

**Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting
of the UK Windsurfing Association (UKWA)
Held at Herne Bay Sailing Club on 26 May 2013**

33 people signed the attendance sheet (16 x 1 vote) and 17 (2 votes) = 50 votes

Welcome and thanks to all for attending from Bob Ingram

Exec Apologies: Peter Davis, Alastair Campbell, Nigel Treacy, Dave Dobson; Dave Sibley, Rod Davis, David Bradley, Paul Sibley

1. Approval of the previous Minutes of the AGM:

The AGM Minutes from 2012 were Approved and signed.

Proposed: James Palin **Seconded:** Phil Bloodworth

Floor Vote: None against

2. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes (not covered in the Agenda Items)

None received from the floor.

3. Chairman's Report (Bob Ingram):

Thank you:

Thanks to everyone who supported the UKWA in the 2012, obviously this has been a particularly difficult year financially for everyone so we are very grateful for your support. Thanks also to the safety and race crews (both on and off the water).

Thanks to our volunteers on the support/committee boats and behind the scenes.

Thanks to Alastair for the website, despite a major crash of the website during the year, he has managed to pull things through and the website continues to improve the image of the Association.

Thank you to the Committee itself for all their hard work and particularly to the sub-committees which were set up, and did a lot of valuable work through the year.

Thank you to John Ellis for preparing the Accounts and particularly Paul Robinson for his work with John Ellis in preparing the accounts and getting the Association on a very firm footing. We now also have a new rib and a new engine for Buska which we couldn't have dreamt of a few years ago.

Thanks to Rod David for all his hard work with sponsorship, he puts a lot of hard work in behind the scenes and continues to do so.

Thanks to Trevor Funnell who stood down as Freestyle Rep last year, but has continued to support David Bradley who took up that post this season.

Thanks to Pete Davis who continues to maintain a great profile for Speed.

Thank you in particular to Dave Sibley, who is standing down from the committee this year. He has done a great job for the association over many years and we hope that he is still going to continue to support us in the future (Thank you, applause from the floor).

Thanks to Arabella for her admin work.

Thanks to Sue and also to Tessa for all their support and all the work they do behind the scenes as well.

[NB: Unfortunately Bob forgot to thank Brian and Ann for all their help behind the scenes and particularly at the course racing and slalom events, both at registration and vitally for their assistance in setting up and packing away after events. Without this assistance Bob and Sue would be departing some hours later, their assistance is sincerely appreciated. Bob & Sue]

Disciplines:

It has still been a good year for the UKWA despite all the difficulties that we all know about and the numbers held up fairly well.

Slalom: Big thank you to the companies who work with us behind the scenes: Neil Pryde, Fanatic/North, Starboard/Tushingham, Quayside Windsurfing, OTC and recently we have welcomed on board RRD and we hope Gaastra will also come on board and support us in the future. Slalom ran 7 events last year, there will be 6 events in 2013.

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Wave:

Nigel was hoping to be here but has obviously not made it back in time from their event in Ireland. Our agreement with the BWA carries on through 2013 and has been very positive; they ran 4 events last year and they have already done 2 out of their 4 events for this year.

Freestyle:

In 2012 there were 6 events; 2 worked alongside Slalom, 2 alongside Cup events, 1 at Eastbourne Extreme and 1 was a stand-alone event. Trevor Funnell continued to support Freestyle despite standing down as Chairman and Julian da Vall also made a big impact on what they were doing behind the scenes in Freestyle. They would have broken even in 2012 except that the Jetski lost a wheel on the way back from one of the events, so the cost of that impacted on their profit for the year.

They are planning 6 events in 2013, again Trevor and Julian and Mike Howard are working behind the scenes to make that happen with David Bradley. They are also trying to work more closely with the Student Windsurfing Association to expand Freestyle and hopefully give it the exposure it deserves.

Speed:

Speed continues to be very successful. It was its 40th Anniversary last year, which went very well and looks to do the same this year. It looks after itself, it works with the Association and everyone who goes there has a great time.

