

National Water Safety Forum

Watersports Advisory Group

Notes of meeting held on 22 January 2008, at the CCPR head office, London

Attendees:

Jim Watson, Chair (BSAC)
Peter Cornall (RoSPA)
James Stevens (RYA)
John Muddeman (BT)
Adrian Lole (RLSS)

Apologies

Ben Woods (Sport England)
David Walker (RoSPA)

1. Welcome and introductions
Jim Watson (JW) welcomed and introduced everyone to the meeting
2. Apologies were given as above
3. The notes of the previous meeting were agreed to be a fair and accurate summary of the meeting held on 22 September 2007.
4. Election of Chair
No nominations were received. There was unanimous agreement that JW should continue as Chair.
5. RoSPA's NWSF conference will be held on 3 and 4 March 2008 at the Thistle Hotel in Bristol. Peter Cornall informed the Group that the conference programme had been produced and there had been good progress on delegate numbers. There will be a seminar, run by JW and James Stevens (JS) working with NGBs to exploring ways of promoting and improving water safety of both "clubbed" and "unclubbed" participants.
There was some discussion on methods of engaging NGBs with this agenda, including NGBs for non competitive sports.
The structure of the seminar would be a short presentation of the issues followed by discussion and then collation and the drawing of conclusions from the discussion. JW and JS will lead and develop the seminar, Duncan Carter and Peter Cornall would provide assistance in promoting the seminar to relevant NGBs.
There was some discussion over the recent call by a coroner that participants in ALL watersport activities should wear buoyancy aids. The Group felt that coroners might find the specialist information contained within the group useful when making their deliberations.
It was felt that Marcus Baile from AALS should be approached and asked whether he would like to receive NWSF papers.

Action: DC

Stuart Ward (SW) gave a report on the Information Group Meeting.
There was some discussion on the value of Water Safety Day. Some felt it was better to work with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and seek to make a positive influence this way. There was a lack of clarity about the objectives of the day so this made it difficult for NWSF to take a clear view on its value.

6. Statistics

PC circulated a paper for discussion. He felt there was a sometimes a lack of consistency by H&S officers in their responses to accidents and measures should be taken to address this.

Action PC: write to Mr McCracken of the HSE supporting his statement that lifeguards need not be compulsory for open water events.

7. Maritime Safety Programme

There was some discussion on this programme. There was uncertainty about the actions that would result. Some concern was expressed about the comparison of accident rates to participant rates across different sports. The data was, however, useful for spotting trends. JW would continue with his ongoing discussions with the MCA.

8. Use of Automatic electronic defibrillators (AEDs)

There was some discussion of JW's paper and the value of AEDs. Oxygen was considered to be an important life saving tool. Heart attacks are rare and the machines are very expensive.

9. AOB

JW circulated the BSAC diving incident report.

The Group was informed that British Triathlon were producing guidelines for children swimming in open water.

PC highlighted the shortage of open water sites in the UK.

The next meeting would take place 30 September 2008 at CCPR's office in Burwood House, SW1H 0QT.