

# National Beach Safety Council

**Minutes of the NBSC AGM (8th Meeting) held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

**Venue: The Lifeboat College - Poole**

29 representatives attended (Local Authority, Other), schedule attached – 14 Apologies received.

Chair: Tony Jones  
Secretary: Steve Wills  
Minutes: Cheryl Lammiman

## **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Tony Jones opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. 14 apologies were received – schedule attached. Unfortunately owing to adverse weather conditions at Southampton Airport one of our presenters, Diane Cliff of ENCAMS was unable attend.

## **2. Minutes of the previous AGM held at The Holiday Inn, Stratford Upon Avon on Sunday 8 October 2006.**

Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

## **3. Election of Officers**

At this point the Chair of the meeting was passed to David Walker. (RoSPA)  
One nomination was put forward for Tony Jones to continue as Chairman which was agreed by the majority.

The Chair reverted to Tony Jones who thanked the group for voting him back in.

One nomination was received for Ash Curle to become Vice Chairman, which was agreed by the majority. The Chairman expressed thanks on behalf of the Group to Paul Castle for his work as Vice Chairman.

One nomination was put forward for the RNLI to continue as Secretariat, which was agreed by the majority.

## **NBSC Meeting**

### **1. Minutes of the previous meeting (16 March 2007)**

The Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

### **2. Matters arising from previous meeting**

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

### **3. Beach Lifeguarding 'responsibility issue' update – Adam Wooler**

Adam Wooler gave an update on the issue of beach responsibility. Michael Vlasto met with Harriet Harmon at the Labour Party Conference regarding this issue. Mike Cunningham asked for clarification of duty of care responsibility. Adam Wooler replied that the RNLI would take responsibility for the actions of lifeguards but not the responsibility for duty of care. Peter Dawes confirmed that the RNLI also hopes to give a presentation to the Welsh Assembly.

Alex Steel asked for clarity over which Government departments were being lobbied. Peter Dawes explained that beach safety was a cross department issue, lobbying is being carried across departments. This can be achieved by working through the NWSF and its links into the GIG.

#### **4. PWC issues / PWC One Day Workshop update – Peter Dawes**

This issue is also being discussed by the NWSF Sea Advisory Group. The RYA have claimed that they are the governing body. If that is the case there has been a view expressed by this group (NBSC) that they need to accept accountability and we should address the RYA on this issue. Matters such as developing code of conducts and behaviour management strategies should be addressed through the governing body.

It was pointed out that the MCA will be discussing this issue at a forthcoming Marine Safety Committee meeting. Clearly defined dates and clear milestones are required with achievable targets.

David Walker pointed out that there was an offer from James Steven and the RYA in general to hold a meeting to agree objectives.

**Action:** RoSPA to set up a meeting in mid-December with the RYA to find common ground. A representative from the NBSC, RNLI (Beach Safety and Sea Safety) and the MCA should also be invited to attend the meeting.

David Piper suggested that the Group should nominate someone to approach the RYA before the meeting.

#### **5. Kite surfing issues update – Peter Dawes**

Kite surfing problems are similar to those relating to PWC's and the BKSA have been doing some good work in addressing issues and engaging with Local Authorities and beach managers. It was suggested that Richard Gowers from the BKSA is invited to the next meeting to do a Presentation to explain the way they are trying to manage their sport followed by a Q&A session.

**Action:** RNLI to contact Richard Gowers of BKSA.

#### **6. PRE Update – Steve Wills**

The Public Rescue Equipment Guidelines went out in July and will be updated when things change. Several other countries are wanting to adopt it as there were no other guidelines anywhere in the world. Steve Wills thanked Rolo Deards, David Walker and Cliff Nelson for their help in the production of the Guide.

Matt Stickels pointed out that some of the recommended equipment is expensive especially with the issue of vandalism. It was suggested that if we concentrate on key PRE equipment it may be possible to obtain a discounted rate by bulk ordering.

**Action:** Steve Wills to arrange for details of bulk ordering and national supplier list to be posted on the website.

## **7. Beach Safety Signage – update – Steve Wills**

An update on Beach Safety and Environmental Signage was given by Steve Wills of the RNLI. Version 2 has been produced with a much wider range of symbols which have now been approved by the British Standards Committee as the National Standard.

