

RYA NI Council Meeting  
Tuesday February 5<sup>th</sup> 2008  
at Killyleagh Yacht Club

Minutes

Present:

Stanton Adair            Chairman  
Irene Aston    Honorary Secretary  
Oliver Lynas    Honorary Treasurer  
John Magowan    Chairman Education Training & Safety Committee

In attendance

Ronnie Browne            Operations Coordinator  
Lisa Waugh            Business Manager  
Richard Honeyford    Performance Manager  
Eamon Masterson    Training & Development Manager  
Bob Harper            Regional Sailability Coordinator  
Cliff Burns            Child Protection Officer  
Maeve Bell            Ex Officio

Club Representatives on Council Present:

Ken Atkinson Carrickfergus Berth Holders Association  
John McClure            Carrickfergus Sailing Club  
Denzyl Dinsmore    Coleraine Yacht Club  
Sheela Lewis County Antrim Yacht Club  
Andy Browne Holywood Yacht Club  
David Young Killyleagh Yacht Club  
Frank Haslett Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club  
John Bell            Royal Ulster Yacht Club

Minutes

The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking the Flag Officers and Members of Killyleagh Yacht Club for hosting the RYA NI Council Meeting. The Club's Honorary Secretary Gordon Galloway welcomed everyone. This was the first time KYC had hosted an RYA NI Council Meeting.

1. Apologies were received from Jay Colville, Curly Morris, WM Watson, Shirley Sheard, David King and Newenham de Cogan.
2. Minutes of the Council Meeting held November 13<sup>th</sup> 2007 at Donaghadee Sailing Club were agreed as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

### 3. Matters arising

#### 3.1 Capital Grants for Facilities

Ronnie Browne reported that there are still two Clubs waiting to go to stage 2 BYC and CSC. The Minister has confirmed there is funding but there has been no formal announcement to date. The Clubs are concerned that with the delay it will be difficult to deliver the projects on time.

#### 3.2 Equality

Ronnie Browne reported that there had been positive response from the RYA Home Countries and they will all pull together with RYA to move to the next level. The work should be complete by Jan 09. There will be 2 or 3 days consultancy work involved.

#### 3.3 NI Strategy for Sport

The Chairman thanked the Clubs for their support with responses. RYA NI did submit a response and are now awaiting the final document.

#### 3.4 Risk Assessment

The Chairman thanked the Hon Sec Irene Aston for her work on the RYA NI Risk Assessment. The document has been circulated to the Executive for comment. The draft will then be taken to the Executive and then to the Council for approval.

### 4. Environmental Matters

Maeve Bell reported that Strangford Lough is one of only three National Marine Protected Areas in the UK. The rare Horse Mussel lives in the reefs in Strangford Lough. These reefs have been damaged. DARD proposes to restore the reefs by banning fishing in 2 areas. DARD doesn't have control over sailing and anchoring. Neither areas are recognised as anchorages however it is important for safety reasons to preserve the right of skippers to anchor in an emergency. This should be possible by working in consultation with the departments that are moving this forward. The RYA Legal Department have been helpful in the past with cases like these. The meeting agreed that a letter should be drafted making the point clear. All Clubs should be kept updated on any policies that will affect sailing and boating activity in their area. The meeting also agreed that it would be beneficial if the areas in Strangford Lough were marked. The question was also raised as to why RYA NI was not consulted with. The meeting also agreed that RYA NI should contact EHS and ask to be included in any relevant consultations and information that would affect sailing and boating activity in NI.

### 5. Progress reports from Committees

### 5.1 Education, Training & Safety

A written work plan was circulated by EM. EM also reported that 3 Trainers attended the National Conference. There is a Start Windsurfing Instructor Course at NSC. The National Windsurfing Trainer will moderate the course and will also visit other Clubs. March 8<sup>th</sup> is the RYA NI Training Forum. John Thorn from RYA HQ will be attending. There is a Dinghy Instructor Course scheduled in March at NSC. CLYC are also hosting a Dinghy Instructor Course at the end of June. A meeting is organised with the Coach Assessors in February. John Magowan commented that it is necessary to train more Coach Assessors as there are only three in NI that are active. This makes organising Instructor Courses very difficult. Anyone interested in this type of training should contact Eamon. EM also reported that the number of Powerboat Instructors has increased and this area of work has been very positive. Sheela Lewis commented that it is difficult to get sufficient numbers trained as Senior Instructors due to time constraints and commitments of suitably qualified people.

### 5.2 Performance

RH circulated a written report and reported that Stephen Martin from SLYC had attended the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of the Class Race Coach Course. There are only 3 in NI. The course has been restructured it is now a level 2 coaching course. KYC and CLYC are going through the process of applying for Volvo Champion Club recognition. The resource paper for LTSD is now at the printers. The 420 Class Association have offered to do a demo day in NI. RH is pursuing this to move forward on the double handed option. All squad programmes are in full swing now and one fitness test has been completed. Unfortunately Russell and Matt McGovern didn't qualify for the Beijing Olympics.

### 6. Honorary Treasurer's report

OL reported all SNI grants have been received with 90% of the award paid in and 10% left to claim at the year end. RYA grants are also up to date. The situation is looking normal and slightly ahead of budget. The 2008/2009 budget from RYA has been agreed. RYA NI should have a modest surplus at the end of the financial year.

### 7. SNI Management Audit

RB gave a quick update on where the organisation is with the audit. SNI require the GBs to run efficiently and RYA NI is one of only 2 sports that had received the reasonable assurance the rest of the governing bodies fell into the two lower categories. Outstanding work for RYA NI is the drafting and adoption of key policies and procedures ie Risk Assessment, Complaints Procedure, Financial Procedures, Child Protection Policy, Communication Policy and Declaration of Conflict of Interest. These need to be drafted by the end of March 08.

These will be published on the website. There is also a second audit on Child Protection this ties in with the drafted policies and procedures ie Staff Handbook. Templates for these documents will also be on the website to help clubs and centres draft their own policies and procedures. The meeting agreed that the documents be submitted to SNI in draft form. The documents are living documents and are subject to changes.

8. AOB

RB reported that Regional Rules Advisor Bill O'Hara has requested to hand over this duty to David Nelson. The meeting agreed and a note should go out to clubs.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next Council Meeting will be held Tuesday May 6<sup>th</sup> the venue tba.

There were two presentations after the close of business.

Child Protection (Cliff Burns)

Safe Disposal of Flares (PSNI)