

SAFETY ON THE SEA GROUP

Tuesday 14 December 2005

MINUTES



Attendees:

Peter Chennell	RNLI (Chair)	Kevin Mowat	UKLHMA
Jo Whitfield	RNLI (Minutes)	David Walker	RoSPA
Peter Brown	MCA	Chris Lewis	RLSS
Nigel Saw	BMF	Tony Wafer	RNLI
James Stevens	RYA		

1. Welcome / Introductions

PC welcomed everyone and David Walker and Chris Lewis introduced themselves. PC introduced Tony Wafer, who was attending as an observer.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: -
Stuart Bailey – Chris Walker was in attendance in his place
Kevin Franklin

3. Minutes of last meeting

Minute of last meeting were reviewed and following comments made:

Lifejackets

SJ was to report to this meeting following a meeting of SEAC – report not available. PB will monitor output and inform this group. It was agreed that this no longer needed to be an agenda item.

Disposal of old flares

There was some further discussion about disposal of out of date flares – the MCA clarified that a system is in place to receive out of date flares from individual boat owners, but not from marina or chandlers as these are commercial entities. Several members of the group commented that taking flares on behalf of the MCA for the public should not be seen as a commercial activity.

CL suggested that there could be storage facilities at chandleries for individuals to return their old flares – maybe get around the commercial use. PB told the group that there is currently a system in place for the boating public, but perhaps not all of the boating public is aware of it and they believe they have nowhere to take old flares. Part of the problem may be getting that message across.

NS suggested that instructions for disposal could go on the flares – the group agreed that this was a good idea.

It was suggested that this could be a manufacturer issue as Manufacturers will currently dispose of old flares but they charge for this service.

Action: PC to speak to Michael Vlasto, (NWSF), for an update and will forward this to the group.

Action: KM to get minutes from the MSCC for the group

Action: PB to share documentation with the group

Agenda item: Disposal of flares should be discussed again at the next meeting

VHF radios

Action: PB will distribute the draft paper from the UK SAR group when it is available.

Dedicated weather channel

PC suggested that maybe this group should champion this as a cause. He will speak to Ofcom at the Boat Show. PB said that there was no evidence to substantiate a need for a dedicated weather channel.

Future of Joint Publications

NS told the group that it was not appropriate to put this prevention information on a Bill of Sale and that initiative had been dropped. The group is still keen to connect with new boat owners, so we need to look at ways to do this. JS informed the group about training vouchers that are being introduced that can be bought or issued with equipment. This could be a way of getting messages across. The RYA are hoping that newspapers and magazines will use them as offers/prizes.

NS said that the organisation he represents doesn't deal directly with the public – their members do. PC asked if the message could be passed on through their members.

KM suggested that he could encourage colleagues and marina owners to distribute information with their invoice, or have information available on counters. PB suggested to also put information about the RNLI SEA Check service on the leaflet.

It was agreed that something should be made ready by next Autumn.

4. Matters arising

This has been incorporated into the previous point.

5. Call for Any Other Business

Slipway Signage Project

This is now going to be managed by Tony Wafer – RNLI. Before the signs go up at four sites there will be research done. Once the signs have gone up there will be more research done to evaluate if anyone saw the signs/took any notice of them.

Learning from Ireland

PB suggested that as the minutes go to Ireland, maybe it was appropriate to have one of our meetings in Ireland. We could have a presentation from them and see what we can learn from them.

PC suggested that the cheapest place to meet was Dublin, also with flights a visit could be done in a day.

Action: PC to speak to Eamon Torpay to see if we could be invited to one of their meetings

Kill Cords

PB prompted a discussion on the use of 'kill cords' and possible future joint prevention activity. The RYA include information on kill cords on their training and provide a console sticker. It is part of MCA MT6 discussion and is likely to become a long-term mini project with a short and sharp message. JS suggested and PB endorsed that there could be a better way to maintain engine safety and emergency cut-off than using a kill cord, and further development should be encouraged.

6. MT6 Machinery Failure

PB thanked all of those that had contributed so far to this national prevention target.

Three activity areas had been identified :

- Commercial vessels
- Commercial fishing vessels
- Recreational vessels

34 initiatives had been derived from meetings and these have been sent to NS, SJ and PC to ensure that they are happy with both terminology and content. This has now gone out to project team members. PB would welcome feedback and comments.

PC asked if all 34 initiatives were to be met. PB said that this was unlikely, funding would be an issue and some of the initiatives did not have wide support. Some could be mini-projects and would be monitored for effectiveness.

There was some discussion about what was to be classed as machinery failure, as not all initiatives seemed to fall within this category. PB said that this group should review all the initiatives and suggest amendments or deletions as appropriate.

