

## Resolution of the West Beach licence – summary by Martin Evans

Many people have asked for clarification of what happened, so here is the summary of events and details of the discussions I've held with both Hayling Golf Club (HGC) & CBK. I am the only member of the current HKA Committee who also served last year.

- HGC clarified that they required a more comprehensive safety system on the beach
- The HKA had identified costs to meet this that would have taken fees to circa £80/year
- CBK elected to make a bid direct, as soon as this was known by the committee Chris & Rosemary Bull stood down from the HKA Committee due to conflict of interests.
- HGC agreed to accept bids from both the HKA & CBK
- During this process, HGC made the decision to award the license to CBK for two reasons:
  - They decided that the voluntary beach management system did not provide the professionally trained and qualified manpower resource required to manage a busy public beach..
  - They had already agreed a teaching licence with CBK and they didn't want more than one company operating on the beach
  - HKA Senior committee officials changed mid-stream through the tendering process due to resignations which cast doubt on the HKA tender.
- The HKA offer to bid was therefore withdrawn by HGC prior to the bid date. However HGC insisted that the interests of HKA and its members be incorporated in the licence to be awarded to CBK and facilitated joint negotiations.
- Discussions continued however, as the HGC made it clear that they were keen to see the HKA continue and be a 'voice for kite surfers on Hayling Island'. CBK also supported the HKA being a party to the licence. A joint licence was proposed by CBK & HKA but the HGC turned this down as they decided that a sole licensee was the most appropriate solution. They did agree to an HKA Appendix document which is what we now have.
- The 'HKA Appendix' in the licence agreement identifies the on-going role of the club with both CBK & HGC in managing the beach and services provided but also in contributing to discussions regarding the agreed level of CBK fees for the future.
- CBK they were by this time in the position of being sole bidders for the HGC licence, they used their influence to include the HKA in a constructive future role.

The final licence agreement has now been signed between HGC & CBK. It includes:

- HKA involvement in the assessment of the services delivered to members and managing fee levels in future

- Membership fees agreed and fixed for 3 years
- Beach use secured for at least 6 years with the extended licence period.

Although we have not got what we originally wanted with a licence direct between the HGC & HKA, we have got many of the important issues resolved in a sensible way and the future of West Beach as one of the great locations in the UK is secured.

During these discussions the possibility of a Council launch site was raised. Discussions were taken up with the Council by the HKA (with CBK support). The Councils' Beachlands' Management were very pro-active in helping us get to the current position of having a trial site that we hope will soon become a permanent fixture on the sea front – so if you ever see Coral or her team on the beach, give them a wave and be friendly, they really have been great supporters of the HKA.

So in summary, we believe this represents the best solution we could negotiate for Kitesurfing on the island. HGC has been pleased with the management of the beach since CBK officially took over and many of our members are heaving a sigh of relief that they don't have to organise or fill in for volunteers for beach duty! Good effort though everyone and thanks for giving it your best shot!

Membership costs are close to where they were expected to be under the old regime and some of the down winders and off-shore wind days have proved some of the ideas proposed by CBK offer good enhanced kite surfing opportunities at Hayling. We therefore hope that the old angsts of the past have been put behind us and we'll all get back to enjoying a great kitesurfing location.