

**Annual General Meeting**  
**Cardiff White Water Center**  
**19<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

**Hello and welcome GDPR**

Introduction from Sean Clarke, currently treasurer but will act as chair for this meeting, with Sarah-Jayne Evans acting as Secretary.

**Agenda**

Chairs report, treasure report, events report, items to share, membership questions. Elections

**Present** – Suzie Jackson, Jess Evans, Jon Oldfield, Molly McKenzie, Fay Rushby, Aaron Dempsey, Elizabeth Harre, Anita Evans, Nicola Childs, Alison Gedling, Emily Evans, Fieke Reyntje, Lizzie Neave, Mike Cooper, Steve Phillips, Dan Jones, Amy Howarth, Beth Kirby, Sarah-Jayne Evans, Sean Clarke.

**Apologies** – Luke Dorbin, Kim Snape, Malcolm Ferris-ley, Pas Blackwell.

**Chairman's report**

A very warm welcome to you all.

Please accept my sincere apologies for not being here in person but regrettable I am having to work this weekend.

I am sure a number of you know I am standing down as Chair at this meeting although not disappearing from rafting. It is my intention to concentrate on getting people with disabilities both learning and physical into rafting. I have been asked by the IRF to head up with a colleague from Iran a disability programme and I will also hopefully be doing this within the UK.

I feel that British Rafting has come a long way since I took over the role of Chair. I was fortunate enough to inherit a solid base from which to work with successes going back a very long way with senior teams.

It became abundantly clear that if we were to progress the sport and get both more participation and encourage younger people to raft then we would require a more formal structure.

I am delighted to say that your committee have achieved all of this and we are now compliant with everything required to move forward in a more professional manner. The last thing that is required is a rafting syllabus and I am pleased to say that is being worked on but as you can imagine it is a lot of hard work and quite complex.

In terms of successes I think we have had a field day over the last year. We had no fewer than seven teams represent Great Britain at the IRF World Championships in Miyoshi Japan. We had sunshine together with showers and the course reflected this with a rising river.

It is not my intention to highlight any of the teams but to say we achieved 13 medals in total with some gold medals in that number.

Rafting has given me some real high`s but there have also been some low periods where outside influences have spoilt what for me is an excellent sport. I urge you all to support your committee and instead of complaining about things remember they give of their time freely and without any financial reward.

Finally, I wish to thank you all for being here today and all members of the committee for their hard unstinting work. I am confident that British Rafting will continue to grow both on the competitive side as well as a leisure pursuit.

Malcolm Ferris-Lay

19<sup>th</sup> May 2018

### **Treasurers report**

Full financial details to follow but in summary there is currently just under £1000 in the British Rafting account. This is £1000 less than the previous annual report as the international women's day event expenses were more than initially expected despite the success. Last year's finances were £4000 but also included £2000 set aside for the IWD event. The finance report does not include the costings for the Cardiff event.

British canoeing have given British Rafting £5000 to invest.

The IRF affiliation fee has already been accounted for, as paid in US dollars this equates to approximately £600.

### Proposals

#### £1000 - £1500 Pararafting

A joint venture with Lee Valley paddle sports club to invest in equipment and rafts to promote pararafting. Though we have no official remit for pararafting however it would be reasonable for us to trial for 1 year with the option if unsuccessful to sell on the equipment. The equipment would be available to travel and be available for requested use. If successful than we can request further funding from British Canoeing.

Questions from floor RE it's use and availability and level of interest

Molly Mckenzie (MM) - what is the cost of the raft - £2000

- How is it para specific – it has been developed for those unable to bend their knees.

Faye Rushby (FR) – question the need for additional coaching

The IRF are currently trialling this themselves to encourage rafting.

As British canoeing have para disciplines they may be willing to provide more funds.

No objections noted

£200-£300 medals and trophies

Currently the medals are crafted by the committee for each event and cost doesn't come out of fees to run the event. To look more professional medals specifically designed for British Rafting provided by British canoeing. Also an engraved British open trophy which will be re-presented each year.

Questions from floor

MM – would this be the ongoing cost – following the initial outlay for trophy's the medals should cost £100 each year

Action – FR to research Trophy options

Subsidised logoed kit

Fieke Reyntje (FR) requested funding for subsidies on BC Matching kit for all teams for ceremonies. As particularly for sponsored teams the additional outlay is unrealistic.

cost for t shirts for 8 teams going to Argentina estimated at £400

Beth Kirby (BK) requested additional logo as previously no additions permitted – the new kit will have both BC and BR logo

No objections noted

£1500 – Training camps

SJ Evans (SJE) suggested funding to help provide equipment and resources for clubs to arrange training camps for new and established teams to provide coaching and support.

BK added that purchasing water time for training can be difficult plus difficult with novices as they don't own any kit.

Jess Evans (JE) and SJE running a taster session on flat water but will need to supply all equipment.

Sean Clarke (SC) suggested put money aside for clubs or teams to request funding for fuel costs, raft transport, water time etc for running these events.

- ACTION**
- SC to complete purchase of additional 8 paddles
  - SC to approach British canoeing for additional funding

FR suggested that as some centres disregard their Buoyancy aids after a set period due to wear and tear, though they may still be suitable for flat water sessions. BK confirmed this as occurring at HPP. Would it be possible for BR to purchase them. SC pointed out that this would make us responsible for the upkeep and monitoring of them. FR suggested kit check sheets.

**Action** - FR to look into BA's at Lee Valley and check lists

To give info to commercial rafters to give a pathway for those interested in rafting.

**Action** - flyers and posters to Rafting centres and clubs

## **Finance**

### **Raft ownership**

There are currently 16 BR rafts in use spread across the country with teams, there have been some accidents requiring repairs. The current agreement between teams needs to be reworked to be more formal and rigid to ensure that each team is responsible for the upkeep, storage and repair of the raft also to make provision for loaning of the raft.

