

INFORMATION GROUP MINUTES
WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE 2005
RoSPA, BIRMINGHAM

Present

Peter Wade (PW) - British Waterways & Inland group representative
Peter Cornall (PC) - RoSPA & Forum secretary
Natasha Cotterell (NC) – RNLI & Beach group representative
Peter Bradley (PB) - RNLI
Adrian Lole (AL) – RLSS & Swim group representative
Holly Henderson (HH) - RoSPA / MCA
Richard Wilson (RW) - South Birmingham PCT
Peter Brown (PBR) – MCA & Sea group representative
David Walker (DW) RoSPA – Information group secretary
Jo Sibert (JS) - University of Cardiff & Swim research group representative
Stuart Ward (SW) – ARA & Watersports group representative

Action

Apologies

Ilan Kelman	Nikki Kemmery
Noel Winter	Ian Harris
Paul Amos	John Watts
Steve Wills	

Comments

1 Introduction & Welcome

PW welcomed everyone to RoSPA and explained domestic and emergency arrangements.

2 Election of Vice Chair

The election of the vice chair was held over from the last meeting at Hatton to allow more members to consider the position. PW asked PC if any nominations had been received for the role of vice chair. PC stated that Peter Brown had been put forward for nomination.

PW asked if the group wanted to nominate Peter Brown - no objections. Peter Brown (PBR) was nominated and accepted vice chair role. PBR stated that he would want to review his position as vice chair - in line with the chair after one year. PRB thanked the group for their support.

Question about membership - have all the people invited to the group accepted?

**Vice Chair
to
PBR**

3 Terms of reference

The updated terms of reference were considered by the group, the following changes additions were made:

- Name - bullet point 2 “as provider..” removed
- Aim - bullet point 2 “enabling it, for the first time “ replaced with “enabling the forum, government and UK water authorities to”
- Contributors - bullet point 2 - previous change was confirmed
- Methods of working
- Relationship - typo changed. - Liaison changed to coordinating.

4 **GIG & Other advisory group updates**

GIG update – Peter Cornall

Three main working points arose from the first GIG group meeting.

1. Review by ODPM looking into responsibility of providing lifeguards and surrounding liability issues (Paper attached).
2. Scooping and mapping exercise looking at responsibility for navigating and licensing current ‘unregulated’ navigable waters. A formal letter will be sent to the Coordinating group and Inland Water Safety advisory group.
3. Child admission policy. DCMS will be formally writing to NWSF to undertake research into this area. Richard Cabourn announced at the Commons that a timetable for action had been agreed.

Sea Safety – Peter Brown

Membership of the group is being reviewed to include The Harbor Masters Association. This has the dual benefit of that they manage the access areas to water.

Swimming Pool group – Adrian Lole

1. Majority of discussion and issues centered on the ISRM child admission policy.
2. Currently there is a consultation with the CCPR about learning to swim after key stage two. Particularly how to best target the 1 in 4 children who cannot swim at this stage. Comments and questions have been raised about the ‘top up’ initiative promoted by the government, especially its long-term viability.
PC - possibly need to look at definition of ‘able to swim’ a comparison could be made of the position with the UK and New Zealand where a 14 year has to be able to swim 200 meters.
RW - Linked into wider health agenda of government promoting swimming
AL- Number of children learning to swim has dropped and subsequently the number of children learning water safety messages.

Action

DW to amend & circulate

DW to forward doc & coordinate group response

Beach – Peter Brown

No major pressing issues (GIG has had one working point passed up)

AL - Dr Cliff Nelson appointed as Beach Programme Manager, he will be looking at what are the key operator issues and is about to start his first trawl around the country.

PRB - The MCA have completed the questioning tool to ascertain the 'Attitudinal shifts' as a measuring tool

Inland – Peter Wade

Bulk of work is navigational related. British Waterways / AINA promoting IRIS database management software giving member authorities ability to report incident data centrally through AINA. Other key pieces of work are the development of a standard for navigation signs for use on UK inland waters and a project focusing on landward drops, looking into the issues surrounding those sites with these features.

Watersports – Stuart Ward

Last meeting looked at areas of commonality including looking into the use of buoyancy aids and lifejackets.

Specific problem with edge protection and mooring boats removing access to grab chains for watersports users. Implementing electronic incident report systems by the Amateur Rowing Association and boat identification scheme.

AL - Wider issue discussed since that meeting has been the emergence of pressure by national organisation and pressure group about the right to roam exclusion of access to water.

5 Member update and status

INREM – Natasha Cotterell & Peter Bradley gave an update on the current position with RNLI databases.

INREM,

Data is available in raw format however there are funding and staff problems, The team is currently one and a half members down. Looking to recruit and resolve this by end of June.

SEAREM

Problems also experienced with data entry from lifeboats. The main reason RNLI collect data is for operational purposes. SEAREM is as it was at the last meeting. There are not sufficient resources at the moment to make a difference to it.. RNLI working towards reducing the timescale for reports, which they will be trailing by September with a role out by the middle of next year.

Comments from other members:

The system needs to be incentivised for the end user to input data. Core minimum dataset is required and must be collected. This is

intrinsic to the system. The RNLI have committed to both INREM and SEAREM, further resources should be in place post a decision by the Executive Team (30th June). This should allow them to address some of the data issues, but it is not likely that there will be good usable data before the end of next year, due to internal time scales and priorities.

RoSPA – Peter Cornall

PC - conference call to look at implementing European wide press cutting data collection system. Currently looking to pilot a capture recapture data exercise.

South Birmingham PCT - Richard Wilson

North West health authority agenda has given a focus to drowning following a report highlighting the particular problems that region has. He is looking at what the regions response will be. Increased participation with the 30 minutes a day campaign.

University of Cardiff & Swim research group – Jo Sibert

Swim group published papers:

Drowning of children using bath seats

Drowning of children abroad - using RLSS/RoSPA data

Data on overall swimming pools

MCA - Peter Brown

Two years into 10 year plan for coastal and sea activities.

Looking to put 'Arckenford' research into public domain and onto NWSF website for download. The research has created a National Watersports Omnibus Report, looking at participation trends in the UK.

This will help rationalise incidents and fatality data - accident v exposure, fatality v exposures so that equivalent fatality rates can be created.

EMAS looking to establish common taxonomy.

Holly Henderson has joined the MCA Human Elements team, which is part of the Risk Analysis and Prevention Branch, and will be looking to produce a data gap analysis for water related incidents, morbidity and mortality in the UK by the end of August 2005. The MCA are going to give a presentation of the research findings at the next meeting.

RLSS – Adrian Lole

RLSS refocusing on water safety messages as opposed to high performance lifesaving. Other current campaigns that RLSS involved in:

- St. Ives swim information campaign
- ASA get safe for summer swimming campaign

PB / DW

PB/HH

Number of hits and visits has dropped from the first month of launch. Mostly this seems to be due to the lack of member organisation links to the site. Request that members give a prominent link over the next few months to raise the sites search engine rating.

ALL

7 Current Work Items

The group is concentrating on developing a strong framework and the ToR's to ensure it meets future challenges.

8 Any Other Business

AL - Question about coordination of communication.

PB - Possibility look at to having a national water safety day?

JS – To look at issue of research accreditation

NC – To act as Beach group representative currently (lieu of Steve Wills)

DW

**PB
to raise
question
at next
GIG**

9 Date & Time of Next Meeting

13 October at RoSPA, Birmingham (11.00am)

7 December at British Waterways, Hatton