

National Water Safety Forum

Watersports Advisory Group

Notes of meeting held on 8 November 2005, at CCPR, London

Attendees:

Chair	James Stevens	Royal Yachting Association
Vice Chair	Jim Watson	British Sub Aqua Club
	Roger Barnard	Sport England
	Norman Brook	British Triathlon Association
	Barry Odell	British Water Ski Federation
	David Walker	Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents
	Stuart Ward	Amateur Rowing Association
	Charlotte Edward	CCPR and Secretariat

1. Welcome and instructions

James Stevens (JS) welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular Norman Brook who was attending his first meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Simon Goodey, Adrian Lole, Richard Ward and Peter Cornall.

3. Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the previous meeting held on the 11 May 2005 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

4.1 Report from the National Water Safety Forum Meeting

David Walker (DW) updated the meeting on the main discussions from the recent forum meeting. The meeting noted that because there was no feedback to the forum from the Watersports Advisory Group, there were no discussions directly related to watersports. DW informed the meeting that there were general discussions around the importance of correct statistics, which would be discussed under item 7.

4.2 Report from the Information Group Meeting

Stuart Ward (SW) highlighted the main issues on his paper 'Report on the Information Group Meeting', which had already be circulated to advisory group members. The meeting noted and discussed the key outcomes from that meeting. Members noted that the Information Group is seeking views from the Advisory Groups on what each group expected from the Information Group. The meeting agreed that the Information Group should be providing correct information on accident statistics to include reasons why the accidents happened.

4.3 Update on Glenridding Beck Report

Charlotte Edward (CE) reminded the meeting that a statement within the HSE report could have major implications for one-day NGB first Aid qualifications. CE reported that there was no additional information to report on this issue, but that a watching brief would be undertaken to keep track of any developments.

5. Update into the MCA survey into water users

The meeting noted that this survey was now available and could be accessed from the NWSF website. The meeting discussed that MCA are charged by Government to reduce the numbers of maritime accidents and hence have an interest in the recreational sector. This survey will provide baseline data and enable accident statistics to be put within a realistic setting.

Jim Watson (JW) was concerned that the statistics produced by the MCA were done so without consultation with the relevant NGBs and that there are some inaccuracies within the published statistics. In addition, JS suggested that MCA's possible agenda could be about increased regulation and hence the need for statistics to provide evidence to the issue.

It was agreed to invite Peter Brown from the MCA to a future meeting to discuss this issue further.

Action – JS to invite Peter Brown to a future meeting

6. Update on the RYA methodology on the entrapment research

JS provided an overview to the RYA paper 'RYA Research into Dinghy Entrapments' the meeting discussed the methodology of this research. A full copy of the report can be accessed at www.rya.org.uk

7. Statistics

7.1 Update on accident statistics

JS highlighted that the MCA fatalities statistics will be produced in the next two months. DW reported that ROSPA are conducting some preliminary work to look at the format of future ROSPA drowning statistics. The meeting requested the ROSPA drowning stats, as this was considered important information. The meeting highlighted and discussed the problem's with INREM and SEAREM projects.

7.2 Update on the BSAC near misses data and methodology

JW provided an update on the BSAC near misses data and methodology. JW circulated the BSAC Diving Incidents Report for 2004 and the BSAC Incident / Accident Report Form. A copy of JW presentation is attached.

8. Generic water safety issues for people with disabilities

Simon Goodey (SG) paper on 'Rowing for persons with spinal cord injuries' was circulated and the meeting discussed the paper.

Roger Barnard (RB) highlighted that Sport England has a Disability Discrimination Act Group, which looks at disability issue. RB suggested that SG would be more than willing to join this group and that the English Federation of Disability Sport (EFDS) are members of this group. RB suggested that SG should talk about this issue to EFDS. RB confirmed that he was happy to report back to the Advisory Group from the DDA group on any relevant issues.

The meeting agreed that the Advisory Group needs to look at safety issues, particularly in relation to putting persons with disabilities into instructor roles with a safety adviser remit.

Action: The meeting agreed that this would be a future agenda item.

9. Membership of the River and Lake Swimming Association

The meeting discussed the recent inquiry from the River and Lake Swimming Association (RALSA) to become members of the Advisory Group. Following the discussions the Chair of the Advisory Group and the members agreed that because RALSA is not a national organisation it is not considered appropriate for RALSA to become a member of the

Watersports Advisory Forum at this time. The Advisory Group felt that the Amateur Swimming Association could represent open water swimming at future Advisory Group meetings.

Action: To write a letter to RALSA informing them of this decision

10. Any other business

Norman Brook (NB) outlined that British Triathlon are having problems gaining access in inland sites.

JS confirmed that NGBs need to strengthen their position as technical expertise of their activities and that HSE need to recognise this. DW highlighted that ROSPA are trying to lobby the Coroners to formalise a process which puts Coroners in touch with NGBs when technical expertise is required.

Stuart Ward drew attention to IOC paper on sudden cardiovascular deaths in sport. The meeting noted that on the health and safety paperwork for new participants, there should be a number of health questions.

It was agreed that the membership list of the Advisory Group, which was on the NWSF website would only list organisations and not individual names.

The meeting agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair would be elected/re-elected at the next meeting.

11. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the Watersports Advisory Group meetings would take place approximately 3 weeks prior to the main forum meeting. The meeting dates for 2006 were agreed as:

22 February 2006 at CCPR

4 October 2006 at CCPR