

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
BRITISH WATER SKI FEDERATION LIMITED (NOW THE BRITISH WATER SKI & WAKEBOARD
FEDERATION LIMITED) HELD ON SUNDAY 24th JANUARY 2021
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**

PRESENT

BWSW Board Members

Messrs. Martin Winter (BWSW Chair), Steve Sopp (Vice Chair), Peter James (Treasurer), Patrick Donovan (CEO & Company Secretary), Margaret Curtis, Simon Waring, Nick Fellows and Clare Lobb.

Advisory Council Members

Messrs. Tony Green (Chair), John Battleday, Nicky Caine, Richard Mattos, Suzi Nightingale, James Timothy and Vince Turp.

Former BWSW Chairmen

Messrs. Patric Foley-Brickley, Alan Goggin and Andy Harris.

BWSW Staff Members

Keir Boissevain (Business Development), Kylie Cooper (Operations Manager), Elisa Nicholson (Member Services) and Sam Geller (Qualifications & Training).

Voting Clubs Represented by Proxy

Aune Valley Water Ski Club	Chair of Meeting
Bluebird Deaf Water Ski Club	Chair of Meeting
Boughton Lodge Water Ski Club	Andy Dyne
Burfield Aqua Sports Club	Neil Coster
Chichester Water Ski Club	Chair of Meeting
Church Wilne Water Ski Club	Chair of Meeting
Cotswold Water Ski Club	Margaret Curtis
Gosfield Water Ski Club	Vince Turp
Hartlepool Watersports Association	Chair of the Meeting
Hazelwood Ski World	Charlotte Wharton
Humber Bridge Water Ski Club	Mark Garnett
Just Wake	Suzi Nightingale
Loch Lomond Water Ski Club	Chair of the Meeting
Merlin Brae Water Ski Club	Chair of Meeting
Rickmansworth Water Ski Club	James Timothy
Rock Sailing & Water Ski Club	Richard Mattos
Thorpe Lakes	Chair of the Meeting
Water Ski & Boarding Academy	Nick McGarry
White Rose Water Ski Club	Tony Green
Wiremill Water Ski Club	Steve Sopp

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:

Simon Baldry, Bradley Cannings, Graham Creedy, David Henderson, David Hughes, Abbie Lench, Martin McLaughlin and Rita Smith.

MEETING OPENED

Patrick Donovan, CEO commenced the proceedings by welcoming everyone to what was the 70th anniversary AGM and introduced the BWSW Chair, Martin Winter.

INTRODUCTIONS OF THOSE PRESENT & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Board members, staff members present and he also welcomed all the many visitors, former Chairmen and club delegates together with representatives of the Advisory Council. All present then stood in silence in memory of our friends from within the sport who had sadly passed away during the year. Friends lost during the year were:

Denise Smith MBE (former British Disabled member), Sue Goldie (former Barefoot Committee member), John Horder (former Barefoot Team), Chloe Goudie (Cable Wakeboard Team), Debbie Waller (Cirencester WSC), Dr Raine Roberts MBE (former Water Ski Team), Bob Boocock (Honorary Member), Robin Nichols (Honorary Member), Brenda Carter (RA Carter Boat Insurance), Michael Woodgate (Water Ski Coach), Bruno Rixen (cable tow system inventor) and Sue Burke (Water Ski official).

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2020 AGM

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19th January 2020 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Already proposed, seconded by Tony Green (Humber Bridge Water Ski Club), the minutes were unanimously approved by the voting delegates present.

PRESENTATIONS

The Lascelles Fund Awards – this year’s recipients of grants from the legacy fund bequeathed by our former Honorary President received their awards to support their ongoing athlete development within the sport. Lascelles Fund Chair, Liz Hobbs MBE, outlined the history of these memorial awards and ongoing aims of the Fund to support young athletes.

Volunteer of the Year – the presentations were outlined and it was highlighted that volunteers were the very foundation of the sport and these unsung heroes ensured the sport could function at every level. The nominations had been assessed by a panel and this year’s winners were:

Georgina Hutchinson – Young Volunteer of the Year
Gareth Booth – Volunteer of the Year

Honorary members – there were two awards for honorary membership this year introduced by Steve Sopp (Water Ski Committee Chair) and Tim Mayers (Racing Committee Chair):

Richard Mattos – awarded for a lifelong service to the sport at club level as an official, competitor and event organiser, also Advisory Council member and involvement with various BWSW committees over many years.

Tom Lumley – awarded for a lifelong service to the Racing discipline, as a competitor, official and event organiser with considerable involvement over the years with Hunstanton Water Ski Club.

Following on from the conclusion of the award presentations the Chair congratulated all the young athletes and other awardees who had made a significant contribution to the sport this season.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

1) That the Company adopt the name “The British Water Ski & Wakeboard Federation Limited” in place of its existing registered name.

The Chair outlined the rationale behind this resolution and the change of company name; already proposed, seconded by Andy Dyne (Boughton Lodge) the resolution was passed unanimously.

2) That with effect from 24th January 2021, the existing Articles of Association be amended as follows:

Article 13 shall refer to four categories of membership and a new Article 13.4.3 shall be inserted as follows:

“E-members who shall have none of the rights conferred on Full Members or Associate Members pursuant to these Articles (and without limitation such E-members shall not count in the determination of the voting rights attributable to Full Members) but shall be entitled to receive such e-communication updates from the Federation as the Federation shall in its absolute discretion determine.”

