



## **CO-ORDINATING GROUP**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2005**

### **Summary Notes**

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

##### **Key Issues**

1. The setting up of the National Water Safety Forum.

All of the advisory groups are now formed and either had a meeting under the new guise of being part of the forum or have agreed to do so at their next meeting.

2. Drowning of British tourists abroad.

This key issue has been supported by both the FTO the Federation Of Tour Operators within the UK and by ANEC the European Consumer Safety Organisation in Europe. ANEC are looking through the standardisation of services to improve particularly hotel swimming pools. They have commissioned RoSPA to carry out research into this area, which has been supported in the UK by the FTO who have a voluntary code of best practice. It is important that this work is done in parallel with the work that CEN are doing with management of swimming pools.

##### **Drowning Research**

A paper on Child drowning in baths has been written by the SWIM Research Group and will be published in the journal 'Child: Care, Health and development'.

##### **Guidance, Policy and Safety Standard Developments**

A third meeting of the ISO water safety signage, beach flag and Code of Practice Committee will take place at the RNLI training College immediately after the Water Safety Congress. Work is progressing well. The parallel BSI committee has produced a final draft of the flag standard and new symbols to be included in the Water Safety Signs Standard are currently being comprehension tested by Manchester University. The AINA Group have drafted what will be an industry standard for inland navigation signs. EnCAMS, who operate the Blue Flag/Seaside Awards and carry out beach inspections, have agreed in order to improve the consistency in advice given to beach operators that, as part of their staff training, RosPA and the RNLI's Beach Safety Manger will provide training on Beach safety and signage issues. Along with a European version of Safety on Beaches, ILSE are also considering a version of the Inland water site document.

##### **Water Safety Congress**

Arrangements were well in hand for the March 2005 Congress in Bournemouth. Further details can be obtained from RoSPA. It was planned that the Forum Website would be launched at the Congress, along with the RNLI's Beach Signage Guidance manual. There would be three practical workshops covering Swimming Pools, Coastal and Inland water together with main hall speakers and discussion clinics.

## **Media Report**

The interest surrounding both the Diana Memorial Fountain and the Swimming Pool Child admission policy continued into the autumn. RoSPA had given several broadcasts and media interviews on the winter gales and floods. Peter Cornall reported that "European River Day" was planned and would circulate further information when available.

## **Staffing**

Holly Henderson, since submitting her PhD has rejoined RoSPA. In her role as research manager she will be aiming to carry out and develop research projects and proposals.

## **ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS (see [www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk](http://www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk) for further details)**

A written report had been submitted by the Watersports Advisory Group. All other groups submitted a verbal report

## **Information**

Peter Cornall had now spoken to most AGs. It was generally agreed that there should be one representative from each AG plus other experts in the field. A list of possible members plus a draft letter was tabled (see Attachment 6). There would be a need to involve a Scottish representative, e.g. Frank Sharp. It was agreed that the Information Group would elect its own Chair but it was agreed that the Chair should not be from either RoSPA or the RNLI.

The Chair asked the Chairman of each AG to submit a side of A4 detailing their activities before the next meeting.

## **Scottish Accident Prevention Council**

An MSc project on drowning had now become available for consideration alongside the work from Strathclyde University. Contributions to the latter from RoSPA and from Bob Calvert should be acknowledged. Janet Castro hoped that the MSc work would be available on the Paisley University website. The SAPC wished to look at the possibility of producing something which would allow parents to risk-assess activities for their families. SAPC would be grateful to receive any information on Riskwatch, which should be passed to Janet Castro.

## **WORK ITEMS**

### **Terms of Reference**

David Walker was asked to make various small amendments to the Terms of Reference.

## **INTER-DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT GROUP REPORT**

Draft Working Papers and agenda for the first meeting were tabled. It was agreed that, with the assistance of David Walker, Michael Vlasto would give a presentation at the first GIG meeting. The Chair asked members to look at the draft papers and submit comments to John Mairs as soon as possible. It was agreed that an evaluation of the GIG meeting would be given at a future meeting of the Forum.

## **LIAISON WITH MSCC AND SAR**

- Guidance on the regulation of small passenger-carrying boats: A small Working Group was being formed to encourage local authorities to implement this.
- National Water Safety Forum and work of MSCC: On the whole the development of the National Water Safety Forum was welcomed.
- Search & Rescue – Prevention of Accidents: The MCA had commissioned a survey to try and establish the proportion of watersports coastal users.

**WEBSITE**

The website had recently gone live ([www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk](http://www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk))  
David Walker reported that all groups had now received a presentation and he would be liaising with John Mairs re including an item relating to the GIG. It was agreed that a "Glossary of Terms" be added to the website.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

- Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> July 11am - RNLI, 20 Buckingham Street, London, WC2N 6EF
- Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> October 11am - RoSPA HQ, Birmingham