

OP/M02/11

Minutes

Outdoor Pursuits Division Meeting

Date: Wednesday 8 June 2011

Time: 12.00 noon

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

Present:

In the Chair:	Brian Lamb	Institute of Outdoor Learning
Deputy Chair	Will Renshaw	British Mountaineering Council

Guest Speaker:	Jennie Arthur	Sport England
----------------	---------------	---------------

Members:	Diana King	British Gliding Association and Royal Aero Club UK
	Christopher Hodder	British Motorcyclists Federation
	Lyn West	British Orienteering
	Roger Green	Canoe Camping Club
	Kevin East	Canoe England
	Ruth Steed	Forest School Camps
	Abigail Elrick	Long Distance Walkers Association
	Brian Pollard	National Council for Metal Detecting
	Anastasia French	Ramblers Association
	Bob Pettigrew	Sport and Recreation Alliance
	Robert Loudon	The Camping and Caravanning Club
	Dave Tilbury	Trail Rider's Fellowship
Graham Derrick	Young Explorers Trust	

In attendance:	Sallie Barker	Head of Services
	Martin Key	Policy Officer
	Emily Monaghan	Membership Officer

1. OPENING REMARKS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Congratulations were given on behalf of the Outdoor Pursuits Division to Andy Reed who had been appointed Chair of the Sport and Recreation Alliance, and Howard Wells who was elected as Deputy Chair.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mike Gunston (British Balloon and Airship Club), Mike Day (British Caving Association), Peter King (British Cycling), Vic Hopkin (British Cycling), Graham Lynn (British Microlight Association/ British Model Flying Association), James Legge (Countryside Alliance), Ian Warby (CTC), Colin Palmer (CTC/ IMBA), Adrian Morris (Ramblers Association), Kim Atkinson (Scottish Sports Association), Tim Lamb (Sport and Recreation Alliance), and Jon Garside (The BMC).

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 2 February 2011 were signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 (Item 8.1.1) - The future of cheques

Martin Key (MK) updated Members on the actions to be taken by the Payments Council. They were still to make a decision on the closing of the central cheque clearing system and the use of cheques.

4.2 (Item 9.1) – Board Elections

Members of the Division thanked Will Renshaw (WR) for accepting to be nominated for the Board of the Sport and Recreation Alliance although he was not voted on this time around. A discussion followed regarding the representation of the Outdoor Pursuits Division on the Board and WR explained that it was a skills based board, and that it was at the General Council that the voice of the Division was heard.

5. POLICY UPDATE

5.1 Policy

5.1.1 Regulatory Burden Review

MK updated members on the Regulatory Burden Review (RBR), which the Sport and Recreation Alliance had undertaken at the request of the Minister for Sport. A key recommendation from the launch in March was to re-promote the CASC scheme and to shape it to better suit sports clubs. He went on to state that there would be an event on 29 June 2011 to celebrate the 6000th CASC registered club, making an estimated total of £100,000 saved for sport. MK thanked those NGBs and clubs who had contributed to the Review and explained that the DCMS was continuing to assess the recommendations. Copies of the Review were available on request.

Action: MK to circulate CASC documentation.

5.1.2 Adventure Activities

MK stated that a recommendation from the Lord Young Report to abolish the statutory licensing of AALA adventure activities was subject to Parliamentary approval and likely to be introduced in England in late 2012. He explained that the HSE were to create a Code of Practice to replace the licensing scheme which would serve to interpret the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. MK went on to state that that Sport and Recreation Alliance was collaborating with AAIAAC and SkillsActive to produce a 'key principles' document which would seek sector agreement as to what the Code of Practice should contain. MK explained that if members were interested in the document they should contact mkey@sportandrecreation.org.uk

5.1.3 Local Authority Cuts

MK explained that due to the impending local authority cuts the sport and recreation sector would be affected in one way or another. To assist members combat this challenge the Sport and Recreation Alliance had formed a working group which Nick Bunting (Sport and Recreation Alliance Director) had offered to Chair. It was proposed that this group would help members meet the challenges of local authority cuts and the new localism agenda, along with creating an opportunity to pool resources and produce research which could drive best case evidence to Government. For further information please contact mkey@sportandrecreation.org.uk

5.1.4 Localism

MK outlined the new Community 'Right to Buy' and 'Right to Challenge' schemes which would allow community organisations to gain more control over facilities, as it would give clubs more time to bid for assets and services when they became available. The scheme would place duty on local authorities to list assets of 'community value' which allowed restrictions on their sale. MK argued that it was vital for all sport facilities to be included on the list for their protection in the case of a landowner wanting to sell.

MK stated that Sport England had created a Community Asset Transfer Toolkit which helped NGBs and clubs through the complex procedure of asset transfer. This was available at (<http://www.sportengland.org/assettoolkit/welcome.html>)

5.1.5 Red Tape Challenge

MK outlined the Parliamentary Red Tape Challenge which would be launched in a few weeks. This would display regulations affecting a specific sector or industry, which would then be open for comment (what worked and what didn't, what could be simplified or what could be scrapped). Based on this feedback the Cabinet Office would endeavour to get rid of unnecessary red tape. MK went on to state that the sport sector was due to be scheduled for 5 January 2012 and recommendations and evidence from the Red Card to Red Tape Review would be communicated by the Alliance to the challenge. More information was available at: www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

5.1.6 Sports Club Survey

MK stated that the deadline for clubs to complete the Sports Club Survey had now closed. He explained that those members who obtained 30 responses from clubs within their particular activity would receive a report specific to their organisation.

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

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

6. LONDON 2012 SPORTING LEGACY

BL welcomed Jenny Arthur (JA), Sport England, to the meeting.

