

Minutes
National Sea Fishing Committee
Annual General Meeting
7.30 pm 8th October 2023
Travelodge Atlantic Cardiff

The Committee hoped to engage with member not able to travel via Zoom. Unfortunately, we did not have a laptop nor was the internet connection sufficient to be enable Zoom to work.

1. Roll Call

Chairman: Jim Campbell, Northumbria Police -Retired

Secretary: Mick Hassen, Northumbria Police – retired

Treasurer: Mark Northam, South Wales Police, Wales representative

Nick Lark, Hampshire Police, South East representative

Medwyn Jones, Gloucestershire Police, South West representative

Donald Campbell, West Midlands Police, West Midland representative

Peter Morgan, Northumbria Police, North east representative

2. Apologies:

Chris Adams, Metropolitan Police, Metropolitan representative

Bob Murphy, Police Scotland, Scotland representative

John Wright, South Yorkshire Police, North West representative

Ian Hinchcliffe, Eastern representative

Andy Cleeve, PSNI, PSNI representative

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were agreed

4. Matters arising

Shore fishing policy

Peter updated the meeting that he had amended the policy however the issue of 2 or 3 hooks had arisen and he had postponed publication until this was discussed at the Committee.

Action – adjourned until the 2 or 3 hook rule was discussed.

Prizes for competitions

Jim updated the Committee that he had not yet finalized the document but would do so soon.

Action Jim to write the policy as soon as possible

Update the Committee regarding insurance for events

Mick commented that PSUK had referred him to the website for additional information. Unfortunately, the information on the website was very limited and did not give any information relating to ages. He had tracked down the company as it was not the one listed on the site and they had sent an e-mail confirming that the maximum age is 80 years old.

Mick recommended that all briefing documents for PSUK events should inform all participants of this limit.

Action Completed

Update the Committee with regards to the Fire Service

Med stated that he had a commitment from the Fire brigade that there would not be a repetition of previous years and that he had been assisting the Fire Brigade to ensure the event runs properly. The Civil Service would now be putting a team into the event.

Action Completed

Captains being automatically named as representative for representative matches

This was discussed at some length. The fact that there were limited numbers of people willing to organize events was put forward as an argument for maintaining the current position and whilst this has validity it was not seen as an over persuasive argument. The meeting focused on the Home Internationals where there are limited spaces in teams. This is currently organized by Don who acts as captain. Don has 300% in the rankings and will be a member of the team for the next 5 years.

Mick presented the views of John Wright, who was unable to attend the meeting, and argued that there were other options such as the Committee organizing events or volunteers and that this was not a fair way to allocated valued places on teams.

The Committee discussed his points and decided that the fact that the main issue of the Home Internationals was covered by Don being a member of the team for the next 5 years that this matter should be re-evaluated in 3 years and the current system stay in place.

Action- Secretary to list for a discussion in 2026

Produce a draft risk assessment

Mick reported that he had researched a number of types of risk assessment and provided the Committee with two examples. The first was one produced for the national boat championship by Northumbria and the second was the one used in this year's boat championship. He recommended that the introduction used in the Northumbria risk assessment which clearly identifies that everyone is responsible for safety added to the format used by Scotland this year. The Committee agreed to this recommendation.

Action – MH to combine the risk assessments and circulate

5. Finance report

This matter was dealt with in the previous AGM.

6. Report on the National Boat and Shore Championship 2024

Boat – Mark proposed that all future National Boat competitions take place at Weymouth for the following reasons

- There are few areas which can supply the number of boats required.
- The likelihood of the competition being cancelled is low due to the layout of the fishing areas which mitigates against poor weather; again, this is difficult to replicate in the country.
- All the planning is in place and can be simply copied
- There is a company run by Andy Selby who will organize boats and bait
- There is a hotel which can take all anglers and which is near to the marina
- There are no volunteers to run the competition in 2024

There was some reticence towards having only one venue for the competition, however, the Committee took a pragmatic view and agreed:

- Any Force can offer to host the competition in any part of the Home Nations.
- Each year the Committee will advertise for a force to host the competition and a volunteer organizer will be asked for at the conclusion of the Boat Championship
- Weymouth will be the default location if no force volunteers to organize the event
- It will be preferred that a force hosts the event in Weymouth.
- If necessary, the National Committee will stand in to organize the competition
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Shore – Peter briefed the Committee that the 2024 event will be organized by Devon and Cornwall at Chesil Beach. Darren Webb is the point of contact and is proposing the event run from 30th September until 4th October 2024.