Action: All to give comments to PB at next meeting

Agenda Item: Comments on initiatives at next meeting

7. RNLI's new resource

Tony Wafer spoke about the consolidation of RNLI Sea Safety literature into one publication that will take on three levels:

- 32 page booklet giving top line information and basic tips that will refer to the interactive CD and the Sea Safety website
- Interactive CD which goes through information in more details – will be able to research those using the CD
- Sea Safety website will change dramatically to contain this information as well as do surveys

Scope – 100,000 copies produces which will take the form of an A% booklet with a CD holder and a sticker containing DSC, voice procedures, checklists – can be cut up for relevant information to be used. Nothing has been agreed on the design of the sticker. The booklet will feel nice and editioned for updates. Reviewed every 2 years. Hoping to have it available by mid April 2006.

Discussion about the Seaway Code was prompted by PB. The RYA published the most recent version several years ago and the original was published by the coastguard. Availability was considered an issue particularly as the document had to be purchased. PC said that the RNLI do not plan to sell it's publication

It isn't easy to get this information out to those that need it – information in the past has gone out to those that didn't need it. PC said that Sea Safety gets lots of requests from their website. PB suggested that there is a huge customer base we are not currently reaching.

It was pointed out that this new RNLI publication was not a 'How To' manual, though Sea Safety do get many requests from RYA instructors asking for copies of the publications to distribute to their classes.

Boatshows are not necessarily the best way to get the message across to new boaters – probably the best way is in marinas. KW said that huge progress has been made. NS suggested that we could target fuel and equipment suppliers as all boaters need fuel and equipment.

DW has a copy of a presentation of the segmented market and views, which could be shared with the group.

PB pointed out that this is the same question that was asked at the first meeting.

PB suggested that in order to get effective group messages across, the group needs to agree the scope and audience before we can look at the cost and then share that cost.

Branding

PC asked the group about branding of the new RNLI publication. The RNLI is not in a position to fund SoSWG publications 100%. The new publication will be RNLI branded unless anyone else had any input.

There was discussion about branding and funding. Some indicated that they weren't happy to be associated with a publication that they were not part of at the conceptual stage. Also it is hard to discuss funding as there is no actual publication at the moment. Some felt that it wasn't important whose logo was on the publication, as long as the safety information was relevant and available.

8. Verbal updates

PC apologised to KM for not being included on the agenda.

a RNLI Update

Sea Safety shape has changed over the last year and has come to a head. They have moved from Fundraising and Communications department to Operations. The bad news is that budget has been significantly reduced. The good news is their ability to give messages and Divisional Sea Safety Managers (DSSM) are to operate out of Divisional Bases. The role of the DSSM will be to recruit, manage and train Lifeboat Sea Safety Officers (LSSO) who will be associated with Lifeboat Stations and will deliver Sea Safety messages. Everything else is the same – roadshows, SEA Checks and talks and demos. The next 12 months will be a transitional period.

There will be politics to deal with at the Lifeboat Stations but they will be part of the new structure to aid delivery of messages. We may lose some ground in 2006 but it is planned that 2007 will see that ground regained.

It is hoped that the LSSO will get involved with obtaining information from incidents. There will be a process set up for this to enable it to be evaluated, though nothing arranged at the moment. Also this allows us to get a message to those being rescued.

KM said that there could be a potential for confusion if so many people are trying to get information – the rescuee could feel like they were being interrogated!

PC said that opportunities will be that the LSSO would have a good relationship at the Lifeboat Station and those involved with a shout.

b MCA Update

PB handed out a printed MCA Prevention Update and talked through some of the points

c RYA Update

- Will be producing a new power boating publication
- Two books for children available, one of which is a sticker book
- Vouchers available – 300 centres so far have signed up for them
- Safety boat handbook with a CD.
- Diesel handbook will be redone and CD
- Powerboat booklet now available in different languages

TW asked about Petrol courses. JS response was that when they have approached dealerships popularity for diesel compared to petrol is 10 to 1. Petrol basics are covered in the Powerboat 2 course.

d BMF Update

They are still pushing industry lead verification scheme – industry to verify boats sold in the UK do comply with basic safety issues and asked how the group felt about this. It was agreed that industry should be talking to each other.

e RoSPA Update

Has a meeting with sub working group early February. Has a proposal to overcome problems with people coming from different directions.

There is a Public Lifesaving Working Group whose meeting is in February 2006. They are doing research in the types of rescue on different beaches.

f SEAFISH Update

No update received

g RLSS UK Update

Will take the information back from this meeting

h UKLHMA Update

Will give update at next meeting together with information on pyrotechnics. Regarding the PWC discussion, they are awaiting the ruling.

9. Date and time of next meeting

12 April 2006, 11:00am. Lifesavers, River House, High Street, Broom, Warwickshire, B50 4HN