

'Friendship', Guineaford, Barnstaple, Devon.
Weekday tel: 0737 245031

Notes of the 6th meeting of the Consultation Group which
was held on Thursday 30th April 1987 in the Town Hall,
Bridge St, Bideford at 7pm.

Present P.Broomhead (NT)
D.Clark (INDSAC)
D.Clutterbuck (RYA/Acting Chairman)
P.Cole (LFS/Hon.Sec.)
R.Gomm (NCC)
L.Hobbs (BSAC)
J.Lamerton (NCC)
J.Puddy (LCLtd)
R.Tait (DTNC)
N.Willcox (LCLtd)

1. Apologies for absence were received from: R.Kimberley (Chairman); G.George (MAFF); K.Bower and H.Warden (DSFDC); R.Evans (LT).

2. Notes of the meeting held on 16th Oct were agreed as a true record of that meeting. The Secretary had received a letter from the SW Region of the Sports Council asking that canoeists have a member of the Consultation Group; this was agreed.

3. Matters arising. R.Gomm (NCC) reported that the waters around Lundy had been designated as the United Kingdom's first Statutory Marine Nature Reserve on 21st Nov 1987. J.Puddy (LCLtd) said that N.Willcox (LCLtd/Warden) had completed his training and was a qualified Sports Diver. Aquaserve Diving Ltd were no longer resident on the island, the Lundy Company had provided an air compressor and were prepared to transport inflatables to the island. Further improvements were planned for the Divers Beach. 1 1986

4. Report from the reserve. N.Willcox (LCLtd/Warden) thanked the NCC for their help with the provision of diving facilities on the island. He saw little problem in regulating the activities of divers who used these facilities, the problem would be with those who came to dive but did not land. It was considered that parties of at least three were required for safe diving in the waters round lundy. It was agreed that short visits by non-club divers would give the greatest problems. As yet there had been little activity but it was early in the season.

There was a need for a permanent record to be kept of activities within the reserve and it was suggested that the Annual Report of the Lundy Field Society might be an appropriate place. (1986 copy enclosed see p26)

Only two boats, both from Padstow, had been regularly fishing round Lundy during the winter.

Heavy seas had stripped the Landing Beach down to bare rock.

5. Relaunch (of the reserve) 1987?. R.Gomm (NCC) expressed

pleasure that Nov 21 had seen the establishment of the Lundy SMNR but regretted that bad weather had prevented the Minister, William Waldergrave, from landing. There was the possibility of a formal opening ceremony being held at a later date.

J.Puddy (LCLtd) said that the Landmark Trust were employing a consultant to advise on the provision of interpretative displays for the island as a whole.

6. Wardening requirements for SMNR. With N.Willcox already employed as warden on the island no decision had yet been reached as to whether a marine warden, in addition, was required during the summer months.

The NCC were holding a pilot course on marine conservation and NW had been invited to attend.

D.Clark (INSAC) asked if there was a job description for a marine warden and expressed concern over the policing of the reserve. NW said that once the bye-laws had been published it was expected that there would be a large degree of self-regulation by the users. No doubt all those who belonged to the Consultation Group would ensure their members fully supported this approach. The DSFC already followed this principle to a large degree.

It was expected that during the summer there would be some weekends when diving activities would become very heavy but experience gained at St Abbs on the east coast of Scotland did not indicate that this would become a difficulty.

7. Diving facilities 1987. An advertisement had been placed the 'Diver' giving details of the facilities provided by the island. The provision of permanent moorings for use by visiting was discussed but it was pointed out that too many boats moored in the bay could give problems for the 'Oldenburg' during the high season. The provision by the island of small inflatables for hire and of permanent moorings at popular diving sites would be expensive and were not being considered at the present time.

8. Progress on bye-laws. NCC bye-laws had been agreed on 25th March 1987. Fishery bye-laws on 13th April 1987. These would be published shortly and copies would be sent to all members of the Consultation Group. N.Willcox was preparing the draft of a leaflet to follow this.

9. Development of Management Plan. To evolve, in the light of experience from the existing draft.

10. Lundy Marine Reserve, activities 1987. A contract had been placed with the Field Studies Council for monitoring to take place in July. Littoral survey to be carried out by N.Willcox.

11. Any other urgent business. It was confirmed that no permit or permission was needed for diving off Lundy but all users were bound by the bye-laws and expected to follow the code of conduct

Initial consideration was being given to the provision of a pier on the Landing Beach, problems which might arise when

(or if) the work was executed, blasting etc, would be carefully examined.

R.Gomm said that on occasions the need for an urgent decision made it difficult to consult all members of the Consultation Group.

A party of voluntary wardens were to visit Lundy on 13th June 1987.

12. Date of next meeting. At 7pm in Bideford at end of Oct (22 or 29?) but consideration to be given to times of tides for those resident on Lundy or fishing.

PBF Cole. Hon.Sec.LMCG.

R. W. Kimberley
19/11/87.