Accommodation is being arranged at Little Sea Haven Caravan Park.

7. Representative matches 2024

SAMF – is being hosted by Northumbria Police and will mirror the Nationals. The event will run from Friday the 16 – 17th February 2024. The Civil Service will be involved in the competition.

Fire Service competition - this match is a work in progress.

Combined Service – This is planned for September 2024 with a location yet to be identified..

Home Internationals – this is being organized by PSNI. The date and location is yet to be confirmed.

8. PSUK

There were no items of interest from PSUK for this meeting.

9. Publication of Minutes

Mick referred to a previously circulated discussion document. The current position is that minutes are prepared, normally within 2 weeks, and circulated to members. The minutes are then discussed at the next meeting – agreed or amended and then generally circulated by the Secretary. This process can take 12 months for AGM minutes and 6-9 months for the minutes from a general meeting. He believed that this was too long and the following should be initiated:

- The secretary will produce the minutes from meetings within 2 weeks.
- The minutes will be circulated to all members of the Committee. Who will review them and raise any amendments with the secretary within 2 weeks of receiving the minutes.
- The Chair will review the amendments and decide if the minutes can be circulated to a wide audience.
- The Chair has the authority to prevent wider circulation if they feel that is appropriate and deal with the minutes at the next meeting.

It was suggested that members should acknowledge when they have no amendments as well as when they have an amendment to make.

This change was agreed by Committee and would be implemented immediately.

Action – Secretary to convert this into a policy document

10. Sharing details of all PSUK sea fishing contacts

Mick referred to a previously circulated discussion document. The document asked the Committee for guidance with regards to:

- 1) Ensuring that members are aware of all representatives in their area of responsibility.
- 2) Check if members are aware of any individuals missing from my list
- 3) Comply with data protection in checking our data, the reason for maintaining the data and the accuracy of the data.

The Secretary has a list which he validated in 2021 when he took up the Secretary's post. All individuals on the list were contacted and their details confirmed and ascertained their willingness to be on the list.

Mick considered it is time to revisit all the members and ask if:

- 1) They are still representatives (I last spoke to all members in 2021)
- 2) Their data is still accurate.
- 3) That they are willing for their data to be shared with the National Committee.
- 4) They want their data removed from the list

The Committee agreed that:

- 1) They only wanted details of representatives in their region
- 2) Re-contacting individuals was advisable to ensure compliance with Data protection principles.

Action – Secretary to recontact all representatives and report back to the Committee

11. Policy Documents

There were no policy issues to address at this meeting.

Mick made the Committee aware that he was going to consolidate all of the policies into a reference document to make management easier. He would produce it for the next meeting.

12. Any other business

Med raised the issue of 2 or 3 hooks for Shore competitions. There was concern that this guidance was not appropriate for the shore.

Mick made comment that the Committee should be cognizant of reviewing policy decisions outside of the agreed timescales as this will set a precedent. He suggested that a number of factors could be considered:

- Does the Chair agree to it being raised.
- Was there an opportunity for full discussion with representatives prior to the meeting
- Is the matter of such importance that it should be reviewed
- Has there been a change of circumstance which requires the review.

The secretary's recollection was that this matter was raised under any other business and would not therefore have been subject to an opportunity for full discussion prior to the meeting.

The Chair agreed to this matter being discussed.

Jim reminded the Committee that this was brought in to conserve fish and had been agreed on that basis.

Peter raised these points:

- Shore fishing generally does not catch the same volume of fish as boats, indeed it is not unknown for anglers to blank in competitions.
- Most competitions are a 3 hook event, including SAMF
- 3 hooks allows the angler more flexibility
- Quite often anglers will only use 1 hook
- Anglers are geared up for 3 hooks as that is the norm

Med agreed with this and added that shore anglers were concerned about the impact of this rule.

The Committee discussed this for some time and agreed:

- Shore matches will be a 3 hook competition
- Boat competitions will be a 2 hook event
- The policy will be reviewed in 3 years.

13. The Secretary proposed a meeting in Sheffield in February and a return to Cardiff next October.

This was agreed by the Committee.

Action – the Secretary to contact Niagara in Sheffield for availability and cost

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm