

WROP/M01/11

Minutes

Water Recreation and Outdoor Pursuits Division Meeting

Date: Wednesday 28 September 2011

Time: 12:00 noon

Venue: Farrer & Co, 66 Lincoln Inn Fields, London, WC2A

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Lyn West (British Orienteering)

MEMBERS:

David Kent (Angling Trust), Chris Strong (British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association), Graham Lynn (British Model Flying Association), Rosemary Napp (British Rowing), Kevin East (Canoe England), Roger Squires (Inland Waterways Association), Peter Revill (Model Power Boat Association), Brian Pollard (National Council for Metal Detecting), Rob Dyer (The British Mountaineering Council), Justin Cooke (Ramblers), Andy Gerrard (Trail Riders Fellowship)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Tim Lamb (Chief Executive), Sallie Barker (Head of Services), James MacDougall (Head of Policy), Richard Norman (Business Development Officer), Joy Tottman (Compliance Officer), Emily Monaghan (Membership Officer)

1. OPENING REMARKS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous Outdoor Pursuits Division meeting held on Wednesday 8 June 2011 and the Water Recreation Division meeting held on Wednesday 18 May 2011 were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. ISSUES UPDATE

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 'Red Card to Red Tape'

James MacDougall (JM) gave an update on some of the issues which the Sport and Recreation Alliance had been working on since the Red Card to Red Tape Campaign including:

- Data Protection: The Sport and Recreation Alliance was working closely with the Cabinet Office to establish an easier and more manageable process for clubs.
- Insurance: The Cabinet Office was working toward new proposals and the Alliance would be representing the sector on a working group.
- Small Donations: The Sport and Recreation Alliance represented members on the working group formed by the HMRC.
- Volunteer/Landowner Liability: The Alliance was working with the Cabinet Office to help increase volunteering by producing a 'Code of Practice' and reducing 'no win, no fee' payments.
- Health and Safety: New proposals on the review of adventure activities had been developed by HSE which would result in the repeal of statutory licensing. NGBs and AAIAC would represent the views of the Alliance on HSE's working group.

- Lotteries: Legislation was to be developed to ensure it was easier for clubs to take ownership of their own raffles/lotteries.

4.1.2 Sport and European affairs

JM explained that the EU Parliament was currently drafting a response to the European Commission's communication on 'Developing the European Dimension of Sport' report and stated that some amendments had been made, and that overall the report had been positive. The vote would take place in October.

He went on to say that the Hungarian Presidency had agreed a new EU Work Plan which would redefine the Commission's future priorities, with issues such as governance, match fixing and on-line gambling on the agenda. JM announced that the topic of the EU Summit on 20 October would be match fixing and funding.

4.1.3 Music Licensing

JM explained that from 2012 there would be new music license requirements. A new deal for sports clubs with PRS is nearly agreed and should reduce the minimum fee from £87 to £42. A deal with PPL is still required but the Alliance is pushing for a pricing structure similar to the PRS deal.

5. SPORTS CLUB SURVEY

JM thanked those NGBs who had contributed to the recent Sports Club Survey. He explained that this information was essential to shape future Sport and Recreation Alliance work and provide evidence for its lobbying work. Some of the issues that had arisen in the data were as follows: reduced rates of VAT; lower utility bills; alcohol licensing costs; Gift Aid; improvements to the CASC scheme; and access to facilities. The Survey would be used in a Parliamentary lobbying event taking place on 25 October 2011. Contact Simon Butler for details:

sbutler@sportandrecreation.org.uk

6. ACCESS WORKING GROUP

Martin Key (MK) gave an update on the Access working group which was focusing on a landowner liability project with the Cabinet Office to produce a code of practice to increase access opportunities. The Group was also working on a project with the Forestry Commission to improve relations with members with the aim of increasing access opportunities in forests and woodlands. The Group identified the need for a national 'code of access' for woodland managers, improve permit system, and better communications with local forests.

ACTION: The Division supported the project to improve relations with the Forestry Commission and asked to be kept updated.

MK gave an update on coastal access and the 2026 cut-off date, explaining that an announcement was still to be made but that campaigning and lobbying plans were already in place. Members would be kept updated.

