/ ideas/thoughts to be sent in to the UKWA so everyone can move forward with the Proposal.

SAILORS MEETING:

Floor comments:

- Young sailors feel badly let down and stop windsurfing all together when they realise that they can't progress any further in the Olympic pathway. The morale of youth sailors needs to be dealt with in a significantly improved manner.
- The RYA needs to commit to a published calendar and not allow their training events to interfere with already agreed calendar dates. They also need to improve the content of their website.
- The North Sea Cup was cancelled for 2014 due to the techno and RSX Class sailors having to attend training elsewhere during the previous year's Cup event at Herne Bay.
- Suggestion that a brochure and more communication (and a contact) via the UKWA to be available to explain about the alternative Classes which young sailors can move into rather than give up the sport.
- PROPOSAL for more Cup events in the 2015 calendar – Chris Bond. NOTED by Directors.
- Bank Holidays: either race over 3 days or don't have an event at all. PROPOSAL for 1 Bank Holiday of three days per year and 1 Bank Holiday for 2 days. NOTED by the Directors.
- Bob Ingram will look at including a North Sea Cup in the 2015 calendar.