

Minutes

Outdoor Pursuits Division Meeting

Date: Wednesday 2 February 2011
 Time: 12.00 noon
 Venue: Farrer & Co, 66 Lincolns Inn Fields. London

Present in the Chair:	Brian Lamb	Institute of Outdoor Learning
Guest Speakers:	John Bell	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Members:	Doug Kennedy	Best of Both Worlds
	Suzanne Gardner	British Horse Society
	Graham Lynn MBE	British MircoLight Aircraft Association and British model flying Association
	Christopher Hodder	British Motorcyclists Federation
	Lyn West	British Orienteering
	Dave Tilbury	Byways and Bridleways Trust
	Robert Loudon	Camping and Caravanning Club
	Ruth Steed	Forest School Camps
	Paul Lawrence	Long Distance Walkers Association
	Brian L Pollard	National Council for Metal Detecting
	Robert Pettigrew	Sport and Recreation Alliance
	Graham Derrick	Young Explorers Trust
In attendance	Sallie Barker	Head of Services
	Martin Key	Lead officer for Outdoor Pursuits
	Joy Tottman	Compliance Officer
	Emily Monaghan	Membership Officer

1. OPENING REMARKS

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Will Renshaw (British Mountaineering Council), Kim Atkinson (Scottish Sports Association), Susanna Perkins (Natural England), Peter King (East Midland Federation of Sport and Recreation), Louise Ramsey (Outdoor Industries Association), Diana Kind (British Gliding Association and Royal Aero Club), Abigail Elrick (Long Distance Walkers Association), John Garside (MLTE), Colin Palmer (IMBA UK), Dr Catherine Flitcroft (The BMC), Roger Green (Canoe Camping Club), Mick Day (British Caving Association), and Mel Owen (Countrywide Holidays Association).

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 29 September 2010 were signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

No Matters were raised.

5. POLICY UPDATE

5.1 Regulatory Burden Review

The Chair welcomed Martin Key (MK) who updated Members on the Regulatory Burden Review (RBR), which the Sport and Recreation Alliance was undertaking at the request of Hugh Robertson (HR), Minister for Sport. Various clubs completed had an online survey which focused on legislation that had a negative impact on grassroots sport. The information received from the survey was used in a series of workshops that analysed the situation and received expert advice.

The subject workshops were as follows:

- Health and Safety
- Funding and application
- Coaching and training
- Insurance and Finance
- Facilities access

The outcome from these workshops had highlighted various opinions. Some members felt that legislation was negative where, for others, it was positive. The outcome from the workshops and surveys would determine which issues the Sport and Recreation Alliance would be actively lobbying in the report. JM also explained that if members had a particular issue that they would like recognised they should contact him on mkey@sportandrecreation.org.uk to have it included in the report.

MK stated that the review would be launched in parliament on 22 March 2011 and encouraged members of the Division to attend.

5.2 Sports Club Survey

JM outlined that the Sports Club Survey was due out in March and encouraged members to participate. He explained that if members were to obtain 30 responses from clubs within their particular activity then they would receive a report specific to their organisation.

The Survey would run every two years and the information collated would create new proposals that would benefit sport. The data gathered from previous reports provided information on areas such as music licensing and tax relief for clubs, which the Sport and Recreation Alliance used in evidence to lobby for change.

The findings of the survey were due out in September 2011. For more information members should contact scox@sportandrecreation.org.uk

5.3 Daylight Saving Bill

MK explained that there was much support for the campaign and the second stage of the Bill had been passed. Updates would be given following further announcements.

6. PRESENTATION

The Chair welcomed John Bell (JB), current Sport and Recreation Alliance board member, and former Director of Leisure and Community Services and Chief Officer of Knowsley Local Authority. JB thanked the Division for the opportunity to present at the meeting and began his presentation by explaining the history of the relationship between the sport and recreation sector and local governments and their investments, he also mentioned the great benefits that sport and recreation offer such as: wellbeing, health and social improvements.

JB noted that there was an increasing amount of collaborations between local governments, county sport partnerships and private investors to develop better services and modern facilities. As an example he used the Knowsley centre which consisted of a youth centre, a leisure centre offering swimming, a gymnasium, a BMX track, and also a programme for those with special needs, all located next to a secondary school - this facility would be estimated at £50million worth of investment to help provide in an area that would most benefit from these services. JB went on to explain that NGBs could gain a great amount of influence by building relationships with these developers.

A discussion followed, and some points were raised:

- Local authorities should be doing more to maintain the Olympic legacy keeping to its original idea of developing a lasting mass participation within sport and recreation. JB

stated that it should be everybody's responsibility to get people involved and raise awareness within sport, not only local government but, sports clubs, NGBs and participants.

- How should the Outdoor Recreation sector work toward improving relationships with politicians when they rely on many different parts of the government departments such as DEFRA, DFT and DCMS? JB explained that each issue that NGBs face should be campaigned at local levels to ensure that the right people were dealing with requests.
- Would the merger of Sport England and UK Sport have a negative impact on the Outdoor Recreation sector by losing support and funding? JB stated that he believed this would not be the case, he noted that goals had been set already and that funding would not be allocated to elite sports. He urged members to think of the merger as an opportunity to the sector and not a threat.

The Chair thanked JB for his informative and comprehensive presentation.

