



## Annual General Meeting of the United Kingdom Surf Rowers League

**Sunday 9 November 2014 @ 1.30pm**

**Venue: Perranporth Surf Life Saving Club**

### **DRAFT MINUTES (to be approved at 2015 AGM)**

In attendance: Mike Lord, Jenny Jones, Khalil Isaac, Jon Baglow, Gary Walters, Stuart Cooper, Phil Martin, JR, Ian Knowles, Pete Gaisford, Scott Bentley, Louise Gapp, Becky Knowles, Nick Beringer, Cris Ballinger, Dan Berriman, Gareth Allen, Katie Marquardt

**1) Apologies**

Steve Kendall, Jo Carter, Spike Gaisford, Aaron Jones

**2) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the UKSRL 17 Nov 2013**

Proposed: Pete Gaisford  
Seconded: Scott Bentley

Approved as accurate and signed by the Chair.

**3) Matters Arising**

No matters arising.

**4) President Report**

The President delivered his report for 2014. Annexed to these minutes.

**5) Chairman Report**

The Chairman delivered her report for 2014. Annexed to these minutes.

**6) Secretary Report**

The Secretary delivered his report for 2014. Annexed to these minutes.

**7) Treasurer Report**

The Treasurer reported the accounts. A statement at 9/11/2014 is annexed to the minutes.

**8) Election of the Officers of the UKSRL**

**(i) Honorary President**

**Pete Gaisford standing**  
No other nominations

Proposed: Louise Gapp, Seconded: Becky Knowles.  
PETER GAISFORD ELECTED HONORARY PRESIDENT FOR 2015

**(ii) Chairman**

**Louise Gapp standing**  
No other nominations

Proposed: Gary Walters, Seconded: Dan Berriman  
LOUISE GAPP ELECTED CHARIMAN FOR 2015

**(iii) Vice Chairman**

**Spike Gaisford standing**  
No other nominations

Proposed: Kate Marquardt, Seconded: JR

**(iv) Secretary**

**Rebecca Knowles**

No other nominations

Proposed: Katie Marquardt, Seconded: Mike Lord.  
REBECCA KNOWLES SECRETARY FOR 2015

**(v) Treasurer**

**Scott Bentley**

No other nominations

Proposed: Dan Berriman, Seconded: Louise Gapp  
SCOTT BENTLEY ELECTED TREASURER FOR 2015

**(vi) Publicity**

*No formal nominations received.*

*Agreed to liaise with Greg Dennis (photography) and Gary Walters over publicity.*

*Links to Communications Plan development through the UKSRL committee.*

**(vii) Development Officer**

**Dan Berriman nominated**

No other nominations

Proposed: Louise Gapp, Seconded: Katie Marquardt.  
DAN BERRIMAN ELECTED DEVELOPMENT OFFICER FOR 2015

Note: DB emphasised that included in this role he will undertake the elements of the role related to short term development e.g. new clubs attending events and the sweeps induction. Other committee support will be needed in other areas, e.g. longer term development in Wales, with the support of Mike Lord and key Welsh contacts. Gary Walters volunteered to assist with other development work.

**(viii) Competition Officer**

**Dan Berriman nominated**

No other nominations

NO APPOINTMENT TO THIS POST MADE BUT SEE NOTE.

Note: Following the discussion about development and the links with race day responsibilities, Dan agreed to take on the role as regards visiting crews. No other nominations came forward for this role. Discussion points included the need for a central contact on the beach to coordinate day tickets etc. The Secretary agreed to continue to administer on the day Day Tickets. There remains a requirements to administer official duties including lane draws and support the referee. The procedure implemented in 2014 where a club is nominated as support crew for ensuring buoys, flags etc are set up was agreed as good practice and will continue.

**(ix) Club committee representatives**

<b>Portreath</b>	<b>Gareth Allen / Stuart Cooper</b>
<b>Llantwit Major</b>	<b>Mike Lord / Gethin Edwards</b>
<b>Perranporth</b>	<b>Aaron Jones</b>
<b>St Agnes</b>	<b>Becky Knowles</b>
<b>Bournemouth</b>	<b>Sarah Clarke</b>
<b>Newport</b>	<b>Trevor Holland</b>
<b>Bude</b>	<b>Phil Martin</b>
<b>Croyde</b>	<b>Chris Lane / Jo Carter</b>
<b>Porthtowan</b>	<b>Louise Gapp</b>

**(x) Junior / U25 member**

**None at time of issuing agenda  
Jon Baglow nominated**

Proposed: Mike Lord, Seconded: Katie Marquardt.  
JON BAGLOW ELECTED U25 MEMBER FOR 2015

Note: A question was raised about the UKSRL policy on under 16s rowing and how to encourage new younger rowers into the sport. A discussion item will be brought forward to a committee meeting and interested parties invited to attend.

