



**NATIONAL WATER SAFETY COMMITTEE
CO-ORDINATING GROUP**

Tuesday 26th October 2004

Summary Notes

RESIGNATIONS Damian Hall

NEW MEMBERS Mike Clack (British Sub Aqua Club)
David Walker (RoSPA Information & Research Officer)

This meeting was the last of the National Water Safety Committee and the first of the National Water Safety Forum.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was agreed that minutes and agendas would be emailed where possible.

Boat Safety Scheme – Review of Standards

Progressing well. Document to be published in January 2005.

Tourists Drowning Abroad

This remains a RoSPA key issue.

ELECTION OF CHAIR/VICE CHAIR

Mike Vlasto was elected Chair and Mike Barrett Vice Chair.

NWSF TERMS OF REFERENCE/CONSTITUTION

It was agreed that the Liaison Group should be called the “Co-ordinating Group”. It was also agreed that an Advisory Group could take executive decisions. Difficult or contentious items should be referred to the Co-ordinating Group.

INFORMATION/ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS

Each Advisory Group and the Scottish Accident Prevention Council to produce a short update (on one side of A4) for future meetings of the Co-ordinating Group and their minutes would be posted to the website.

Reports were submitted from the following organisations:

- RoSPA
- Sea Safety Advisory Group
- Inland Water Advisory Group
- Water Sports Advisory Group
- Beach Advisory Group
- Information
- Swimming Pools

WEBSITE WORKING PARTY

David Walker gave a demonstration of the website accessible at www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk which would go live on 29 October.

RoSPA would act as “gatekeeper”. Each Advisory Group to specify what details they wanted to appear on the website. There will be an on-line contact form and links to other organizations. Each Advisory Group to nominate a person to act as a link to David Walker for website development. Terms of Reference needed to be finalized before opening up to the public and Chairs of the Advisory Groups would have responsibility for any information issued by that group.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GOVERNMENT GROUP REPORT

John Mairs presented his proposals for the composition of the GIG. Suggested topics for meetings were:

- Duty of Care – Lifeguards/Local Authorities
- Regulation Creep
- Need to buy into statistic-gathering exercises.
- Safety in the Countryside – outlining principles and significance
- UK international role
- Successor to HASS & LASS data collection

Representatives from the Co-ordinating Group to the GIG would be Michael Vlasto or Mike Barrett.

LIAISON WITH MSCC and SAR

Julie Carlton reported that she would be preparing a proposal to the MSCC meeting scheduled for December.

CONGRESS

The next Water Safety Congress would be held at the Highcliffe Marriott Hotel, Bournemouth, on 14th and 15th March 2005 on the theme “Towards Water Safety Excellence”. It was proposed to hold “clinics” where delegates could consult an expert. It was decided not to hold the first National Water Safety Forum A.G.M. at the Congress in 2005.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. British Waterways had produced a Visitor Incident Report, copies of which were circulated. This was also on their website.
2. The PAS document for Swimming Pools would be published soon.
3. Peter Brown reported that the MCA was willing to share their Accident Prevention Methodology information.

DATE OF FORUM CO-ORDINATING GROUP

- 11am - Thursday, 3rd March at Loughborough University
- 11am – Thursday, 12th July at RNLI, London
- 11am – Tuesday, 18th October at RoSPA HQ, Birmingham