

RYA NI Council Meeting
held Tuesday May 6th 2008
at the House of Sport, Upper Malone Road, Belfast

Minutes

Chairman Stanton Adair welcomed everyone and introduced Tiffany Brien. Tiffany, RYA NI Young Sailor of the Year 2007, spoke about her fundraising for Belfast Lough Sailability. She went on to say the idea came to her at the RYA NI AGM where a cheque was being presented to Sailability representatives and it was then she had decided to do a sponsored sail from Carrickfergus to Scotland to raise funds for them to purchase a Skud Class Dinghy to help encourage young sailors into Paralympic sailing. There was a press launch at the Belfast Harbour Commissioners Office. The Chairman wished Tiffany well and said RYA NI supported her endeavour.

1. Apologies were received from Ken Atkinson, Sheela Lewis, James Ogg, Frank Haslett, Cliff Burns, Patricia Storey, Maeve Bell, Jay Colville and John Bell.

2. Minutes of the meeting held February 5th 2008 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

Capital Grants for Elite Facilities

Ronnie Browne gave a brief update on the process. Currently there are two bidders CSC and BYC. They are waiting on commencement of Stage 2.

Equality

The Chairman invited Jackie Reid to address the meeting and give an update. Jackie reported that the Home Countries are working together with RYA and will go forward as a single sport. Sports Councils will appoint an advisor to each sport. Each Sports Council has its own priorities JR will meet their advisor next week and will let RYA NI know what is expected.

Policy Documents

The following policies and documents were circulated prior to the meeting: Communication Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy, Staff Handbook, Risk Policy and Risk Register. The Chairman confirmed with the meeting that they had taken the opportunity to read these prior to the meeting and that the Executive was satisfied the documents were fit for purpose as working documents. The Chairman asked the meeting for agreement to adopt the documents, the meeting agreed.

4. Progress reports

Performance Manager

Richard Honeyford outlined highlights of his report. There is a Volvo Champion Club initiative for U16s to help their clubs to reduce their carbon footprint. Funding is available for this.

Stephen Milne had been nominated with Peter O'Leary to compete at the Olympic Games in the Star Class.

Debbie Hanna was unsuccessful in her campaign for Olympic selection in the Laser Radial Class, ISA selected Ciara Peelo to compete in China.

Ryan Seaton in Laser Full Rig finished 5th in Andorra at the European Cup.

Training & Development Manager

Eamon Masterson reported that a Training Forum had been held. RYA National Coach John Thorn attended and gave an update on RYA Training Schemes. 12 Clubs were represented at the forum.

Carlingford Lough Yacht Club are running a Dinghy Instructor Course where a Trainer from the mainland will deliver the course.

An Inland Waterways Helmsman course was held 6 candidates attended and passed.

Honda Youth Rib Event is scheduled for June 21st 2008.

5. Honorary Treasurer's report
Oliver Lynas reported there was £8000 surplus last financial year. This figure is much lower than the previous year mainly due to employing an extra staff member due to staff illness. Full accounts will be presented at the AGM in Oct.
6. Cruising Conference
The Chairman put out a request for volunteers to help organise the Cruising Conference to be held in 2009.
8. AGM/ Preliminary Notice
The AGM will be held Tuesday Oct 7th 2008.
11. AOB
There is a Fast Ferries and MCA meeting being held at RNIYC Belfast Lough Clubs are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Presentations

'Being vigilant on the water' by PSNI Detective Constable Chris Simpson of C3 Small Ports Unit. A video was shown. Their aim is to raise awareness of unusual or suspicious Maritime Activity and encourage the public to cooperate and report to the Police any unusual behaviour. Posters were handed out for posting at clubs.

'Child Protection and Access NI' (new vetting system) by RYA Personnel & Administration Manager Jackie Reid & Child Protection in Sport Unit NSPCC Paul Stephenson

PS and JR reported:

The focus is on Access NI and to work with the clubs on safe recruitment. The PECS/POCVA vetting system will be transferred over to Access NI on April 1st 2008.

RYA HQ will take over from RYA NI office and will handle the vetting process on behalf of sailing and boating.

RYA NI have adapted the RYA Child Protection Policy and is posted on the RYA NI website.

Clubs need to identify a Child Welfare Officer to ensure that Child Protection remains a priority at club level. All club members should be aware who their Child Welfare Officer is. This can be done by using the posters supplied.

The new system puts the responsibility of vetting on the club. Anyone who had qualified as an RYA Instructor prior to March 2008 have been checked. This will help to manage the system in the early days. Information will be sent to each Club and Centre. Clubs will need to sign up with a User Agreement. Applicants fill in the vetting form and the Club confirms the individual's identity.

If the club does not organise activities for Under 18s then it isn't necessary to vet staff and volunteers.

Papers will be sent out as soon as possible. Checks should be valid for 6 months. It is recommended to keep club signatories to a minimum number. This is only one aspect of recruitment. Clubs are encouraged to take up references and adhere to safe recruitment practices. People to be checked at clubs and centres are those that have a defined role within their junior youth programme.