



SAFETY ON THE SEA GROUP

Monday 11th July 2005

MINUTES

THOSE ATTENDING:

Peter Chennell	RNLI (Chairman)	Peter Cornall	RoSPA
Michelle Walsh	RNLI (Secretary)	David Walker	RoSPA
Peter Brown	MCA	Simon Jinks	RYA
Joanne Groenenberg	MCA PR Department	Stuart Bailey	RLSS
Nigel Saw	BMF		

1. Welcome / Introductions

PC welcomed everyone and thanked Nigel Saw, BMF for hosting today's meeting and congratulated Nigel on his recent wedding, and welcomed Joanne to her first meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: -

Susan Rooke	MCA
Caroline Raeburn	MCA
Dave Fenner	MCA
Kevin Franklin	SEAFISH

3. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting held on 21st March 2005, adopted.

4. Matters Arising (not on agenda/from previous meeting)

PC started by saying that as the SoSWG is evolving, now is the time for action. As a group we need to be proactive and decide on a combined approach of putting out messages. We have possibly missed the boat for 2005, so must look forward to 2006. What message? This was discussed.

MCA now have Ministerial Targets set by Government, MT6 is machinery failure for recreational users. From data we have at present this is the primary cause of most rescues, although the data does not breakdown the problem sufficiently to determine the cause of failure, i.e., the experience of the person driving the boat, maintenance or the underlining cause of the machinery failure (e.g. A blocked filter), but we do know this is a huge issue for everyone.

MAIB do not usually get involved unless there is a fatality, but JS said that they have sometimes called upon their services in incidents where there have be no loss of life.

Action: Next meeting discuss what each group can do to address machinery failure.

Structure of the SOSWG/SAG – PC

As a group we are firmly focused on leisure boat activity. P Cornell confirmed that we can still call ourselves the SoSWG and keep the logo, but would be known as the Sea Advisory Group (SAG), that reports to the NWSF.

The matter was raised whether the SoSWG was the best place for the RLSS and MCA Sea Fishing to sit, being that the group's main focus is the 'leisure boat' industry. PB would put this to the Sea Fishing department and respond accordingly. SB disagreed as the RLSS are as much about prevention as the RNLI, in their role they provide lifesaving service to swimmers and people who access the water for water sports, i.e. Canoeists, small power craft and they also offer training and feel they can bring a lot to the table.

The group needs to be clear as to who their constituency are and the issue was offered around the table. P Cornell thought that the ethos of the supporting groups to the NWSF was that this would free up peoples time and they could concentrate on their own organisations needs, without having to attend several different meetings discussing the same issues and everyone had a responsibility to decide where they might best fit and benefit.

After some discussion it was identified that there was a place for the RLSS and the matter was dropped and RLSS formally invited to attend the next meeting.

In this light PC would like to invite The Leisure Harbour Masters to join the group. They have expressed an interest, as they are increasingly concerned with the increased traffic of leisure boat users encroaching on their waters. They also have great resources, which can be utilised, slipway signage is their responsibility and they do not need to request planning permission to install a sign. We have already identified the slipway is one of the best methods of reaching the masses. Everyone was in agreement.

Action: PC to formally invite Kevin Mowat to attend the next meeting

Adopt New Terms of Reference – PB

PB circulated new TOR's, these were agreed and adopted by the group. Points of contact amendment Nigel Parkers name to be replaced with Nigel Saw.

Disposal of Old Flares – PB to discuss at NWSF 12th July 2005

Peter Brown attending NWSF 12th July 2005, will raise the issue and report back at next meeting. This has become a major issue as the MOD have now refused in some areas to collect. Once a decision has been reached a joint message should immediately be put out advising people where flares can be safely disposed.