Racing:

2012 saw 6 Cup events with the 6th event being in conjunction with the RYA Youth & Masters, which we are now running for them. There were 5 Inland events supported by the Regions and the UKWA and we ran the National Junior Championships at Whitwell.

Overall for 2012 the numbers held up fairly well, but the trend we are seeing so far for this season is perhaps more worrying. We will look at the results at the end of this year and try and make the right decisions to make sure that we provide you with the racing that you want for next year.

I have had continued meetings with the RYA (some including Phil Bloodworth), probably more than in the past, and we still endeavour to co-operate with the RYA as much as we can.

We are running the National Junior Championships for the RYA again this year at Rutland and the RYA National 6.8 Title will be awarded at that event, which is the first time the RYA have asked us to do that. In 2012 the RYA used the Cup Series as their indicator for the National Squad.

Techno (Phil Bloodworth):

Big thanks to Julie Hall, who has done a great job for 3 years now in terms of organising the training (applause) which I think has taken the Techno Class to a different level to where it was a couple of years ago. Also thanks to Alastair Coghill for getting the accounts straight (applause)

and we now know very clearly where not only the RYA money goes but the parents money as well. Julie and Alastair are standing down and we have a new committee for 2013.

Techno Class is growing hugely internationally which is very exciting, however in the UK we are having some difficulty with numbers. I'd like to say thank you on behalf of the Techno parents to Bob and Sue for their hard work and ask parents to help get more kids to come along and participate at events so we can try and keep the numbers up. Parents' help on the beach is always very welcome.

General Business (back to Bob Ingram):

Windsurfer of the Year was not awarded in 2012, but I can assure you that it will be in the future and we now have a Hall of Fame on the website which has been well received so far.

The UKWA continue to support the National Windsurfing Festival, which will take place again later this year.

We need new ideas and new young blood on board and also need assistance with people helping us on and off the water so it is important that people do try and get involved with what we do, it is you lot that own it and we need all the help that you can give us.

4. Treasurer's Report (Paul Robinson):

Last year we were sitting here wondering what was going to happen with windsurfing and the Association due to the Olympic decision, so a really big thank you to everyone who has supported us, the numbers have stayed very strong and we are able to continue with confidence in the future.

The Olympic event obviously had the benefit of the rib which you see out on the water now, we managed to get it for around £18K having done only 300 hours, so that is a big discount from about £26K for a new one. It does give us an opportunity to sell one of the older ribs, which is a possibility for this year.

We have decided to retain the jet ski for this year as Freestyle use it in non wind conditions. We will review this at the end of the season.

The accounts are for 2012 but we had to add in a couple of things that would have ended up in 2013, which are for rib servicing which is for last year but was only paid in March 2013. We also had expenses of £1,700 which were actually for 2012. We had a problem with Buska's engine at the end of last year and so the 2013 accounts will see the purchase of a new engine. We have uprated the infrastructure considerably in the last 6 months and this should be beneficial both in servicing costs and fuel efficiency, but it is up to us now to look after this equipment and make them last for at least another 10 years.

Accounts, Page 4: operating account for last year – income was slightly higher, costs were slightly lower and our gross surplus was £7,958, but we need to take the £1,700 away from that which still leaves us about £1K up on last year. The challenge now, looking at the trend so far, is to keep the Association in a sustainable manner.

Accounts, Page 5: balance sheet which gives us the health of the Association. Tangible assets include the rib and we have basically improved our position in terms of both cash in the bank and

overall assets. We are looking at creditors now and challenging those, some go back to 2007 so we will be able to write some of those off and improve the balance sheet.

PROPOSER for APPROVAL of the Accounts for 2012 – Chris Bond

SECONDED – Jay Williamson

FLOOR: None Against

Thank you very much for supporting us this year, the Sailors meeting will be important to get your input as to how we can get the numbers back up and to see if there is anything else we need to take on board or do differently to attract more competitors.

