

**Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting of the UK Windsurfing Association (UKWA)
Held at Herne Bay Sailing Club on 3rd June 2012**

53 people signed the attendance sheet.

Welcome from Bob Ingram

Exec Apologies: Peter Davis; Alastair Campbell; Nigel Treacy; Dave Dobson; Dave Sibley, Richard Sills

1. Approval of the previous Minutes of the AGM:

The AGM Minutes from 2011 were Approved and signed.

Proposed: Brian Tilbury **Seconded:** Rob Kent

Floor Vote: None against

2. Matters Arising (not covered in the Agenda Items) None received.

3. Decision to replace RS:X with kite surfing at the next Olympics:

John Derbyshire (Racing Manager/Performance Director, RYA) who is responsible for all the Olympic, youth and junior programmes and the pathways that feed into that, as well as having responsibility for the wider racing activities. He also attended the meeting in Italy when this decision was made.

He assured the meeting that from the RYA's point of view it remains totally committed to Team 15 (a development / get people into the sport programme, which hopefully gets them racing and then moves them onto the Techno) and the Techno programme which provides the skills and competencies (tactical, organisational and personal) needed to become a successful top-level racer.

Advice to those who are transitioning out of Techno onto RS:X at the moment our advice right now is to carry as you are. There is another ISAF meeting coming up in November in the meantime we will honour our commitments to the parents to go to the RS:X Worlds at the back end of this year and continue to support the youth feeder programmes.

We will have to develop a course for kite board racing (which we don't envisage being for youngsters for safety and skill reasons) but just because Windsurfing is not in the Olympics doesn't mean that you have to stop windsurfing and the RYA is not going to stop investing in the youth and junior programmes, but once we have had the meeting in November we will have a bit more clarity regarding the senior programmes as well. After the next ISAF meeting the RYA will report back to Bob so he can pass on any information to the membership.

4. Chairman's Report:

Thanks to those who supported us in the 2011 season especially to our safety crews, race officers, Brian Tilbury, Jon Eskdale, Sue Ingram, all volunteers, Alastair Campbell (Webmaster) for the new revamped website, the committee for all their hard work over the last year in organising the national and local regional events, John Ellis (who continues to produce the accounts for us), Paul Robinson (Treasurer who has made an enormous difference to the financial reporting of the Association), thank you to all our sponsors, Arabella Andrup, and a big thank you to Sue and Tessa Ingram for all their support and the long hours they put in supporting me behind the scenes.

Slalom: Thank to you Neil Pryde, Fanatic, North, Starboard/Tushingham and Quayside Windsurfing, who ran 7 events last year. BSA branding worked particularly well we think last year and already this year the events have been going rather well so far, with more of a slalom only fraternity with not as much cross-over as there used to be in the past.

Wave: Unfortunately Nigel Treacy couldn't be here this evening. Bob read out Nigel's report to the room. In brief, the BWA/UKWA Wave Tour continues to grow in a very challenging economic climate. In 2011 we managed to deliver all 4 national events with record numbers of attendance.

The BWA is looking to develop youth and student fleets, they want to identify and secure a Tour sponsor and Nigel Treacy, the current chairman, is looking to hand over the Tour to someone else within the next 12 months or so. Please see the BWA website for more information:
www.britishwavesailingassociation.com

Freestyle: 2010 saw the relaunch of Freestyle with Trevor Funnell coming on board to do that for us. In 2011 there were 5 events planned alongside slalom and course racing events plus the European Pro Kids Tour at Minnis Bay. Without the loss, which occurred for the Pro Kids Tour, Freestyle would have again roughly broken even.

In 2012 we have will see 6 events, so far we have had 2 events, the first made a very small loss, the second should show a fairly healthy profit and both had better numbers than 2011. On this basis the committee, who had previously agreed to sell the Jet Ski, have suspended that decision, for review at the end of this season, and we have now lent the Jet Ski for use at the Freestyle events.

