



**Minutes of the Welsh Yachting Association AGM
(Re-named “Royal Yachting Association Cymru Wales”
following Special Resolution at this AGM)**

13 October 2014

**Via Video Conference between
Plas Menai, Caernarfon
Sport Wales, Cardiff
Sport Wales, Carmarthen**

Present (Plas Menai):

Dafydd Griffiths	Chairman/Red Wharf Bay Sailing & Watersports Club
Laurence Roberts	Company Secretary/Royal Anglesey Yacht Club
Bill Barry	North Regional Chairman/Port Dinorwic Sailing Club
Mary Gowers	Director/ Clywedog Sailing Club
Keith Rollinson	Clywedog Sailing Club
Steven Jardine	Shotwick Lake Sailing
Tony Forster	Shotwick Lake Sailing
Mike Butterfield	North West Venturers Yacht Club
Ken Newing	Port Dinorwic Sailing Club
Julian Bridges	Port Dinorwic Sailing Club
Taff Osborne	Colwyn Bay Watersports
John Reid	Colwyn Jet Ski Club
Janet Baker	South Caernarfonshire Yacht Club
Andrew Baker	South Caernarfonshire Yacht Club
David Battye	Trearddur Bay Sailing Club/Holyhead Sailing Club

Present (Cardiff):

Huw Stiley	Director of Finance/Saundersfoot Sailing Club
Andy Howard	South Regional Chairman/Llandegfedd Sailing Club
Bill Jackson	Llandegfedd Sailing Club
Paul Simes	Cardiff Bay Yacht Club
Idris Dibble	Cardiff Bay Yacht Club
Nigel Vick	Sully Sailing Club
Eddie Morgan	TATA Steel Sailing Club
Mark Searle	Cardiff Yacht Club
Robert Dangerfield	Llangorse Sailing Club
Ceri Davies	Swansea Watersports
Claire Davies	Swansea Watersports

Present (Carmarthen):

David Reed	Director
Brian Murphy	WYA West Regional Chairman/Fishguard Bay Yacht Club
Gail Strawbridge	Fishguard Bay Yacht Club
Martin Sykes	Fishguard Bay Yacht Club
Blake Shaw	Tenby Sailing Club
Mick Renny	Teifi Boating Club
Ian Carswell	Teifi Boating Club
Martin Andrews	Saundersfoot Sailing Club
Malcolm Williams	Saundersfoot Sailing Club
Gwyn Phillips	Neyland Yacht Club
Alex Sainter	Neyland Yacht Club
Kelly Mayhew	Neyland Yacht Club
Rhys Bromhall	Neyland Yacht Club
Rhys Harries	Neyland Yacht Club

In Attendance:

Steven Morgan	CEO (Plas Menai)
Alistair Dickson	High Performance Manager (Plas Menai)
Ruth Iliffe	National Development Officer (Plas Menai)
Sean Evans	Pathway Officer (Cardiff)
Samantha Healy	South Regional Club Development Officer (Cardiff)
Hester Walker	West Regional Club Development Officer (Carmarthen)
Ceri Yeomans	Office Manager (Plas Menai)

Apologies:

Ffion Lloyd	Director
Adrian Owens	Pembrokeshire Yacht Club
Gareth Roberts	Llandudno Sailing Club
Adrian Roberts	Staylittle Outdoor Education Centre
Ian Williams	Tata Steel Sailing Club
Dave Green	Llandegfedd Sailing Club

Proxy Voting Forms Received From:

Llandudno Sailing Club
Gresford Sailing Club
Dale Yacht Club
SCC Milford Haven

1. **Minutes of the AGM of 21 October 2013**

Approval of the minutes of the AGM of 21 October 2013 was proposed by Tony Forster and seconded by Ken Newing: Carried unanimously.

2. **Matters Arising**

One nomination for directorship (Steven Jardine) had been received.

The election of directors to the Board will now be a phased re-election, as opposed to block re-election, to ensure continuity, and a rolling programme of elections will be implemented.

The “Big Weekend” that has taken place each February at Plas Menai over the past few years, is to be replaced with two 2-day “Regional Conferences” that will take place at Plas Menai and a location (to be confirmed) in west Wales – over a weekend in late February 2015. This will comprise of a conference on one day and a day of activities on the second day.

