

**The Minutes of the Autumn Delegates meeting of the Hants & Dorset Amateur Rowing Association, held at the BTC Rowing Club, The Boathouse, Crosshouse Road, Chapel, Southampton, Hampshire, SO14 5GZ. on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 starting at 10.30am.**

There were 28 delegates in attendance (24 last year) including all the Executive Officers, with apologies received from a further delegates (Mark Viner, VP & Lymington; Les Foad, VP and Itchen; Jackie Hitchens, Southampton) plus Westover Rowing Club and Bournemouth Regatta – although Brain Gowman was in attendance for the first part of the meeting\*. The Chairman, John Purkess, opened the meeting at 10.40am. There were no delegates in attendance from Worthing and Westover\* Rowing Clubs and Bournemouth Regatta. It was noted, with some concern, that this was the second successive Autumn Delegates Meeting that Westover Rowing Club/Bournemouth Regatta had not been represented.

The Minutes of the last Delegates Meeting were taken as read, and agreed as a correct record on a proposal from R. Sivier, seconded by D. Woodford.

Matter arising from the last Association Meetings – the AGM in March, 2012, and Executive Meeting in September were as follows -

Matters arising from 2012 AGM.

Status comparison – BR/Hants & Dorset ARA – had finally been considered and accepted by the BR competitions committee and published on the BR web site but unfortunately – its wrong – and not as agreed. This had been pointed out to BR on a number of occasions – but they seemed to be incapable of correcting it – which to some extent illustrates the BR attitude to the Hants & Dorset ARA.

H&D Vice President Kevin Ayles had agreed to chase Bournemouth University with regards to the outstanding Hants & Dorset Affiliation fees but no progress had been made.

Swanage has been agreed as the venue for the 2014 South Coast Rowing Championships.

Some further discussions had taken place with BR ref. issues with the Wessex Region.

The 2011 South Coast Rowing Championships at Dorney Lake, Eton Final accounts was an Agenda item.

Last Coxswains cap used last year - the AGM agreed that alternative providers should be sought – and Keith Warland agreed to pursue this with the supplier of the Race Officials Kit and he has been able to secure a new supply at a significantly better price.

There was limited support for the BR Celebration of Rowing on the South Coast at Weymouth on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

The limit of fifty from each Association for this year's South Coast Rowing Championships reception was resolved with Race officials on the day having priority over Club representatives.

H&D delegates voted in accordance with instructions to the South Coast Council Rules changes proposed by WEARA and CARA Voting in Council was as follows -

To allow Composite crews in the Veteran Championships and Veteran Open Events – rejected. 6 – 3 – so still Vet open only.

Introduce the BR age handicap system in Veteran events – rejected. 6 -3.

Specify the length of the Course for Veteran Championship and Open events – rejected. 6 – 3.

Promote some Junior Events to Championship status – rejected. 6 – 3. Do we anticipate this will eventually be approved – and need to establish a process to select crews.

Specify the length of the Junior Course – approved. 9 – 0.

To increase the number of events that competitors can enter in the open Regatta. The delegates were instructed to vote in favor – but that the number of events should be limited to two and doubling up was entirely at a Clubs risk. i.e. vote in favor or proposal 8.2. This was approved – 9 – 0 – allowing competitors to enter two open events.

Include in the open Regatta events which two or more Associations have annual prizes – with the stated proviso that this proposal is not binding on a regatta organizing committee and does not require them to hold an event if they feel there would be insufficient time to do so – the delegates were instructed to vote in favor Approved. 9 - 0.

Allow the Regatta to become a two-day event .Approved. 9 – 0.

Improve clarity of arrangements for Junior Regatta. Approved. 6 – 3 – but not sure what it means?

With regards to the revised proposal from CARA regarding the other two Associations being allowed to take up any Championship place not fulfilled by one of the Associations – Council approved this rule change. 6 – 3.

Progress report from the two newly appointed Sub Committees was an agenda item.

Matters Arising from the Executive Meeting of 18th August -

Ref the make-up of the representative crews from the other two Associations –

Proposal that the Association would not take-up the option to add additional Championship crews if offered following the failure of another Association to take up their full quota. Vet40 on offer – H&D did not take-up as agreed – CARA did.

The Herne Bay Men's Senior Four, that included the GB Internationals was entered in the Men's Senior open – so their entry was challenged by the Hants & Dorset ARA as agreed and discussed at Council. The crew eventually withdrew.

The Association Secretary then gave details of the correspondence he had undertaken on the Associations behalf since the Annual General Meeting in March which included all the usual correspondence relating to a busy coastal season including Club affiliation, Club and individual registration, Points claims, plus correspondence relating to the affiliated events - permit applications and issues, results etc.. He has written on a regular basis to Racing Officials and Club and Regatta Safety advisors with relevant information and administered the Racing Officials ARA membership contributions for Insurance purposes and their availability for events. This has included the thirteen Hants & Dorset Championship Regattas, three Head Races and one Junior event. Association bulletins were sent to all Executive Officers, Life and Vice Presidents, Clubs and Regatta's in July and October - the July bulletin included the minutes of the AGM, Officials Meeting and the Safety Meeting. The October bulletin included the minutes of the Executive meeting of 18th August and the notice and Agenda for this meeting plus attachments.

Documentation required for the season for Clubs, Regattas and racing Officials were sent out in April and the H&D ARA South Coast Rowing Handbooks which provided the contact lists for all Executive, Officers, Clubs, Regattas and Racing Officials were distributed during May and early June. The Association Secretary dealt with various correspondences relating to this years South Coast Rowing Championships at Bideford with the South Coast Council and the Association Secretaries of CARA and the West of England ARA and the Bideford Organizing committee. Much of the information received from the Championships organizing committee was re- E Mailed as there was some concerns that this would not reach everyone in our Association that it needed to especially as they were almost entirely reliant on E Mail and their limited web site for communications. Letters of invitation and congratulation were sent to all H&D Clubs with representative crews – only Ryde and Itchen replied thanking the Association for the honor. As required by South Coast Council Rules detailed Hants & Dorset Regatta results were sent to the South Coast Council, CARA and West of England. The Association Secretary continues to receive copies of all the minutes of all the British Rowing meetings - including the sub committees - which amount to hundreds of pages - and tries to pick out any relevant items and pass these on to those who need to know within the Association. On behalf of the Association the Secretary wrote to Itchen's James Foad congratulating him on his Olympic Bronze Medal, to Maria Foad wishing her a speedy recovery and to Lymington A. R. C. offering our condolences on the tragic loss of Alaister Kier.

On behalf of the Association he attended, on a regular basis the Wessex Regional Rowing Council Meetings, 2014 South Coast Championship Organizing Meetings. Hants & Dorset Sub Committee Meetings and meetings of the British Rowing National Rowing Safety Meetings, when he could, in his capacity as Rowing Safety Advisor to the Wessex Region and as a member of the Hants & Dorset Safety Commission. The Secretary wrote to Clubs regarding late withdrawal from Regatta fines and has coordinated the payment of fines and appeals against them. For the record there were only 8 fines imposed 4 of which have been appealed which were considered by the Associations Executive Officers prior to the meeting. There were no fines this year for failing to attend Club Briefings at Championship Regatta's. The Secretary coordinated the nomination process for the Daily Echo Trophy in memory of Arthur Chatfield and have arranged the engraving of the medals in time for the presentation Dinner as well as communicating the results of the Coxswain of the Year contest and writing to all Clubs who won Hants & Dorset Championships congratulating them on their success. The Hants & Dorset ARA Web site - [www.hdara.co.uk](http://www.hdara.co.uk) – has been maintained but has not had any major updates this year. However the H&D Calendar which is embedded on the home page of the web site has been enhanced – with Event Invitations and Programs, when received in time and in a suitable format – added to the date entry for the event on the calendar – which can be download from there. The “latest information” section on the web site home page has also been in regular use – and these messages are “tweeted” to anyone who follows the H&D Twitter account – which was also used to “tweet” the South Coast championships draw and the results of the Championship races at Bideford within about five minutes of them taking place.

The 2012 Regatta season was then considered in detail by the meeting. (See attached summary/after appendix/separate file on H&D Web site.) The Association Secretary gave a summary, extracted from the reports from the racing officials received for each Regatta, the regatta de-brief form and any correspondence received – all of which had already been copied to the event secretaries. In addition to the summary presented to the meeting the following additional comments and points were raised and discussed by the meeting –

- 1) Every season a number of Clubs contact the Association Secretary because they have not received event invitations or notification of when entries close – and he has to provide them with this information, assuming it has been copied to him. There is a growing trend for Event Secretaries to either hand out invitations at an earlier event – or just to send them by E Mail. In both cases they sometimes fail to reach the right person. Event Secretaries should take a “belt and braces” approach – and back-up an E Mail invitation with a hard copy in the post.
- 2) The other area of growing concern is the number of Clubs who are not paying their entry fees until the day of the event – or even after the event on occasions – and the Association Secretary has received several justifiable complaints about this from event Secretaries – as it adds a further complication to an already difficult task and at a time when they have many other things to do. Clubs need to ensure that entry fees are posted to the event secretary in time to arrive well before the day of the event, especially when the entry has been sent by E Mail. If Clubs continue to ignore this then an additional charge for late fees will need to be considered.
- 3) A number of H&D Championship Regatta’s failed to return completed briefing attendance sheets and a formal set of results – making allocation of failure to attend briefing fines impossible to assess and checking of point’s claims and Associations records more difficult and time consuming.
- 4) The point was made that events need to use the contact numbers on the entry forms in the event of a cancellation.

The Association Secretary gave a brief report on Swanage Regatta successfully organized by the Association on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> June. This report had been circulated in advance with the Agenda and was taken as read by the meeting – see appendix 1. Attached. Further comments and corrections were made at the meeting – it was Pete Lamb of Westover, not Dave Smith who had assisted Pete Staddon to lay the bouys. There was a cover available for the start platform – but this was not put on as not required. The Association Treasurer advised the meeting that the event had made a profit of around £800 – figures to be confirmed at the AGM – thanks to the support and contributions of some affiliated Clubs. The meeting agreed that the cost of purchasing/acquiring its own set of bouys, ropes and weights should be investigated as this was one of the difficulties when organising the event – and owning this equipment would also be of assistance to the organisers of the 2014 South Coast Championships due to be held in Swanage. Pete Staddon agreed to investigate the costs involved and both John Purkess and Kevin Ayles indicated they could probably provide secure storage for any equipment purchased. Attempt to establish a link for mutual benefit with the Swanage Gig Club and to involve them in the Regatta had so far proved unsuccessful and there appeared to be little interest from their point of view. It was also agreed that, subject to those who support the regatta agreeing to do so again, the method of organisation, with the event coordinated by the Association Secretary, should remain unchanged.

Unfortunately the the Accounts of the 2011 South Coast Championship Regatta were not yet available for approval at the meeting and, following an explanation of the Organising Committees Treasurer, Sue Sothcott’s situation by Pete Jacobs, the Chairman of Poole Rowing Club, the meeting agreed to hold this item over until they were available.