Plans are already in place for 2013, with Trevor taking a slight step back and setting up a new Freestyle sub-committee with a new Freestyle rep sitting on the UKWA committee, something we haven't had for many years and we look forward to working more closely with Freestyle as a committee based organisation.

Speed: Speed Week continues to be a fantastic event selling out well in advance. As usual the UKWA event was on the first weekend and Stu and Paul continue to provide safety cover. Weymouth was also final round of the European Speed Tour. This year will be the 40th Anniversary of Speed Week and this year they intend to include a lot of new categories, including a retro.

Course Racing: 2011 saw 6 Cup events, the 6th Cup being in conjunction with the RYA Youth & Masters, which we are now pretty much running for them. There were also 5 Inland events supported by the UKWA plus the Nat. Junior Championships.

In general, formula numbers continue to be a little disappointing with 19 competing in the Cup Series (down by 4), Raceboard 32 (down by 18) RS:X 42 (up 6) and Techno 77 (up 11).

In the 2012 season we see the same format again and given all the issues the number appear so far to be holding up pretty well.

Team 15 – we hope to have some closer links with the Inland Series, and we are working closely with the RYA to see how we can make sure that happens.

Always looking for new income streams: the sale of 2 digit sail numbers and t-shirts are going well and thank you to all of you who donated money to our boat fund via the membership forms.

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Class Structures/Techno Class Association: Thanks to Phil Bloodworth for his support in getting the RYA to agree to use the UKWA Series as the selection process for the National Squad on a one-year trial. In turn, Phil thanked Alastair Coghill and Julie Hall also for their hard work for the Techno Class Association.

RS:X: Class constitution is still work in progress. The Class is still going to be funded by the RYA, the open training programme funding has already been approved for 2013 and the way the selection process has been made for the Squad system remains the same.

Formula/Raceboard: may want to consider moving to a formal constitution, if they want to do that we'd be very happy to see that happen.

Thanks to Tessa for her hard work on the current best practices/policies, documentation now on UKWA information pages.

Congratulations to our 2011 Windsurfer of the Year 2011, Zara Davis for Speed.

The UKWA will continue to support the National Windsurfing Festival in 2012 and particular thanks to Jon Eskdale for his hard work in getting the end of year results out quickly. Thanks to Rod Davis for continuing to work with Windsurf magazine and his work with getting sponsorship, for the first time in a long time from outside the trade, via Stena Line for the cup events and a wave sponsor for 2012.

The committee recognise the need to get new young blood on board with fresh ideas and we also particularly need more assistance on and off the water with new race crew and race officers a high priority.

As John Derbyshire indicated earlier, windsurfing will continue to evolve and things may change but you can be assured that the UKWA will change with them and wherever possible drive the changes forward to the advantage of its membership.

And last but not least we all wish Bryony and Nick the best of luck during the Olympics.

5. Treasurer's Report:

The role of the Treasurer is to in essence balance the books and to ensure the fiscal policy is achieved so the operation of the Association is carried out in such a way to ensure its sustainability and to be in a financially positive year on year operating mode. Decisions regarding fees and cost management are made with the overall picture in mind and made with background information and with the best sustainable interest of the Association.

Our asset is you, the members and sailors, and our reason for being can be distilled into providing you with what you want in terms of racing at a cost which is sustainable. Each discipline needs to be its own business unit and to be financially self-supporting, operating in the wider context of the Association. Whilst there maybe some initial start up or supporting costs these can not be supported indefinitely and the aim is for the discipline to wash its face financially.

Our income comes from 3 major streams - membership fees, events (6 Cup, 7 Slalom with a capped income of £1500 per event minus expenses and operating costs) and others. We are now looking at other areas of creating revenue, such as sail numbers, t-shirts and we need to make a bigger focus on sponsorship despite the economic situation.

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Our spend is covered by a large number of sunk costs: e.g affiliation fees for the Classes, affiliation fees to the RYA, boat and operating insurance, sailors insurance, PO Box registration, domain registration, administration, banking fees, accounting and website server fees, etc.

