

SPORTS & WELFARE ASSOCIATION MEETING

TUESDAY, 20 MAY 2014

PHOENIX ROOM, FSHQ

PRESENT:	Jim Owen	Chair
	Andrea Heffernan	Temp Treasurer
	Jennie Heywood	(Finance) representing Dawn Bond
	Wendy Richings	Secretary
	Sian Howard	Events
	Emma Flint	HR
	Chris Lomax	Minute taker

Sports Section Representatives:

Don Roberts	Golf	
Lee Burns	Golf	
Gary Phillips	Football	
Jeff Green	Athletics	
Chris Rainford	Triathlon	
Rhys Griffiths	Caravan	Retired Member
Tim Greenwood	Coarse Angling	Retired Member
Ian Holden	Sea Angling	
Angus Robinson	Cycling	
Alan Hudson	Walking & Mountaineering	
Ian Hanley	Retired Member (ex Vice-Chair)	
Peter Riley	Retired Member	
Christine Guthrie	Retired Member	
Lynn Bairsto	Retired Member	
Stan Bairsto	Retired Member	

APOLOGIES:

<u>No</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
1	Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence: none received.	
2	Minutes AGM 19.3.2013 Tim Greenwood advised that following the demise of the Rugby Club section, there was an outstanding balance of £500 in the bank, however there was a problem due to signatories. Tim would write to the bank to resolve the issue.	TG

4 **Election of Officials**

J Owen explained that under the Constitution of the SWA, there are a number of ex-officiate posts associated with a role within the organisation. At the last AGM the positions were filled by the following:

Chair	Jim Owen
Secretary	Wendy Richings
Treasurer	Graham Veevers

The Vice-Chair is an electable position to be elected at the AGM.

The ex-officiate posts for this year are:

Chair	Jim Owen	DCFO
Secretary	Wendy Richings	Events and Campaigns Manager
Treasurer	Andrea Heffernan	Head of Finance and Technical Services

Ian Hanley (current Vice-Chair) has now retired from GMFRS and therefore this position is vacant. The meeting were asked for nominations, of which two were received, ie Gary Phillips and Angus Robinson who are both active members of S&W.

The nominations were put to a vote and Gary Phillips was elected.

AGREED that Gary Phillips become the Vice –Chair of the Association

Jim Owen thanked Ian Hanley for his considerable work over the years in support of the Association.

With Gary Phillips taking up the role of Vice-Chair, this left a vacant position on the Central Council. Wendy Richings nominated Alan Hudson as an additional Sports and Welfare Council Member, representing Walking and Mountaineering. This was accepted by the meeting.

AGREED: that, in addition to the ex-officiate posts above and the newly appointed Vice-Chair, the following members would constitute the SWA Central Council:

1	Lee Burns	Golf
2	Jeff Green	Athletics
3	Angus Robinson	Mountain Running & Cycling
4	Peter Riley	Retired Members Association
5	Alan Hudson	Walking & Mountaineering

4 **Grant Bids**

A meeting took place on April 2014 and a number of bids were approved. J Heywood sought further information on some of the bids before approval. Approved applications listed below:

<u>No</u>	<u>Item</u>		<u>ACTION</u>
	Section	Bid	Decision
	Angling (coarse)	£1,800	Approved
	Athletics	£300	Approved
	Camping and Caravanning	£600	Approved
	Cycling	£200	Approved
	Cycling (racing)	£3000	Approved
	Football	£3012	Approved
	Golf	£2310	Approved
	Golf (Stockport)	£1268	Approved
	Mountain running	£879	Approved
	Poker	£320	Approved
	Retired Members	£600	Approved
	Rugby	£0	
	Sea Angling	£1,800	Approved
	Swimming (open Water)	£1174	Approved
	Triathlon	£3250	further breakdown required (see below)
	Walking	£759	Approved

The Triathlon grant required more of a breakdown on the personal issue of kit and sponsorship. A discussion took place regarding the kit as there were concerns surrounding its issue as this should be for a team, not for individuals. Equipment to be approved is to be for the section as a whole. Chris Rainford explained that for triathletes, the clothing is pretty much bespoke and personalised due to the nature of the sport.

WR agreed with CR and the group accepted that the kit is a consumable. CR stated that the Triathlete section have a 5 race rule which means that anyone joining the section is required to take part in a minimum of five races before they become eligible for any items of kit.

AGREED: To endorse all the above grants.

A Heffernan circulated details for "Arrangements for Grants 2014/15" and would email/circulate to members. It was confirmed that approved grants would be payable in two half yearly instalments, the first to be paid at the start of the year following the AGM. The group are to refer to the notes for full clarification of Grant Bids.

The Central Council also wished to inform sections that receipts (wherever possible) for grant expenditure and should be sent to JH for the second part of the grant allocation within a reasonable time after year end closure. Failing to provide such receipts may lead to an adjustment of the second grant instalment the year after to reflect the amount not accounted for and therefore presumably unspent.