The Association Secretaries report on the 2012 South Coast Championship Regatta held at Bideford, North Devon and hosted by the West of England ARA had been circulated in advance with the Agenda and was therefore not read at the meeting (see attached. Appendix 3.). The Hon. Secretaries report was accepted by the meeting with a few additional comments. In particular the Association Secretary expressed his concerns regarding two clear infringements of South Coast Council Rules that appear to have been ignored by the Regatta organisers’. Firstly South Coast Council Rules (Rule 70) specifically prohibit composite crews in all events except the open veteran classes – but at least one composite crew was accepted in the Junior events (an Exeter/Castledore double having won the Girls J16 event ). While not wishing to discourage additional entries – had the H&D Clubs been aware that this rule would be flouted – a number of composite crews from

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the region may well have been entered – and as it stands the Association was possibly penalised for following the rules and Council need to decide if this is a rule or not. Also SCC Rule 62 states that “Championship pennants will be provided by the organising committee for Championship, Open and Junior events”. It is my understanding that this means winners pennants in all events – not just one pennant to each club that entered – this is certainly the way that this has been interpreted in the past. Again Council need to clarify this. Further concerns was expressed regarding the safety briefing on the Saturday which was very poor and led to some confusion.

The meeting then considered a report from the Association’s South Coast Council Delegates on the South Coast Council Meetings held since the Associations AGM in March. This report had also been circulated in advance with the Agenda and was therefore not read at the meeting (see attached. Appendix 4.) and was accepted by the meeting but led to some further discussions. The meeting considered any suggested changes to the South Coast Championship Rules and other issues – and the Association was actioned to write to the South Coast Council and make the following points -

Following the Hants & Dorset ARA’s Autumn Delegates Meeting of Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> October I have been asked to bring to your attention, for consideration and discussion at the next (January, 2013) meeting of the South Coast Rowing Council the following points and proposals.

The Association feels that the safety briefing on Saturday, 8th September prior to the Open & Championship events was inadequate – the main issues being that a number of clubs were instructed to or it was implied that they should go and collect their Club racing numbers right away – and so they missed key elements of the safety briefing.

We understand that WEARA may be proposing that if an Association fails to provide the required number of Officials in accordance with SCC Rules 18 and 21 then there should be a financial penalty of £25 per Official imposed on that Association. The Hants & Dorset ARA, having provided three additional officials for the 2012 event at Bideford to cover for those missing welcome this proposal – but actually think it does not go far enough and the financial penalty should be much higher than £25 – with £100 per official given consideration.

With regards to Rule 18 – where each Association is required to appoint a representative who, along with the Event Safety Adviser, will inspect all boats before going afloat, it is the Hants & Dorset ARA’s long held view that it would be much better if the Organizing Committee of the event provided a dedicated boat inspection team – with each Association having the right to have a representative observing or assisting with the boat inspections. This was the procedure that was successfully employed in 2007 and 2011 at Dorney – which worked very well – unlike in 2010 where two H&D Officials had to provide a boat inspection team – with no support from the other two Associations.

The Hants & Dorset Rowing Association remains opposed to the new rule (25B) allowing another crew to be entered into a Championship event by the other two Associations if one Association fails to provide a representative crew. This is why the Association did not take up the opportunity available to them to put an extra crew in this year’s Veteran Championship event. We are still of the opinion that this de-values the event and would ask the Council to re-consider and delete this rule.

The Hants & Dorset ARA was surprised that Council allowed a composite crew in the Junior events – which is clearly against the Rules (Rule 70) in any event other than the Open Veteran Fours. We were also surprised to learn that one of the Club involved in this composite crew did not attend the Sunday morning Safety briefing but has not been fined for non-attendance. While we understand that the Club involved – which we believe was Exeter – only had one person competing in the Junior Event – the same is also true of Lymington A. R. C. who only had one sculler competing, but have been fined and have paid the fine for non-attendance at the briefing. It is our view that Council must show consistency and that either Exeter should also be fined – or that the Lymington fine should be rescinded and the fine returned. As Council Rules specifically prohibit composite crews there is clearly no rule that states that a member of a Club that has a member of a composite crew is excused the safety briefing.

The Association also seeks clarification of the meaning of Rule 62 – the prizes awarded at the Regatta. The Rule states that “Championship pennants will be provided by the organizing committee for Championship,

Open and Junior events". As far as we are aware, at all previous South Coast Championship Regatta's this has meant that WINNERS Pennants are given to the winners of all Championship, Open – and since its introduction – the Junior events. At Bideford this year no winners pennants were awarded – and we believe this is an infringement of rule 62 and needs to be addressed by the 2012 Organizing Committee or the West of England Rowing Association. The winners pennant are an important record of a clubs achievements in winning a South Coast event – and the only Club trophy held by the Club after annually awarded trophies have been returned.

With regards to Jimmy Jewells proposal reference a South Coast Championship/South Coast Council Web site – the Association welcomes this suggestion – as long as it does not prevent a local organizing committee have their own dedicated web site – which should obviously have a link to any South Coast Council site.

We are sure that Council will be giving further consideration to the emotive issue of the inclusion of current international oarsman and women in crews entered for the Championship or Open events hi-lighted by the Hants & Dorset ARA's objection to the Herne Bay Men's Senior Fours crew that was entered for the Men's Senior Open event at this year's Championship which included at least one oarsman who will still receiving BR funding. While the issue was eventually resolved when this crew withdrew/or was withdrawn from the event, our concerns remain that the acceptance of an entry from a similar crew may cause further issues in the future and it is our understanding that this concern is shared by a number of CARA Clubs. We have not had time to formulate a any proposals to amend the rules on qualification – but reserve the right to do so in the future – and among the changes we are considering proposing are - a restriction on the total number of British Rowing Points allowed in the boat; not allowing a person still receiving British Rowing funding to compete in a South Coast Championships; or a change to the number of domestic regatta's one has to have competed in to qualify for a Championship and Open event – with the possibility of an additional part to the rule that would insist one or more of these takes place before Henley Royal Regatta – so ensuring a commitment to more of the domestic season is made – or a combination of these. The views of Council and the other Associations would be welcome.

While fully appreciating the need to have clear deadlines for the submission of items for consideration at the South Coast Council AGM, usually held in January, the Hants & Dorset ARA would like to express its concern with the current deadline for submissions of the end of October. Items that the Association may want Council to consider are usually discussed at the Associations Autumn Delegates Meeting – which is often held in late October or early November – making it very difficult – or even impossible to make a submission by the deadline imposed – which explains this rather disjointed letter – for which I apologies.

To Note – The issue regarding the damage to the Charles Matthews memorial trophy repairs has been satisfactorily resolved.

The Association Secretary reported on Coastal events at the GB National Championships which was in transition towards a new format that would be in place for 2013. The transition had led to confusion over dates and what events would be offered resulting in no Coastal events being staged in 2012. The intention in the future was to have a Junior Regatta/under 18 at Nottingham in July and an "Old style" National Championship at Nottingham in October allow GB oarsman to compete – presumably for their Clubs – and to possibly include Coastal events. However a trial event held at Dorney in October, called the Jubilee Regatta – had not offered any Coastal events. The Association Secretary had been in correspondence with the National Championships Committee who had indicated a wish to continue to offer Coastal events if there was sufficient support and posed a number of questions - Which date suits coastal clubs and other events best - July or October? What events would we like them to run? The views of the Associations Clubs had been sought on this – see attached. In summary this stated that of the 13 affiliated Clubs 5 did not respond and of the 8 who did 5 expressed a preference for Coastal events to be held in October and five wanted the inclusion of Ladies events and the re-introduction of pairs events

The Regatta dates for the 2013 season were then discussed and agreed as far as possible. These were based on a recommendation made by the Associations Secretary following an analysis of submitted dates – but he made the point that some Regatta's only submitted one date giving them an advantage when summarising the requests. In future the Association Secretary would insist on two dates being given – failure to do so putting an events request at risk – and priority to others events requesting their date. Discussions proved to be more

difficult than usual because of unusually difficult tidal constraints and after much debate a fixture list was agreed put with some events dates still to be confirmed. Agreed dates and points subject to further discussion were as follows –

Sunday, 17th March	Christchurch Head of the Stour.
Saturday, 27th April.	Southampton Coastal Fours HRR.
[Note - since noticed that this clashes with Junior Inter-Regionals so Southampton may want to re-consider]	
Saturday, 11th May.	RYDE REGATTA.
Sunday, 12th May.	SHANKLIN REGATTA.
Saturday, 25th May.	WOOLSTON REGATTA.
Saturday, 8st June.	CHRISTCHURCH REGATTA.
Saturday, 15th June.	COALPORTERS REGATTA.
Saturday, 22nd June.	NEWPORT REGATTA (Fours).
Saturday, 13th July.	SOUTHSEA REGATTA.
Saturday, 24th August	BTC REGATTA.
Sunday, 25th August.	Hants & Dorset Championship and South Coast Selection row-offs if required. Dock Head, Southampton. 11.00am.Saturday,
14th September.	South Coast Championships Regatta, Deal.
The following dates were provisionally agreed - or are subject to confirmation/further discussion -	
Saturday, 9th Feb.	Possible BR/Wessex Head, Langstone Harbour. To be confirmed by Wessex Regional Rowing Council.
Sunday, 9th March	Southampton Eight and Small Boats HRR. Date to be confirmed.
Saturday, 18th May.	ITCHEN or BOURNEMOUTH REGATTA.
Note - Meeting granted date to Itchen - as Westover/Bournemouth Regatta not represented at the meeting - but Gary Joyce of Itchen agreed to contact Bournemouth to discuss options.	
Saturday, 1st June.	ITCHEN or BOURNEMOUTH REGATTA. Possible alternative date for Bournemouth/Itchen.
Sunday, 23rd June.	NEWPORT REGATTA (Juniors and Small Boats). Day after the agreed date of their "Fours" Regatta - to be confirmed.
Saturday, 29th June.	SWANAGE REGATTA. Subject to confirmation from Swanage Town Council.
Poole were granted Saturday, 10th August - but may wish to bring forward to Saturday, 27th July. Poole to advise.	
Saturday, 27th July.	Alternative date for POOLE REGATTA. TBA.
Saturday, 10st August.	POOLE REGATTA (may change). TBC.
Dates still to be advised:	LYMINGTON/MILFORD REGATTA. Itchen Junior Sprint Regatta.
Wessex Junior Regatta (Bryanston)- Possible dates – Sunday, 9th June or Sunday, 30th June. Event Secretaries/Clubs where dates are dates were provisionally agreed - or are subject to confirmation/further discussion – were asked to confirm or advise alternative as soon as possible.	