## **8. ENCAMS Quality Coast Award - update**

Unfortunately owing to adverse weather conditions at Southampton Airport, Diane Cliff of ENCAMS was unable attend. Her presentation was however shown to the Group in her absence.

## **9. Tombstoning & Coasteering issues – various – Steve Wills**

There have been seven fatalities this year, five coastal and two inland. The media have combined Tombstoning and Coasteering into one issue. Is this something we should be looking into as a Group. Unfortunately internet footage is being shown on sites such as YouTube and MySpace which is encouraging younger people to compete with each other.

Matt Stickels explained that Canterbury City Council carried out a poster campaign with the message “don’t die for it, it’s not worth risking your life”.

It was suggested that the Group should pull the information together as a prime example of the NBSC partnership. RoSPA have looked at this from inland sites for many years and suggested that there is a need to draw a line in the sand with media.

Matt Stickels reported that the problem had completely stopped when the council towed a raft out for members of the public to jump off, but unfortunately owing to lack of funding this was discontinued.

There are no voluntary codes of safety and best practice for coasteering. There is a need to establish facts and work with them to put in safety procedures.

**Action:** RNLI to set up a task group under the NBSC umbrella to establish best practice incorporating RNLI, RoSPA, MCA, and David Piper. The task group should dictate its own timescales.

## **10. NBSC website – update – David Walker**

Position tables are now published on the website for all NWSF Groups. David Walker reported that the website recently experienced problems and was down for 2-3 days. Most of the information was retrieved, but members of the Group were requested to report any missing information.

**Action:** Following a discussion on website access, Tony Jones and David Walker agreed to meet to discuss the issue.

### **11. NWSF update – RoSPA – David Walker**

There have been several changes since March and money has been directly invested in ways for showing up the Forum overall. A consultant has been employed. Additional funding has been provided for a database project. There is a need to streamline governance.

2006 Drowning Statistics information will be ready by first week of November. Information for 2004-2006 can be backdated. There have been lots of problems which need to be resolved before publishing.

The format of the questionnaire prepared by Tony Jones will need to be amended so that it could be put on the website. Tony Jones and David Walker agreed to discuss.

Steve Wills suggested that there is a requirement for the NBSC to manage a nationally agreed set of safety messages which could be posted on the website. This will reduce the current problem of mixed and confusing messages going out, especially within the media. We need evidence based information. It was agreed that RNLI should send out the RNLI Message Matrix as a draft matrix with overriding core messages. As summer brochures are produced during January/February there is an urgent timescale.

### **12. RLSS UK update – Cliff Nelson**

The beach Trainer Assessor programme had been revamped and is complete. Three update seminars have been run early 2007.

The new beach lifeguard manual is in print and the looseleaf format allows for continual improvement. A number of new modules are being prepared.

The Personal Water Craft module has been piloted and is now available.

The inshore rescue boat module for crew and helm is currently being updated.

The Beach Programme Board, which helps RLSS UK stay customer focused, is entering its second year. Feedback from members of the board has been very positive.

This year, ENCAMS sponsored RLSS UK to run 4 beach risk assessment courses across England, which were offered to English local authorities. The beach risk assessment programme is jointly badged between RLSS UK and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. Further courses are being planned. The Local Government Association have recently recognised the award and posted details on their 'Coastalsig' website

### **13. SLSA of GB update – Adam Wooler**

Adam Wooler explained that the RNLI and SLSA of GB have been working on a proposal to develop clubs to assist in their strategic planning. Adam Wooler will be seconded for a three year period to SLSA of GB. The RNLI will be employing a National Volunteer Development Manager along a HQ based Development Officer and up to five Volunteer Development Officers. It is proposed that a joint training manual will be developed over the next two years.

In addition to working with SLSA of GB Adam Wooler will also be working on the Rescue 2010 Project, the World Lifesaving Championship which is due to take place at Fistol

Beach, Newquay in Cornwall in July 2010. This will be the largest competitive event to be staged in Britain other than the Olympics and 6,000 competitors are expected to take part.

