



Inland Flood Rescue Association AGM 2010 Held At Warrington Hospital Accident
And Emergency Department Seminar Room, Sunday The 18th April.

TEAMS PRESENT: - MISAR, STAR, T24, HERTS BOAT RESCUE- (HBR)

APOLOGIES: - CRUK, CD SCOTLAND, CAVRA, HSR UK.

Meeting commenced at 11 am.

- 1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.** Dave welcomed all to the meeting. Dave commented that 2009 had been a trying year for all teams and the country as a whole, Dave then apologised for not being able to commit the time the association needed and hopefully now that would change. Dave then stated that as the majority of teams had been in a similar position 2009 had been a year of marking time and gathering and forming a sound footing. Dave then stated that the emergency services are facing uncertain times and cut backs are being openly discussed, this would have implications for us as an association as we can provide a very cost effective solution to this problem. Dave then talked about his experience at the opening of the CRUK station in Birmingham. Dave commented that the representative from the west mids fire service was in post for 2 years and was working with all groups to provide training in swift water and flood training, MISAR stated they had a reciprocal agreement to provide RYA training to the fire service. Dave then went on to say that although we have been marking time work had been ongoing to provide excellent training programs and introduced peters flood rescue Cox program which had achieved acclaim within the emergency services. Dave went on to say about possible funding from government and worries that this could enable political influence were not true due to the charities commission rules. - It was unanimously agreed that IFRA would coordinate this as to provide a focused, uniform stance. Dave then discussed the problems with West Mercia police and that this had now gone to the IPCC for investigation. Dave concluded and commented we are in worrying times, yet hope full for the association.

2. **SECRETARIES REPORT**, Mark thanked everyone for attending today's meeting.

Mark stated that his sentiments echoed Dave's, which last year had been a challenge and that priorities had changed with teams being unable to get together as much as we would have liked.

Mark stated that some people may say we had not achieved anything, but this was wrong, we have worked away behind the scenes in formulating a comprehensive training program, brought together teams from all over the united kingdom and now we are starting to provide an excellent framework to take the association in to the future with clear aims and objectives.

3. **TREASURERS REPORT** – not submitted

4. **TRAINING OFFICERS REPORT**, peter was not present and it was felt Dave had discussed this within his report.

5. **ELECTION/RE ELECTION OF EXEC TEAM**. Dave asked mark for nominations for the exec team, mark commented that those already in post had wished to remain so and no further nominees had been placed forward. With this HBR and T24 asked if we could vote on block to approve re election of the committee, it was agreed and the executive team was re elected for a further year in office.

6. **IS IFRA AN UMBRELLA ORGANISATION OR GOVERNING BODY**: - mark started this discussion as it seemed there was a difference in opinion on what IFRA was? Mark stated that as an umbrella organisation we as an association where extremely limited in what we could do, especially if teams were not complying with best practice and our own rules. Mark then expressed concern as he and Tim both had extensive experience as both being previously with ALSAR/LS DOGS and an umbrella organisation in sar just does not work. Extensive discussion was undertaken in regards to experiences of working within umbrella and governing bodies and working with other teams. Dave stated that IFRA should be a governing body due to the nature of what we are attempting to do, Tim and Stuart both agreed as we are setting standards and following Team Typing. Mark, Tim and Polly then went on to say that other SAR organisations had been involved in a smear campaign against individual teams and the association on the internet and with individuals and organisations. Dave stated that it was funny as 2 teams from the organisation had expressed interest in working with us to provide our service and ensure they are safe in searching, the teams where DORSAR and Staffs search and rescue both ALSAR teams. Mark expressed concern as individual ALSAR teams had gone out of their way to discredit individuals and teams so venomously, Dave stated this should be stopped at national level, mark and Tim then said that this was the problem with ALSAR being an umbrella organisation, with little actual power or coordination over the teams. Dave then asked as DORSAR had asked for assistance with a recent search could he contact ALSAR to open communication and try and build bridges, Dave further went on to state that it seemed that the other SAR groups where looking at re trenching their stance in what they can and cannot now do, for example MRC are looking at removing teams with no mountainous areas, mark stated that he had been informed ALSAR teams are 5 years away from providing services such as ours. Mark further stated that there was no problem with working with established teams, but we need to ensure that

would not damage individual teams or encourage set up of water teams to our detriment. All present agreed that IFRA is a governing body and for Dave to approach ALSAR and MRC.

7. **ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION:** - mark asked on behalf of Ivor at CAVRA if we could change the title of paragraph d from powers to aims and objectives. This was unanimously agreed.
8. **TRAINING LEVELS COURSES AND APPROVALS:** - mark started this discussion by saying that he had been working on a variety of courses and draft training ACOP to show that we have a robust and inclusive training package for all teams to utilise. The ACOP and training programs were distributed for a cursory look. Due to the amount of information mark was asked to send out these for consultation to the teams and await response.
9. **IFRA CORPORATE IMAGE AND FUNDING:** - Dave started this discussion by informing the membership that corporate image is imperative and teams where possible should help to promote IFRA, Mark then showed the teams the patch that is available to identify member teams. Mark was asked to distribute contact information for the supply of these items. Funding had been discussed previously.
10. **News from the other teams-** mark started by saying that IFRA had been extremely busy in the snow, MISAR, T24, CAVRA, CD Scotland amongst others had provided valuable service to out of hours doctors, police, ambulance and fire services in many aspects of Search and Rescue. Mark stated we should be shouting out loud what we are and have been doing and to please encourage teams to post news items on the web site- thanks to Gareth (web master).
11. **Any other business:-** Tim recounted his discussion with a person at a recent event who had asked about us providing international response teams, Tim has a meeting soon and will report back. Mark was asked to provide website addresses and contact details to the membership; this is to be done as soon as possible.

Meeting ended at 12:55.