The **Report on plans for the 2014 South Coast Rowing Championships, to be hosted by the Hants & Dorset ARA and held at Swanage, Dorset, over the weekend of 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> September, 2014** – had been circulated in advance with the Agenda and was therefore not read at the meeting (see attached. Appendix 7.) The reports was accepted by the meeting the only coming from Ted Shergold who asked that the committee re-think the course with a view to the finish being at the Mowlem.

The Hants & Dorset ARASouthCoast handbook was briefly discussed. The intention was to produce the handbook in a similar format as 2012 – and it was believed that we can maintain the current cost (£46 levy on Clubs) and that Jimmy Jewell happy to help edit and arrange the printing of the handbook once again. CARA had indicated an interest in a combined handbbok – but in the view of the Association Secretary this opportunity was long gone and the single association handbook suited our needs and any CARA involmment should be rejected. This was agreed by the meeting.

The Report from the Chairman of the Umpires Commission. Andy Parsons had been circulated in advance with the Agenda and was therefore this not read at the meeting (see attached. Appendix 7).

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The Report from the Safety Commission had been circulated in advance with the Agenda and was therefore this not read at the meeting (see attached. Appendix 8.)

The Report from the Wessex Regional Rowing Council by Chairman Colin Eales had been circulated in advance as had a report from the BR Divisional Rep. Mike Green and therefore neither were read at the meeting (see Appendix 9 & 10). There was some concerns expressed regarding the re-organisation of British Rowing which has resulted in the amalgamation of Wessex with the Sout East Coast region and the implications of this. A vote of thanks was also passed to Mike Green for all his work as the Wessex Regions Divisional Rep. – arole that has ceased under the British Rowing reorganisation.

The arrangements for Presentation Dinner on 10th November, 2012 were confirmed. The Dinner was to be held at the Novatel, Southampton, 7.00 for 7.30pm. Tickets were £26 available from Amanda Hames. Order of Events should be - 7:00pm Pre Dinner drinks in the bar or Hampshire Millennium Suite; 7:30pm Dinner in the Hampshire Millennium Suite; 9:00pm Speeches - Loyal Toast, Mr. J. Purkess H & D ARA Chairman, Associations Health, Mr. Ian Hutchings, H & D ARA President, Response by Sue Sothcott, Poole A. R. C; Medal Presentations; 9:45 Disco until 1am. 'Top table' to be a round one. No seating plans just table plans. It was confirmed that the only Trophies yet to be returned were those held by BTC and that they would be at the Dinner.

A Report from Hants & Dorset ARA "Rules" and "Competitions" Sub Committees – had been circulated in advance with the Agenda and was therefore not read at the meeting (see attached. Appendix 11). Also circulated was a copy of the proposed revised Hants & Dorset ARA constitution (see attached Appendix 12.) The disappointing attendance at meetings was noted – usually only Southsea, Ryde, BTC and Itchen were represented – which made progress difficult and forced the sub committees to hold local meetings with all Clubs to try and address the issue – and it was hoped that all these will all have taken place by the end of November. The circulated revised constitution would go before the AGM in March for approval so any comments or amendments needed to be received as soon as possible. The meeting asked the subcommittees to look at South Coast Championship J16 events – due to be intruduced by 2014 and which Regatta's can put on J16 – events. They were also asked to look again at the revised constitution with a view to reinstating the position of Association Honoray Life member.

The meeting then considered possible rule changes for discussion and approval at AGM but nothing had been received – although the meeting requested that the Novice rules should be reviewed at the AGM.

The only items of Any Other Business discussed were – i) Clubmark and its relevance; ii) Ropin off Officials areas and the possibility of videoing finishes; and iii) British Rowing Membership – and other organisations

It was agreed the date for the Annual General Meeting would be on a Saturday in March, depending on the Southampton F. C. Fixture List and Rowing fixtures. The Association Secretary would make the final decision in consultation with his fellow Executive Officers.

With no other business the meeting closed a 3.15pm with thanks to BTC Rowing Club for their hospitality.

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H&D ARA Chairman.

[Minutes taken and written by Steve Bull, Association Secretary, November, 2012].

#### **ATTACHMENTS.**

The attachments listed below form an integral part of these minutes.

Appendix 1. Report on 2012 Swanage Regatta.

Appendix 2. Summary of comments from Racing Officials Reports on 2011 events.

NOTE. Attached after appendix 12 or *separate file on H&D Web site.*

Appendix 3. Secretaries Report on the 2012 SouthCoast Championship Regatta.

Appendix 4. Report on 2012 SouthCoast Council Meetings.

Appendix 5. Summary of views of H&D Clubs on GB National Championships.

Appendix 6. Report on plans for the 2014 South Coast Rowing Championships

Appendix 7. Report from the Umpires Commission.

Appendix 8. Report from the Safety Commission.

Appendix 9. Report from the Wessex Regional Rowing Council.

Appendix 10. Report from British Rowing Divisional Rep. Mike Green.

Appendix 11. Report from H&D ARA Sub Committees.

Appendix 12. Revised Hants & Dorset ARA Constitution.

Appendix 1. Agenda Item 3. Swanage Regatta – report on 2012 event.

I am pleased to be able to report on another successful and popular Swanage Hants & Dorset ARA Championship Regatta, run by a committee drawn from the Associations Clubs and held over the usual course in Swanage Bay on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> June.

The Regatta Accounts will be presented for approval at the Associations AGM in March – but with another high entry – over 130 crews and scullers competing – and many of the costs involved absorbed by the clubs involved in the events organization I am confident that the Regatta will at least have broken even – in spite of making the requested upgrade to the quality of the prizes.

There were 138 entries in total compared to 137 in 2011 with income from entry fees up from £1633 in 2011 to £2205 in 2012, obviously, in part, due to the increase in fees. Apart from Southsea where H&D and CARA Clubs compete, with an entry of nearly 140 crews and scullers Swanage Regatta remains the most popular regatta in the calendar – and makes a contribution of nearly £400 to the South Coast Levy.

One change to previous years is the Poole Safety Boat was not used as they had no way of getting it there by road and the weather was too bad to drive around by sea. So arrangements were made to cover this with a safety boat were out of Christchurch and they used £85 in fuel, a lot of which was used in the trip getting there in the rough weather.

There were a few capsizes - but none serious and all were very well handled by the safety boats. A "summary of safety incidents at Swanage Regatta" BR incident report has been submitted and Ryde have submitted a BR incident report for their capsize in the Ladies Junior Pairs. I live in hope that the other clubs involved in incidents will submit BR incident reports as they should. The H&D Safety Committee carried out a boat inspection at the Regatta - much improved on Bournemouth - but still the usual issue - 80% of all faults found relating to hell restraints.

As always the Association welcomes any constructive criticism or suggestions for improvement – the following observations having already been made -

- 1) We lost an hour somewhere - not sure where - although one re-row (Vets) and half an hour late starting was part of the problem - on the other hand we lost four races. We allow 10 minutes a race - is this too short?
- 2) In spite of warnings in writing, by Mail (at least twice) and in the program one club still put up a Gazebo that was outside the limits imposed. They were told to take it down as they were putting the event and South Coast Champs in 2014 at risk.
- 3) Again in spite of sending every club their free parking permit through the post a week before the event to the name/address on the entry form - nearly half the clubs turned up without them. Perhaps next year we will just have to say you will have to pay. We did send parking permits to each race official as well as the clubs - but forgot the three clubs who bring safety launches along - which will be added to the instructions for next year.
- 4) We added a Ladies Junior Pairs race on the day - so this will be added this to the regatta notice for next year - along with a note that the Cadet race will be over half the course, starting at the turn - as this needed clarification on the day.
- 5) In spite of Sue's valiant efforts set-up for prize giving is still a bit of a nightmare - and needs a little more thought and preparation - photos of Trophies, better prize giving order etc... Note: One or two glass tankards broken in an accident before prize giving - meaning we struggled for prizes a bit although got around it. One still short - but Ryde's winning Vet crew have said not to worry about it (they all have lofts full of them!).

6) A number of Clubs did not pay their entry fees until the day (usual culprits) - a growing problem for all Regatta's and not acceptable. The Association should give serious consideration to imposing a fine/ additional fee in such circumstances.

7) There were some issues with the PA system.

Finally – a Big Thank You. As most of you will appreciate, with no Hants & Dorset ARA affiliated Club based in Swanage, the Swanage Hants & Dorset Championship Regatta is organised by the Association and relies heavily on volunteers from some of the Associations affiliated Clubs to organise and stage the event and who absorb the expenses incurred. Therefore the Association would like to acknowledge and thank the following Clubs for their support:-

Poole - for their safety boat and control tent, Christchurch for a safety boat, start platform, radios and start/finish posts; Lymington for their safety boat; Westover for the turning marks and Ryde for the Officials meals - as well as all the individuals who help - notably the race Officials and Sue Sothcott on control, Andy Sothcott as Safety Advisor and for trailer parking, Tim Bull for the program, Pete Staddon and David Smith for laying the buoys and Denny Woodford for the prizes - as well as Itchen Imperial Rowing Club who make a financial contribution. Without their help and support Swanage Rowing Regatta would not take place.

Steve Bull

Association Secretary, Hants & Dorset ARA.

September, 2012.

Appendix 2. Summary of comments from Racing Officials Reports on 2011 events is attached after appendix 12.

Appendix 3. Secretaries Report on the 2012 SouthCoast Championship Regatta.

**The Association Secretaries Report on the 56<sup>th</sup> South Coast Rowing Championships Regatta and the 7<sup>th</sup> South Coast Junior Regatta staged over the weekend of 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> September, 2012 at Bideford, North Devon and hosted by the West of England Amateur Rowing Association.**

A committee drawn from the two local Rowing Clubs and the Bideford located Kingsley School provided the committee that organised the 56<sup>th</sup> South Coast Rowing Championships and the 7<sup>th</sup> South Coast Junior Regatta on behalf of the West of England Amateur Rowing Association on the River Torridge, at Bideford over the weekend of 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September – the 8<sup>th</sup> time the town has hosted the event.

The build up to the Regatta weekend was not without controversy as the Hants & Dorset ARA expressed their concern at the likely selection by CARA of a Herne Bay crew in the Men's Senior Fours that included three recent GB Internationals one of whom was still receiving funding – and two of them with dubious connections to the Herne Bay Club and CARA. Evidently a number of CARA clubs felt the same way as they allegedly manipulated the CARA qualifying system to ensure the Herne Bay Senior Crew were not selected to represent their Association – only to find that they were then happy to enter the Open event, which was, in the Hants & Dorset ARA's view morally unacceptable – and set a disturbing precedent for future South Coast Regatta's – forcing the H&D ARA to question if the entry should be accepted. Whether this had any effect - or whether Herne Bay Rowing Club or the individuals concerned had a pang of conscience is unclear – but the crew did withdraw.

