

Minutes of 2024 AGM held @ WPNSA Saturday 13th April 2024.

Quorum Confirmed meeting began @ 7.45pm

Agenda

1. Approval of the [Minutes of the previous AGM 2023](#)
Proposed John Pete
Seconded Rob Kent
Approved
2. Matters arising from the Previous Minutes (not covered in the Agenda Items)
None
3. [Chairman's Report](#) (Bob Ingram)

AGM 2023 Season, presented April 24

1. UKWA AGM normally deals with the business of the association to 31st December the previous year, in this case 2023
2. As promised at the 2022 AGM at Stokes Bay in October 2023 we said we would endeavour to reestablish having the AGM at the beginning of the year which we have now done, having got out of sequence due to the pandemic.
3. Briefly the 2023 season saw the committee run, 7 cup events, 7 slalom events and The National Windsports Championships & Champions Cup There are more details about these events in the Finance Report which we will come onto shortly.
4. The coach supplement was introduced in 2022 which saw an increase in course race entry fees for junior and youth pathway classes of £10 which the UKWA pays over to the classes to help fund coach support at events. This has been a great success for, parents, competitors and the UKWA. Thanks should go to the classes and in particular to Ali Masters who has developed into a great asset at events. To be absolutely clear on this as there has been some confusion the UKWA sets an entry fee for Junior & Youth pathway classes and then adds an additional £10 or £15 for 3 day events, you will see this separately as it is not subject to the discount schemes.
5. Sadly WingFoil did not see the growth we had anticipated despite the continued recreational growth. The UKWA has applied to become a

member of The IWSA and I have been attending all of their online meetings which include the formation of class rules. We are not yet signed up due to the need for the RYA to sanction our membership. The RYA are also involved with The BKSA who also have an interest in WingFoiling but more in the training and Freestyle side, I recently met with them and we are seeking dual membership and await The RYA to advise how this can be achieved. Our meeting was very positive and I look forward to working closely with Andy Gratwick in the future, we are already planning a joint event later this year.

6. Unfortunately there have been no improvements to the website therefore navigating the site and entering events is still a challenge, hopefully once the name change which we will come to later is approved things may move forward. We had to change our email system and you might have noticed a slightly different address if you receive emails from Admin.
7. Towing and storage of ribs is an ongoing and serious problem for the association. If anyone can assist with this you will get your fuel paid to the event and a £50 payment for your inconvenience and wear and tare on your vehicle.
8. Wave events were provided through our partner BWA. I can expand on this arrangement if anyone should wish.
9. Speed week continues to be as popular as ever at Weymouth again I can expand on this if anyone should wish.
10. Freestyle continues to be a challenge with no events currently planned.
11. Volunteers continued to be a problem however a few new faces have been seen on the committee boat and ribs for which we are most grateful.
12. The slalom support fund was totally wiped out in 2023 and saw a large negative balance which we wrote off. Despite seeking the support from our previous sponsors only one offered support for 2024. It is more likely that individual brands will support individual events with prizes rather than putting in any cash. This is a reflection on the amount of slalom kit currently sold in the UK.
13. Looking at 2024 we have reduced the number of Slalom events to 5 in an attempt to reduce our losses, one of these events will be more of a fun event, hopefully along the lines of the old NWF however

the entertainment and alcohol licences have not been granted to date. This would be in association with the BKSA if it proceeds.

14. Thank is due to
 - a. Everyone who continues to support events especially given the cost of living issues
 - b. Our event safety crews, race officers and admin team and scorers.
 - c. Coaches & classes especially Ali Masters for his support
 - d. Alastair webmaster
 - e. Sue Robinson in the admin office
 - f. The Committee for their hard work and support.
 - g. Kevin Profit working alongside James maintaining and storing the fleet.
 - h. All the local councils with whom we work closely and our host venues
 - i. Our Sponsors, Starboard / Severne & Boardwise and the slalom sponsors. Additional sponsors support the wave tour under the BWA which falls under The UKWA umbrella if anyone wants more explanation please ask now.
 - j. Finally thanks to Sue and Tessa for all the support and the exceptional work they put in behind the scenes.
15. Noble Marine continue to provide our third party cover, who have provided a better product and included Wing Foiling which was an important factor for the UKWA Sue Robinson and I have met with them a couple of times recently and we hope to have a Fully Comprehensive option in place soon.
16. Lucas Meldrum was crowned WOTY 2023.
17. Zara Davies, Ross Williams and Nik Dempsey were added to the UKWA Hall of Fame

Lastly and we will come on to this in a moment The UKWA is in serious Financial difficulties with a loss of nearly £15K in 2023, if this continues the UKWA could potentially go bankrupt. This is a real danger.

