



Welsh Harp Sailing Association



**WWSA ExCom Meeting (Final)
Tuesday 30th March 2021
19:30 Virtual Meeting using Zoom**

Attendance:

Officers:

John Shepherd (WWSA President)
Manfred Starkl (WWSA Chairman)

Tony Barton (WWSA Treasurer)

Brian Jefferies (WWSA Harbour Master)
Carl Goulding (WWSA Secretary)

Iain Porter (WWSA Sailing Master)

Commodores (or club representatives):

John Green (WSC)
Jon Russell (WHBS)

Maciek (WHSC) *arrived 20:00*
Mark Kitchen (RSBB) *arrived 19:45*

WWSA Members:

Hannah Burt (Wembley SC) *arrived 20:00*

Lenore Camron (Wembley SC)

Apologies:

Colin Brockbank (Wembley SC)

Minutes

Chairmans Report

Thank you to Brian and the team for the amount of work that has been achieved on the site during this lockdown. There is a growing list of suggestions from the members which I will come to later in this meeting.

Security detail

Thank you to all (Timothy, John Harry, Joe, Joy) , who at various times of the day were coming onsite and checking that all was okay on the site.

One of the main complaints was that of the main gate being left open, whether unlocked or fully open. You will not be able to see if anyone comes onsite if you are around the front of the buildings. Joy stopped some people from coming onsite as they wanted to look at the scrap metal we have behind the building. I think the old gate that was attached to the RSBB Building should be put back on which would stop people from entering the site from behind the buildings. This gate is currently being used to stop people dumping rubbish in the lock keeper's driveway. The gate to the carpark is another one that has been left open, as I closed it this Saturday.

JCC

The most I took away from this 2-hour meeting was regarding the amount of rubbish that is coming down the Silk Stream and the River Brent. The claim is that it is so bad at the moment; it was mentioned on BBC London. CRT have had to hire a company to come in and remove as much rubbish as they could, they have managed to fill more than 3 skip full, tyres, car bumpers, shopping trolleys. There are voluntary organisations who also go around the harp and remove the rubbish. One of the areas that they cannot remove rubbish from is from the water side, I can see in the future that we the clubs could assist with taking some of them on our boats (Dorys would be best) to assist the clean-up. Maybe one day they will install the litter grab machine on the River Brent.



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Complaint

I received a complaint today regarding an instructor and a youth member, regarding the way the instructor was talking to the younger person. "I don't want any autism here today".

This is not acceptable behaviour.

I do not know from which club they were from as there were many people at the harp today. I am telling you all so that you can go back to your clubs and inform your members to respect each other.

Website

It would be good to update the pages of the site. Calendars such as "Weather" need to be removed. Who are the members who look after the site, please can Mark and I have access also?

Covid

It is good that our members can come back to the Harp. Hopefully later in the year the clubs will be able to fully open once more, but it was agreed that all clubs would await advice from the appropriate National Governing Body.

Financial Report

Tony Barton reported that the financial position was ok, but not as good as previous years as down to circa £30,000.

Lots of work has been done to collect overdue berthing fees or remove boats as appropriate. Some members have commented that the current Covid-19 situation have left them financially worse off than usual, but compromises have been made where necessary.

It was noted that Dockland Medical Services have paid £200 into the account as a thank you for allowing them to store some boats on the premises.

The question was asked about the £4000 loss of income grant that was available; it was commented that proving a loss of income due to Covid when the water level was dropped, and in the colder months of January and February could prove tricky.

Tony informed the committee that the association had a 100% rate reduction until Jun, and then 66% reduction from Jun until the end of the year.

Sailing Masters Report

Iain Porter reported that the listed of dates for planned events had now published to the WHSA Google Calendar.

Some events have been made Az days due to training plans.

Iain offered to take on leading on co-ordinating activities on the Harp just whilst Covid restrictions are still in place; this is to make sure everyone can enjoy the Harp in a safe manner.

WHSC and WSC have nothing planned until beginning of May; Phoenix are already running some activities, and Sea Cadets plan to start running activities from 5th April



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Iain has requested that all clubs speak to their members regarding changing in the boat park following a few safeguarding near misses; he accepts that people need to change but requests consideration of other users be considered when changing, particularly in regard to Sea Cadets and their youth users.

Harbour Masters Report

Brian Jefferies reports the new area is coming along nicely. The ground has dried but is unstable causing issues with compacting.

They've currently used 20 tons of topsoil but need more to finish the job. They also need more grating for the top of the wall and the windsurf beach. They have run a chain along the wall for mooring boats.

He's unsure when the area will be suitable for boats to return to the area

When 'Pamela' was launched the other day, issues were found with the steering; it's believed to be the hydraulics but Brian was going to ask the mechanic returning the winch to have a look.

Buoys have been placed around the obstruction near Marker 6

Someone has left a raft made of barrels and scaffolding poles floating; Phoenix deny it being theirs so Brian has repurposed the parts.

A comment was made about logs being thrown into the Harp from piles made further up. Brian and his team have already removed lots but several piles still remain.