There were some aspects of the organisation of the Regatta's that were also cause for concern. Their almost total reliance on E Mail and their somewhat limited web site as the preferred – and some times only – method of communication was in my view not sufficient enough – and should have been backed-up with hard copy to Clubs and Officials. As a result of the concerns this approach raised the H&D Association Secretary probably communicated details of the Championships to H&D affiliated clubs as much as the event organisers'. A point in case was their approach to the traditional Friday evening reception, hosted by the local council, where they were limited to just fifty attending per Association – and just handed out a block of invitations leaving each Association to send them out – at their cost (cost to H&D - £11.60 in postage/several hours in time). Also in an effort to provide as much information as possible to H&D Clubs the Associations "Twitter" facility was used to "tweet" the Championship draw on Friday evening – and summarised results from the Championship events on the Saturday.

That said concerns regarding the planning, arrangements and organisation of the day were largely unfounded and apart from one or two crews who failed to reach the start in time for their race, which was probably as much, if not more, their fault, both regatta's appeared to run pretty smoothly.

Conditions on both days were close to perfect with light winds, a warm sun and no rain over the weekend – and long standing concerns regarding the Bideford course and its mud banks appeared to be less of an issue than usual with crews winning from all positions – although an inside position was still preferable over the last 500m

There was a total of 264 entries in all events over the weekend – 112 of these in the main Regatta including 36 in the Championship events and 152 entries in the Junior Regatta. The Hants & Dorset and CARA provided a full complement of 12 Championship crews. WEARA were short of one entry – in the Veteran Fours – their best contribution for many years. CARA took advantage of the new, but misplaced rule that allows the other two Associations to fill any space left blank in the Championship crews with an additional nomination – but it did them little good as they failed to win any Championship events. The H&D declined this opportunity on the basis of their objection to the rule.

The Hants & Dorset contributed around 48% of the open entries, WEARA and CARA 26% each. WEARA provided 52% of the entries in the Junior event – with 36% coming from the Hants & Dorset and just 16% from CARA.

With two crews from my own club involved in the Championship races I am once again indebted to John Bailey for permission to quote his press report to the Southampton Echo to avoid any accusations of bias on my part when recording the details of these races -

*“The Bideford Bowl stayed firmly in the hands of the Hants and Dorset Rowing Association as Ryde came from behind with a beautifully timed run for the finish that took them 3 lengths clear of nearest rival Bexhill.*

*Deal and Dart Totnes had made the early running only to be passed by Bexhill just before the halfway mark as Ryde piled on the pressure to move into second place, whilst Itchen Imperial, now recovered from a poor start started their move from fourth place. But it was Ryde’s Tom Clark, Sam Cocker, Matt Allsopp, Ian Hayden (Stk) and Ed. Newnham who were now unstoppable as they slipped past Bexhill with 300 mtr remaining to move 3 lengths clear as they crossed the finishing line with Itchen Imperial taking third place from the West of England’s nearest challenger Dart Totnes.*

*Earlier, Coalporters had set the standard for Hants and Dorset Crews as Veteran Fours Champions R Quinton, A Williams, I Williams, R Williams (Stk) S Williams (Cox) set a blistering pace to lead from the start to win by 4 clear lengths from Folkestone and BTC.*

*In the Ladies Junior Fours Championship Christchurch’s S Wiseman, L Standley, R Dingly, N Gray (Stk) F Standley (Cox) couldn’t match the determined start by Bideford Blues, who went from strength to strength to win by a distance, but nevertheless finished a very creditable second ahead of Dart Totnes, Worthing A and Newport.*

*The Ladies Senior Championship had the supporters on their feet with Southampton, Bexhill and Lymington all contesting the lead with 500 mtrs to go, but it was Greenbank Falmouth who came through to retain the title they won at Eton Dorney last year by 2 ½ lengths from Hants and Dorset Champions Lymington who passed Southampton on the line.*

*Next the Junior Senior Championship with both Ryde and Coalporters once again looking for Gold in what turned out to be the race of the day. With Ryde, Coalporters, Shoreham and Dart Totnes evenly matched at the start it wasn’t until the 500 mtr mark that Dart Totnes could be seen with a clear lead but still only 1 ¼ lengths covered the four crews. At half way Coalporters and Shoreham had taken up the running but still only 1 ½ length separated the first four, with 750 mtrs remaining Coalporters led by ½ length from Ryde with Shoreham dropping away and, as both crews put in their final effort, it was still uncertain who would win. Ryde, lifting their rate two strokes ahead of the Coalporters, threw everything into their final ten strokes to come level but it was the Coalporters who threw their arms in the air as they crossed the line. A long pause for the Judges verdict, as they examined a protest from Shoreham, heightened the tension, before C Norman, H Kirby, C Gedling, J Norman (Stk) M Reeves (Cox) of Ryde were declared Champions by just 1 foot leaving the Coalporters gasping in disbelief as the Ryde supporters went wild having achieved a remarkable double.*

*The final Championship of the day, the Men’s Junior Fours, once again saw the Coalporters coming to the starting line as Hants and Dorset Champions with a tight race expected from Herne Bay and BTC. Herne Bay were the early leaders, ahead of Coalporters and BTC, and were warned several times by the Umpire for squeezing BTC as they tried to get on terms. Coalporters moving ½ length clear of Herne Bay kept out of trouble as Herne Bay were finally disqualified for failing to take heed of the Umpires warnings although without clashing blades. At 1000 mtrs Coalporters T Symes, A Hammond, J Bladen, J Williams (Stk) S Wallach (Cox) had a length over BTC and were edging away to a commanding lead as they entered the final 500 mtrs as BTC fought to hold off a late challenge from Plymouth to take second place by a canvas for another Hants and Dorset 1 – 2 as they crossed the line.*

*A very successful Championship then with the Hants and Dorset ARA once again dominating the Men's event and the West of England ARA the Ladies, leaving the Coast ARA hoping for glory at next season's Championships to be held at Deal."*

Hants & Dorset Clubs also had the better of the open events with five wins in the nine events – including three wins for Lymington - in the Men's Senior Fours, Junior Fours and the Vet 40 events. Southampton won the open the J/S Fours and Itchen Imperial the Ladies Senior. WEARA's Castledore won both Novice events and Paignton the Junior Ladies Fours – leaving CARA with just the one victory – in the Vet50 event.

Both aggregate trophies were won by the Hants & Dorset ARA – having amassed 35 points for the Eileen and Eric Crow Memorial Challenge Cup for the Championship events – against WEARA's 13 and CARA's 6. Coalporters will be asked to hold the Trophy on behalf of the Association as the Club that made the largest contribution. For the Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta Sesquicentennial Regatta Trophy for the open events the H&D had 50 points, WEARA – 22 and CARA – 9 – with Lymington accepting the Trophy as leading H&D Club in these events.

The Junior Regatta was dominated by WEARA Clubs with wins in fourteen events plus a dead-heat in the Boys J16 Coxed Quad – which they share with Ryde. The only other Hants & Dorset Club to record victories in the Junior Events was Christchurch – who won the Boys J16 Single, the Boys J16 Double and the boys J14 Double. No wonder WEARA are pushing for full Championship status in some Junior Events. CARA, who arguably have a more extensive Junior set-up than the Hants & Dorset ARA must be very disappointed not to have recorded any wins to compound a very poor performance over this weekend for their Association. The Pat Sherwin Memorial Trophy was won comfortably by WEARA who amassed 120 points against the H&D's 37 and CARA's 5 – with Bideford ARC – the "Reds" – the lead club.

I do have to express my concerns – which will be sent to Council – regarding two clear infringements of South Coast Council Rules that appear to have been ignored by the Regatta organisers'. Firstly South Coast Council Rules (Rule 70) specifically prohibit composite crews in all events except the open veteran classes – but at least one composite crew was accepted in the Junior events (an Exeter/Castledore double having won the Girls J16 event ). While not wishing to discourage additional entries – had the H&D Clubs been aware that this rule would be flouted – a number of composite crews from the region may well have been entered – and as it stands the Association was possibly penalised for following the rules. Council need to decide if this is a rule or not. Also SCC Rule 62 states that "Championship pennants will be provided by the organising committee for Championship, Open and Junior events". It is my understanding that this means winners pennants in all events – not just one pennant to each club that entered – this is certainly the way that this has been interpreted in the past. Again Council need to clarify this.

Although I have expressed a few, relatively minor, criticisms and concerns in this report I believe this was a well run and organised event – and I have written to the organising committee on behalf of the Association expressing our thanks and congratulations on a job well done. From an Association point of view have once again proved to be the top South Coast Rowing Association in the main event, with WEARA showing a much improved performance and a very welcome increased commitment which we hope will be maintained when the event returns to Coastal venues in 2013 and 2014. WEARA however have proved to be very strong in the Junior Regatta – and the Hants & Dorset ARA has some catching up to do – but will, I am sure, perform better in the Coastal Boats. For CARA the results across the board must have been very disappointing.

Steve Bull.  
Association Secretary.  
September, 2012.

**Entries Table.**

	Championship	Open	Junior	Total
HDARA	12	36	55	103
WEARA	11	20	77	108
CARA	13	20	20	53
Total	36	76	152	264

**South Coast Championship Regatta – Results.**

**Championship Events.**

Men's Senior.	1 <sup>st</sup> . RYDE.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . Bexhill.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . ITCHEN IMPERIAL.
Men's Junior Senior.	1 <sup>st</sup> . RYDE.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . COALPORTERS.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . Plymouth.
Men's Junior.	1 <sup>st</sup> . COALPORTERS.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . BTC.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . Plymouth.
Ladies Senior.	1 <sup>st</sup> . G'bank Falmouth.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . LYMINGTON.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . SOUTHAMPTON.
Ladies Junior.	1 <sup>st</sup> . Bideford ARC.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . CHRISTCHURCH.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . Dart Totnes.
Veteran.	1 <sup>st</sup> . COALPORTERS.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . Folkestone.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . BTC.

**Open Events.**

Men's Senior.	1 <sup>st</sup> . LYMINGTON.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . Bexhill.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . WESTOVER.
Men's Junior Senior.	1 <sup>st</sup> . SOUTHAMPTON.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . Bideford ARC.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . SOUTHAMPTON.
Men's Junior.	1 <sup>st</sup> . LYMINGTON.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . RYDE.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . Herne Bay.
Men's Novice.	1 <sup>st</sup> . Castledore.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . SHANKLIN.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . G'bank Falmouth.
Ladies Senior.	1 <sup>st</sup> . ITCHEN IMPERIAL.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . POOLE.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . RYDE.
Ladies Junior.	1 <sup>st</sup> . Paignton.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . SOUTHAMPTON.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . Bideford AAC.
Ladies Novice.	1 <sup>st</sup> . Castledore.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . COALPORTERS.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . POOLE.
Veteran 40.	1 <sup>st</sup> . LYMINGTON.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . POOLE.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . Bideford ARC.
Veteran 50.	1 <sup>st</sup> . Shoreham.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . LYMINGTON.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . Bideford ARC.

