



BCU Lifeguards Annual Consultative Meeting



Minutes of meeting held at Bibblings Site, Simmonds Yat 15 September 2007

Chairman:	Dave Wyatt (DW)
Minutes:	Colin Legget, Herts
Officers present:	Luke Calderon (LC), Des Merrigan (DM), Gavin Hollis (GH), Nigel Whitehead (NW), Andy Walters (AW), Lawton Hicks (LH)
Other attendees:	List of other attendees here
Apologies:	Phil Quinn (PQ), Andy Squirrel (AS), Michael George (MG), Malcolm Ferris-Lay (MFL)

MINUTES

Agenda item 1 - Chairman's welcome

DW opened the meeting with a welcome to everyone attending the 2007 championships. DW advised all of his previous notification of resignation from the committee and that this will be his last meeting as chair.

Agenda item 2 - Apologies for absence

Apologies received were acknowledged.

Agenda item 3 - Minutes of the last ACM - 09 September 2006

Minutes of last year's meeting were distributed with the following matters arising:

- LC, as junior representative, questioned the need for such a role given his experience of the last year. The main concern is a lack of communication. DW explained that it is necessary to have a junior representative on the committee and apologised for the lack of communication. It is a new role and we are learning how best to utilise it.
- A breakdown of items on the financial accounts had been done, as requested, but unfortunately was not distributed. This will be made available to units.
- DM requested that the committee put together a formal strategy/system on how the committee will provide subsidies on unit purchases for new equipment, and ensure units are aware of the system. This will be raised with the newly-elected secretary at next year's meeting.

Agenda item 4 - Chairman's report

DW brought to everybody's attention the desperate situation that our organisation is in. Unit numbers are low, the committee finds itself overburdened and not performing well, support from the BCU comes and goes, and we look set to lose the CST award, from which we derive about 50% of our income. DW asked all lifeguards to commit to their units and attend national events.

DW's 2yr strategy when taking on chair was to focus on finalising the lifeguard awards in the first year, and focus on publicity in the second year. A lot of work has been done and many modules are in the final revision stages. DW has requested feedback on the draught copy of the Aquatic First Aid Level 2 syllabus which has previously been distributed.

This year's mini convention was very successful and unit Globe 360 was formed from that event. Another weekend has been planned and will be held at Hereford where there is a potential lifeguard unit.

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Work is being done to supply each unit with their own banner. This will contain details of the unit and its lifeguard activities. DM, representing the floor, thanked DW for all of his work and hard effort during his term.

Agenda item 5 - Secretary's report

NW read the secretary's report in PQ's absence. In his report, PQ announced his retirement from the committee. This was due mainly to work commitments. DW expressed thanks to PQ for his efforts and commitment to the role, which is one of the most demanding committee positions.

Agenda item 6 - Treasurer's report

NW read the treasurer's report in AS's absence. Despite heavy spending and BCU administration charges, the account is presently healthy. However, with the expected loss of CST as a pre-requisite for coaching courses, we will experience a serious decline in our income in forthcoming years.

Bearing in mind that travel and events are the biggest drain on finances, we need to ensure future events are well planned and the location appropriate to ensure minimal costs.

AS confirmed in his report that people and units providing cover under the 'BCU Lifeguards' umbrella are insured at events where the club or individual receives payment for attending. However, the skill base of the team must be of a BCU award or other recognised qualification. Additionally, payments received must be declared to the taxman. Receiving payment will also mean you are effectively working for the payer, and your actions and equipment will be subject to health and safety at work legislation, as opposed to best practice guidelines.

We cannot pay claims without correct receipts. AS is planning on distributing at the next committee meeting a guide on claiming expenses.

Agenda item 7 - National Training Officer's report

First-aid is a very big subject alone; in the future I want to split training into different sections. Level 2 first-aid soon to be up and running and training courses for trainers will be established.

The syllabus for the new awards is being finalised. BCU awards have changed (although not yet ratified) to a modular system and our awards scheme will have to match it if it is to have any integrity and recognition.

Agenda item 8 - Election of committee

The following were elected for committee roles:

- Chairman Andy Walters. term (2 years)
- Vice Chairman Martin Suzan term (1 year)
- Secretary Dave Wyatt. term (1 year)
- Junior Rep Luke Calderon term (2 years)
- Individual Rep 2 Des Merrigan term (1 year)

The next committee meeting will be held 04 November 2007.

Agenda item 9 - Any other business

- The biggest concern raised at this meeting was the lack of communication in our organisation. It was felt by the majority that the committee need to communicate more with themselves as well as with units. If one thing can be learned from this meeting it is that we need to communicate more.
- DM enquired about the new rash vests to be ordered. Enquiries have been made.
- LH has received feedback from only three units with regards to the publicity banners being made for each unit. Units that have not responded are requested to do so.

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- DM has been contacted by a commercial company in Ireland (Republic of) who wish to market the rescue shark to councils that run lifeguard units. They have requested a demo boat – we will have our demo boat refurbished by Mega and let them use that. Should they decide to want them, they will be directed to Mega who will charge an additional £100 per boat, which is payable to us and will cover maintenance of the mould.
- The website is not displaying correctly in internet browsers other than Microsoft Internet Explorer. This will be looked into.
- Anyone wishing to contact the committee can find committee contact details on the website www.bculifeguards.org.uk