JA informed members of the 'Places, People, Play' programme which was commissioned by the Minister for Sport to create a lasting legacy from the 2012 Olympics, bringing National Lottery funding to groups at a local level and new facilities.

Places

Sport England would invest £50 million of National Lottery funding in up to 1,000 local sports facilities. Clubs, community and voluntary sector groups and councils would be able to apply for grants of between £25,000 and £150,000 where there was a proven local need for a facility to be modernised or extended.

People

The project was hoping to inspire a number of volunteers from the London 2012 Olympic games. These 'leaders' would be trained to organise and lead community sporting activities within grassroots, supporting the mass participation legacy. Volunteers would be matched where opportunities were most needed.

This section of the project would be launched in April 2011, and County Sports Partnerships would be assisting in this programme.

Play

The Gold Challenge was aimed at motivating people to take up some, or all, of the Olympic and Paralympic sports, with the hope of raising money for various charities. These participants would be able to enter the challenge as either the individual or as part of a team and so far over 100 charities have signed up to be part of the project. The Gold Challenge was launched in 2010 and would run until December 2012

JA stated that the feedback from the 'Places, People, Play' scheme had so far been positive and she encouraged attendees to inform members about the aims of the project. It was explained that members of all sport and recreational organisations could use the programme as a great opportunity to increase participation and raise awareness of their particular activity.

JA stated that the Sport England website outlined the 'Places, People, Play' programme and for any further questions members could contact her: jenny.arthur@sportengland.org

7. SERVICES UPDATE

7.1 2011 Member Survey

Sallie Barker (SB) thanked members for the responses received, although these were lower than previous surveys. SB outlined the key results of the Outdoor Pursuits Division response to the 2011 Member Survey, which had concentrated on communication and service levels. She explained that the evidence collected provided valuable feedback which the Sport and Recreation Alliance would use to shape future work.

It was suggested that the reason that responses may have been lower this year was due to organisations being under pressure to cut financial resources, therefore not having the manpower to fill out surveys. In SB's response she stated that the Sport and Recreation Alliance was conscious of this, which was why the survey was significantly shorter this year, but also went on to say that the Alliance might need to re-think the process in the future.

7.2 Compliance

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

SB provided an update on the Code and explained that it had now been produced and that members were currently being contacted to sign up to the principles of the Code.

SB stated that evidence had been collated from members to assist with the production of the Smart Sport resource bank. This would act as a hub for members to access a variety of information such as templates, job descriptions and policies as well as best practice and guidance notes, which would provide support for their organisations.

SB encouraged members to complete the Good Governance Survey produced by Birkbeck College. The survey would help demonstrate what was happening across the sector and look at improving governance or making processes simpler. For more information contact jtottman@sportandrecreation.org.uk

7.2.2 The Protection of Freedoms Bill

SB explained that the Bill was in its second reading in Parliament and that strong changes had been proposed. These changes were still to be finalised but SB stated that topics being discussed were CRB checks and Vetting and Barring and that decisions on these matters were still to be made. For more information contact jtottman@sportandrecreation.org.uk

7.3 Annual Subscriptions 2012/13 and beyond

SB stated that due to the current tight public funding environment the Sport and Recreation Alliance was looking at ways to reduce costs and raise additional revenue. It had been decided in principle to change the process for calculating subscriptions by basing them on turnover rather than membership numbers. SB reassured the Division that this change would be sensibly capped where appropriate and that it would be implemented in 2012/13. Further consultation regarding this would take place during the course of 2011.

In a discussion which followed it was stated that the status of governing body structures should be taken into account as there were certain governing bodies that only acted to govern the sport and other governing bodies received grants to deliver the Government's agenda. This would need to be taken into account when assessing turnover.

8. MEETINGS & EVENTS

8.1 AGM

SB asked members to note the date of the AGM to be held on 20 July 2011 at St James's Palace.

8.2 Active Aging

SB confirmed that the date of the Active Aging seminar was 10 October 2011.

8.3 EU Summit

Members noted that the EU Summit was to be held on 20 October 2011, at the EU Commission UK offices, London.

8.4 CEOs' Convention

SB stated that the CEOs' Convention was to be held on 16 and 17 November 2011 at the Forest of Arden Marriott Hotel, Birmingham.

9. DIVISIONAL STRUCTURE

9.1 Divisional Elections 2011 - 2013

There was only one candidate for the position of Chair. Consequently, members elected Will Renshaw (WR) as Chair to take effect from the conclusion of the AGM on 20 July 2011.

SB stated that there had been no nominations for the appointment of Deputy Chair. It was agreed that nomination forms would be resent to the Division.

ACTION: EM to circulate forms to members of the Outdoor Pursuits Division

The Chair congratulated WR on his new position and expressed his thanks to members for their support during his time as Chair.

WR expressed his thanks on behalf of the Division to Brian Lamb for his contributions during his time in the Chair.

9.2 Divisional Meetings Review

SB explained that the Sport and Recreation Alliance had been recently looking at ways to improve the divisional meetings: how to encourage attendance; the relevance of topics on agendas; and if members required the meetings. The feedback gathered showed that members would like a clear focus on the meetings with lobbying opportunities and topics of relevance to each division.

SB went on to explain that the meetings would be reduced to two Divisional meetings per year and the third meeting would be of topics relevant to all Divisions. The Outdoor Pursuits Division agreed that if this happened they no longer wished for joint meetings with the Water Recreation Division. It was also noted that the structure of the minutes taken in meetings would be changed to action points and key issues raised by members.

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

There were no issues raised apart from point 4.2 above

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised

12. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS IN 2011

The date of the last meeting of the Outdoor Pursuits Division in 2011 was agreed as:

- Wednesday 28 September 2011 – Joint meeting with the Water Recreation Division