**Junior Regatta.**

Boys J18 1x	1 <sup>st</sup> . Plymouth.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dead-heat – Plymouth & Dart Totnes.	
Girls J18 1x	1 <sup>st</sup> . Dart Totnes.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . Bideford AAC.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . Bideford AAC.
Boys J16 1x	1 <sup>st</sup> . CHRISTCHURCH	2 <sup>nd</sup> . Bideford A. R. C	3 <sup>rd</sup> . SHANKLIN.
Girls J16 1x.	1 <sup>st</sup> Castledore.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . CHRISTCHURCH	3 <sup>rd</sup> . Dart Totnes.
Boys J14 1x	1 <sup>st</sup> Bideford ARC.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . CHRISTCHURCH	3 <sup>rd</sup> . Plymouth.
Girls J14 1x	1 <sup>st</sup> . Paignton.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . Plymouth.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . CHRISTCHURCH
Boys J18 2x.	1 <sup>st</sup> . Plymouth	2 <sup>nd</sup> . Dart Totnes.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . Plymouth.
Girls J18 2x.	1 <sup>st</sup> . Dart Totnes.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Bideford ARC.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . Eastbourne.
Boys J16 2x.	1 <sup>st</sup> . CHRISTCHURCH	2 <sup>nd</sup> . Bideford ARC.	[Two boat final]
Girls J16 2x	1 <sup>st</sup> . Exeter/C'dore.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . CHRISTCHURCH	3 <sup>rd</sup> . NEWPORT.
Boys J14 2x.	1 <sup>st</sup> . CHRISTCHURCH	2 <sup>nd</sup> . Plymouth.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . Bideford ARC.
Girls J14 2x.	1 <sup>st</sup> . Plymouth.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . Bideford ARC.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . Bideford ARC.
Boys J18 4+	1 <sup>st</sup> . Plymouth.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . Dart Totnes.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . Bideford ARC.
Girls J18 4+	1 <sup>st</sup> . Dart Totnes.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . Bideford AAC.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . Bideford AAC.
Boys J16 4x+	1 <sup>st</sup> . RYDE and Dart Totnes.	Dead-heat.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . Shoreham.
Girls J16 4x+	1 <sup>st</sup> . Dart Totnes.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . COALPORTERS.	3 <sup>rd</sup> ITCHEN IMPERIAL.
Boys J14 4x+.	1 <sup>st</sup> Bideford ARC.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . Herne Bay.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . Bideford ARC.
Girls J14 4x+	1 <sup>st</sup> . Bideford ARC.	2 <sup>nd</sup> . Bideford ARC.	3 <sup>rd</sup> . ITCHEN IMPERIAL.

E&OE.

**Appendix 4. Report on South Coast Council Meetings.**

**GENERAL MEETING OF THE SCCRC HELD AT BIDEFORD FRIDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 16.00 HRS.**

An update was received from the organizing committee for the championship and junior events stating that all is in order. The course is buoyed on the Bideford bank for the full length with the start boat anchored with posts on the boat and on the Barnstable bank. The finishing line will be two posts on the Bideford bank and one post on the Barnstable bank again. The course length was confirmed at 2000 meters for the championships and open events and 1000 meters for the junior events. All safety boats and umpires boats were supplied in accordance with the request made at the April meeting. The weather forecast was confirmed as good with light winds wsw backing south on Sunday sw with rain expected at 16.00 hrs.

The Reception at the Town Hall - 100 tickets were issued to H&D and CARA but only 70 between the two associations were confirmed. The draw was confirmed at Bideford Blues for the Friday evening and all are welcome.

Confirmation was received that all crews from CARA - WEARA - and H&D met with the entry requirements. CARA noted that the entries from WEARA were completed prior to some crews receiving their qualification. RM explained that problems due to the weather and two regattas out of the remaining four were cancelled one week and the final two regattas were held after the closing date for entries where the remaining crews did their qualifying races. A heated debate concerning a senior crew from Dartmouth took place - a rower had won a senior race but qualified for the junior/seniors under WEARA rules, as usual CARA not very happy. DW stated that all WEARA crews had qualified within the rules and this matter is to be closed. CARA again not too happy.

Veteran Championships - Eastbourne entered and was accepted under the new ruling. CARA questioned a Greenbank ladies crew member's qualification - this was also answered again by WEARA which the meeting accepted. (I have to note that CARA carried this query by telephone to Falmouth without going through the correct channels, being the South Coast Hon. Sec.) The Council reviewed the Herne Bay open senior entry after a written request from the H&D. JH very unhappy that he had not had sight of this letter and the Hon.Sec explained that the letter was copied to all association secretaries and that it was their responsibility to advise their delegates. JH read out a letter from David Tanner the British Rowing Manager of the National Team stating that British Rowing had dropped the distinction between professional and amateur athletes. Following more heated debate JH stated that Dan Ritchie had withdrawn from the open regatta on advice he had received from "above" as he put it and that the whole crew had also withdrawn. It was agreed that the whole principle would be an agenda item for the January AGM.

On Sunday I queried the letter from David Tanner with JH and asked him had he not had sight of the H&D letter of complaint until Thursday 7th - How did he receive this letter so fast as it was not an e-mail, he told me that the letter was in fact dated 2008 when Shoreham rowing club raised the matter with British Rowing concerning an international competing in CARA events, so it appears that this situation is not a 2012 problem only.

The Charles Matthews Memorial Open Senior Cup. This was repaired at a cost of £110 and returned to the Bideford organizing committee by DW on Friday 7th September 2012 and will be an agenda item for the H&D Delegates meeting to establish responsibility for the repair cost.

A late item at the meeting JH queried that Castledore had a composite crew entered in the junior regatta and it was agreed that as they were a very small club, and growing, their entry was accepted and confirmed.

DW to carry out the roll call of all clubs at the 7.30 am safety briefing on Saturday and Sunday at 8.30 am. At the role call on Saturday Totnes were late arriving due to heavy fog so it was decided not to penalize them and I arranged for the Events Safety Officer to give them safety instructions. At the role call on Sunday only one club were missing which was Lymington and myself and Pete Staddon tried to find their club captain to no avail. The Hon Sec was instructed to penalize Lymington with a £25 fine in accordance with the rules. This information has been relayed verbally to the Lymington club captain.

DW on behalf of the SCCRC wished the organizing committee "good luck and fair weather for successful regattas on Saturday and Sunday".

Meeting closed.

Denis Woodford.  
South Coast Council Chairman and H&D Delegate.

Appendix 5. Summary of views of H&D Clubs on GB National Championships.

**Hants & Dorset ARA.  
Views on National Championships  
and Hants & Dorset ARA Support.**

Club	From	View
BTC	John Purkess	With the recent Olympic ladies successes at Dorney it would be nice to have parity between the sexes, so perhaps ladies fours and also men's and ladies pairs.
CHRISTCHURCH	Mike Green	An October event really does provide both British Coastal Rowing Associations with the best opportunity to participate on a regular basis. There is no reason why Clubs should not share boat transport at this time of the year. Regarding events: Men's and Women's all at Coast Senior level in Coastal boats: Coxed Fours. Coxless Pairs. Single Sculls.
COALPORTERS	<i>No response.</i>	
ITCHEN	Gary Joyce	I can't give you a definitive response from our club as to whether we would support the change. On the plus side it gets the Nat Champs out of our regular season so in theory frees the crews to attend. On the down side, September and October are normally rest periods for our rowers will have just finished our season and I'm not sure how they will respond to going to Nottingham in October to race a limited programme of coastal events against crews they have been competing against most of the summer. Chris has pointed out that river clubs training will be more focused on head races than 2k races. An event at Dorney is more likely to attract support as will opening the number of events. I think it unlikely Dorney will be available for use so it will need something special to attract us to Nottingham in October. I guess the only thing the organisers can do is try it, market it and see what the response is.
LYMINGTON	Alastair Keir	Lymington have sent crews to the nationals occasionally in the past, but not for a few years. I think we would be unlikely to support this on anything more than an occasional basis, with support in October perhaps even less likely after a long coastal season. An event at Dorney may receive more support, but with 13 regattas and the SCC, going to another event that is a long way away and a big extra cost is a big ask.
NEWPORT	<i>No response.</i>	
POOLE	Sue Sothcott	October for the Nat Champs – the summer is too busy and it always clashes with one of our regattas or uses up a possible slot for cancellations. Not too sure about the extra events but an Open Women's Coxed Four should get some interest??
RYDE	Steve Bull	Best time - October. Include Ladies events - Fours - maybe sculls.
SHANKLIN	<i>No response.</i>	
SOUTHAMPTON	Andy Stevenson.	On behave of Southampton ARC, we believe the best time would be in October, and most entries and classes as possible to make it a worthwhile trip for all the members,

	John Bailey	With regard to the events held, I doubt that a variation on type of events held would receive any greater support than they have in previous years; however I think a rotation of venues to include Dorney would be a very positive move.
SOUTHSEA	<i>No response.</i>	
WESTOVER	Peter Lamb	we would prefer October and would welcome any small boat races.
WORTHING	<i>No response.</i>	

Appendix 6. Report on plans for the 2014 South Coast Rowing Championships

**Report on plans for the 2014 South Coast Rowing Championships, to be hosted by the Hants & Dorset ARA and held at Swanage, Dorset, over the weekend of 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 – to the Hants & Dorset ARA Autumn Delegates Meeting, 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2012, at BTC Rowing Club, Southampton.**

The Association agreed at its Annual General Meeting, in March 2012 to put forward Swanage, in Dorset, as the venue for the 58<sup>th</sup>/2014 South Coast Rowing Championships Regatta, over the weekend of 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 in line with South Coast Council (Rule 36) “The Championship Regatta WILL be advertised to be held NO LATER than the second week in September”

A power-point presentation to this effect was prepared by the steering committee and presented to the South Coast Council Meeting held at Bideford on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2012 and Council duly approved the venue, date and format outlined. In line with South Coast Council rule number 14 the type of boat to be used has been specified as – Coastal – as we are a Coastal Association – and Swanage is a coastal venue.

Swanage has much to offer everyone: a wealth of attractions to suit all ages, sporting and leisure activities, historic buildings and for the traditional seaside holiday. It is situated at the eastern end of the Jurassic Coast, a World Heritage Site. The town hosts plenty of interesting shops and you are be spoilt for choice with numerous places to eat and drink, from cosy tea rooms, serving Dorset cream teas, hearty pub grub, continental cuisine to eat in or take away, seafood specialities and traditional fish and chips. There is an abundance of accommodation and entertainment to suit all budgets in and around the Town.

With the emergence and growing support for the Junior Regatta and interest expressed in the addition of small boat “open” events the Hants & Dorset ARA is proposing to stage a two day Regatta over one weekend – with the Championship and open fours event on the Saturday (the usual South Coast Championship Regatta) and Junior and open small boat events on the Sunday. If bad weather forces the cancellation of the Championship events on the Saturday – and the alternative course was also not useable – then the Championship events would switch to the Sunday and take priority over all other events – hopefully ensuring completion of all the Championship races.