Lynn Bairsto advised of a request for a new computer to be made available for the retired members section through the Sports and Social budget (a similar bid had been accepted a number of years ago) and as an alternative asked if ICT perhaps had a surplus one which they could make use of.

The meeting were asked for their thoughts, following which a vote was taken.

Through the vote it was **AGREED:**

- 1) An attempt should be made to source a surplus computer from ICT in the first instance (on payment or otherwise), and failing this
- 2) £550 to be made available from social funds for the purchase of a new computer for administration associated with the GM Retired Members Association (11 carried).

5 Audit of Accounts

Each year, the AGM is asked to consider appointment of auditors for the year end accounts. In order to save money for the SWA, A Heffernan proposed that an independent examination of audits could be completed internally by a member of the Finance Department. This had been discussed with Wigan Internal Audit Services who were satisfied with the proposal, but advised that the auditor should not be a S&W member.

AGREED: that the annual audit of the SWA accounts be completed by a member of staff from the Finance Department.

J Heywood referred to the Accounts for 2013/14. There has been an increase of 23 new members this year.

Following representation from the DCFO, the Chairman of the FRA endorsed an increase in the funding provided by the FRA to the SWA. The contribution had been £1.25 per member for many years but from hereon, the contribution would match the membership subscriptions, (which currently stands at £6 per annum), bringing an increase of circa £9,000 per annum.

Ian Holden queried the figures provided for grants paid to Sea Angling, which appeared to be incorrect and was advised that J Heywood would investigate further and report back to him.

6 Sports and Welfare Section reports on membership and activities

Each Section lead present at the meeting gave a brief verbal update on their sections on events taken place during the past year.

Golf (Stockport) - Don Roberts. The second event of the year takes place next week. There are 28 members per section and 137 different personnel visiting.

Triathletes - Chris Rainford. Increased membership. Held two events this year and raised £80,000 this year.

Athletics – Jeff Green. 10 events, 24 runs ranging from 10K up to Marathon but won nothing.

Caravan Club – Lynn Bairsto. Circulated a Section report and gave an update. Club has 31 members, one branch of a group of five Nationally. Held four rallies last year and hosting the National AGM at Garstang this year. Attended 14 rallies which other branches organised.

Retired members – Peter Riley. Membership up and down last 12 months, with 7 funerals this year. They meet twice a year socially for AGM and xmas social.

Walking and Mountaineering. – Alan Hudson. Started section at end of last year. Held Sponsored walk for Bury Hospice and Operation Florian. Ben Nevis and Hellvellyn are planned for this year and also walks in Barrowdale, Cumbria.

Golf - Lee Burns. Successful year. 8 comps a year, attendance increased. Successful in national competitions. Gary Stevenson qualified for 4 nations and taking part in this year's national SWA Golf competition to be held at St Andrews.

Cycling - Angus Robinson. Increased membership by 26. Over 100 members. Group from Farnworth organised the National AGM. The new members organised a trip to Lancaster for the AGM. Meet once a month, mainly mountain bike rides.

Football - Gary Phillip. Incurred a £50 fine as failed to send team to Fife. Took team of 6 to play at Strathclyde. Played against 2 Scottish teams, got beat 6-1. 13 fixtures, 7 wins, 4 defeats. Lost cup finals. 25 players turned up and 16 chosen for team (veterans). Played London at Millwall, lost 4-0. Hoping to start regional football this year, increase fixtures, another 3 players representing England.

Course Angling - Tim Greenwood. No new members. 12 – 20 regulars. 2 members representing GMFRS in Cambridgeshire and 2 members in joint competition with Ambulance Service.

Sea Angling - Ian Holden. Submitted Section Report and gave a brief update. Various competitions held throughout the year including the National Sea Angling Championships at Weymouth in October 2014. Section going strong with 10-14 people fishing for the brigade.

7 Central Council Report

1) Sports and Welfare Logo

W Richings brought 12 logo designs to the meeting which the Group were asked to consider, marking their preference for 1st and