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5. Constitution:

(Bob Ingram):

To consider the proposal for future management of the Association and by approving the proposal authorise the Directors to make the changes to the Articles to enact it.

This was a working party, which was set up by the main Committee to look at the existing constitution and the way we operate the UKWA Limited. On that Committee were Jay Williamson, Paul Robinson, Brian Tilbury and John Ellis.

(Jay Williamson):

We flagged up last year that we needed to recognise that the UKWA has been operating under the old UKBSA constitution, which was a single discipline body with only course racing to worry about. Over time, the real structure of the UKWA is now an umbrella organisation covering all disciplines who each have their own events which take place all over the country.

Thus it has proved difficult to get all the exec committee together in one place to have meetings to discuss/make plans and represent all the disciplines. What really happens is that there is a small core of people who actually manage the business of the UKWA Limited, all of whom talk pretty regularly, but it is only 4 or 5 people who are acting above the disciplines, everything else happens within the discipline. The BWA have their own Committee for running waves, Slalom has a group, which are getting together to operate in the same way and that is the way it should work. Racing is clearly the biggest bit in the organisation that brings in the most money, but it also spends the most money.

Another part of the democratic deficit is, for example, tonight. Here we all are having the AGM at a race meeting because it is the only one where we are likely to get 50 people - thank you all for turning up! - but it is undemocratic because if you are a wave, speed or slalom sailor you're not going to turn up just for the AGM.

We need to change the structure and have a smaller Board, which will also save time by negating the time spent behind the scenes having to register and deregister 14-20 people with Companies House every year.

So we propose to have a smaller Board, who will be Directors, but also have a Management Committee that represents the functions, the disciplines and the Regions, which is how the organisation is really organised. In terms of the posts that would be voted for under the new constitution, they are very similar to the posts that we recognise now. A Head of Racing, Head of Waves, Head of Speed, Head of Slalom, Head of Freestyle, Heads of the active Regions, Head of Functions (Resources and Crew), Head of Publicity, Webmaster and Administrator.

Our Proposal is that the Directors become effectively the small group that you re-elect every year, that is The Chairman, the Company Secretary, The Treasurer (who would be renamed Director of Finance and Administration) and a Director of Communications. These are the only people who will have to become Directors of the UKWA and fill in all the necessary Companies House paperwork.

The Management Committee, who will still have a voice within the UKWA, would be all those other Heads of Departments. They will be asked to provide the Directors with a monthly bulletin (what is going on in your region, function, discipline, etc) and the Directors will feed back to them the things that have been decided on and/or ask for input from them before an up and coming decision is made.

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We are asking for your agreement to the principle and then we will go away and work with John Ellis, who professionally has a background in doing the changes we want to make and he will help us to word the Articles to support what it is we want to achieve.

This proposal affects all the other disciplines, who are under-represented at this meeting, so what we propose to do is seek endorsement across the whole of the membership via an electronic vote in the next 2 to 3 months (once we have set up the facility).

PROPOSER for the Proposal: Tim Gibson

SECONDER: James Palin

FLOOR: none against, 1 abstained

6. Election of Officers (under the new Proposal):

The current Chairman (Bob Ingram), Treasurer (Paul Robinson) and Company Secretary (Jay Williamson) stand down, as required by the Constitution and stand for re-election. We propose to leave the Director of Communications vacant for now but we will, through the website, ask for expressions of interest from people with skills in that area and either co-opt or call a Special General Meeting to appoint a Director of Communications.

RE-ELECTED DIRECTORS FOR 2013

Chairman – Bob Ingram

Director of Finance and Administration – Paul Robinson

Company Secretary – Jay Williamson

Director of Communications – to be filled

PROPOSAL to re-elect the above 3 directors en bloc: Rob Kent

SECONDER: Guy Bassett

7. AOB

None from the floor.

A Parent thanked the Committee, Race Officers and the rest of the crew on behalf of the parents (applause).

BT thanked Bob Ingram for all his hard work (applause)

Meeting Closed: 9.00pm

Thank you to all those who attended

AA
29 May 2013