The Primary course will be in Swanage Bay and will be the same course that was used for the 2003 South Coast Championships Regatta. The straight course will be a minimum of 1750m in length with the start from a boat, near Ballard Down, at the northern end of bay and the finish by the jetty at the northern end of the promenade. The alternative/back-up course is in Poole Harbour, in Brands/Bramble Bush Bay – and will allow the full program to be completed, although may have to be over a shorter course of around 1,500m.

Although planning is at an early stage and subject to confirmation, it is hoped that, as with the 2003 Regatta, the organisers will be able link with the Swanage Folk Festival, which is scheduled to take place the week before the Championship Regatta. This will allow the shared use of some facilities including a marquee in Sandpit Field, which overlooks the Regatta Finish – where the Friday evening reception and Championship may take place as well as the Prize Giving and Saturday evening party – although contact has also been made with the Mowlem Theatre – which is also under consideration for these events.

Since the Hants & Dorset ARA AGM and South Coast Council approved the venue an organizing committee has been formed drawn from the Hants & Dorset ARA's affiliated Clubs – and anyone interested in helping to organize the event is very welcome to join the committee. These are currently held every other month – on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month with the venue alternating between Itchen and Christchurch Rowing Clubs.

Many of those who served on the organising committee in 2007 and 2011 have agreed to serve again for 2014, including – Tim Bull, of Lymington R. C. who has agreed to serve as Regatta Secretary once again? and Kevin Ayles, of Neaves Rowing Services, which is based in Swanage, will act as Chairman – and has a wealth of knowledge about the Town and the surrounding area. Other position's agreed are - Program production – Mike Lewis; Communications plan – Steve Bull; Entries and forms - Steve Bull; Receipt of entries – Sue Sothcott; Merchandising - Josie Bull; Safety and Radio Communications – Gary Joyce. Matt Bull has been approached to produce a web site and Pete Staddon to manage the Race Officials.

A logo for the event has been designed – see head of paper – and we hope to launch a dedicated web site in the new year (2013). An E mail circulation list will be established and regular “E” Bulletins sent out starting early next year. We also intend to establish a Face book page with links to local companies, merchandising, advertising and sponsors, including local council and trade stands and may develop a “twitter” feed – but will use these forms of Social Media, the Web page and E Mail circulation as back-up rather than primary communication systems.

With a South Coast Championship fund in place via the H&D South Coast Seat Levy the committee do not anticipate a major issue funding the regatta – however in order to retain as much of the South Coast Fund as possible for future championships the usual revenue sources will be tapped – event sponsorship, program advertising, branded kit sales, program sales etc... – and initial work and approaches have been made in these areas. A mail shot to local firms, pubs, restaurants, cafe's and accommodation providers is planned – partly to seek sponsorship and advertising – but also to make sure the community are fully aware that the event is taking place in the town – which has been an issue in the past.

While a main sponsor will be sought it is accepted that as in 2011 this may not be possible to find one. Links with a local brewery and food and catering firms will be sought to provide these services and generate income.

A plan to block book local campsite(s) is also being considered - reserving it (them) for the competing clubs and a “face to face” meeting with the local council is being planned to iron out any issues and keep them fully involved.

**The next meeting of the Committee is on Monday, 22nd October at 18:30 at Christchurch.**

Steve Bull,  
30 Sep, 2012.

Appendix 7. Report from the Umpires Commission.

**HANTS & DORSET ARA UMPIRES COMMISSION.**

**Report from Chairman. Andy Parsons.**

**General observations:**

Communications

Although generally good, improvements could be made in communications at most regattas – especially to ensure that the officials at the turns are kept up to date with scratchings, results of heats, race draws etc. – it can get lonely if you are 1000m away from regatta control and no one is talking to you! And a technical issue – make sure all radios have fully charged batteries fitted at the start and issue the umpires with spares.

Boat handling skills

Race crews should practice the skills required in getting afloat and ashore, manoeuvring into position for the start and allowing for wind and tide at the turn – standards were generally good this season but there is always room for improvement here – it makes the officials much happier if there are no incidents where they have to disqualify someone.

Knowledge of the rules

A couple of junior scullers disqualified for turning buoys the wrong way is a reminder to coaches to tell them the right way – and get them to practice it!

Buoy lines

Generally the management of buoy lines has improved this season with fewer reported long delays for buoy realignment. However, there is no room for complacency and improvements can be made in terms of alignment, stability and visibility of the turns buoys, especially in the more challenging coastal courses where swell, tide and wind present significant challenges.

Officials

We have a number of new assistant officials in training but still need more volunteers for this essential part of our sport – all clubs are encouraged to find new officials so our events continue to be run for our athletes to enjoy fair and well-organised competition.

As ever, the weather can make an official's comfort levels very low at the end of a six hour stint in the rain. Some regattas are reminded that a bit of cover would be very much appreciated!

23/9/12.

Appendix 8. Report from the Safety Commission.

**Report from the Regional Rowing Safety Adviser and Hants & Dorset ARA Rowing Safety Committee to the Hants & Dorset ARA Autumn Delegates Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 and the Annual General Meeting of the Wessex Regional Rowing Council on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2012.**

National Rowing Safety Committee.

Unfortunately, due to other rowing commitments, I have only been able to attend two of the three National Rowing Safety Committee Meetings held this year – and will be unable to attend the final meeting of the year because it clashes with the Hants & Dorset ARA Autumn Delegates Meeting. I attended the meetings held in January and April, both held at BR Headquarters at Hammersmith and chaired by Clive Killick, the BR Rowing Safety Advisor. Among the subjects discussed at the meetings was - the reorganization of British Rowing and its impact on Rowing Safety and the National Rowing Safety Committee and its terms of reference; Row Safe 2012 – and the strategy and plan for updating it; Incident Reports and procedures; Umpires Responsibilities and the Club Safety Audit and defaulters. The Rowing Safety Working Party – of which I am not a member – but do have input into - have also discussed training modules and Personal Flotation Devices – and I am one of the guinea pigs testing the Risk Assessment on line training module they have developed. At the April Meeting I was one of about 50% of the regions to present an Annual Report – which was well received by the committee. For the first time in a number of years WEARA have been fully represented at the NRS Meetings – by Stephen Worley – who inevitably is taking a very active role and has also joined the Rowing Safety Working Party. CARA/South East Coastal have not been represented at any meeting since the resignation of Karl Bowerman in January.

The reorganization of British Rowing and the changes to their constitution has led to the inclusion of CARA/South East Coastal Division within Wessex – and the suggestion from BR that the Wessex

Safety Advisor should cover this huge region. I have advised Wessex and BR that while I am prepared to continue as Regional Rowing Safety Advisor for the old Wessex Region – now Wessex West, I am not prepared to act as RRSA for the CARA/Wessex East region and will not accept this increased responsibility.

The National Rowing Safety Committee has been disappointed with BR's support – or more accurately lack of support – with the promised funding and resources for IT development not forthcoming and the removal of any reference of the promotion of a positive safety culture from the terms of reference of the new Executive Committee of BR – which the NRSC believes send out all the wrong messages. I suspect that, as a result of the “battle” with BR Clive Killick will not see re-election as National Rowing Safety Adviser.

*Point to note: BR will now use the term “Rowing Safety” as opposed to “Water Safety” as they feel the role of the Safety Committee is not limited to activity on the water – i.e. includes Boathouses, Trailers etc.. so Regional Water Safety Adviser (RWSA) becomes Regional Rowing Safety Adviser (RRSA) etc...*

#### Incident Reports.

Up to the end of September, 2012 there had been 30 incidents reported, significantly less than at the same point last year and while you would hope that this reflects improved safety in Clubs I believe that it is more about under reporting. For example between the 15/7/12 and the 15/8/12 there were apparently no incidents at any Wessex Clubs, which, even with the schools and universities on their summer break seems unlikely. Of the 30 recorded incidents 17 were in competition, 7 were regarded as serious and reportable and two took place involving Wessex Clubs but outside the region. A further indication of under reporting is that H&D ARA Race Officials reports indicate at least 27 safety related incidents at Hants & Dorset events – with only 17 incident reports received.

#### Safety Audits/Clubs.

Annual Club Safety Self Audits are organized by BR and as every H&D affiliated Club is also affiliated to BR there is no requirement for the H&D to duplicate this. It is pleasing to note that all Wessex Region Clubs submitted their annual safety audit – more or less on time – with just a few having to be chased up and some minor issues that had to be resolved with regards to new BR affiliations in the region – notably Solent University Boat Club. I am lead to believe that the “Langstone Cutters” a recreational rowing club based in Portsmouth have now affiliated to BR – which I find strange as it was my understanding that a new affiliation is not possible unless the RRSA has signed off on a safety audit? This brings into question the whole BR attitude and approach to the Club Safety audits that BR Clubs are expected to complete annually – what happens at the Gig Clubs water sports centers and Scout groups that BR are attracting – or is there focus now so much on participation and BR membership that safety is a secondary consideration! The 2012/2013 Club audit process is due to start in October – with submission by the end of December – and will follow a similar format to last years – and will be undertaken on-line.

#### Safety Audits/Events.

All events held in the region except BTC Regatta submitted a safety audit, usually accompanied by copies of their safety and emergency plans – and risk assessments. All audits submitted were considered to be acceptable and event permits issued. BTC's safety procedures were checked on the day – and one event, the Itchen Junior Sprint Regatta, was randomly selected for a formal re-audit on the day - partly because of the greater duty of care required at a Junior event. There were no issues discovered during the re-audit process.

### Boat Inspections (i/c life Jackets).

The H&DARA Rowing Safety Committee carried out Boat Inspections at four events during the season, which included a Life Jacket check at one event and a full heel restraint check at another. In total sixty-three boats were checked – revealing twenty-eight faults found – or 44%. As always heel restraint issues was the most common fault found – with 17 – 61%. The second largest fault found was Boat ID – with 7 faults found – 25% and then buoyancy tank issues – 3 issues – 11%. Forty-two boats were checked in the full heel restraint check exercise – with four faults found. Ten Life Jackets were checked – with five faults found – biggest problem being firing mechanism clips not fitted. Two Clubs – Itchen and Ryde – had no faults found during boat inspections – and it is probably no coincidence that these two Clubs have members who are very active on the Hants & Dorset ARA Rowing Safety Committee.

### H&D Safety Equipment.

The three Hants & Dorset ARA Race Officials Safety Kits have been returned after a busy season where they were in constant use. The equipment has yet to be fully checked over – but known issues are a broken clasp on one of the waterproof bags and a Loud Hailer spare battery box being missing. One of the Loud Hailers was broken within the first two events of the season – and was replaced at the time. The Race Officials Life Jackets have been retained by Itchen Imperial Rowing Club who are arranging to have the Hants & Dorset name printed on them – to reduce the likelihood of them going missing.

Steve Bull.

Regional Rowing Safety Adviser.

Hants & Dorset ARA Rowing Safety Sub Committee.

