

**Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting
of the UK Windsurfing Association (UKWA)
Held at WPNSA, Weymouth on 16 July 2016**

31 people signed the attendance sheet, representing 45 membership votes.

Welcome and thanks to all for attending from Bob Ingram

Committee Apologies: Alastair Campbell, Peter Davis, Nigel Treacy

1. Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM:

The AGM Minutes from 2015 were Approved and signed.

Proposed: Rob Kent **Seconded:** John Adcock

Floor Vote: Approved - None against, no abstentions

Copy signed for filing.

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

none

3. Chairman's Report (Bob Ingram):

- Arabella

The most significant thing to happen in recent years has been the very sad passing of Arabella our administrator for the past 14 years.

Arabella lost her short but brave battle with cancer.

Much more than an administrator I would like to remember her as a friend.

My relationship began with her under the chairmanship of Ian Jones, when Ceri left and as event organizer/head of racing we had a lot of contact. It is fair to say the association was in a bit of a mess and Arabella was fundamental in getting things back on the straight and narrow.

I should like to put on record the enormous debt we owe her and our enormous thanks for her years of service. I am sure the committee and the entire membership will remember and join me in thanking her.

- Moving Forward

Whilst there is great sadness there is also great opportunity to modernise the association. My personal thanks to Paul for taking on the role of Administrator after much arm twisting. He has already made changes and continues to do so working with Alastair to change the way we do things. This will take time, but he has my 100% support, and when he leaves and indeed myself, we hope the association will be in a good place to continue without us.

- Start with some thank-you

- Thanks to everyone for supporting the UKWA during 2015. As I said last year The committee is always concerned about the popularity of windsurfing and 2015 has again been a difficult year for the windsurfing trade. Fortunately 2015 saw numbers plateau for course racing and for slalom some growth, which was good news indeed. Just perhaps windsurfing is on the up.

- Thanks to our safety crews and race officers and admin crews. My personal thanks to Brian and Ann who turn up early and leave late at every event to help set up and break down the kit. Additionally thanks to John and Sue.

- Thanks to all out volunteers, Support boat crew, committee boat crews, admin crew all everyone else who helped out in 2014

- Thanks to Alastair for the web site there have been continuing changes mainly behind the scenes which has upgraded the web, this takes a lot of Alastair's personal time.

- Thanks to the committee for all their hard work especially the sub committees and regions organising their National and local events
- Thanks to John Ellis for repairing the accounts and a special thanks to Paul who took over as treasurer 5 years ago and his report will demonstrate his dedication is putting the association in a much better place than it has been for many a long year. This enabled the association to purchase a new events trailer and a new boat trailer and in the 2015 accounts a new launch vehicle, something we have needed for many years. I am sure Paul will discuss.
- Thanks to Eddy for all his hard work with the truck this has proven to be a great asset.
- Thanks to Rod for all his hard work all the UKWA sponsors for supporting the association, without which the slalom and probably the wave series would be impossible. Unfortunately despite leads which were followed up no lead sponsor could be found in 2015 However the committee has worked hard to put a policy document in place published on the web to attract potential sponsors in the future. Any leads are welcome, it helps us all keeping costs down
- Thanks to Nigel Treacey for his continued success with the BWA, Nigel remains as Chair of Wave, BWA, but has handed over the event organization to Geoff Hautman, and to Pete Davies for maintaining the high profile which speed deserves.
- Thanks to James Palin, Boson. The Committee decided to continue to retain all 4 ribs for 2015 and due to James hard work we are in a much better position than we have been for years. Additional thanks to Kevin Profit for all his assistance with the maintenance of the fleet.
- Finally thanks to my wife Sue and Tessa for their hard work and support.
- In general 2015 was a good year for events UKWA, and as I said previously numbers held steady and in slalom increased.

- **Slalom**

Thanks to Fanatic North k66, Starboard Tushingham Severn , Gaastra Tabou, quiver windsurfing goya , Quayside Windsurfing, The OTC, Puravida, Farrel at O'shea, Agent 8, and to RRD,. We ran a program of 7 events. The BSA branding has been a fantastic success with growing support from both competitors the brands and magazines etc. 25 pros, 67 Amateurs & 20 Masterblasters total 112 up 1 on 2014. The guaranteed income negotiated with the sponsors has helped with planning and has been a really positive development for the association. We took 3 boats to events which helped substantially with running better quality racing. The 2015 season saw a new financial arrangements so that no individual sponsor loses out financially. There was shared risk and indeed shared profit. With an option to hand this profit to the UKWA all but two did. Moving forward to 2016 Quayside withdrew but NWF events joined therefore things remained as previously.

