

AGM 2023 Season, presented April 24

1. UKWA AGM normally deals with the business of the association to 31st December the previous year, in this case 2023
2. As promised at the 2022 AGM at Stokes Bay in October 2023 we said we would endeavour to reestablish having the AGM at the beginning of the year which we have now done, having got out of sequence due to the pandemic.
3. Briefly the 2023 season saw the committee run, 7 cup events, 7 slalom events and The National Windsports Championships & Champions Cup There are more details about these events in the Finance Report which we will come onto shortly.
4. The coach supplement was introduced in 2022 which saw an increase in course race entry fees for junior and youth pathway classes of £10 which the UKWA pays over to the classes to help fund coach support at events. This has been a great success for, parents, competitors and the UKWA. Thanks should go to the classes and in particular to Ali Masters who has developed into a great asset at events. To be absolutely clear on this as there has been some confusion the UKWA sets an entry fee for Junior & Youth pathway classes and then adds an additional £10 or £15 for 3 day events, you will see this separately as it is not subject to the discount schemes.
5. Sadly WingFoil did not see the growth we had anticipated despite the continued recreational growth. The UKWA has applied to become a member of The IWSA and I have been attending all of their online meetings which include the formation of class rules. We are not yet signed up due to the need for the RYA to sanction our membership. The RYA are also involved with The BKSA who also have an interest in WingFoiling but more in the training and Freestyle side, I recently met with them and we are seeking dual membership and await The RYA to advise how this can be achieved. Our meeting was very positive and I look forward to working closely with Andy Gratwick in the future, we are already planning a joint event later this year.
6. Unfortunately there have been no improvements to the website therefore navigating the site and entering events is still a challenge, hopefully once the name change which we will come to later is approved things may move forward. We had to change our email system and you

might have noticed a slightly different address if you receive emails from Admin.

7. Towing and storage of ribs is an ongoing and serious problem for the association. If anyone can assist with this you will get your fuel paid to the event and a £50 payment for your inconvenience and wear and tear on your vehicle.
8. Wave events were provided through our partner BWA. I can expand on this arrangement if anyone should wish.
9. Speed week continues to be as popular as ever at Weymouth again I can expand on this if anyone should wish.
10. Freestyle continues to be a challenge with no events currently planned.
11. Volunteers continued to be a problem however a few new faces have been seen on the committee boat and ribs for which we are most grateful.
12. The slalom support fund was totally wiped out in 2023 and saw a large negative balance which we wrote off. Despite seeking the support from our previous sponsors only one offered support for 2024. It is more likely that individual brands will support individual events with prizes rather than putting in any cash. This is a reflection on the amount of slalom kit currently sold in the UK.
13. Looking at 2024 we have reduced the number of Slalom events to 5 in an attempt to reduce our losses, one of these events will be more of a fun event, hopefully along the lines of the old NWF however the entertainment and alcohol licences have not been granted to date. This would be in association with the BKSA if it proceeds.
14. Thank is due to
 - a. Everyone who continues to support events especially given the cost of living issues
 - b. Our event safety crews, race officers and admin team and scorers.
 - c. Coaches & classes especially Ali Masters for his support
 - d. Alastair webmaster
 - e. Sue Robinson in the admin office
 - f. The Committee for their hard work and support.
 - g. Kevin Profit working alongside James maintaining and storing the fleet.
 - h. All the local councils with whom we work closely and our host venues

- i. Our Sponsors, Starboard / Severne & Boardwise and the slalom sponsors. Additional sponsors support the wave tour under the BWA which falls under The UKWA umbrella if anyone wants more explanation please ask now.
 - j. Finally thanks to Sue and Tessa for all the support and the exceptional work they put in behind the scenes.
15. Noble Marine continue to provide our third party cover, who have provided a better product and included Wing Foiling which was an important factor for the UKWA Sue Robinson and I have met with them a couple of times recently and we hope to have a Fully Comprehensive option in place soon.
16. Lucas Meldrum was crowned WOTY 2023.
17. Zara Davies, Ross Williams and Nik Dempsey were added to the UKWA Hall of Fame

Lastly and we will come on to this in a moment The UKWA is in serious Financial difficulties with a loss of nearly £15K in 2023, if this continues the UKWA could potentially go bankrupt. This is a real danger.

The current committee would not support the Association going Bankrupt therefore is monitoring the situation very carefully, however we will not shy away from halting our events program if it becomes necessary and operating in the short term as a membership only organization. During this time the Committee may seek to be replaced potentially leaving others to take the association in an alternate direction should they wish. If this can not be accommodated then the current committee may seek to liquidate the company assets mainly 4 ribs, launch truck and events trailer to keep the association afloat in the short term whilst it seeks to close the business in an orderly fashion. Any remaining funds would be gifted to a like minded organization as per our constitution.

Liability is restricted to £1 per member/director however none of the directors would wish to be associated with a company which had gone bankrupt and the implications that might have on their own credit rating, fortunately by liquefying our assets this should not occur providing we are vigilant.

Hopefully it will not come to this, the committee is wholeheartedly committed to seeing a successful association in both the short and long term, all we really

need is to see more members and more people at our event, therefore if you want to keep racing the best way is to support events with your entry, use it or loose it. If its no longer wanted then I don't think we should continue flogging a dead horse in the longer term. Perhaps the UKWA is past its sell by date and change is overdue and this is for you the membership to decide. All I will say is that the UKWA came about because there were a number of smaller groups who ran events but could not make them pay, such as classes and smaller associations, we could go back to this but be very careful what you wish for, it failed in the past, fortunately most of you are to young to remember! Once the UKWA has gone it is very unlikely it would return.

We will return to this in the finance report.

Bob Ingram.

Chairmans report ends.