



Minutes of the National Beach Safety Council meeting

held on

1100 on 21 March 2006

at

The Lifeboat College, Poole

Present

Anthony Jones	Wirral BC (Chairman)
Richard Allen	Kerrier DC
John Broad	RNLI
Peter Brown	MCA
Danny Bryant	SLSA GB
Paul Castle	Redcar & Cleveland BC
Diane Cliff	ENCAMS
Brian Cummins	Bournemouth BC
Peter Dawes	RNLI
Rolo Deards	Carrick DC
Phillip Drew	Penwith DC
Alison Ellis	ENCAMS
Gary Foyle	Christchurch BC
David Gorman	RNLI
Lynn Harley	West Wittering Est PLC
Chris Holm	Brighton & Hove City Council
Matt Horton	RNLI
Steve Instance	RNLI
Lynn Jones	Southend-On-Sea BC
Roy Lawford	Kerrier DC
Chris Lewis	RLSS
Jonathan McCue	Atkins Ltd
Paul Mimmack	Jersey Harbours
Brian Montgomery	Rockley Park, Poole
Cliff Nelson	RLSS
David Piper	West Wittering Est PLC
Dave Reed	North East Lincolnshire Council
Richard Spindler	North Somerset Council
David Walker	RoSPA
Fred Walkington	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Chris Ward	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Steve Wills	RNLI
Jenna Smith	RNLI (minuting secretary)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

Niall Benson	Durham Heritage Coast Officer County Council
Chris Corcoran	Keep Wales Tidy
Ash Curle	Sunderland City Council
Tracy Higgs	Teignbridge
Dave McAleavy	Sefton Council
Vicki Miller	Brighton & Hove City Council
James Ortiz	North Cornwall DC
Andy Philips	East Devon
Terry Rogers	Blackpool BC
Chris Saunders	Bournemouth BC
Mac Skeet	Worthing Beach Office
Matt Stickels	Canterbury City Council
Stephen Tooke	Resigned as Harbour Master, Salcombe
Ray Turner	Borough of Poole
Martin Watherston	Scarborough Council
Gordon White	Sefton Council
Sharon Wilson	Lancaster City Council

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as an accurate record.

3. Matters arising

3.1. Signage

Tony Jones had received a letter from ENCAMS (dated 20 February 2006), this was read to the group. Members were asked to feed back to Alison Ellis with any issues they may have relating to this.

The main concerns relating to signage are costs and the timescales imposed by ENCAMS. *[Post meeting note: ENCAMS have now reduced the necessity to implement RNLi signs by 2008 as mandatory to gain a Blue flag; it is now strongly recommended that new signs are installed as soon as viable on beaches wishing to obtain Blue Flag status. Update on the national standard for Beach Signage is attached]*

3.2. Public Rescue Equipment (PRE)

A PRE Working Group has been formed. The group has looked at existing equipment and following basic pool trials, the specification has been narrowed down. Beach trials are taking place this summer to find suitable items and/or specifications of equipment to form part of a national standard. Research of the industry has been carried out and the new standard should be implemented by Spring 2007.

It was agreed by members that the specification should be broad so that various manufacturers can produce the equipment and that guidance should also include; locating equipment, monitoring, signing, maintaining and educational tools to reduce theft.

Authorities wanting to participate in trials were asked to contact SW.
Contact details as follows:

Steve Wills (RNLI)
Beach Safety Manager
swills@rnli.org.uk
01202 663465

Steve Wills asked that any member with incident data relating to the use of PRE and/or emergency call points/telephone lines to please contact him with details.

Anyone with any recommendations, feedback or concerns regarding PRE, please contact Steve Wills.

RNLI is looking into assisting with the cost of the equipment.

4. Beach Lifeguarding 'responsibility issue'/ODPM meeting update

Representatives from RNLI, NBSC, RLSS and Local authorities attended a meeting on 6 December with the ODPM. Adam Wooler explained that a number of options were discussed at this meeting but that it was going to be a long process. Other people present at the meeting confirmed that although the issues were aired there was no real progress to date.