- **Wave**

Wave continues to operate with great success under the BWA banner. During 2015 three events were held making up the British Championships, in Wales, Cornwall and the highlight in Tiree. Tiree had a junior element which is most welcome and especially good for the future of wave sailing.

- **Freestyle**

There was 1 freestyle event in 2015. The committee worked hard to develop a relationship with Get Windsurfing and The OTC. We ran 1 very successful event and were able to crown a British Champion. Unfortunately we have been unable to deliver any events in 2016 despite our best efforts but never say never and we will continue to talk to anyone with the required skills to run such events.

- **Speed Pete Davies**

Speed sailing in the UK is still going strong with over 80 entrants for Weymouth Speed week of which many were UKWA members. We crown a UKWA speed sail champion.

GPS speed sailing is also still going strong with riders from all over the UK posting their fastest times.

- **Racing**

2015 saw 6 cup events

There were also 3 inland events

There was 1 additional event

- The highlight was surely the New concept of The Champions Cup with the Junior youth and Masters run by the UKWA and supported by the RYA with 200+ boards on the water, a great success both event wise and financially. Grafham was not such a user friendly venue as Rutland but we hope to iron out the issues when we return there in 2017. 2016 will see the event back at Rutland.
- Formula numbers continued to be disappointing with 20 (up 4), raceboard 25 (Up 4), RS:X 34 (Down 6), and Techno 67 (Up 15). However you can make these numbers say almost anything given the number of events versus overall series entries actual number of entries went up.
- 2016 season will see 6 cup event, 3 inland events plus the big event with RYA at end of season.
- There will be a review at the end of the season and your feedback is welcomed at any time (except right now)
- I have had continued meetings with the RYA mainly in discussion with regard to the pathway classes; these remain confusing and lacking structure. Moving forward we have further meetings planned to resolve the outstanding issues. It has been acknowledged that the changes made to Team 15 did not work and a U turn almost back to the previous template with improvements will it is hoped see numbers grow again. The Biggest development are the new Techno & RS:X class committees and we should thank them for their hard work supporting the pathway classes.

- **General**

- Windsurfer of the year was awarded to Kevin Greenslade and the Windsurfing Hall of Fame continues to grow.
 - The UKWA continued to support the NWF and will do so again in 2016
 - An outstanding Contribution to Windsurfing was made to Paul Chapman our leading boatman.
 - An outstanding achievement award was made to Jono Dunnett for his circumnavigation of the British Isles on a Phantom Raceboard.
 - It is however clear to the committee that we need new young blood on board with fresh ideas and we also need much more assistance on and off the water with new crew.
-

- Rob Kent was appointed to the RYA council representing the UKWA, Rob can you briefly update us on proceedings.

4. Treasurer's Report and to receive the Financial Statements and Accounts for the year to 31 December 2015 – Paul Robinson

- Firstly many thanks for your attendance at your AGM. As I have said before, the members make the Association by their involvement and attendance at Events and by their volunteering to manage all aspects of the Association from its management, decision making and to the running of its multi-disciplined events; course racing ,slalom, waves, speed and freestyle. Without the infra structure to support these parts of the UKWA then they couldn't happen. My role is to ensure we remain in such a financial position as to be sufficiently viable to be able to

manage and operate to achieve our set aims and to be able to run the competitive side of our Association.

- As you know, but it is always good to be reminded, we operate a virtual volunteer structure to manage the UKWA assorted disciplines. In essence our Administration and accounting are the key elements that are outsourced.
- Before we move on I would like to give due recognition to the fantastic work that Arabella Anthrup gave to the Association over her 12 years of outstanding contribution. As you maybe aware she was unable to continue her role in the latter part of the 2015 season due to ill health and she finally lost her courageous battle in the earlier part of this year.
- I have now picked up the pieces in a dual role of Finance and admin and I am even more familiar of how complex the process is with the balancing and updating of the two independent data bases to achieve both the operational side and the financial side.