7. LOCAL AUTHORITY WORKING GROUP

MK explained that local authorities were under an immense strain at the present time due to the many changes at a local level: lack of funding; business rates; community asset transfer; facility closures; school facilities; and discretionary rate relief. MK reported that the Local Authority Working Group (LAWG) had been working closely with LGA to research the current situation and the affect it has on sport, with the aim of developing ways in which to decrease the burden, and also to display the benefits that sport could have in the community.

8. PRESENTATION

The Chair welcomed David Hale (DH) from the Cabinet Office to the meeting.

DH thanked the Division for the invitation to present and explained that the evidence from Lord Hodgson's 'Red Tape' report suggested that there was a need to improve case law and liability. Feedback from 600 organisations had been received and a common issue which had arisen was volunteer liability. He explained that with the lowering cost of legal aid, and the formation of

conditional fees (no win, no fee) the protection for volunteers had been reduced, making more organisations liable.

DH stated that after investigating the report and looking at various case studies, recommendations had been made. Conscious not to produce more legislation, a voluntary code of conduct had been proposed. A working group consisting of members of the Cabinet, insurance companies, insurance brokers, voluntary organisations as well as the Sport and Recreation Alliance, would work together to produce a document to change the 'no win, no fee' culture.

Members agreed that they supported the attempts to stop the 'no win, no fee' culture and that a wider document for a code of practice for volunteering, which signposted NGB best practice, would be useful. Members agreed that the Alliance should take this forward.

Members were requested to send in comments and ideas to the Sport and Recreation Alliance, and would be kept updated on this issue.

ACTION: The Division supported the Alliances work in this area and were asked to send examples of volunteer 'codes of conduct' or guidance to landowners related to 'occupiers liability'. Please contact Martin Key: mkey@sportandrecreation.org.uk

9. VOLUNTARY CODE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

Sallie Barker (SB) addressed the meeting with a request for the Division to sign up to the Voluntary Code of Good Governance. She explained that this was a collaborative piece of work by a group of organisations consisting of the Sport and Recreation Alliance, Sport England, UK Sport, SkillsActive and Birkbeck College and the final version had been endorsed by Hugh Robertson.

SB outlined that the Code was designed to help the sector aspire to and maintain good governance, and to assist Board members and executives in performing their role of making their individual sport, recreation or activity run better. SB explained that various workshops and guidance would be available to enable the Code to be implemented within the sector. SB went on to thank those organisations within the Division that had already signed up and encouraged others to do so. For more information contact: jtottman@sportandrecreation.org.uk

10. NEW WAYS OF DIVISIONAL WORKING

The Chair requested feedback on the proposed changes to the divisional meetings, included in the previously circulated paper. Members explained that they would find the proposals useful for networking opportunities and for inputting into the Sport and Recreation Alliance work.

SB went onto say that, following feedback from members in this and other divisional meetings, it had been agreed that the minutes would remain reflective of discussion rather than action points.

11. NEW STRUCTURE FOR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM 2012/13

SB informed members of the new process for calculating subscriptions to the Sport and Recreation Alliance. In the future these would be based on turnover rather than membership numbers and SB explained that organisations would be separated into one of six bands dependant on company turnover. She reassured the Division that this change would be sensibly capped where appropriate and that it would be implemented from 2012. The change would make it easier to collect subscriptions. Some members were concerned about that increase in the subscription, especially if they were grant giving organisations. Tim Lamb (TL) explained that the Sport and Recreation Alliance had looked at various models for the new system and they all had pros and cons. However, if anyone had any concerns once the final information was approved they should contact SB at: sbarker@sportandrecreation.org.uk

12. FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

There were no topics proposed.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Roger Squires (RS) stated that information regarding managing the tidal traffic had been distributed. Members were made aware that the Port of London Authority would be restricting recreational access to the Thames for the duration of the Olympic period. Licenses would be required and mooring would have to be proved. For more information members should visit: www.waterscape.com/londonboats2012

RS went on to explain that there would be a restriction on canal systems from the 3 July until 10 September 2012. For security reasons certain locks would be closed and there would be commercial road locks. RS expressed concerns that this period would overrun. For more information members should visit: www.boatingonthames.co.uk

14. DATES OF NEXT MEETING IN 2012

The dates of the next Water Recreation Division meetings were agreed as:

- Wednesday 29 February and Wednesday 26 September.

The dates of the next Outdoor Pursuits Division meetings were agreed as:

- Wednesday 14 March and Wednesday 7 November.

All meetings to be held at the Sport and Recreation Alliance offices.