5. Regional reports

5.1. Rolo Deards had recently chaired two meetings of the SW NBSC, the minutes of which can be viewed on the NWSF website.

5.2. Phillip Drew, Penwith DC raised an issue relating to kite surfers entering the water in between the black and white flags. This is causing safety issues because surfers also operate in this area. It was suggested that the use of a buoyage system could be a solution. Ongoing dialogue needed to follow between PD and RNLI/Matt Horton.

5.3. The minutes from Christchurch council will be available on the NWSF website shortly. There is pressure on the council to change the by-law regarding 4 and 8 knot speed limit. TJ said that issues regarding by-laws could be raised through GIG. The issue relating to dog control measures and Blue Flag is taking two years to put into place.

6. Risk assessments update

6.1. The Risk Assessment group met before Christmas. Peter Dawes has produced a form of words for the new ENCAMS award scheme encouraging people to do risk assessments.

6.2. Defra has an "Innovation" award scheme. Members were asked to liase with John McCue from Atkins if they had any new ideas.

Atkins has £500,000 for three projects to be funded. It was **agreed** for TJ to put a bid forward.

7. BEAREM (Adam Wooler)

This has now been signed off internally by the RNLI with the intention of rolling it out to all LA's who want it in due course. An update on BEAREM and the future intentions is attached.

8. NBSC website update (David Walker)

DW explained that there had not been a great deal of hits on the NBSC website, considering it is a National site. Local authorities were asked to give DW information and pointers on things that should be included to encourage people to look at the site.

<http://www.nationalbeachsafty.org.uk/index.htm>

Regional chairs wishing to updates their pages should contact David by email djwalker@rospa.com or on 0121 248 2020.

9. RLSS UK update (Cliff Nelson)

See attached.

10. SLSA of GB update (Danny Bryant)

DB gave an overview of current SLSA initiatives and emphasised the concentration on volunteering and club development with the RNLI. It was agreed that the SLSA of GB would work with David Walker at RoSPA to produce an online questionnaire regarding the role of the volunteer lifeguard in relation to paid lifeguards. A short questionnaire has been placed on the NBSC website to gain the views of local authorities and other beach operators across the UK.

www.nationalbeachsafty.org.uk/questionnaires

11. RNLI update (Adam Wooler and Steve Wills)

AW gave an update on the current roll out to the North Devon beaches of Woolacombe and Croyde and indicated that the RNLI was considering how to offer support and assistance to more local Authorities. The provision of more lifeguarding services would not occur until the issue of responsibility had been resolved or the Trustees of the RNLI agreed to roll out without clarity on this subject. AW stated that the new focus from the RNLI would be on volunteering.

SW updated members on the surf hire shop licensing scheme and would report back after the summer trials on Polzeath Beach, Cornwall.

12. MCA update (Peter Brown)

See attached.

13. NWSF update - RoSPA (David Walker)

See attached.

14. Any other business

14.1. A local government association letter was discussed. Phil Drew was not happy with comments that AW had made. AW had not seen letter prior to the meeting and couldn't comment on the content.

14.2. The document on the Marine Bill will be available on Defra's website shortly.

14.3. TJ asked members on behalf of MJ, if they had had any dealings with private individuals who use a small hovercraft, and if they are still bound by water safety byelaws.

TJ asked for members to contact matt_stickels@canterbury.gov.uk if they had any issues with small hovercraft.

14.4. The MCA is offering free lifebuoy stickers to councils. Members should contact Peter Brown for more information.

15. Date and time of next meeting

The next National Beach Safety Council meeting will be held on Sunday, 8 October 2006 in Stratford Upon Avon to coincide with the National Water Safety Conference. Time and venue to be decided.

No further matters were discussed, meeting ended at 1300.

RoSPA & National Water Safety Forum update

Coordinating Group update

At the coordinating group meeting, these following items were discussed in addition to the advisory group updates:

Public lifesaving equipment research

The first meeting had taken place, with work ongoing for approximate 12 to 18 months from this.

Lifejacket use

Each advisory group has been requested to pull together a short list of their views on the use of PFD's with a view to publish this. The Sea Safety AG is leading this

Criteria for membership

Following specific requests fro membership - this implications for the forum and it members were considered.