2015

- 2014 had been a successful year both in terms of event attendance and from a financial view where we had finished the year with a surplus of £6752 even with the replacement of one of the aging rib engines.
- So we entered 2015 in a sound financial position albeit we had planned some further major expenditure in the purchase of a support 4 wheeled drive vehicle to enable launch and recovery to be achieved without a hand to mouth begging and borrowing of any 4 wheeled vehicle the race crew might have arrived in!. In addition there was a further planned replacement of a rib engine, ie a expenditure in the region of £20K (note our old rib engine exceed their recommended life by a considerable margin and were now costing a significant amount to maintain)
- In the event due to unforeseen equipment failure, a further £7667 expenditure was required to replace a boat trailer and tanoy microphones
- Sound cost control meant that the rib and associated equipment was over £1000 below budget

ACCOUNTS TO 31 DECEMBER 2015

- Page 1 – As you can see the event entries were encouraging and generally higher than the preceding year. We were also able to run a freestyle event the first since 2103
- Page 4 - Turnover – This shows the income and expenditure for the Association as against 2014. Our income is essentially event and membership income and our expenditure is the cost of running the events plus rib maintenance, insurance which includes boats, public liability and members insurance and all the UKWA administration fees and affiliation costs.
- This basically gives us a break even scenario over the year.
- Page 5 – The balance sheet shows that our assets are comparable to last year and that we remain in a solvent situation
- This meant that we did not feel pressure to either increase membership fees (static for 9 years) nor event fees(static for 4 years) so long as we sought efficiency savings and maintained current operation level.
- Thank you once again for all your support – are there any questions?
- Rob Kent asked for confirmation that the income and expenditure on page 4 included capital acquisition eg vehicle. This was confirmed as correct.

PROPOSED that the 2015 Accounts are agreed and signed by the Directors: John Adcock

SECONDED: Rob Kent

FLOOR: All in favour, none against, no abstentions.

2 copies signed for forwarding to John Ellis/Companies House; plus one for filing

5. **Resources Report – James Palin, Boson**

- All equipment is working fine!
- A big thank you to all our a fantastic team of volunteers who tow boats all around the country making sure they are in the right place for each event. So thank you to all of the team who work very hard on the logistics An awful lot of work happens on and off season so the logistics are a big challenge.

6. **Election of Directors**

The following elected Directors have all stood down and agreed to stand for 2016:

Chairman: Bob Ingram

Finance/Treasurer: Paul Robinson

Administration: Brian Tilbury

Communication: Alastair Campbell

Marketing and Publicity: Rod Davis

Resources: James Palin

THE EXISTING DIRECTORS WILL BE RE-ELECTED EN BLOC UNLESS SOMEONE ELSE WANTS TO NOMINATE THEMSELVES OR SOMEONE ELSE: None from floor

ABOVE DIRECTORS VOTED EN BLOC:

Proposed ...Mark Kay

Seconded ... John Pete

Unanimous vote in the room – None against, no abstentions

Existing Committee's - Co-opted Directors will be:

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

7. **AOB of the Association**

• **Proposal 1**

“That the Articles of the Association are amended so as to ensure and clarify that every UKWA Director, whether elected or nominated, shall be a fully paid up member of the UKWA, both upon their election/nomination and during their term of office.”

Proposed ...B Ingram

Seconded....P Robinson

No questions

Floor Vote: Approved - None against, no abstentions

Proposal passed

- **Proposal 2**

“The membership fees for the Association have remained static and have not been increased in line with inflation for the last 9 years. IN order to keep membership to this current low level, it is essential that the Association is run effectively and efficiently. It is proposed that in order to achieve this, that electronic messaging be further used and that in future membership details and calendar, historically posted, shall be in the form of email. In 2015 postage costs were £490”

Proposed ... P Robinson

Seconded.... B Ingram

In response to a query from Janet Pain it was confirmed that if a member's email address was not known then the postage option was retained as the exception

No further queries

Floor Vote: Approved - None against, no abstentions

Proposal passed

- **2017calendar**

The proposed calendar was presented which showed a earlier start date in the year with Weymouth being the initial cup event which from a safety perspective was considered vital. This was further discussed in the sailors meeting

- **Beach commentary opportunity**

Mark Kay advised that there was a lot of interest from spectators at Bridlington and it would be great PR for a commentary explaining what was happening on the water. This had been done in the past and suitable volunteers would always be appreciated. (Chairman). It was suggested that there should be a request for volunteers on the website for each event.