How is the group to connect with people who buy boats from other sources? - PC

This is very difficult when people buy their boats from secondary sources, e.g. Ebay, Exchange & Mart, especially the lower end of the market, with boats under £1,000. You could buy a boat on a hot summers day, and launch without any formal training. How are we going to get key messages to the masses? Slipway was favoured as the most effective as eventually the boat would be need to be launched and it was agreed that the no.1 message would be 'Wear a Lifejacket'. Other methods were;

- Come to an arrangement (with for example Ebay & Exchange & Mart) that put a clause when selling a boat that a copy of a contract be submitted, so that we could then feed messages to the new owner.
- Refer people to our websites and make it easier to download forms using PDF.
- Contacting insurance company's to advise people to get training and join an organisation.
- Have an arrangement with Chandlers to promote safety at sea.

Action: Simon Jinks to use his contacts and report back at next meeting.

Free `Seaway Code` for everyone and to encourage people to join clubs - PC

12:15pm Peter Brown and Joanne Groenenberg MCA gave their apologies and left for another meeting, MCA update handed out as attached.

5. Any Other Business

Mobile phones for use in calling the Coastguard. Any views? * NS

VHF Radios * MCA Campaign

NS Wanted to discuss VHF radios and the use of mobile phones. NS referred to an MCA campaign deterring people from using mobile phones to call for help. NS felt that we should not be sending out such a negative message, when sometimes a mobile is the quickest and most convenient way of calling for assistance. Discussion followed. PCornall identified that this has already been identified by the UK SAR group and that it would be worth taking a look at their minutes to see if this issue has already been escalated to NWSF.

Action: Michelle to look at website and print off copy of SAR Group minutes.

It was felt that in this day and age everyone carries a mobile and that the messages should be more in line with 'use a VHF radio as the primary source of calling for help but if this fails then a mobile'.

VHF Coms

SJ would like to see a continuous looped weather station that sailors can tune into at any time instead of having to get up at 6am or remember to listen the night before. It could also be another reason to own a VHF. An item for marine call or Marine Advisory Committee.

Action: PC to elevate the query to Peter Bradley who sits on the Marine Radio Communications Advisory Technical Committee and report back at next meeting.

Agenda Item for next meeting: Positive way to encourage people to buy and use VHF radios.

Data

NS was concerned that when putting out a press release from the group and referring to data obtained, that sometimes the information was unreliable and was concerned of there being reprisals for the BMF if certain groups were targeted. Even though the data we have at present is the 'best' we have, it is not always accurate. Others agreed but until more in depth information is available these statistics are the 'best' we have at our disposal. It was agreed that a 'cavil' would be put on any statement to state where the figures had originated e.g. Supplied by MCA.

LPG Propulsion boats

NS commented that the MCA have banned them, but they are still widely used inland, but now professionals are using them at sea in competitions. What is the MCA's reason behind this and their advice response to these being used at sea?

Action: MCA to bring a response to next meeting

Lifejackets

We need a harmonised message regarding which type of jacket should be used in each situation, it was suggested that a universal matrix would be useful on everyone's website. SJ

worked on the ISO standard for lifejackets, and it is a fine line with buoyancy as to which jacket you wear for which sport. We need clarification from MCA to confirm what code they work to. DW/PC offered to work on the matrix and distribute for approval and pointed out that other groups had raised this issue.

Action: Michelle to see how other groups are handling this issue

Action: MCA to bring their guidelines to the next meeting

6. Verbal Updates

RNLI Update

Peter Chennell

MCA Update

Peter Brown

As attached papers

RYA Update

Simon Jinks

BMF Update

Nigel Saw

RoSPA Update

P Cornall/David Walker

11 Date, time and location of next meeting

Tuesday 4th October, 2005, 11:00am, RYA, RYA House, Ensign Way, Hamble, Southampton, SO31 4YA. Directions www.rya.org.uk

Distribution - Members of the Group:

MCA
RYA
BMF
RLSS (UK)
SLSA (GB)
RoSPA
Irish Coast Guard
SEAFISH
NWSF Website