3. **Annual Review**

The 2014 Annual Review, containing the reports of the WYA officers, had been distributed to member clubs in advance.

Chairman Dafydd Griffiths stressed the need to attract new Board members – any person expressing an interest to please contact CEO Steven Morgan.

A new financial system has now been implemented, and the Chairman wished to express his thanks to Director of Finance, Huw Stiley, for his input.

CEO Report: Steven Morgan reported on the sad demise of Chris Jeffries (“Jaffa”) in May. Chris was a hugely popular and inspiring young coach, and will be very sadly missed, particularly in the South and West regions.

Sailing is now one of the top sports membership-wise, and this enables WYA to attract funding that in turn is used to benefit sailing clubs and centres in Wales, in the form of development grants and other financial input. In order to accurately report these figures, WYA does rely on clubs and centres to submit their membership statistics, and this request produced an 86% return last year – thanks go to those clubs who participated.

There has been a lot of Regional activity in the past year which in the main is due to some fantastic volunteer input – the CEO wished to thank all those who have been constructive in their efforts, and in particular the three Regional Chairmen – Bill Barry, Andy Howard and Brian Murphy.

4. **Election of Officers**

Director: Steven Jardine, Shotwick Lake Sailing. Proposed by Tony Forster, Shotwick Lake Sailing, seconded by Bob Lowe, Clwb Hwlio Pwllheli/Pwllheli Sailing Club.

All in favour (22 votes, including 4 x proxy votes) with the exception of two abstentions (South).

5. **Approval of Accounts**

The annual accounts to 31 March 2014 as prepared by Alexander Partnership, Tenby, had been submitted for approval to member clubs prior to the meeting. The accounts are unaudited, and it was clarified that under current legislation for small companies, for WYA there is no formal requirement for audit at present.

Approval of the 2014 accounts was proposed by the Board and seconded by Andy Howard, Llandegfedd Sailing Club: 23 for (including 4 x proxy votes), none against, and 1 abstention (North).

6. **Appointment of Accountants**

The approval to again appoint Alexander Partnership, Tenby, for the preparation of the 2014/2015 annual accounts was proposed by the Board and seconded by Mike Butterfield, North West Venturers Yacht Club: Carried unanimously (24 votes, including 4 x proxy votes).

7. **Any Other Business**

Special Resolution – To Adopt Change of Company Name

For the past year, following a decision by the Board, consultations have taken place within the three Regional Committees and at Regional Roadshows on the proposal to rename “Welsh Yachting Association – Cymdeithas Hwyllo Cymru” as “Royal Yachting Association Cymru Wales – Cymdeithas Hwyllo Brenhinol Cymru Wales”. Member clubs had also been contacted directly with a Rebranding Factsheet to advise of the proposal.

The ramifications had been explored at length, and it was determined that the advantages very much outweighed any disadvantages.

In particular it was felt that by changing the name to “RYA Cymru Wales” the Association would benefit from:

- Greater nautical awareness
- Greater clarification on our role and how it fits with RYA (Hamble)’s
- Greater opportunity for attracting commercial sponsorship
- Greater opportunity to expand our remit to better encompass motor boating, motor cruising, and other water sports disciplines

Additionally:

- The Association will not lose its autonomy
- The Association will still be fully recognised by Sport Wales
- The Association will still manage its own salaried staff
- The Association will still promote the interests of Wales’ sailors and boaters
- The Association will still run its own Wales-only programmes

The proposal to re-name to “RYA Cymru Wales” is proposed by the Board, and seconded by Cardiff Bay Yacht Club: Carried unanimously (24 votes, including 4 x proxy votes).

Special Resolution – To Adopt New Articles of Association under “RYA Cymru Wales”

In line with the change of company name, the Articles of Association have been updated. Proposed by the Board, and seconded by Red Wharf Bay Sailing and Watersports Club: Carried unanimously (24 votes, including 4 x proxy votes).

The Chairman thanked all those attending, and there being no further business, the formal meeting concluded at 20:05 hrs.

The next AGM will be held in October/November 2015 – date to be confirmed.