**(xi) Committee support officer**

**Katie Jo Marquadt**

No other nominations

Proposed: Becky Knowles, Seconded: Louise Gapp.  
KATIE MARQUARDT ELECTED COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER 2015

Note: the Committee Support officer is a role to assist the committee with priority projects and agreed with the Chairman or Secretary before the CSO is approached. If the CSO has capacity to undertake other work in support of the wider committee / less urgent work that is down to the CSO to determine.

**9) UKSRL Representative to European Surf Rowing Federation ESRF**

**Mike Lord standing**

Proposed: Louise Gapp, Seconded: Khalil Isaac.  
MIKE LORD ELECTED ESRF REPRESENTATIVE FOR 2015

**10) UKSRL Representative to SLSA GB Sports Commission**

**Louise Gapp standing**

Proposed: Becky Knowles, Seconded: Katie Marquardt  
LOUISE GAPP ELECTED ESRF REPRESENTATIVE FOR 2015

**11) UKSRL Representative to West Region Rowing Council WRRRC (Exeter based)**

**Phil Martin nominated**

Proposed: Louise Gapp, Seconded: Dan Berriman.  
PHIL MARTIN ELECTED WRRRC REPRESENTATIVE FOR 2015

Note: it was agreed that PM would undertake the role formally but that the attendance of meetings could be delegated to other UKSRL committee officers.

**14.50 The meeting adjourned to discuss survey feedback and membership items before setting the membership fee for 2015.**

**Meeting resumed at 15.10**

**12) To agree the UKSRL membership subscription fees for 2015:**

**(i) Individual Membership**

Following detailed discussion of the current finances of the UKSRL, the direction of travel of membership numbers, the costs of safety cover and the value of that cover, it was:

**Resolved that the UKSRL membership cost for 2015 be set at £45.**

Discussion points and in addition, discussion points under the General Meeting minute number 5):

- The UKSRL's income is £1000 less than existing expenditure.
- There is currently a cushion of 1 years' operating costs and the Treasurer recommends that this is maintained.
- The quality of the safety cover, and ancillary services provided by First Response is critical to safe surf boat racing.

- It was acknowledged that some clubs could put on cover, or that the RNLI could be approached, but that this introduced risk due to an inconsistency of provision which could leave the UKSRL committee officers vulnerable should an incident occur.
- Survey evidence showed that a local solution was possible with clubs raising funds to support overheads. It was suggested that the UKSRL could not operate on an income base that is hopeful rather than certain.
- It was acknowledged that sponsorship was possible, but again, not guaranteed. Sponsorship could be used for special expenditure or to go towards the cushion to minimise increases year on year.
- Entry to the sport could be affected through an increase in fees.
- The surf lifesaving club could offer discount if it wished to encourage first time surf boat rowers. The UKSRL events had a fixed overhead that needed to be covered.
- Day tickets will remain and the revised policy on day tickets will be worked up and published asap. This was thought to be a way to allow new entrants to try without significant financial commitment.
- It was thought that overall £45 for a year's racing still represented very good value, especially when compared to other sporting events.
- A standing order option should be considered to minimise the chasing needed to receive payment.

## **(ii) Student / Junior Membership**

**Resolved that the student membership be set at £30 for 2015.**

Note: it was confirmed that students must be in full time education to qualify for the discounted rate.

**Meeting closed at 15.18.**



## **President's Report 2014**

The summer of 2014 has to be one of the best seasons for surfboat rowing. Warm water and big blue skies set the scene for the many crew training sessions and summer competitions. This year the Summer Series was conducted as double day events over three weekends. Congratulations to the Porthtowan crews upon winning both the Mens and Womens overall Summer Series pointscore.

Sadly due to a permissions mix up the Open Surfboat Championship 2014 scheduled for Fistril Beach, Newquay had to be cancelled. Long gone are the days when you could turn up at beach, conduct an event and just leave. Members of the UKSRL committee spend many unseen hours filling in forms and double checking risk assessments, in order to make sure all the events run smoothly, safely and with all the required permissions in place.

At the beginning of the year the UKSRL purchased the Clymer surfboat from Twickenham Rowing Club. The purpose of the purchase of the surfboat is to aid and encourage development. Primarily aimed at clubs expressing an interest in surfboat rowing and wishing to participate in the sport. The UKSRL surfboat is currently placed with Newport Rowing Club, Pembrokeshire and has been used and demonstrated by members of the rowing club at the Celtic Longboat rowing events.

The big highlight for 2014 were the World Surfboat Championships and the Infinite Ocean events both conducted in France in September. All the UK surfboat crews that attended came away from these two events with either medals or podium prizes. The mens crew Porthtowan Blue Bali are World Surfboat Champions 2014 and are worthy holders of the title. The Porthtowan mens and womens crews represented the UK and the Llantwit Major crew represented Wales at the Infinite Ocean Biarritz International event.

The domestic and International results for 2014 indicate that the UK standard of surfboat rowing is very good, we just need to encourage more rowers to row surfboats and to participate in the sport.