It was suggested that the list of those teams with raft is made more accessible to allow training etc.

JE suggested a deposit for rafts though as FR pointed out the team can change whilst having responsibility for the raft

BK has suggested a sign out sheet for those using and borrowing Rafts. FR also made a suggestion for a small payment be made by people using the raft to allow repairs etc.

**Action** - for Committee to review before next selections

## **Events report**

Thank you to everyone who has helped or raced at the events. The aim has been to hold 5 races throughout the year at different locations. Though we are going to look further at this the coming year. Race support is of vital importance and additional help is always greatly received so please email BR if interested.

## **Issue**

An issue has arisen following national selections in February which has highlighted a loophole in the current regulations. The U23 men selected team split with the 2<sup>nd</sup> team requesting to race at the European championships, The International Rafting Federation granted this request though they were required to be a national team.

This loophole allowed for a team to be eligible to race without being represented at the national selections. Following discussions between the Committee and the international selection panel consisting of Ettiane Stott C2 slalomist, Deb Cook former chair of BR, Hannah Burgess independent, Fran former GB1, Luke Dorbin Committee observer. It was agreed to support the team and allow them to compete at Slovakia, however the committee will work to limit the loophole to prevent abuse.

Questions from floor

MM requested clarification on status – As no other competitors the two teams will stand as GB1 and GB2. If there had been a 2<sup>nd</sup> team competing at selections than the additional team would have been placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. There is currently no policy in place for selection outside of the competition.

Jon Oldfield questioned how to put someone through selections – FR advised that it is a team rather than an individual who is entered into the selection event

Anita Evans (AE) and MM suggested that we try and increase and encourage individual rafters to enter events to try and boost numbers and fill teams.

## **Election of committee**

Submitted Nominations

Welfare - Gill Wayland nominated by Malcolm Ferris-Ley and Seconded by Sean Clarke

Non contested

On the Day

Chair – Sean Clarke nominated by Sarah-Jayne Evans, seconded by Aaron Dempsey

Sean is currently the Marketing and Media representative of the IRF though not on the board of directors or executive committee. There is currently no conflict of interest between this role and that of British Rafting chair, if a conflict did arise then he would lose the right to vote on that issue, this is the same position as former chair Deb Cook.

No objections

Secretary - Kin Snape. Nominated by Sean Clarke Seconded by Sarah-Jayne Evans

No Objections

Treasurer – Luke Dorbin. Nominated by Jess Evans, Seconded by Fieke Reijntjes

No Objections

Safety officer – Malcolm Ferris-Ley, Nominated by Sean Clarke, Seconded by Aaron Dempsey

No objections

Equipment Officer – Aaron Dempsey. Nominated by Sean Clarke, Seconded by Sarah-Jayne Evans

No Objections

Communications Officer – Martin Wayland. Nominated by Sean Clarke, Seconded by Fieke Reijntjes

No Objections

Events Officer – Sarah-Jayne Evans and Jessica Evans. Nominated by Sean Clarke, Seconded by Suzie Jackson.

No Objections

### **Any other business**

FR requested an overview from SC of the situation between IRF and World Rafting Federation (WRF) and BR position.

The WRF is a splinter group of IRF started in February, their aim is to fast track Rafting into the Olympics this would involve R4 as mixed teams with only open categories. The WRF currently consist of Turkey, Italy and ---. There has been an agreement between the WRF and International Canoe Federation (ICF) but there are no details yet.

The Olympic committee is very strict on the number of medals and rafting would automatically require 4 medals

British Rafting is part of the IRF and we will be continuing with that relationship. British Rafting is also a part of the ICF through British Canoeing. The CEO of BC David Joy is aware of the situation.

MM questioned age category, though there is no age category in the Olympics this could than affect world and European championships.

BK questioned the mix teams though currently the WRF are still following IRF rules re non mixed teams.

### **Gate Agreement**

FR has drawn up a gate agreement, an etiquette guide for teams to follow when setting slalom gate to ensure they are left as they are found, to maintain good relations between clubs and centres. BK agreed as similar issues at HPP.

### **Raft Coach assessment**

The new syllabus will follow the BC star style it will be a recognised award though not a qualification. It will have 3 modules flat water, white water artificial and white water river. The developers of the syllabus are currently identifying who is available to deliver the award currently individuals holding raft guide qualifications; either IRF or BC and racing experience. The timescale is for courses to start running by 2019. Main aim is to cover safety.

#### Promoting rafting

Emily Evans (EE) has started running a summer raft race series at Cardiff white water centre which includes racing and coaching. Everyone is welcome to attend.

BK questioned the age limit for getting young people involved in rafting. For raft racing we currently have an age limit of 14 though individual white water centres have their own age limits. Lee valley for example have a limit of 10 for the legacy course. BK would like a route for the under 14's in line with current kayak routes.

**Action-** Bk to investigate

AE requested a route for coaching and help within British rafting for further progression, training weekends for all teams to attend. Having an instructor at each centre with the new award would assist with this.

FR suggested a race card where each team/ person gain points through the year.

Llangollen canoe club requested help in setting up a club they were informed that it is possible to set up as a British canoeing club as we are under their remit

#### Media

The British rafting Fist Logo can be requested and used for media.

FR requested that the old paddle not be reprinted by any teams as it is a logo not owned by British rafting.

#### Euro cup

The Eurocup is held at various locations across Europe throughout the year. It is accessible for all teams including non-GB selected teams. The courses are generally grade 2-3 with a grade 4 feature. We are currently looking at hosting a cup race at Cardiff with funding from the Welsh Government.

Thank you to everyone for coming to both the race and the AGM.