September, 2012.

Appendix 9. Report from Wessex Regional Rowing Council (Colin Eales)

## **Wessex Regional Rowing Council**

### **Report to Hants and Dorset ARA 26 September 2012**

Sport in Britain is on a fantastic high following Bradley Wiggins winning the Tour de France, Andy Murray winning the US Open, and of course our success in the Olympics and Paralympics, with Rowing being the second most successful sport after Cycling.

Great Britain are the top rowing nation once again and British Rowing want it to stay that way for many years to come.

To enable this, British Rowing, driven by Sport England, has restructured its Council and the Regions. This should give a more flexible organisation speeding up decision-making.

What does this mean for Wessex? Well, the region has doubled in size; Wessex has merged with South East Coast (CARA) forming one large region to be called Wessex, with one Chairman and one seat on the British Rowing Council. Previously the two regions had four seats at Council between them. Therefore, we are twice the size with a quarter of the representation. This is because the regions and representation has been worked out on British Rowing membership.

We know that post-Olympic funding will be difficult to find so we will need to work hard to get our case across. We need active representation on all British Rowing committees to fight our coastal rowing corner.

These committees are:

- Water Safety
- Coaching
- Juniors
- Masters
- Recreational Rowing
- Umpires
- Competition

Also the Wessex Action Plan for 2013-2017 is now out for consultation. Feedback is required by 1st November. To have your say and develop your club come to Wessex meetings and get involved. The Wessex AGM will be held at Southsea Rowing Club on 20th November at 7.00pm.

Colin Eales, Chairman, Wessex Regional Rowing Council

Appendix 10. Report from British Rowing Divisional Rep. Mike Green.

## **BRITISH ROWING DIVISION 22 REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT TO HANTS & DORSET ARA AUTUMN DELEGATES MEETING ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2012.**

### **INTRODUCTION.**

1) As you might be aware British Rowing has undergone a great deal of re-organisation over the last year, which has seen the demise of Division Representatives and in consequence no longer sitting on the new smaller British Rowing Council.

The representation and vote on Council from the BR AGM held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2012 now passes to the Wessex Region Chairman, Colin Eales.

I am sure you will give Colin your full support in his new expanded role, which now takes in the Coast Amateur Rowing Association (the now dissolved Division 21b).

2) Kate Burt, Chief Executive Officer is now in post and attended the BR Council meeting on the 22/09/12 and presented her paper on her Strategic Goals for the next 4 year cycle.

### **SUMMARY OF COUNCIL KEY POINTS.**

- 1) It has to be noted the AGM also took place on the 22/09/12, which really was a legal formality.
- 2) Operating surplus of £249,000 for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012.
- 3) Di Ellis gave a very positive report on British Rowing successes in 2012, taking in the Olympics, Paralympics, World Cup, World U23, Junior, Coupe de Jeunesse, J16 GB/France match and World University Rowing Championships. Congratulated athletes, coaches and support staff.
- 4) She announced the names of 6 persons for the Medal of Honour and 2 persons for the Medal of Merit.
- 5) She also confirmed 60 names had been received for the Diamond Jubilee Medals, these to be announced in due course.
- 6) The Financial Report included recommended Club Affiliation, Regatta Affiliation and Individual Subscriptions for 2013.

CLUBS: £80.00 for 10 members or less.

Plus £6.00 per member over 10 members.

REGATTA: £51.00 per day.

INDIVIDUALS: Senior £50.00

Student £31.00

Junior £24.00

J13 & under free for 1<sup>st</sup> year, then £15.00 thereafter.

Non Racing £26.00

It is to be noted that the following H&D Clubs have not yet submitted Membership declarations:  
Newport RC.

Coalporters ARC.

Outcome if not done by year end then no rowing at River events.

7) National Report by Rosemary Napp.

a) Whole Sport Plan for 2013/2017 submitted to Sport England on 14<sup>th</sup> May. Informal feedback has been excellent. Meeting in mid October will reveal the level of grant aid being offered to BR.

b) There are some BR governance issues to be resolved which includes considering the reduction of its Board to 12 members by 2014 (currently 14/15).

c) The Excel Programme generally going well, especially in the SE Region. I report on this as there is a smaller programme for Under 23 women currently operating in Wessex.

d) The 40 month Bi-Annual review shows the demands for rowing since Olympics as some 1186 in the Wessex area, plus 708 in the old CARA area.

This is the highest in the country.

e) Social Media Guidance notes have been published for British Rowing Volunteers.

f) A British Rowing Environmental Policy has been published.

g) Finally a document well worth obtaining and reading is the "British Rowing Codes of Conduct" Effects all of us in whatever role.

h) There is a BR published sheet on Structure and Representation. It is well worth looking at as it outlines the Regions and their set up in respect of representation on National Committees, i.e. Coaching, Competition, Junior, Masters, Recreational, Rowing Safety and Umpiring.

Colin E will no doubt spell this out in more detail in his Wessex report.

i) British Rowing Membership figures at 31/08/12 shows Wessex has broken the 1000 barrier with 1027 registered members. Note CARA have 86 registered.

8) British Rowing Junior Championships, 2013, recommended events for **J14, J15, J16 and J18 plus new racing format over 1500 metres. Generally well received. Watch this space, should be of interest to H&D Clubs.**

9) **There is a 2013 Regatta Calendar dated 19 August 2012. It awaits the addition of the H&D Regatta dates.**

10) **The British Senior Rowing Championships scheduled for October** in 2013 raised some discussion on how it will fit into the rowing calendar.

11) The 2012 Diamond Regatta is still on.

## SUMMARY.

I believe the above summary of the meeting highlights the matters, which are of immediate interest to H&D Clubs.

For those wishing for further detail, then I will be able to show you copy on the 20<sup>th</sup> October at the H&D meeting.

Thank you for your support over the years as your Division 22 Representative.

Mike Green.

24<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

Appendix 11. Report from H&D ARA Sub Committees.

**Hants and Dorset ARA  
Rules and Competitions Subcommittees**

## PROGRESS REPORT

### Introduction

The Hants and Dorset Rules and Competitions Subcommittees have met on five occasions since January 2012.

## **Rules Subcommittee**

The rules subcommittee has a brief to review the Hants and Dorset ARA: General Rules, Rules for Boat Racing, Regatta Rules, Recommendations to Regatta Committees and Conditions Governing the Hants and Dorset ARA Championship Trophies. To date the subcommittee have only reviewed the General Rules, now renamed "Constitution."

Amendments have been made to the following paragraphs:

3. Area – now modified to exclude Channel Islands, which is a reflection of reality.
7. Council – now modified to redefine membership of the Council to include: the Executive, Vice Presidents, Life Vice Presidents, one delegate from each affiliated Club and one delegate from each affiliated regatta.
8. Executive – defined as Officers, namely the President, Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer. Membership has been modified to excluded honorary life members as executive members
9. Vice Presidents and Life Vice Presidents - this clarifies their election and voting rights.
10. Annual General Meeting – includes election of Trustees, Life Vice Presidents and Vice Presidents. The number of delegates entitled to attend is reduced as per "council" above.
11. Council Meetings – now replaces the term "delegates" meeting.
13. Constitution and rule amendments – lays down a process and timetable for amendment to the constitution.
24. Welfare and Child Protection – new section expecting affiliated clubs to comply with British Rowing Guidance.
25. Safety – new section expecting affiliated clubs to comply with British Rowing Guidance.

It is proposed to consult on the the new Constitution between October and 18<sup>th</sup> December 2012. A revised version will then be put to the 2013 AGM for ratification. The Subcommittee will now turn its attentions to the remainder of its brief.

## **Competitions Subcommittee**

The competitions subcommittee has undertaken two surveys to look at:

- membership, facilities, coaching and equipment available
- clubs' and members' view on the current competitions, statuses and progression through them.

The membership, etc. questionnaire provides useful background to ensure any changes proposed are supported by available members, availability of equipment, etc.

The competitions questionnaire seeks the views of the membership on inclusiveness, existing championship structures, range of events, number of regattas, head races, statuses, status progression/regression and points structure.

It is reasonable to say that the response to the surveys has been incomplete. Less than half the Clubs have responded to the membership, etc. questionnaire and less than 10 competitions questionnaires have been returned, even though some have been whole club or club committee responses.

It is proposed to keep trying to obtain a complete response to the membership, etc. questionnaire and update it annually.

In an attempt to involve more clubs in responding to the competitions questionnaire the chair and secretary of the subcommittee are visiting groups of clubs to obtain views on the areas covered by the competitions questionnaire. It is hoped that these meetings will be completed by the end of October, with a view to making recommendations for change by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012

Based on current incomplete returns the following headlines emerge

- satisfaction with the competitions structure

The Minutes of the Hants & Dorset ARA Delegates Meeting. 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2012.

- the number of regattas is thought to be OK but some think the number of head races could be increased, with some small boats races before Christmas
- potential for increasing the number of junior (age based) events
- potential for a women's J/S status
- potential for a league table based on a points structure for placings in finals
- there is no appetite for increasing the scope of men's veteran racing but introduction of women's races would be supported
- support for regression of status is mixed and more consultation is required in this area.

## Thank you

Thanks to Gary Joyce for his work on the constitution, the subcommittee members for their support throughout and those clubs and individuals who have contributed to date.

Jeff Watling  
25<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Appendix 12. Revised Hants & Dorset ARA Constitution.

## **HANTS & DORSET AMATEUR ROWING ASSOCIATION. CONSTITUTION. *Changes in Italics.***

### **General Rules**

#### **1) TITLE.**

1.2. The name of the Association will be "The Hants & Dorset Amateur Rowing Association".

#### **2) OBJECT.**

2.1. The objects of the Association shall be to promote and regulate rowing, sculling and boat racing generally within the area covered by the members of the Association, and to co-operate with other sporting associations in promoting the said activities and sporting activities generally.

#### **3) AREA.**

3.1. *The Association shall consist of rowing clubs and events, primarily within Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight, willing to bind themselves to observe the constitution and rules of the Association.*

#### **4) ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP.**

4.1 Other Clubs and *events* outside the *area* named maybe admitted under special circumstances but their membership may then be subject to special conditions and restrictions in accordance with such circumstances.  
4.2. Applications by Clubs or *events* to join shall be submitted to the Honorary Secretary at least one month before the Annual General Meeting accompanied by the appropriate subscription or *event* fee (which will be returned if not elected) and a majority of two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote at such a meeting shall be required to admit to membership

#### **5) CLUB CONTACTS – NOTIFICATION TO ASSOCIATION SECRETARY.**

5.1. Every Club or *event* on becoming affiliated shall send to the Honorary Secretary the name and address of its secretary or other proper officer to whom all communications shall be sent and shall promptly notify any changes and all notices sent by the Association to the name last given shall be deemed to have been properly sent whether received or not. If agreed by the Club, Event or individual, electronic Mail (Email) is an acceptable form of communication.