- **Incentivisation**

Colin McCann requested a method of incentivising senior international sailors (e.g. Olympic) be investigated to encourage them to attend UKWA events to inspire current sailors. Perhaps free entry option? This would be considered with the RSX Class Association

Meeting Closed: 8.41pm

Many thanks to all those who attended

PR/30 July 2015

BRIEF NOTES FROM THE SAILORS MEETING continued after the close of the AGM 2016

Start: 9.00pm

R Kent - Can the inland series include all the inland events for 2017 – ie 4 (the 3 regional events and the British Inland championships which will still be a standalone event as well)

Voted and unanimously agreed

A Masters - Any Inland events clash with potential International events to be checked

M Kay - Can the Masterblaster at events be renamed/rebranded to encourage juniors/team 15 entries?

Some practical issues eg non-member insurance but could the rya membership insurance be applied? A possibility - actions – M Kay to confirm insurance with RYA, B Tilbury willing to run it

I Lines – Can the techno fleet have 4 back to back races on Sunday rather than go back to the beach and then finish racing?

There were strong safety issues given the very variable skill and endurance levels between the front and back of the fleet and that was the reason for the tally system

Other fleets were not enthusiastic in following this lead

Race crews should also be considered as they required a break having started at 7 am

Grand prix finishes and extending the last lap of second race so as to finish nearer the shore were suggestions from C Gibson

It was suggested that sometimes parents were unaware of the racing conditions and parents were always welcome to go on the race ribs to see and understand the issues

The latest start time was in place to ensure that race pressure didn't extend the day too long and all were aware of the long distances to travel home.

Could it be earlier? eg 3 pm. There were split views on this with a lot of events having late pm winds following a windless day.

I lines thought better communication might help in running increased back to back events whilst the race crew confirmed that it was very clear when sailors were getting tired and it again came down to the variability of abilities and size within fleets.

Some thought a set number of races were more applicable than just banging out the races

Slalom racing has similar variation in abilities but as much closer to the beach and short sharp focused action is not such a safety issue

The sailors view could be sought in conjunction with more transparency of the race officers intention

It was generally felt that the race crew were doing a fantastic job

Whilst the sentiments were very much appreciated it was stated that a zero tolerance was to be taken against abusive language across all disciplines. There was not to be a warning scenario but treat the race officer with respect as rugby treat referees not as football. Individuals could be disqualified from the race / event / season.

All sailors agreed with this policy

This needs not only to be stated at briefing but acted upon.

Scottish event

Is this possible? Past experience was not good with few competitors registering. History shows a declining number of entrants the further north events are held. It is also very costly to run so sponsorship and a qualifier designation was very important considerations. If these can be overcome then it could be possible over a bank holiday period with training opportunity set up pre event. to be looked at for 2018

Other locations such as Cornwall should be looked at - Looe details to be advised

Thanks to all attendees.

End of meeting 10.05pm

North Sea Cup was cancelled for 2014 owing to Techno and RSX Classes having to attend events elsewhere. For 2015 the North Sea Cup was a bit of a nightmare. We were having conversations with the organisers and right up to the Tuesday before the event we had an email to say that there was a North Sea Cup and a few people turned up. Not good for them or us as I am sure more people would have turned up had they known.

We can only make the event viable at our prices and we will continue to communicate along those lines and see where we go for 2016.

There was a proposal last year for more Cup events in 2015, which we did. We have one extra event this year. They also proposed that we have 3 day events over Bank Holidays or don't use Bank Holidays at all.

It hadn't been intended to use the second Bank Holiday in May this year, but due to events moving around internationally we had to move the Rutland event to the Bank Holiday which wasn't good for sailors or crew as they had already made arrangements and it was difficult to get crew to run the event.

We have taken that on board and the 2016 calendar at the moment has got a 2-day event on the first Bank Holiday of the year but we need to look at tides as to which venue we use.

FLOOR PROPOSED AND AGREED: Keep to 2days not 3 days over bank holidays

- Raceboards and Formula boards for use at events. Try before you buy. All areas of the country if possible, some areas more serviced than others. Long distances involved, so not viable for some parents.
- Training days for Raceboard Youth Pathways, 2 or 3 times a year,
- Kit day on a Bank Holiday Monday?
- World Youth Title, not enough youth Raceboarders at present, but you can be European Champion.
- Raceboard Europeans Brest: SUGGESTED organising a team and support to go to Brest, probably 25-30 August 2016
- Consider Looe, Cornwall for an event. Josephine Spencer's mum (Kim) to send Bob Ingram details.
- 2nd half of May and 2nd week of June – School exams – half term 26th/27 May
- Important to find a way to keep the kids windsurfing.
- Vote of thanks from the floor

Thanks to all attendees.
End of meeting 9.55pm