Forum guiding principles of water safety

An initial draft of the inland water safety principles is being distributed tot he chairs of each advisory group for review - it is hoped that each group will develop their own set of principles for publication.

Rospa secretariat report

The Rospa secretary report discussed the issues of personal watercraft following the law lord ruling. Drowning incidents from cars entering water and the implications of the Countryside Agency / Defra Coastal / public access review.

Government Inter departmental Group

The following items were discussed at the last GIG meeting:

INREM: The home offices were encouraging police forces to submit data. The Department for Health is looking again to see if the ambulance service can become involved.

A review of the work of the various water safety committees is to be undertaken over summer 06. This is with a view to reduce workload.

The issue of Beach lifeguard cover was discussed.

Capsize of the 'Swan' and it implications.

National Beach Safety Council

RLSS UK Update

- Appointment of New Club Development Manager which will add support for the recently appointed Sports Development Manager
- The new National Beach Lifeguard manual is now in final draft format and in the hands of the design team. The manual will be produced in loose leaf format
- The modules for the lifeguard award have been rationalised and the Fitness module removed. The timed swim is recorded on certificates
- The Trainer Assessor programme is currently being revised
- The new beach TA Quality Assurance programme is being trialled this autumn. The aim is to improve the quality of lifeguarding
- A Beach Programme Board or expert panel is being set up to include representatives from industry. The terms of reference are being developed and attendance will be by invite.
- The CPR protocols are being updated and a number of updates for Trainer Assessors have been run
- The MCA have completed a draft of the Code of Practise for rescue boats. RLSS UK have been identified as being a certifying authority.
- RLSS UK are collaborating with the RNLI and ROSPA, supported by other agencies, researching Public Rescue Equipment. The programme aims to offer guidance on the effectiveness and environments public rescue equipment is suitable for. We are seven months into and eighteen month programme

NWSF (BAG) - MCA update 21st March 2006

MT 3a – Summary report drafting. 34K man hours were applied to 37 initiatives. Mostly considered successful, particularly with partnering at a local level, but no decrease in fatalities/harm observed during the period. Not the subject of an MT this FY, but MCA will, at a local level, further develop its relationships with prevention partners. It will also at a national level, work towards establishing a MoU with the RNLI.

PWC's – The House of Lords has rejected the MCA's appeal against the ruling that PWC's are not ships, therefore cannot be subject to a prosecution under the Merchant Shipping Act. Dft & MCA are meeting to review the implications. MCA liaison officer Alex Steele is progressing PWP meetings at coastal sites.

Countryside Rights of way act – TCA are looking to extend the act and improve access to the coastline. RoSPA/RNLI/NT/DEFRA/TCA/MCA all involved in early discussions.

Accident Review – MCA is piloting a new system designed to obtain causal incident information called the Incident Information Module (IIM). If successful, all SAR aircraft crews, lifeboat crews, coastguard rescue teams and SAR coordinators will be asked to contribute. Result will be shared widely. The MCA is also looking to formally 'review' our more serious SAR incidents (major injury).

Banner Flying Aircraft – The MCA CNIS aircraft and contract has been modified to allow the towing of warning/safety banners in the SE. LA's from that area who would like that facility used in their area's should contact their local RCCM.

Prevention Seminar – The MCA held its third Prevention seminar in March 2006, this time inviting speakers from RNLI/RYA/BMF and many other organisations. It is likely that we will continue to develop an outward looking seminar approach, and may look to invite further external representatives from the NWSF membership next year. The theme was **Machinery Failure, our 2006/7 MT**.

Statistics – Arkenford 2005 – 5.5M people participated in 44M beach events

Fatalities – According to our statistics, 5 people died on the beaches in 2005 due to maritime accidents, and 17 people died from swimming accidents (some of which may have been beach - this includes cut-off by the tide, and the lakes.

UK picture – NWSF IG working to create a complete UK drowning picture. The picture is beginning to look like our existing UK SAR/prevention capability is extremely effective for managing voluntary risk in the recreational sector.

Peter W Brown
MCA Prevention Policy Manager
21st March 2006