The Chair outlined the need for a new class of membership defined within the articles as E-members and highlighted that paid / subscribing members remain solely entitled to all the other privileges of membership. Already proposed, seconded by Suzi Nightingale (Just Wake) the resolution was passed unanimously.

ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS

ADOPTION OF THE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT OF BRITISH WATER SKI & WAKEBOARD

a) Chair's Report

The Chair outlined several points from his report including the immensely difficult year and the hard work and ingenuity of those supporting the sport during the pandemic. He further highlighted the aim to weather the imminent financial deficit caused by the pandemic, assisted significantly by the flexibility offered by Sport England in the application of grant funding and necessary cost mitigation in terms of overhead costs. Also Racing continued to have severe restrictions due to the hardening of the marine insurance market, the sport now facing an existential situation. On the positive side 2020 had seen the introduction of a significant number of initiatives in the context of financial and human investment in seeking to build profile and improve external communications as well as member interaction. The aim was to proactively support and promote the sport as best we could with a limited resource. Furthermore, there was an ongoing need to support our affiliates, increase participation and retain members. The Chair thanked the HQ staff for their hard work, together with the parents and volunteers who make the sport work on the ground at club level. He thanked the Board for their continued support during the year and noted the very hard work of our CEO and staff team in maintaining the very diverse operations of our HQ during a particularly difficult period.

b) Finance Report

Peter James (Finance) outlined that the financial report and audited accounts related to the 2019/20 financial year ending on 31st March 2020.

At the end of the financial year the outcome was detailed as follows:

- Deficit (overall company) of £5K (2018/19 - £12K)
- General activities (excludes World Class Talent and Lascelles Fund) retained a cash surplus of £17K excluding depreciation costs
- An overall decrease in income to £804K (2018/19 - £868K) principally due to the pattern in grant allocation in year three of this four-year funding round
- Expenditure overall decreased to £809K (2018/19 - £856K) / General Activities expenditure decreased to £741K (2018/19 - £775K)

The overall decrease in income was highlighted as largely related to variations in grant income each year and major international events hosted in the UK boosting income in any particular year. It was highlighted that Talent and Excellence related programmes were funded by grant funding streams and the income generated by each discipline of the sport (and not membership fees). Development programmes were principally funded by grant funding streams and self-generated income e.g. from membership, affiliation fees and qualifications.

A brief summary overview was provided of salary support, core cost support and overall grant versus business income which outlined that the governing body had a strong mix of self-generated income and grant income support. Having well developed self-generated income streams helped to reduce over-reliance on grant income and with a broadly 50% split in any particular year between grant funding and self-generated income this was a relatively healthy position for a not-for-profit sport governing body. The longer-term aim ongoing was to further develop our own income streams to improve further financial sustainability.

In terms of the forthcoming 2021 season membership subscriptions and affiliation fees it was further outlined that there would be a price freeze for the new season. The block voluntary club liability insurance scheme would also remain at the same level of premium meaning there were no anticipated increases in cost for our clubs and members.

Finally, Peter was happy to report that overall as a business, the governing body remained financially sound with a robust balance sheet, good cash flow and appropriate reserve funds to buffer the seasonal nature of the business and exceptional occurrences such as COVID-19.

Adoption of the Annual Report and Approval of the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020 & To authorise the appointment of Menzies as the auditors for the current financial year and to fix their remuneration

Peter outlined that the experience of working with the current auditors was excellent and that their fees were competitive.

Already proposed the adoption of the Annual Report, approval of the audited accounts and the re-appointment of our auditor were unanimously approved by the voting Full Members present.

BOARD ELECTIONS

The Chair outlined that Board roles (apart from the CEO) were entirely voluntary and each Board member had given up a great deal of time during the year from their busy working week. Attendance levels for each Board member were provided for the attendees. Attendance had been extremely good overall (some exceptional and understandable reasons for non-attendance with some meetings being called at short notice also) and met the requirements of the Articles of Association.

The Chair reminded those present of the election / board appointment procedure i.e. that each year one third of the Board members (excluding the CEO) needed to stand down by rotation having completed a three year term and offer themselves for re-election (if they wished to re-stand). This year our Independent Director Abbie Lench had decided to retire and we thanked her for her time and input over a number of years. Having completed an additional term current Non-Independent Peter James was re-standing.

The following new members wished to stand for election; Hannah Bird, Non-Independent and John Battleday, Non-Independent. Summary resumes for each candidate had been circulated prior to the meeting; the candidates introduced themselves and highlighted the skills and experience they brought to the role and their wish to be elected.

Non-Independents Vote – with two candidates standing for three available places Peter James and John Battleday were elected by majority vote.

Independents Vote – one vacancy with no candidates standing.

The Chair welcomed the newly elected candidates to the Board of Directors and thanked all the candidates for their interest in supporting the sport at Board level.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None recorded.

There being no further business necessary the Chair thanked the delegates for attending and thanked all the staff members who had attended and helped with the organisation of the AGM.

He wished all present a very enjoyable and successful season 2021.

END

The meeting closed at 14:30

Minuted by:

Patrick Donovan

**Chief Executive Officer &
Company Secretary**