The current committee would not support the Association going Bankrupt therefore is monitoring the situation very carefully, however we will not shy away from halting our events program if it becomes necessary and operating in the short term as a membership only organization. During this

time the Committee may seek to be replaced potentially leaving others to take the association in an alternate direction should they wish. If this can not be accommodated then the current committee may seek to liquidate the company assets mainly 4 ribs, launch truck and events trailer to keep the association afloat in the short term whilst it seeks to close the business in an orderly fashion. Any remaining funds would be gifted to a like minded organization as per our constitution.

Liability is restricted to £1 per member/director however none of the directors would wish to be associated with a company which had gone bankrupt and the implications that might have on their own credit rating, fortunately by liquefying our assets this should not occur providing we are vigilant.

Hopefully it will not come to this, the committee is wholeheartedly committed to seeing a successful association in both the short and long term, all we really need is to see more members and more people at our event, therefore if you want to keep racing the best way is to support events with your entry, use it or lose it. If it's no longer wanted then I don't think we should continue flogging a dead horse in the longer term. Perhaps the UKWA is past its sell by date and change is overdue and this is for you the membership to decide. All I will say is that the UKWA came about because there were a number of smaller groups who ran events but could not make them pay, such as classes and smaller associations, we could go back to this but be very careful what you wish for, it failed in the past, fortunately most of you are too young to remember! Once the UKWA has gone it is very unlikely it would return.

We will return to this in the finance report.

Bob Ingram.

Chairman's report ends.

4. Finance Report and to receive the Financial Statements and [Accounts for the year to 31st December 2023 Finance report Brian Tilbury Finance report supporting Data](#)

UKWA financial report for 2023.

The 23 season was very poor for the association with a large deficit in the receipts over this period.

This was due to a continued reduction in the numbers attending the events, increase's in our costs

And mainly repairs to our equipment which were required during the season. This resulted in a deficit of £15,000 for 2023. At the end of February this year and before any entry's had come in

Our finance's stood at £7,332 in the current account and £12,602 in the reserve account.

Over the last ten years we have been aware of the gradual decline in entrants to the events

And have followed a policy of keeping the entry fees as low as possible as a way to encourage

Sailors to attend. This was achieved with a make do and mend policy to our equipment and moving to cheaper event sites. However Covid arrived and after this had passed our entries had declined further, and costs had risen substantially. At the end of 22 we had increased entries due to the influx of wingers taking up racing and we looked forward with anticipation to the 23 season and larger entries.

Much to our disappointment this did not happen and the entries dropped away again especially

The slalom events where the average number of entries was 36. The racing entries average was 68.

The Wings did not grow as we had hoped to boost the number of entries.

The main problem in 23 which caused the deficit was the repairs to our ageing boat fleet and other equipment. Two new gear box's to our outboard engine's, repairs to the boats and trailer's

Account for the bulk of the deficit and this problem is not about to disappear. We have raised the entry cost this year as a step to help the finances and there are other things we can do, to be outlined by the chairman.

Hon Treasurer.

5. Resources Report – by James Palin, Director of Resources

None

6. [Admin Report](#) - Tessa Ingram - [Admin Report](#) - Sue Robinson

Administration – Race Management / Volunteers

The format for course racing remained the same as previous years. Some small changes were made - Wings started on a new three-minute start sequence and the course area was defined. Numbered race rash vests were introduced for Wings thanks to Surf Doctor & The OTC for their sponsorship with this. The continued support of Ali Masters and James Faley as the main class coaches was great over the 2023 course racing season. We thank them for their continued support of the UKWA and pathway classes, along with other coaches who have attended events.

In 2023 we did have an increase in volunteers coming forward out on the water. With some committing to the whole season, whilst others were volunteering as and when they could. This has meant that we have been able to begin to train up new crew both on the committee boat and on the rescue/mark layer boats. We did still have a number of events that we were looking for volunteers right up until the last minute. This does make the planning of race management before an event difficult.

