



## **Minutes of the National Beach Safety Council Meeting held on 2 March 2008 at NWSF Conference, Bristol**

30 representatives attended, schedule attached – 2 apologies received.

Chair: Tony Jones  
Secretary: Peter Dawes  
Minutes: Kelly Keating

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Tony Jones opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

James Heaton enquired about the supplier discount scheme for purchasing materials and it was suggested that the best place for these to be managed was via the regional meetings. The North Regional Meeting is already doing this and others said that they would take it up.

Diane Cliff advised the Group that the Bucket and Spade category of the Quality Coast award had been relaxed to include the mandatory water quality. There will be changes to the other awards, following a meeting of an advisory panel and progress should be confirmed this summer. Tony Jones queried the cost and Diane confirmed a price increase.

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

The requirement for landowners to conduct appropriate risk assessments has been focussed on as the core issue. The RNLI has suggested a way forward which would ask Government to make a clear statement that:

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

There has been positive feedback, but no definitive answers on the above. Lots of LA's have continued to take up the offer of risk audits which is great. ENCAMS are helping by including this as a component in most awards.

#### **4. PWC - issues**

Tony Jones said that the training and competences from the RYA are not suitable and/or fit for purpose. The NBSC believes that it should be tiered, with a coastal and inland endorsement. A meeting had taken place before the last NWSF when there was a heated discussion.

Peter Cornall spoke about the draft questionnaire they have produced looking to collect information and data on incidents and accidents from beach operations, harbour, ports and anyone who provides access. He would like the survey completed from 1<sup>st</sup> May-31<sup>st</sup> September. Following the results, recommendations can be made on control measures, guidance and training and who is best placed to be the governing body. There will be an online questionnaire and paper copies.

Peter Cornall stressed that without evidence we can't look to force change, so assistance from all members is required in completing the form. Members agreed it was a good idea and would support it.

Gary Foyle mentioned that he felt power craft were becoming more of a nuisance, especially wakeboarding boats.

Tony Jones asked that all relevant members complete and submit the form on time and aim to record evidence as accurately as possible.

#### **5. Signage (ISO Standard) - update**

Peter Dawes confirmed that the ISO standard is due to be published and that the British Standards and RNLI guide fit within it.

The ILS has also agreed on the signage, flags and symbols.

Alex Steele queried whether this was set in stone; Peter confirmed that the framework was established internationally.

Chris Corcoran gave congratulations to all stakeholders who helped produce the guide and in particular having the Welsh version.

Peter Cornall said that the EU Bathing Directive ensures that the ISO framework is followed to ensure that each country uses more symbols, to ensure greater understanding by overseas visitors.

#### **6. Kite Surfing - update**

Richard Gowers the chairman of the BKSA gave a presentation outlining the history of the association, details of its membership and statistics on participation in the sport. He confirmed they have regional representatives and trainers nationwide who may be able to attend regional BSC meetings.

He outlined resources and materials available, including a video, information on managing kite surfing for councils and landowners. He also wanted to promote the new guide to ride, which will be available for distribution soon. For more information visit [www.kitesurfing.org](http://www.kitesurfing.org)

Peter Cornall suggested that Richard should be involved in the forum either as part of this Group or the Watersports Group.

Dave McAleavy asked if the data the BKSA collects includes incidents on sport kiting and mentioned it was difficult to record figures on near misses. He also queried insurance and permits.

Richard Gowers mentioned the quarterly newsletter and website as a tool to educate people.

Sharon Wilson queried the standard mark on kite surfing equipment and Richard admitted that kit doesn't last forever and this causes potential problems with novices buying second hand kit. However, there is a lot of self-policing within the community which helps.

#### **Actions**

Richard agreed to supply contacts of regional representatives that can attend the regional meetings

### **7. NBSC website position table update**

Peter Dawes suggested that PRE could be moved, as the guide is now complete Kite surfing can now be updated following contact with BKSA

#### **Actions**

RNLI to revise and publish on website

### **8. NWSF update (ROSPA)**

Peter Cornall confirmed that the MSCC would merge with the NWSF to give a stronger voice and achieve better government recognition.

The fatality statistics are still being queried, but should be published within weeks, the information group is making headway on collecting data.

### **9. RLSS UK update (Cliff Nelson)**

See attached

Comments made

David McAleavy welcomes the new award as he always struggles to recruit trained beach lifeguards.

Adam Wooler said the SLSA are following a similar route but was concerned that

multiple entry points might blur and confuse.

The RLSS, SLSGB and RNLI need to get together to confirm branding and title for 'support'.

Sharon Wilson – wanted to clarify difference to ensure that everyone is talking the same language.

### **Actions**

Tony Jones to set up a meeting with Adam Wooler and SLSGB

## **10. SLSGB update (Adam Wooler)**

Adam gave an update on his secondment to SLSGB in an advisory role to expand the 'stronger clubs, safer beaches' partnership by increasing volunteer lifeguard support. The RNLI has made a big commitment to volunteer development. He is also reviewing the current SLSGB training programme to ensure it's for purpose.

Adam is also overseeing Rescue 2010 Championships of lifesaving sport.

## **11. RNLI update (Peter Dawes)**

Peter Dawes gave a snapshot of the RNLI lifeboat and lifeguard joined up prevention strategy and detailed the launches and incident statistics for 2007. He talked about the Lifeguard expansion plan onto further beaches in Cornwall and beach in Pembrokeshire for the first time.

He also talked about the volunteer lifeguard development programme and the fact that lifeguards were now being used as part of the flood response team.

### *Sea Safety Update –*

Sea Safety are continuing the roll out of Lifeboat sea safety officers in stations, with over 70 in post currently

Slipway signage is following on from the success of beach signage and trials have taken place on seven slipways nationwide.