<u>No</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<p>2nd choice. A discussion took place regarding using the logo on sports equipment, etc. J Owen thanked those present for their views which would be taken back to the Central Council and a decision made.</p>	JO
	<p>2) <u>GCC – Global Corporate Challenge</u></p>	
	<p>Commenced yesterday. The 10,000 daily step challenge has been organised through the Global Corporate Challenge. There are 24 teams consisting of 7 people taking part. 12 teams have been funded by the SWA and 13 further teams by GMFRS (the 24th team is the CLT who paid for themselves). Further information on the progress of the challenge and its outcomes will be shared in due course.</p>	JO
	<p>3) <u>Family Activities Weekend</u></p>	
	<p>Taking place 30/31 August 2014 at the Anderton Centre, Rivington. A good opportunity to work with them and there is a long list of outdoor activities for staff and family members to get involved in which are not particularly weather restrictive. S&W sections will be encouraged to get involved in delivering activities in order to promote their sections.</p>	
	<p>There is a United Utilities ban on swimming in the water, but the Anderton Centre have said they are happy for us to approach UU to ask if they would lift this for a day. The Anderton Centre will provide the contact.</p>	
	<p>A BBQ is to be arranged on first night immediately following the last activity at around 4pm.</p>	
	<p>One place has been negotiated for the Camping and Caravan Club on the site of the Anderton Centre, all other caravans would need to make use of the nearby caravan club.</p>	
	<p>CR raised the issue about that a previous similar event took a lot of footwork around stations to encourage people to attend as initially there was a lack of interest. WR advised that the fun day would be publicised as a S&W event and that a date to cancel at no cost to S&W or GMFRS would be agreed with the Anderton Centre.</p>	
	<p>4) <u>S&W Website</u></p>	
	<p>Angus has met with ICT re developing a website for the S&W section. He should have a template by beginning of June which he will bring to next council meeting to consider. Work in progress. Website will be for anything connected with S&W – pages for each section, contacts, etc.</p>	AR

5) Sponsorship and Testimonials

A new policy has been produced and JO had highlighted sections of the policy which he drew to the group's attention. WR referred to testimonials and what is involved re sponsorship. The Testimonial form is available in the Master Forms directory.

8 **Proposed changes to the S&W Prize Draw**

The Sports and Welfare Prize Draw forms part of the finances of the Sports and Welfare Association and continues to be well supported.

Surplus funding (not provided as prizes) is available for use in accordance with the objectives of the Association and as such can be added to other funding streams (membership fees, insurance administration) in order to provide activities for the benefit of a wide range of members. Examples during the current year include:

- The Global Corporate Challenge (commencing 28th May)
- The Family Activities Weekend (30th-31st August)

In order to support these events and others, the Central Council proposed to utilize some of the current balance and in order to make events such as these sustainable, to revise the prizes made each year.

The Central Council met and considered options for change and recommended the following changes:

1. To maintain the first through to fourth prize as is
2. To increase the number of 5th prizes from six to ten £100 prizes
3. To remove the 6th prize of twenty £50 prizes

On this basis, the quarterly prize allocations would be as follows:

1 st	£7,000
2 nd	£1,000
3 rd	£500
4 th	£250
5 th	£100 x 10

This produces surplus funding of circa £7,000

AGREED: to change the prize draw allocations as proposed by the Central Council.

9 **Lottery Draw**

The lottery draw took place and the winners would be published in due course.

<u>No</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
10	<p data-bbox="199 168 518 212">Any Other Business</p> <p data-bbox="247 246 1228 470">a) <u>Membership – NWFC and active GMFRS volunteer members</u> Now that NWFC has gone live a question was raised regarding whether they can remain members of S&W. It was confirmed by the Council that under clause 3(a)(iii) of the Constitution ex members (i.e being ex-employees) can be granted ordinary member status by the Central Council.</p> <p data-bbox="295 504 1268 952">The discussion went on to consider accepting members from the other Controls, ie Cheshire, Cumbria and Lancashire who are working at the shared Control in Warrington and employed by the NWFC company (in shared ownership of the partner brigades). JO confirmed that he understood the Authority would match their membership fee too. The meeting agreed that it was in the interests of the SWA to continue to look for ways to increase its membership and so a proposal was made to allow such staff to become honorary members under clause 3(b) of the Constitution and for the Central Council to be given on-going dispensation to approve honorary members, limited to people who work for NWFC. As honorary members they would pay an annual subscription.</p> <p data-bbox="295 985 1276 1097">It was further proposed that active GMFRS volunteers could be given the opportunity on request to also become honorary members of S&W.</p> <p data-bbox="295 1131 1260 1209">AGREED: that the Central Council be given on-going dispensation to accept:</p> <ol data-bbox="343 1243 917 1321" style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staff from the NWFC company, and 2. Active GMFRS volunteers <p data-bbox="295 1355 1204 1400">as honorary (fee paying) members on request from individuals.</p> <p data-bbox="247 1433 1228 1724">b) <u>Bury Golf Club competition for The Fire Fighters Charity</u> Lee Burns advised that this year the Golf Section is looking at requesting funds from S&W for a memorial trophy for Stephen Hunt. The competition date is 11 September and he asked if an application would be welcomed by attendees of the AGM. The meeting accepted the suggestion and noted that, under the Constitution, the Central Council could sanction such an item on application.</p> <p data-bbox="295 1758 1236 1870">The proceeds from this year's competition would go to Stephen's family; however, for future competitions, it would go to the Ff Charity. Lee Burns would forward details.</p>	<p data-bbox="1292 1792 1348 1825">LB</p>

No Item

ACTION

11 **Date of Next AGM Meeting:**

Tuesday, 19 May 2015.