The National Windsurfing Championships was re-branded to become The National Windsports Championships as we introduced Wing Foils for the first time at this event. The event was held at Grafham Water Sailing Club. This event is huge to run, manage and operate both on and off shore and takes months of behind the scenes planning. However, the 9th year was successful, with lots of happy sailors. We saw three courses, over 160 competitors, 53 volunteers, 15 ribs, plus numerous coaches, and coach boats.

Slalom events saw the regular crew continue to support these; however, no additional crew could be sourced when somebody was unable to attend. This meant that Bob had to give up his own racing to crew so that events could still go ahead. Whilst we thank Bob for this, it is not a long-term solution. There were some changes made to the format of slalom racing following consultation with sailors. The pro fleet became the international fleet, and the amateur fleet became the National fleet. Wing and master blaster fleets remained unchanged. The international fleet became a fin OR foil fleet with a cross over wind strength on 11+knots introduced. We saw some fantastic fin racing at a number of events. Some changes to the race management at slalom events were introduced mid-season. This was to define the racecourse area and a no jumping rule was also introduced to ensure the safety of the crew and other competitors. We predominantly ran straight finals at events due to low numbers.

The UKWA supported the initial application of Zed Spencer-Milnes to become a National Race Officer and Tessa Ingram's application to renew her National Race Officer qualification. Both qualifications were approved by the RYA.

At the end of 2023 Rob Strange decided to step back from volunteering although we may still see him at a couple of events in 2024. We thank Rob for the many years of outstanding service he has given to both the course racing and slalom racing tours.

We are of course always looking for new volunteers both on and off the water including behind the scenes e.g to run our social media.

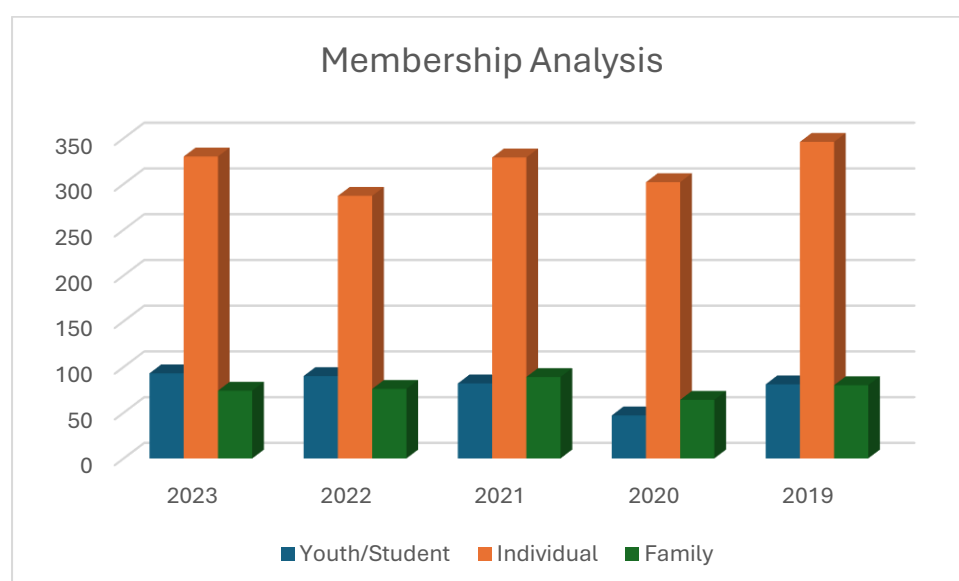
Thank you to all those who have volunteered / supported the UKWA in any way during the 2023 season.

Tessa Ingram
Director of Administration, Race Management / Volunteering

Admin Report for 2023.