Adam Wooler confirmed that he will continue to attend future NBSC meetings during his secondment.

#### 14. RNLI update – Peter Dawes

A presentation to the group included the following information:

##### Responsibility for beaches

The RNLI is continuing to pursue clarity for the responsibility for safety on beaches. The current policy briefing paper calls upon the Government to make a clear statement that:

- Identifies who has duty of care for the public on beaches, in particular those where the owners actively encourage their use.
- Encourages the beach owner (private or Local Authority) to carry out a formal risk assessment, which takes into account beaches and associated swimming areas.
- Encourages the Local Authority or private landowner to put in place any reasonable safety measures identified by the formal risk assessment.
- Nominates an appropriate government body and empowers it to identify responsibility for conducting risk assessment and implementing safety measures.

##### Service delivery

The RNLI offers its lifeguard services based on three packages:

1. Assist

Advice and guidance on risk assessments, signage PRE and community education

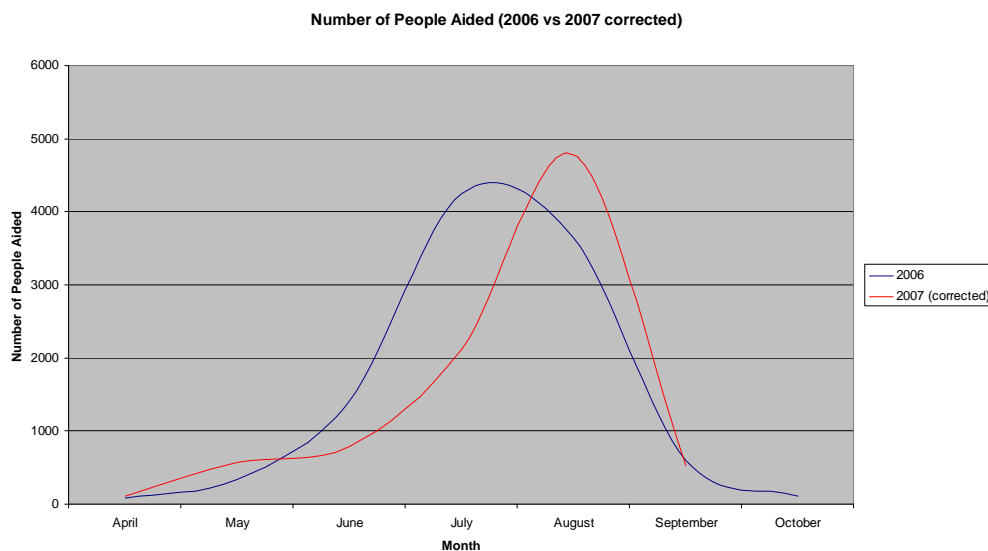
2. Support

Training for lifeguards and supervisors

3. Provide

Full RNLI service

#### 2007 Statistics



The statistics for the 2007 season demonstrate how the weather patterns over this summer affected beach visitations and the incidents reported.

## **Research and Development**

There are a number of programmes that are currently being progressed by the RNLI and a number of partner agencies, including:

Beach safety and management

- Plymouth University
- Mintel - Economic value of lifeguarding

New technologies

- Coastalwatch cameras (6)
- Increased integration into new Ops Room configuration

Lifeguard equipment

- New model RWC / UK build IRB
- Improved BLU design & construction

Development of core lifeguarding skills

- Portsmouth University

Better training

- SLSGB
- SLSA & SLSNZ
- RNLI First Aid project

## **The future challenge ...**

Our climate is changing ...

- Average temperatures warmer in summer
- Wetter winters and more storm activity
- Increased water temperature
- Experiencing extreme sea levels more often

How can we as a lifeguard service respond ...

- Increased length of season and number of beaches 'under guard'...?
- 365 day access to lifeguard resources...?
- More focus on prevention through education...?