7. SERVICES

7.1 Compliance

7.1.1 Voluntary Code of Good Governance for the Sport and Recreation Sector

Joy Tottman (JT) provided an update on the Voluntary Code of Good Governance for the Sport and Recreation sector. She explained that this code had no intention of increasing bureaucracy but that it aimed, through the principles, to provide recommendations that would help and support NGBs demonstrate good governance.

The Sport and Recreation Alliance had been working with NCVO to take the information and make it adaptable for the sector to use. JT explained that the code was developed by members of the sport and recreation sector, for the sector.

7.1.2 Board Recruitment

Members received a flyer with information on a new Sport and Recreation Alliance website which provided resources and tools designed to help sport and recreation organisations find, recruit, and keep Board members.

7.1.3 Vetting and Barring

JT provided an update on the topic of vetting and barring which was currently on hold but explained that if issues should arise it would still be members responsibility to report to ISA.

7.1.4 Smart Sport Resource Bank

JT outlined that information and feedback was required from members in order to assist with the production of the Smart Sport resource bank which would be a hub for members to access a variety of information such as templates, job descriptions and policies for their organisations.

7.1.5 2011 Member Survey

Sallie Barker (SB) addressed this item, encouraging members to complete the survey by the 3 February stating that all feedback was beneficial and would be acted upon. Submitted applications would be entered into a prize draw for 2 tickets to Wimbledon.

8. MEETINGS & EVENTS

8.1 Workshops

8.1.1 The future of cheques

SB informed Members that in December 2009, the Payments Council took the decision to set a target date of 31 October 2018 for closing the central cheque clearing, and the use of cheques. A final decision would be taken in 2016.

On 7 March 2011 there would be a free workshop run in conjunction with the Payments Council that would give Members an opportunity to input into the procedure, and give feedback to the implications that this would have on the sector.

For more information Members were asked to contact ptooher@sportandrecreation.org.uk

8.1.2 Model Articles

SB presented this item stating that a seminar would be held aimed at individuals who were considering, or had been in the process of updating their Articles to comply with the Companies Act 2006. Solicitors from Farrer & Co would lead the interactive seminar and would run through the Model Articles, highlighting particular issues for consideration.

The workshop would be held on 9 March and interested parties were to contact Joy Tottman at: jtottman@sportandrecreation.org.uk

8.2 Sport and Recreation Alliance National Conference

SB explained that the working theme of the conference was the impact of coalition policies on the sport and recreation sector. Keynote speakers from the Health, Sport and Community governments departments were currently being sought. The date of the conference was 4 May 2011.

8.3 Sports Club of the Year (SCOTY)

SB encouraged Members to nominate sports clubs for these Awards by the 25 February. She outlined that the Award categories had been widened to be more inclusive and the Awards were as follows:

- Community Sports Clubs
- Best Club Volunteer Management programme
- Open inclusive club
- CASC club of the year
- School club links award
- Professional Sports club community programme

8.4 AGM

SB confirmed that the date of the AGM, to be held at St James Palace, was 20 July 2011.

9. DIVISIONAL AND BOARD ELECTIONS

9.1 SB outlined that the annual process for the (re)election of board members had commenced and that a decision for nomination should be put to the Board. Will Renshaw was put forward for nomination.

Details of the election would be distributed in a letter in February.

9.2 Members were advised that election papers would be sent out in due course and the positions of both, Chair and Deputy Chair were open for nomination from the membership.

10. ANY ISSUES THE DIVISION WISHES TO RAISE WITH THE BOARD

No issues were raised.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

AAIAC

MK updated the Division stating that AAIAC were advertising for new members and information regarding this was on the Sport and Recreation Alliance website. MK went on to state that at the request of the Government, the AAIAC has been working on a non-statutory safety accreditation scheme for adventurous activities to sit alongside AALA Licensing and cover activity settings that are not in scope of the Regulations. The scheme had been finalised under the name of Adventuremark. It endorsed safety standards and associated practices for a wide range of activities, when operated in a non-statutory setting. He also stated that templates would be provided and that members would be updated.

ACTION: EM to circulate paper

The Chair welcomed Doug Kennedy M.Sc (DK) from Best of Both Worlds.

DK thanked the Division for the opportunity to speak at the meeting. He explained that the Best of Both Worlds concept which acted to help increase opportunities for outdoor activities recently lost funding from DEFRA via Natural England.

DK explained that the project had received continuous support from various organisations and named the Sport and Recreation Alliance, but stated that financial support was what was needed

at the present time, he urged members to contact him for more information dgkennedy@alloverde.com.

Robert Pettigrew (RP) went on to request that members of the Division agree to assist the Best of Both Worlds project to continue in their valuable work, to which the Division agreed to support. RP also paid tribute to both Doug Kennedy and Suzanna Perkins for their continuous hard work and commitment.

RP outlined that Plas Y Brenin, National Mountain centre had been accredited with a 15 year contract by Sport England. He expressed his thanks to the early support and work of the Sport and Recreation Alliance, but particularly Brigid Simmons for her great source of strength which helped establish the protection of the centre.

12. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS IN 2011

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

- Wednesday 8 June 2011
- Wednesday 28 September 2011 – Joint meeting Water Recreation and Outdoor Pursuits