

## Minutes Annual General Meeting for kiteclub North Somerset – Wind Wheels and Waves

**Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

**Present:** Barry Cook (committee 2016 and club member), Jamie Eden (club member), Christos Fragopulos (chairman 2016 and club member, charring meeting), Kay Fragopulos (not club member), Charlie Head (extreme SUP-boarder, not club member), Andy Gratwick (BKSA board), Jo Kelly (club member), Ben Peters (committee 2016 and club member), Hayley Porter (club member), Tom Porter (club member), James Rudland (club member), Raoul Strachan (club member), Sanne Wilmink (2016 treasurer and club member, taking notes).

**Apologies:** Rob Perry (2016 committee), Russ Cope (2016 committee), Fiona Farrell (helping 2016 committee), Richard Booth-Davey (club member).

- 1. Meeting start:** 7pm approx. Christos welcomes all present.
- 2. BKSA:** Andy is welcomed, he is here today to hand us the WOO trofees, but also to represent the BKSA in playing a more active role for the clubs, engage, and hear what the BKSA members want from them. NS – WWW is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest BKSA-affiliated club in the UK with 142 members.
- 3. Minutes of last AGM:** Approved
- 4. Chairman's report:** - Christos - Summary of last year's activities. For info see also separate document as was submitted to BKSA for re-affiliation 2017.
  - a. Beach cleanups and hazards marking by buoys and on map and removing by hand where possible. The ladders still remain, and all different organisations contacted (council/local farmers, fire brigade, RNLI, motorcross) are unable to help. The mud is currently low exposing more hazards and some will be covered when the mud levels rise depending on weather and currents. In addition, the burning of Birnbeck pier has likely added more debris within the mud. Let us know if you see new ones!
  - b. Ben – RNLI training (table-top, water exercise, creation of video). The video has not been spread to other RNLI stations yet as was intended, due to hearth attack of Weston RNLI press officer. Ben was also asked to create an A1 poster and brief for the flipcharts the RNLI uses. Andy Gratwick has good contacts within head office of RNLI in Poole and will see if he can help move it forward.
  - c. Attempts to place safety signs at Royal Sands (funding help by BKSA) have stranded at the North Somerset council despite repeated chasing for permission, because they want the fonts/colours to match their council 'look' and are unable to give us information or approve it as it is. We will continue in the new year. We could try to create paper flyers instead and have the parking attendants hand them out when collecting parking fees, as they are present on busy days? Council unlikely to go ahead with this but we can ask.
  - d. The council wanted us to police the windzone use to prevent non-insured kites using it. We cannot and will not do it, as we do not always know who's a member or not (there are other clubs with their own insurance too), and we are not always present. It is a council requirement for each kiter at the beach to have 3<sup>rd</sup> party liability insurance, and if the council finds there are many uninsured kites and/or there is a problem with one of them they have the right to stop all kite activities at the beach, and likely will do this. As a club we try to make people aware of this, and of course are encouraging everyone to become a member (via club activities and

member discounts) so that the vast majority of kilters will be insured. The council also originally stated we would have to pay for the use and maintenance of the windzone, but as we make limited use of this we feel this should be less than other clubs, as the council is not helping in any way with debris clear-up, safety and the safety signs on the parts of the beach we do use.

- e. Club website has had a makeover. Sanne adds that this and especially also Andy Falconbridge's photos have resulted in much more traffic through the website, so it ranks much better in Google rating. Andy is a local hobby photographer who takes awesome pics, as well as doing much good community work, go and say hi when you see him and keep him feeling welcome as part of the beach life!
- f. The questionnaire in April had a good response rate, and based on member's feedback the following was done in 2016;
  - i. Yacht club membership (at £400.- per year cost) ended as members did not really make use of it.
  - ii. WOO discount scheme and participating in the national WOO competition as a club and individuals. This has helped gain more members and a club-feel. There were 21 kilters actively competing for the club.
  - iii. Kite trip – 'Chase the Wind' trip in July, few members turnout despite much interest in a club trip indicated in the questionnaire.
  - iv. Beginners lessons help – we are arranging a discount scheme with a couple of nearby kiteschools. This will help them get more pupils and will help us ensure that new kilters on the beach are more likely to be getting insurance. We had been considering (but not agreed within the committee) training a local kiter to become a pro-bono instructor. Andy said the BKSA will not support this, there is a big difference between clubs and schools.
  - v. Freestyle clinic; we have tried to organise this with Dave Ibbertson, but unfortunately was cancelled twice due to lack of wind. It has been difficult to get him organised and we will consider in the new year to go with another coach. Sanne asks Andy why he has said (via email) it can only be done by coaches on the BKSA list, she thinks because these coaching sessions do not lead to a BKSA approved qualification (like lessons) it can be done by a non-BKSA but otherwise qualified of suitable coach if each of the participants have appropriate insurance? The answer is that the insurance will not cover this, as a coaching session is an event and the instructor/coach needs to carry insurance to be the responsible person during the session. Non-BKSA coaches are not covered by the insurance. Dave Ibbey is (now) on the approved list.
  - vi. Sanne and Andy discussed communication issue surrounding the coaching sessions. Sanne felt it was inappropriate of the BKSA to approach members to offer free coaching via the club (of which the committee knew nothing so could not really help) to then respond to our enquiries by saying the money would be coming out of the quarterly membership allowances that the BKSA pays the club. Andy explains that clubs have received a policy that requires a club to organise a coaching day, a social event and a mini-competition as a minimum. This is to avoid the situation as in some clubs where they are sat on a pot of money and not spending it on club activities but just accumulating funds. However, the BKSA is not strictly enforcing the policy as