## **Beach Safety**

Information on a number of beach safety projects is available on request, including:

- PRE
- Flags (ISO Standard)
- Signs (ISO Standard under development)
- Beachwise
- Surf hire safety
- Safe surfing poster

## **15. MCA update – Richard Jackson**

Presentation by Richard Jackson included:

- Fatality and Injury Information
- Tombstoning
- Safety Plan and Safety Management Programme
- Regulatory Regime Research
- Education Advisory Group

A debate following regarding the accuracy of the statistics provided to the Government and how the MCA can relate an activity if they are not recalling near misses. Richard Jackson pointed out that the MCA are aiming to record near miss data but not got there yet. It was suggested that the information is flawed as its solely based on incidents dealt with by the MCA. The group showed concern as these figures are promoted with government and give a false impression of what is taking place on the UK coast. The group would like to see NWSF data represent the national picture as these figures reflect all coastal incidents.

## **16. Regional Reports – Various**

Rolo Deards (Devon & Cornwall) requested that the draft message matrix be sent out to the secretariats to be discussed at each regional meeting.

Brian Cummings (Southern) stated that the last meeting in May of this year discussed (1) anti social behaviour and (2) Weever fish herbal remedies.

Mike Cunningham (Wales) stated that the Beach Managers meeting had been reformed and Mike Cunningham has been voted in as Chairman.

## **17. Matters to take forward to next NWSF meeting**

RYA meeting on PWC issues

Richard Gowers BKSA to present on Kite surfing issues

Tombstoning Task Group incorporating RNLI, RoSPA, MCA, and David Piper

## **AOB/Date and Venue of next Meeting**

There being no other business, the next meeting will be held in Birmingham during the RoSPA Conference to be held on 3 and 4 March 2007 and will be included as part of the conference.

David Walker requested that members please advise him of suggested workshop topics by email.

**Eighth National Beach Safety Council AGM**  
**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2007**  
**Venue: The Lifeboat College - Poole**

**Confirmation of Attendees :**

- |                      |                              |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Tony Jones        | Chair                        |
| 2. Steve Wills       | Secretariat                  |
| 3. Cheryl Lammiman   | Minutes                      |
| 4. Di Cooke          | RLSS                         |
| 5. Mike Cunningham   | Swansea CC                   |
| 6. Matt Stickels     | Canterbury City Council      |
| 7. David Piper       | West Wittering Estate        |
| 8. Joe McCarthy      | Thanet District Council      |
| 9. Doug Arponen      | Canterbury City Council      |
| 10. Jason Jackson    | RNLI                         |
| 11. James Instance   | MRCC Falmouth                |
| 12. Alison Holmes    | Swanage Town Council         |
| 13. Brian Montgomery | Rockley Park, Poole          |
| 14. Cliff Nelson     | RLSS                         |
| 15. Viki Miller      | Brighton & Hove City Council |
| 16. John Owen        | Ynys Mon Conwy Council       |
| 17. Jayne Babb       | Brighton & Hove City Council |
| 18. Kelly Keating    | RNLI                         |
| 19. Lee Fisher       | RNLI                         |
| 20. Steve Instance   | RNLI                         |
| 21. Rolo Deards      | Carrick DC                   |
| 22. Richard Jackson  | MCA                          |
| 23. Alex Steele      | MCA                          |
| 24. Richard Spindler | North Somerset Council       |
| 25. Brian Cummings   | Bournemouth BC               |
| 26. Adam Wooler      | RNLI                         |
| 27. Chris Lewis      | RLSS                         |
| 28. David Walker     | RoSPA                        |
| 29. Peter Dawes      | RNLI                         |

**Apologies Received from:**

- |                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Steven Clouting  | Waveney DC              |
| 2. Matt Ryan        | Weymouth & Portland BC  |
| 3. Suzanne Roberts  | Keep Scotland Beautiful |
| 4. Sharon Wilson    | Lancaster City Council  |
| 5. Mark Budd        | Denbighshire CC         |
| 6. Chris Corcoran   | Keep Wales Tidy         |
| 7. Graham Newing    | Sedgemoor DC            |
| 8. Terry Rogers     | Blackpool BC            |
| 9. Kevin Good       | Weymouth & Portland BC  |
| 10. Tracey Higgs    | Teignbridge DC          |
| 11. Matt Ryan       | Weymouth & Portland BC  |
| 12. Diane Cliff     | ENCAMS                  |
| 13. Robert Chalmers | NE Lincs                |
| 14. Buster Hammond  | NE Lincs                |