#### **6) AFFILIATION FEES.**

6.1. Each affiliated Club or *event* shall pay to the Association an annual subscription or *event* permit fee at the rates fixed annually at the Annual General Meeting such payment to be made before the first counting Championship points or the 1<sup>st</sup> June which ever shall be earlier in each year. Any Club in arrears shall lose its power to vote and shall not be eligible to compete at any *event* and any *event* in arrears shall be liable to have their permit to hold anevent withdrawn.

## **7) COUNCIL**

7.1. *The management of the Association shall be invested in a Council consisting of the Executive, Life Vice Presidents, Vice Presidents and one delegate from each affiliated Club and one delegate from each affiliated event (hereinafter called the Council).*

7.2. The Council shall have full power to enquire into the conduct of any Club or event or individual in respect of whom a complaint has been made and for that purpose may require the attendance of specific officials and other persons and the production of all books, letters and other documents. They shall full power to deal with all offending or defaulting Clubs, events or individuals as they may think fit including imposing fines and suspensions or withholding championship points but any motion imposing such action shall require a two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote.

7.3. The Council may make bye-laws which shall be binding on the Association until the next AGM at which they must be ratified in order to stay in force.

## **8) EXECUTIVE.**

8.1. *The Executive shall consist of the officers namely the President, Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.*

8.2. The officers elected at the AGM shall hold office until the next AGM and shall be eligible for re-election except that the President shall not serve for more than 2 years consecutively and the Chairman shall not serve for more than 5 years consecutively but may be re-elected at some future date.

8.3. Additional officers may be elected to the Executive at the discretion of the Council at an AGM to assist in the management of the Association who shall be entitled to attend all meetings and have one vote each.

*(DELETE In addition honorary life members may be elected who shall be entitled to attend all meetings and take part in discussions but shall have no voting power unless empowered to do so by rules 6 and 9 hereof)*

8.4 Vacancies in officers arising during the year may be filled by the Executive (*DELETE Committee*) to hold office until the next AGM.

## **9) VICE PRESIDENTS AND LIFE VICE PRESIDENTS.**

9.1. *The Council at the AGM can elect Vice Presidents who shall be entitled to attend all meetings and to have one vote each. Vice Presidents have to be re-elected annually.*

9.2. *The Council at the AGM can elect Life Vice Presidents or promote Vice Presidents of the Association to the position of Life Vice President. Life Vice Presidents shall be entitled to attend all meetings and shall have one vote each. Life Vice Presidents can be removed at an AGM but do not have to be re-elected annually. A Life Vice President should be someone who has made a significant contribution to the Hants & Dorset Rowing Association or Coastal Rowing.*

## **10) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

10.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held each year as a general rule in *March* to transact the following business and *six weeks* notice in writing of the date and place and time of the meeting will be given with an agenda setting out the business to be transacted which shall include.

10.2 To approve the minutes of the last AGM and any other general meetings and to deal with any matters arising.

10.3. To receive the Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December last.

10.4. To elect the officers and other members of the Executive and Honorary Auditor.

10.5. To elect racing officials comprising umpires, starters, judges and their assistants.

10.6. *To elect Vice Presidents and Life Vice Presidents*

10.7 *To appoint Trustees to the Association as required under Rule 18 of the Association Constitution.*

10.8. To ratify affiliated event dates.

10.9. To agree rates of subscriptions, permit fees and entry fees for the year.

10.10. To deal with any other business authorised by the Council or requisitioned in accordance with these rules.

9.9. *At the AGM each Club shall be entitled to have two additional delegates and each Event one additional delegate to vote in addition to their members of the Executive and they shall nominate at the meeting their members entitled to vote. (DELETE completely)*

## **11) COUNCIL (delete DELEGATES) MEETING**

11.1. A meeting of the Council shall be held in the Autumn of each year to review the last event season and matters arising there from and to consider any matters to be referred to the AGM. Clubs and events wishing to have matters placed on the agenda shall notify the Honorary Secretary thereof before the 30<sup>th</sup> September and the Honorary Secretary shall give at least 3 weeks notice in writing of such meeting and agenda. Unless determined at a previous meeting the date and place shall be fixed by the Honorary Secretary.

## **12) ADDITIONAL MEETINGS**

12.1. Additional meetings of the Council may be called at any time by any two of the Executive or requisitioned in writing by three affiliated Clubs or events who shall deposit with the Honorary Secretary the sum of £20 or such sum as the Association shall from time to time prescribe to cover the cost of the meeting, stating the

objects of the meeting and the names of those requisitioning the same and the meeting may decide whether the circumstances for calling the meeting justified the whole or part of such sum so deposited being refunded.

### **13) CONSTITUTION AND RULE AMENDMENTS**

13.1. Alterations or additions to the Associations Constitution may be submitted for consideration at an AGM by any affiliated Club, *event*, Executive Officer or Sub Committee of the Association.

13.2. Any proposed alterations to the *constitution* shall be submitted to the Honorary Secretary in writing by the *31st December* who shall circulate them at least 6 weeks before the AGM and any Club or *event* wishing to submit amendments to the proposed alterations shall give notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary and each affiliated Club or *event* at least two weeks before the AGM. Any alterations or amendments so circulated in advance and passed at the AGM shall take immediate effect.

13.3. Any amendment to the *constitution* not so circulated in advance but passed by a two-thirds majority at an AGM shall take immediate effect and be binding on Clubs and *events* but notice thereof must be given on the agenda of the next AGM and unless ratified there by two-thirds majority shall thereupon lapse.

### **14) VOTING.**

14.1. At all meetings voting will be a show of hands of those entitled to vote and no one shall be entitled to more than one vote save the Chairman who shall have a casting vote in the event of an equality of votes. Resolutions shall be carried or lost by a simple majority save that no rules of the Association shall be repealed or altered and no new rules shall be made save by a two-thirds majority of those voting at the AGM.

14.2. At all meetings if the Chairman shall so decree or if ten members present and entitled to vote shall so request voting may be by secret ballot when voting cards shall be issued to those entitled to vote and two scrutineers shall be appointed to count the votes and the same rules as to a majority shall apply.

14.3. The Quorum at an AGM shall be 15 persons present and entitled to vote and at a *Council* meeting 11 such persons and at an Emergency Committee meeting 7 such persons.

14.4. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting or the non-receipt of a notice of a meeting by any Officer, Club or *event* shall not invalidate any proceedings or resolutions at any meeting.

### **15) EMERGENCY COMMITTEE.**

15.1. The Officers present at a event together with one representative of each Club and *event* present shall constitute an Emergency Committee to consider all matters of dispute referred to it by the organising *event* committee, the umpires and other racing officials of the day or any three Clubs requisitioning the same by written to the senior Officer present.

15.2. Such Emergency Committee shall be empowered to withhold points from any or all Championship races where the conditions do not conform to the best interests of rowing, make decisions about postponements and row-offs and exercise disciplinary powers against any competitors or Club considered by it guilty of conduct prejudicial to the best interests of rowing.

### **16) DISCIPLINARY MEASURES.**

16.1. If it is held a disciplinary offence has been committed the Emergency Committee shall have power to reprimand a competitor or Club and/or suspend the offender from racing in future events until a meeting of the *Council* can be convened or impose a fine not exceeding £10 on a competitor or Club or refer the matter to the *Council* who may suspend or fine without limit.

16.2. Any Club aggrieved by the decision of the Emergency Committee may seek a meeting of the *Council* under rule 12 by notice to the Honorary Secretary within seven days of the Emergency Committees decision when the *Council* shall reconsider the matter as soon as possible to either ratify, reverse or amend the decision of the Emergency Committee.

### **17) FINANCE.**

17.1. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the accounts and the funds of the Association and shall cause an audited account to be published for perusal at the AGM.

17.2. No Officer shall have the power to incur expenditure or commit the Association to expenditure in excess of £100 without the consent of the Associations general meeting.

17.3. All monies received on behalf of the Association shall be paid into bankers or building societies appointed by the Association and all cheques on and directions to the bankers shall be signed by the Honorary Secretary or any other two Officers of the Association.

17.4. Priority is given to any Organising Committee for the sale clothing and memorabilia to raise funds for the South Coast Championships Regatta each time it is held under the auspices of the Hants and Dorset Amateur Rowing Association. This does not preclude Clubs or *events* raising funds at their own events.

### **18) ASSETS AND TRUSTEES.**

18.1. The Association may acquire property and may appoint not less than two or more than four Trustees in whom all property of the Association other than cash under the control of the Treasurer shall be vested.

18.2. The Trustees shall hold office until death, resignation or removal from an office by a resolution passed at the AGM.

18.3. The Trustees may deal with the property so vested in them by way of sale mortgage charge lease or otherwise as directed by the Association in general meeting.

18.4. The Trustees shall be effectually indemnified by the Association from and against any liability cost, expenses and payments whatsoever which maybe properly incurred or made by them in relation to the trusts of the property of the Association or in relation to any legal proceedings or which otherwise relate directly or indirectly to the performance of the functions of the Trustees.

#### **19) LABILITIES.**

19.1. Neither the Association nor any Officer or Committee Member thereof shall be liable to any Club, *event* or individual whether a member of the Association or not for any loss or damage or injury to any property or person occurring from whatever cause in or about the property of the Association or in about any event promoted by or held under the *Constitution* of the Association and any Club or *event* staging any event held under the name of the Association shall display a notice to this effect in any programme or in a prominent position at the event.

#### **20) DISSOLUTION.**

20.1. A motion to dissolve the Association may only be made at an Annual General Meeting and to the effect a dissolution at least three quarters of the persons present and entitled to vote must vote in favour of the dissolution and if carried the property and surplus funds of the Association shall be returned to the original donors, distributed amongst the affiliated Clubs and *events* or donated to some other Association having its main objects the promotion of rowing and other sporting activities as such Annual General Meeting may decide.

#### **21) SUB COMMITTEES.**

21.1 The Association may delegate any of its powers to Sub-Committees or other bodies or to individuals from amongst its members or otherwise provided the powers so delegated are specified in each case.

#### **22) ASSOCIATION RULES.**

22.1. The Association Rules for boat racing and *event* rules and conditions governing the Associations Championship Trophies shall be an integral part of this *Constitution* and all amendments and additions thereto shall be made in accordance with this *Constitution*.

#### **23) INTERPRETATION.**

23.1. If clarification or interpretation of any of the existing Association Rules as they stand is required then such clarification or interpretation will be made by the Executive Officers of the Association, that is the President, Chairman, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary and any three of the four Executive Officers being able to make such a decision.

#### **24) WELFARE AND CHILD PROTECTION**

24.1. *The Association accepts the policy and procedures relating to Welfare and Child Protection as set out by British Rowing and requires all affiliated clubs to accept them as a condition of affiliation.*

#### **25) SAFETY.**

25.1. *The Association accepts the policy and procedures relating to Safety as set out by British Rowing and the Association and requires all affiliated clubs to accept them as a condition of affiliation.*

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