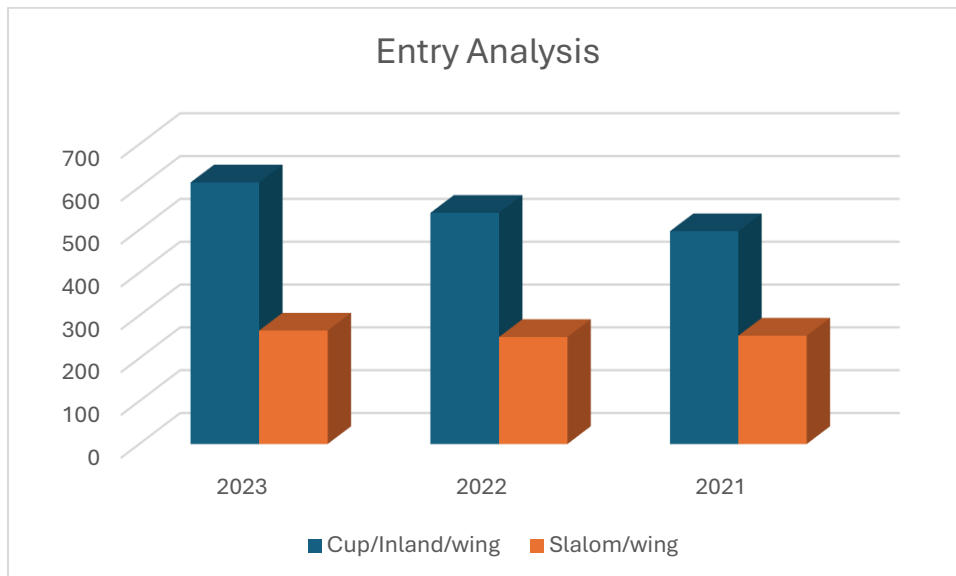
The total number of memberships for 2023 was 511 which is a 3.3% increase from 2022. There has been a shift in the distribution with an increase in both individual and youth/student membership numbers and a small decrease in family memberships. The total income from membership fees after insurance contribution is £24210 which is an 18% increase on membership fees collected in 2022.

Fig 1 Analysis of membership 2023



Entry numbers for National Championships /Inlands (NC) and Slalom, which included wingfoil in all events in 2023, have seen a 13% increase over 2022 in NC. Slalom showed a 6% increase over 2022 entries.

Fig 2 Analysis of entries 2023



Most memberships and entries are paid via PayPal and this works well but represents a 3% cost to UKWA which was £3032 for 2023. Standing order membership payments represent only 25% of membership however there remains a significant number of standing orders which are for either an incorrect fee or are from historical members for whom we no longer have any current contact details. It is essential for all those who pay by standing order to check they are paying the correct amount.

Many of the sailing clubs and councils raised their venue charges which led to the need to collect parking/camping payments which are set up to be paid via PayPal online.

7. Marketing Report - Rod Davies

None

8. Speed Report - Pete Davies

None

9. Wave Report

None

10. Election of Directors

The existing board puts itself forward for re-election consisting of

Elected executive directors

- Mr Alastair Campbell Director of communications
- Mr Rod Davis Director of marketing & publicity-**not standing for reelection**
- Mr Bob Ingram Chairman
- Mr James Palin Director of resources
- Mr Brian Tilbury Director of finances
- Miss Tessa Ingram Director of administration/race management & volunteering

Nominated directors

- Mr Pete Davis Head of Speed
- Mr Nigel Treacy Head of Wave
- Mr Ali Masters Head of Youth and Pathway Development

Alternative candidates shall be proposed and seconded and the proposals be received in the UKWA office at least 3 days before the meeting to allow the proposal and agenda be published. [Email admin@ukwindsurfing.com](mailto:admin@ukwindsurfing.com).

The agenda may be revised should candidates be proposed as above.

Proposed Rob Kent

Seconded James Hope

Approved

11. AOB of the Association

a. Committee proposes that the UKWA should change its name.

The Committee seeks approval to change the name of the association to

The United Kingdom Windsports Association

Proposed Rafferty Reed

Seconded Dough Baker

Approved

Please print your own copies of any documents you may wish to refer to during the meeting. The UKWA will not be providing printed copies in view of its support for the environment. Links can be found above.

Members may wish to refer to The [UK Windsurfing Association Memorandum and Articles Of Association](#) As amended by resolutions passed on 24 September 1982, 7 May 1983, 9 April 1999, 22 October 1999 and 12 May 2001, Revised 2014.

Submit a question via email

To the AGM (business of the association) [HERE](#)

To the sailors meeting (any subject you like) [HERE](#)

Answers will be found in the minutes when published.

Sailors Meeting

The AGM will be followed by a one hour sailors meeting, there will be no agenda and the meeting will be open to the floor.

Please Add a foil fleet to Slalom

No other business meeting closed 9.25pm