Our operating expenses operate around the massive amount of equipment we need to run and maintain for an event like this one. Sound system, rib servicing/trailer servicing and accident damage repair/replacement, flags, buoys, anchors, chains, warps, radios, GPS, compasses, windies and a very important element - race crew support (of around 12) is needed; so balancing the wear and tear cycle and prioritising what we need to spend is tantamount. We have also invested in revamping the website.

Whilst attendance was down on last year as a result of economic challenges, we all faced especially high fuel costs, resulting in a decrease in income flow. This has been matched by a focused action to decrease costs and outflow and a operating surplus of £5,226 similar to last year has been achieved. The building of the overall surplus is to support our aging key essential racing equipment especially in relation to the Ribs and engines, now nearing 10 years old.

See accounts on website for more detailed info.

Approval of the accounts to 31st December 2011. AGREED.

Proposed by Rob Kent

Seconded by Alastair Coghill

Floor: none against

6. **Olympic Legacy:**

We have put money aside to buy one of the new ribs used at Weymouth for the Olympics at a greatly discounted price. We will be selling Rescue 1 and currently using the jet ski to support the freestyle so long as the cost is offset by its income ongoing.

7. **Election of Officers:**

RESIGNED: Richard Sills (SW Region), Dave Coles (Formula)

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Chris Bond (Formula), David Bradley (Freestyle)

NEW ELECTED COMMITTEE FOR 2012 (14 members):

Chairman – Bob Ingram

Treasurer – Paul Robinson

Secretary – Jay Williamson

Execs elected:

Head of Racing – Bob Ingram
Head of Slalom - vacant/Bob Ingram
Head of Speed - Peter Davis
Head of Wave - Nigel Treacy
Head of Freestyle – David Bradley

Class Reps elected:

Raceboard – Brian Tilbury
Techno – Phil Bloodworth
Formula – Chris Bond
RS:X - vacant
Funboard – vacant

Active Regional Reps elected:

London & SE Region – Paul Robinson
Midlands – Bob Ingram
North East – Dave Dobson

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Specialist Areas elected:

Boson – Dave Sibley
Race Crew Rep – Paul Sibley
Publicity – Rod Davis
Webmaster – Alastair Campbell

AGREED:

Proposed by Janet Pain / **Seconded by** Trevor Funnell

Floor none against

8. Constitution:

Jay Williamson: Proposal to have a smaller group of people who actively manage the day to day organisation, an exec no bigger than the one now but has a formal position on it for the chairman treasurer and secretary and the chairman of the active classes and the heads of all the other active disciplines which aren't already represented. The change would be that only the core group would need to be formally directors of the UKWA.

Further discussions are still in progress and the Exec will update the members as soon as further information becomes available.

9. AOB

Brian Tilbury thanked Bob Ingram on behalf of the whole of the UKWA for all his hard work and dedication to the Association over the past year.

Paul Sibley: Committed volunteers are needed to help out at events – please contact Paul Sibley (paul.sibley@awe.co.uk) if you are willing to participate in any way. You will be offered full training with qualifications.

Meeting Closed: 9.15pm

Thank you to all those who attended

NOTES FROM SAILOR'S MEETING (WHICH FOLLOWED THE AGM)

1. Chris Lewis is having a general meeting re Formula running style at Slalom events – the membership will be updated after the meeting (prior to Aberdovey June 23/24).
2. Marazion as a venue again. Needs to be at least a 4-day event. There may be a slalom event in 2013 (and possibly a freestyle event as well).
3. Event venue needs: decent waters without too much current when no wind, a decent beach so kit isn't wrecked and also somewhere that everyone can stay on site. Any venue recommendations will be considered (contact Bob Ingram racing-09@ukwindsurfing.com).
4. Look into logistics of having a week long event. Suggestion for adding a training event.
5. Need another boat for a slalom finish.
6. Discussion re GPS for tracking/safety purposes.
7. Personal flare packs – Paul Sibley to look into it and report back to the committee.
8. Whistles/life jackets.
9. Please feed your ideas back to the committee via the website.