The 'Useless unless worn' lifejacket campaign will continue throughout summer 2008 using a number of different advertising and PR methods.

### *Beach Safety update –*

The PRE guide is now complete and available to any members that require it, email [beachsafety@rnli.org.uk](mailto:beachsafety@rnli.org.uk) to order copies.

Signs and flags guide now meets ISO standards.

The beach safety 'Beachwise' campaign will run again throughout the summer pushing the key message of always swimming at a lifeguarded beach with advertising in the South West, backed up by a nationwide PR campaign.

To complement the campaign the RNLI has remodeled the guide to beach safety to a much more family, friendly guide which is available free of charge to order via [beachsafety@rnli.org.uk](mailto:beachsafety@rnli.org.uk), you can see a PDF of the guide at [www.rnli.org.uk/beachsafety](http://www.rnli.org.uk/beachsafety)

*Fishing Safety update -*

Statistics on deaths in the industry remain unchanged in last 30 years.  
MOB Guardian is currently being marketed successfully.

**12. MCA update (Richard Jackson)**

Richard Jackson confirmed that the MCA were analyzing their 2007 fatality statistics. Although there was a drop in general boating activity, there was an increase in boat angling.

The recreational website is being updated to include a new beach safety page. The MCA will be looking for feedback on this from the group.

The MCA is going through internal restructuring and the current team is being disbanded. There will be a smaller team and a change of personnel, resulting in a drop in resources for the leisure sector.

The plastic information cards produced by the MCA are being updated and will be launched amongst the working groups.

Tony Jones thanked Richard and wished him luck with the restructuring.

Peter Dawes requested feedback from the MCA to the group once the plans have been confirmed. Richard confirmed that this should be in April.

**Action**

MCA to report back to group on new structure at next meeting.

**13. Issues from Regional Reports**

Rolo Deards spoke as the chair of the Devon and Cornwall BS group and advised a meeting was taking place to discuss the risk associated with coasteering and that he would like feedback and guidance from the group regarding awareness and education of tombstoning.

Peter Cornall spoke about a meeting regarding coastal access, with the new law giving people many more places to jump from.

Kelly Keating again asked members for material regarding education and awareness on coasteering and tombstoning to be sent to her at the RNLI. Steve Wills will be heading up a steering group on his return from Australia.

**14. AOB / Date & venue of next meeting**

Brian Cummins updated the group on the forthcoming surf reef at Boscombe and expressed concern about the exclusion zone for watercraft. It was suggested that he

contact James Stevens of the RYA and also add the information to the questionnaire.

Cliff Nelson spoke about a query at the NEBSC regarding minimum water temperature for training lifeguards and said that it is 12 degrees for helicopter crew, but that the RLSS are happy for lifeguards to train under this.

Tony Jones questioned the required headgear for quad bikes and the suitability of gecko helmets. Peter Dawes confirmed that they are not suitable for use on the roads.

Tony Jones confirmed that bulk purchasing would be discussed at the regional purchasing consortium. James Heaton said he is happy to give a discount at a national level. Peter Dawes suggested that this information should be included on the NBSC website.

Tony Jones stated that the NBSC fully endorses and supports the RNLI Lifejacket Campaign. Peter Dawes will investigate whether RNLI Sea Safety can provide a Lifejacket Presentation /Demonstration at the next meeting in October.

Ash Curle will do a presentation at the next meeting.

### **Actions**

Presentation by Ash Curle to be added to the Agenda of the next meeting.  
Peter Dawes to set up lifejacket demonstration

### **Venue and Date of Next Meeting:**

The Auditorium at The Lifeboat College, Poole on Tuesday 14 October 2008  
Coffee will be available from 10.30am. Meeting to commence at 11.00am  
Lunch will be provided before departure.

### **Confirmation of attendance / apologies for Next Meeting**

Please confirm by email to [cheryl.lammiman@rnli.org.uk](mailto:cheryl.lammiman@rnli.org.uk), preferably 7 days before the meeting so that catering can be arranged.

## ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES SCHEDULE

### Meeting - 2 March 2008 at NWSF Conference, Bristol

#### Confirmation of Attendees:

1. Tony Jones	Chair
2. Peter Dawes	Secretariat
3. Kelly Keating	Minutes
4. Peter Cornall	RoSPA
5. Ash Curle	Sunderland District Council
6. Richard Gowers	BKSA
7. Paul Mimmack	States of Jersey
8. James Heaton	Aspli Safety
9. Gary Foyle	Christchurch BC
10. Sharon Wilson	Lancaster City Council
11. Lynne Jones	Southend on Sea BC
12. Derek Singleton	Torbay Council
13. Eric Dougall	N Somerset Council
14. Alex Steele	MCA/DFT
15. Richard Jackson	MIA
16. Rolo Deards	Carrick and Kerrier DC
17. Brian Cummins	Bournemouth BC
18. Julie Woodhouse	Bournemouth BC
19. Diane Cliff	ENCAMS
20. Rebecca Davies	Colinpark LLP
21. Sharon Plumridge	New Forest DC
22. Andrea Lakin	New Forest DC
23. Lee Fisher	RNLI
24. David Piper	West Wittering Estate PLC
25. Arthur Cranson	BVBC
26. Dave McAleavy	Seaton
27. Fred Walkington	ERYC
28. Chris Corcoran	Keep Wales Tidy
29. Cliff Nelson	RLSS
30. Adam Wooler	SLSGB/RNLI

#### Apologies Received from:

1. Richard Allen	Kerrier DC S
2. Steve Wills	RNLI