Pete Gaisford  
President



## Chairman's Report 2014

It's been a fantastic year for the UKSRL on a domestic and international level. Congratulations to all our UK teams for raising the bar this year and demonstrating just how strong we are in comparison with the rest of the world of Surfboats.

On a domestic level, congratulations must go to Porthtowan Women's Blue Belles and Men's Blue Bali crews for winning the UKSRL Summer Series League. On an international level particular mention must go to Porthtowan's Blue Bali crew for becoming World Champions and Winners of the first Infinite Ocean Biarritz event, you boys really are a special crew.

Thank you to all of the UKSRL committee who give up such valuable personal time to run a successful association, my special thanks go to Pete, Becky, Scott and Spike. Please may you all continue to give up your time so freely for many more years to come.

Can I also give thanks to First Response GB for your professional standards in providing our safety cover. We are all so much more assured when you turn up at the beach regardless of our recent small / flat conditions.

Next season is potentially a big development year with the Gallipoli project. We are hoping to bring around 10 boats back to the UK and the committee are working hard to ensure this happens. We are also working with British Rowing, looking at ways to continue to develop our sport, more news on this over the winter.

Welcome to St Agnes Ladies who over this season have become a regular competitive club. It's great to see new clubs developing, and a lot of interest in our sport is coming from Wales, hopefully this will mean many more crews in 2015.

I look forward to seeing you all after the winter in 2015, enjoy the short rest before pre season begins.

Louise Gapp  
Chairman



## Secretary's Report 2014

### Membership numbers

2014 has seen a very small increase in membership numbers, up to 76 full members from 70 last year. We need to work hard as clubs and as the UKSRL to replace retiring members and encourage more crews onto the circuit through carefully thought out communications plans, event publicity and by being as accommodating as possible for new entrants into the sport. The online membership is being well used with hardly any people choosing to pay their membership via other methods. The less admin, the better!

### Day tickets

We had a high number of day tickets this year, especially at the Welsh events. Great work to those who encouraged people to have a go and this may have reaped rewards in expanding the sport if the interest in the Gallipoli surf boats is anything to go by. This is why we need clubs to support the boat loan / sweep loan to these clubs who want to have a go and be encouraging on the day for all efforts made. Cheering them on as they cross the line no matter where they finish creates a great atmosphere and encourages them to come back – so keep up the great support for everyone on the beach.

### How was it for you?

The survey has been well supported with 40 people having filled it in when the survey closed. A big thank you to everyone who took the time to do so. Its really important with rowers spread about the country that members can air their views and we have a chance to talk about important issues.

### Communications and Social Media

The Facebook page and club contact emails have been the principal way for the UKSRL to stay in touch. I hope this is working for you. I hope to get a bit more active on Twitter this year as we have a few followers so if you've ideas / links / pictures you think we should share, let me know. With ours being such a visual sport, I think Instagram could also be a great window on our activities, so I'll keep you posted on that front too. I'm going to bring back the newsletters too. The website is a key resource too, so make sure its in your favourites!

As Lou and Pete have said, we need a really good couple of development years to bring up the numbers, especially looking ahead to Rescue 2016 with hopefully another Infinite Ocean the same year. All hands to the pumps! Keep paddling.

Becky Knowles  
UKSRL Secretary

**United Kingdom Surf Rower's  
League  
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30 September 2014**

	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Full memberships		2,100.00
Student memberships		150.00
Day tickets		480.00
Boat loan payments		335.00
Sponsorship - Aussie Corner Deli		800.00
Sponsorship - Watergate Bay Hotel		250.00
<b>Total income</b>		<b>4,115.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Safety Cover	(includes £330 re Bournemouth 2013 paid Nov 13)	2,232.00
Equipment purchases and repairs		189.00
Insurance		894.00
Permissions / event licences		176.00
British Rowing fees		167.00
Officials travel and subsistence		104.00
Paypal Fees		106.00
Prizes Gifts etc		75.00
Website hosting		50.00
Sundry		212.00
		<u>(4,205.00)</u>
<b>Net deficit for the year before exceptional item</b>		<b>(90.00)</b>
<b>Exceptional item</b>		
Purchase of surf boat and trailer repairs		(2,890.00)
<b>Net deficit after exceptional item</b>		<b><u>(2,980.00)</u></b>
<b>Balances of cash held at 1 October 2013:</b>		
	Lloyds	9,569.00
	Paypal	148.00
Deficit as above		(2,980.00)
<b>Cash held at 30th September 2014</b>		<b><u>6,737.00</u></b>
<b>Held as:</b>		
	Lloyds	3,820.00
	Paypal	2,627.00
	Cheques and cash to pay in	290.00
		<b><u>6,737.00</u></b>
<b>Assets held at cost</b>		
Surf boat trailer oars etc purchased December 2013		2,890.00
Helmets purchased May 2014		189.00
<b>Total assets at cost</b>		<b><u>3,079.00</u></b>