A suggestion was made about putting a winch at the top of one of the slipways to assist with the launching and recovery of boats. This led to a discussion of what boats, who can use it, and if the installation of the winch meant the WHSA still needed to keep a vehicle with a towbar for launching the boats.

Lenore thanked Brian for all the work he had done, particularly for the new beach area.

Site Improvement List

Manfred commented that Lenore had put together a list of requests for improvements that Wembley members felt would be of benefit the Harp. Manfred had a similar list. These would be circulated so that it could be assessed against benefits to all members and cost.

Of note was a conversation regarding bike racks, and whether these should be down to particular clubs to install. It was mentioned that everyone would use a bike park regardless of location, and Manfred commented that several people were locking their bikes to his boat trailers; this not only risks damage to his boats but also causes issues if Manfred needed the boats.

The following items will be prioritised as to what could be achievable this year, depending upon WHSA funds.



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Task	Suggested By	What is required	Completion Date
Electric winch on main slipway	WSC	Winch – to be able to launch and recover boats	
Security Fencing	RSBB	There are places whereby the security fence needs to be extended. Too easy to see into the site from Birchen Grove and the car park.	
Water tap by laser beach, attached to the Starter box.	WSC	Water tap to be able to wash off boats and windsurfing kit over by the starter box.	
Grouping of general boats on site		Putting all of the e.g. GP14's together in one location.	
Accurate site plan		To know which boats belong to which club etc.	
Concrete plan		What other locations would benefit from being concreted?	
Buffers on pontoons		Replacement of damaged parts of the pontoon.	
Outside electrical point by laser beach, attached to the Starter box.		Power hose	
Widen Merlin berths		Look at where the Merlins could best be stored onsite.	
Chain trip hazard		Are they a trip hazard, to they need to be fixed to the ground in a different way?	
Corners of boat rows		Due to recent works onsite some of the entrances to boat rows have become damaged and are now in need of being replaced. Heavy lorries have broken the concrete.	
Windsurfer beach area		Removal of bramble and weed etc.	
Starter boxes		Bring them back into use as they have good line of site over the water.	
Bonfire area		The area where the fire is normally placed may need to have the concrete replacing as over time it has become damaged.	
Image of the site		The overall image of the site could be improved. Boat not used could be removed. Other boats could be covered behind hoardings etc.	
Bike rack		To stop bikes from being chained to e.g. powerboats.	
Non-Slip surface by waters edge.		Trial of no-slip surface.	

Long Term Projects

Task	Suggested by	What is required	Completion Date
WHSA Shed – Replacement of as roof is falling in.	WHSA	Replace with a 2 floor to be able to cater for future demand.	??
Silt treatment	WHSA		



Priority list (to be discussed)

1. **New frontage and get the spacing agreed.**
2. **Picnic and green teaching/ observation space**
3. **Water and hoses on laser area with electrical point**
4. **Berth numbering**
5. **Image of the site**
6. **Buffers on the pontoons**
7. **Surfaces of Slipway**
8. **Bike Rack**

Beach Extension

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the beach extension and how it is to be used. Brian Jefferies envisages it being an extra row of boat berths, along with some picnic benches.

The idea of picnic benches and some form of board to use that area as outdoor training was suggested, although it was also suggested to make a training area further along, so you are less disturbed with passers-by.

A suggestion was made to leave it for a year and see how it develops; this was not well received as some thought the area would be misused.

It was ultimately decided to wait for the grass to grow and then make a proper decision once everyone has had a chance to look at it.

A discussion also took place regarding the two starter boxes, notably whose they were and whether they were still needed. It was pointed out that they are a WHSA resource and thus open to all, and it was ultimately decided that at the moment they are both used and needed.

Manfred Starkl informed everyone he had managed to get a key for the new starter box; once he had got working keys cut, he was going to share them with each club.

Any Other Business

Manfred was hopeful that by June we would be able to be near normal operation but advised we needed to await guidance from RYA.

The question was asked as to where Marks 7 and 8 normal are. Iain Porter has an 'original' map he would share with Manfred.

Lenora and Hannah are running "Women on the water" sessions that are open to both clubs with the aim of giving women the opportunity to participate at higher levels of the sport.

Iain Porter has asked for the contact for a "training officer" so he can try and co-ordinate training sessions to ensure space and safety.



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Proposed Future Meetings

The meetings of the association are held every 2 months, unless another meeting is required. The meetings will be in the last week of the month. The meetings will roll on a day every 2 months, starting with January. If the meeting day falls on a public holiday, the meeting will be held the week before. It was agreed that meetings will be on a rolling bases between Mondays, Tuesday, and Wednesdays.

Wednesday 26 th May	Excom Meeting & AGM
Monday 26 th July	Excom Meeting
Tuesday 28 th Sept	Excom Meeting
Wednesday 24 th Nov	Excom & Council Meeting
Monday 31 st Jan 2022	Excom Meeting
Tuesday 29 th March 2022	Excom Meeting

Next meeting & AGM 26 May 2020

All nominations, please email to Secretary or myself by 25th May.

Vice Chairman
Secretary
Asst Harbour Master
Sailing Master

Meeting closed at 21:05