long as they see a club is being active, like we are. Sanne asks to receive that policy, the committee has never seen it.

- vii. The demo day was well visited, despite hit-and-miss wind. Sanne adds that the feedback about this mixed-brands weekend from the brand reps was either really positive (often the small brands who benefitted from crossover-interest in their brand) or some preferred their own demo (a couple of the larger brands). Sanne indicated she will only organise one single weekend next year, and if some brands want to organise a separate day they can do, but will receive no time/help from the committee apart from sharing info on the website and/or Facebook. The committee will not be disclosing member's email addresses for this (or promo emails). Regarding wind dependency; not all reps can be flexible for what weekend they come down to WSM, they need a more fixed agenda. One rep suggested a good idea to not change the weekend, but the location/beach depending on wind predictions.
- viii. We have the money to buy a wind meter/weather station and Richard Hill has kindly offered the club an IP camera to see beach conditions. The only thing we have not been able to secure is a suitable place to place the kit, for reliable wind measurements and with access to internet/Wifi and power. The Tropicana is not able to share their broadband without having security issues on their intranet (they already have a weatherstation paid by public funds but this is only accessible from within their intranet), the yacht club is in the wind shadow of Brean and relies on a poor 3G connection on lucky days, and the Sea life centre did not want to help. We will try other avenues in the new year.
- ix. Socials; very much asked for in the questionnaire. Was set up every month at the Cabot in WSM, but very poor turnout, so we will not likely continue with these in WSM, but members are instead encouraged to visit the socials of the 'Bristol Kitesurfing' Facebook group every month at the Grain Barge in Bristol, which has a much better turnout anyway.
- x. Work behind the scenes that has been going on includes communications with the council, the BKSA, local kiteschools and Wessex Water.
- xi. Thanks to the 2016 committee for their work.

- 5. Treasurer's report:** - Sanne - Financial statements spread across the people present, no questions. The document will be uploaded on the website along with these minutes.
- 6. Secretary's report:** - Sanne – Russ was the secretary for 2016 but due to unforeseen circumstances could not do this so Sanne has been doing club member's admin and newsletters etc. Nothing to add to Christos' report. Will upload the 2016 activity document on website along with minutes and financial statement.
- 7. WOO prize:** - Andy – Andy is pleased to present both the club and Christos with their respective awards, on behalf of the BKSA and WOO. Another competition is likely to be set up for 2017 and details will be spread via the BKSA website and newsletter once it does.
- 8. Wessex water:** Did intend to switch off UV treatment of the sewage water along the Somerset coast during the winter months, despite our protest late 2015. Their survey over the 2015-16 winter suggested that no-one uses the beaches in winter, so they prepared to proceed with the proposal. We put forward further protests and an alternative survey showing we DO use the beach in winter, and Wessex was very responsive, they will now NOT switch off the UV treatment for the water at Uphill and Royal sands (as well as Clevedon). As

no evidence for beaches South of Brean was provided (the club has no info and the windsurfers did not put any evidence forward) the UV treatment here will likely be switched off in winters. Ben and Sanne had a meeting with Matt Wealdon from Wessex Water, and also with Chris Tovey (kiter/windsurfer) and Mark Wakeling (windsurfer and now Burnham SAS rep) who had also been protesting against UV switch-off. Wessex is considering further research into possibilities of a 'flexible switch-off', to see if this would provide a guarantee of clean water when needed and still be feasible.

**9. New committee:** Standing down from the committee are Fiona Farrell, Barry Cook, Russ Cope and Rob Perry. Available for the new committee are Christos Fragopulos (but standing down as chairman), Jo Kelly (new), Ben Peters, Raoul Strachan (new) and Sanne Wilmink. No-one votes against any of these. The new committee will sort out amongst them who will fulfil what role within the committee and post this on the website and facebook group.

**10. Any other business:** None

**11. Meeting close:** 9pm approx.