

National Water Safety Forum

Watersports Advisory Group

Notes of the meeting held on 11 May 2005, at CCPR, London

Attendees:

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| Peter Cornall | Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents |
| Adrian Lole | Royal Life Saving Association |
| Victoria Finley | Sport England |
| Barry Odell | British Water Ski Federation |
| James Stevens | Royal Yachting Association |
| Richard Ward | British Canoe Union |
| Stuart Ward | Amateur Rowing Association |

Charlotte Edward CCPR

1. Welcome and introductions

James Stevens (JS) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Roger Barnard, Anna Blannin, Simon Goodey, Jim Watson and Mike Devlin.

3. Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the previous meeting held on the 2 February 2005 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

4.1 Terms of reference

The Terms of Reference were agreed by the group, save for the following amendments re membership.

The Chair and Deputy Chair of the watersports advisory group, and the representative on the Information Group will be elected on an annual basis by the group.

4.2 National Water Safety Forum Website

Peter Cornall updated the meeting on the usage of the website. The advisory group members were encouraged to provide a link from their own website to the forum website.

Action: David Walker to email all advisory group members the instructions for linking websites

5. National Water Safety Forum Meeting 3 March 2005

JS updated the group on the National Water Safety Forum meeting, which was held on the 3 March 2005. JS highlighted two main issues which are relevant for the advisory group:

1. Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) will be undertaking a survey into water users, which will provide participation figures on a range of activities. The MCA are undertaking this survey as they have been charged by

Government to reduce the number of fatalities, but need to undertake some baseline research on numbers of participants first.

It was confirmed that this survey would ask more questions than the British Marine Federation 2004 Survey. It was agreed that the opportunity for the watersports NGBs to be able to comment on the suggested questions, would be appropriate. PC highlighted that he would be attending a meeting on the 26 May, to discuss this survey.

Action: PC to ensure that the draft questions are circulated to the advisory group

2. The MCA Marine Safety Committee is currently being restructured, which will result in only national organisations being represented. JS confirmed that he will be a representative on the MCA Marine Safety Committee and is happy to report back any relevant issues to the advisory group.

6. Information Group

Stuart Ward (SW) tabled a report from the Information Group meeting. SW informed the meeting that the purpose of the Information Group is to bring together in one place, information about incidents, casualties and fatalities in water. It is also concerned with improving the quality of information and data available enabling it, for the first time, to develop strategies and policies in quality statistics, analysis and research.

SW agreed to report back to the watersports advisory group after each Information Group meeting

SW reported that the Information Group had expressed concern about the statistical data from RNLI, SEAREM and INREM. PC confirmed that this message had been relayed to the appropriate organisations.

The meeting agreed that lessons could be learnt from understanding methodologies of research projects. JS agreed to inform the group of the methodology undertaken for the RYA Entrapment research.

Action: JS to present the methodology of the Entrapment research at the November meeting.

7. Accident Statistics for watersports

The advisory group members agreed that an accurate view on watersports facilities was required. The meeting therefore agreed to ask the National Water Safety Forum how the data on the number of watersports fatalities and the details surrounding and the events leading up to these fatalities was to be captured in the future?

Action JS or PC to present this question to the National Water Safety Forum

It was noted that valuable information could be learnt from near misses. The meeting highlighted that BSAC collect information on near misses and that sharing the process of this could be beneficial to the group.

Action: Jim Watson to inform the group about BSAC near misses data and methodology

8. Generic Safety issues – lifejackets, buoyancy aids and suitable clothing

The members informed the meeting of their own policy and guidelines on lifejackets, buoyancy aids and suitable clothing. The meeting discussed some of the anomalies amongst the activities within the group, and the use of lifejackets and or buoyancy aids in open powerboats were discussed.

The meeting agreed that their own organisations would consider it fair and reasonable to review their guidelines in the light of accidents that affect their own activities.

The meeting felt it would be helpful if coroners were aware of NGBs and their policies, guidelines and good practice when compiling recommendations after accidents.

Action: JS agreed to raise this at the forum, as it was considered that other organisations apart from NGBs may benefit from this.

9. Any other business

Glenridding Beck Report

Richard Ward presented a paper to the group on the lessons learnt from the Glenridding Beck Tragedy.

The members expressed concern on the following statement which was made in the report: *Possession of a current first aid certificate does not, in itself, mean that the holder is a "qualified" first aider e.g. the leader in the Glenridding incident has a certificate for a one-day, non-assessed course and this was held NOT to be a qualification*

The meeting discussed the major impact this would have on NGB which offer first aid course.

Action: RW agreed to investigate this issue further and report back to Charlotte

Generic water safety issues for people with disability

CE highlighted that Simon Goodey has offered to inform the meeting about some key generic safety issues for people with disability. The meeting agreed this would be a useful agenda item for the next meeting.

BWSF

Barry Odell informed the meeting of BWSF position that they believed national legislation should be introduced for fast power boating.

RLSS

Adrian Lole expressed concern about NASUWT advice that schools should not take pupils on outdoor trips. AL asked if CCPR could look to produce a document similar to that of 'Group Safety at the Water Margins'. CE agreed to look into this idea, but would need to examine if any other literature covered promotion of outdoor school trips. Victoria Finley suggested that it could be a joint CCPR / Sport England publication.

AL raised concerns which British Triathlon were experience in gaining access to open water. CE agreed to discuss this issue with British Triathlon.

AL informed the meeting about the ASA 'Get Safe 4 Summer Campaign', details available at www.asa-awards.co.uk/

10. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Tuesday 8 November from 12.30,at
CCPR