

MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION RACING OFFICIALS MEETING, SATURDAY, 21st JANUARY, 2012, 10.30am at BTC ROWING CLUB CLUBHOUSE, Crosshouse Road, Chapel, Southampton.

There were 17 Full and Assistant Racing Officials in attendance, when John Purkess, Umpires Commission Chairman, opened the meeting at 10.40am plus Chris Foad who joined the meeting later. Apologies were received from – Brian Gowman, Andy Sothcott, Pete Diffey, Keith Warland and Simon Clements.

The Association Secretary read a statement from Andy Sothcott regarding his situation which explained the condition of his health and expressing a wish to continue as a Race Official but that he would have to assess his availability and how much he could do based on the progress of his recovery. The meeting unanimously wished him well and the Secretary was asked to write to him accordingly.

The Minutes of the last meeting, which had been circulated to all in attendance and were agreed to be correct and taken as read on a proposal from Denny Woodford seconded by Les Foad.

There were no matters arising that would not be covered by other agenda items.

The Umpires Commission Chairman, John Purkess, presented his annual report to the meeting consisting of his report to the Hants & Dorset ARA Delegates Meeting and to the National Umpires Commission (see attached). Further to John's report the meeting discussed in some detail the impact on the National Umpires Commission of the new streamlined British Rowing structure that had resulted in Wessex losing one vote on the BR Council and a theoretical merger with the South East (Coastal) Rowing Council. There were also new terms of reference for the National Umpires Commission – which would now be called the National Umpires Committee – but while the Chairman of the H&D Umpires committee still has a right to attend he no longer has a vote. It was noted that the WEARA Umpires Committee had become a fully constituted BR Umpires Committee – and therefore retained a vote – but after much debate the general consensus was that it would be better if we maintained our independence – even if that meant a loss of voting rights.

The recommendation to go forward to the Association's AGM for membership of the Umpires Commission – which would now be called a committee in line with British Rowing - and its Chairman were then agreed by the meeting. John Purkess had indicated his wish to stand down as Chairman of the Umpires Committee having reached his 70th and 11 years in the position. Various Race Official's were considered, some of whom had commitments that meant they were unable to take on this role and after some discussion Andy Parsons, of Coalporters expressed his willingness to take up the position which was endorsed by the meeting. John Purkess agreed to let his name be put forward as an additional committee member so he would be in a position to advise and help Andy. The recommendation of for Umpires Chairman and Committee to go forward to the Hants & Dorset ARA AGM for ratification was, therefore, agreed as – Chairman – Andy Parsons; Committee members – John Purkess, John Bailey, Keith Warland, Alan Wigmore, Martin Bradbeer and Mike Green in an advisory capacity - which was proposed by Steve Bull and seconded by Denny Woodford.

The Association Secretary then commented on Officiating at events other than H&D Championship Regatta's reminding those in attendance that all Head Races and Junior Regatta's in the region now had to have a permit issued – and therefore were included on the availability list – as we should try and provide them with at least some qualified race officials – and that race officials should report on these events in the same way as they do a Hants & Dorset Championship Regatta – which was confirmed by the meeting.

The Officials Report Forms and Regatta De-Brief Forms were reviewed by the meeting and after a brief discussion it was agreed to continue with the current policy.

It was agreed that existing system of examination of Full and Assistant Racing Officials should be maintained with Full Officials - John Adams, John Bailey, Pat Glover, Denis Woodford, Alan Stewart,

Carole Wall and John Pukess due to be reassessed this year - and they would be sent their exam papers shortly by the Coaching Committee, John Purkess agreeing to do this – except his own which Mike Green would be asked to set and assess. Feedback from Assistant Officials at the meeting regarding the form Full Officials complete on their performance at each Regatta and is sent to them was seen as constructive and was to be maintained. It was confirmed that Assistant Race Officials have to have officiated at least ten Regatta's over two seasons before they are able to apply for promotion to Full Official and face the panel with their portfolio and that they should have officiated at a number of core Regattas and in all disciplines – the core Regattas were - Bournemouth, Southsea, Christchurch & BTC/Woolston. Pete Diffey of Poole had been promoted to full official for 2011 and Trev Gay had fulfilled the necessary requirements and would be assessed for full official status for this season by the Umpires Committee.

Mentoring/Assessing/Reporting on Officials/Assistants. It was confirmed that Simon Clements and Bob Springbett still wanted to be Assistants and that Chris Foad was considering his position, as he found the conflict with Club Captaincy difficult to manage but it was hoped he would continue. One new assistant, Sharon Ayles, a member of Ryde was proposed and accepted by the meeting, subject to ratification at the Association AGM. She should be sent an availability form – along with Bob Springbett who had not responded. John Purkess agreed to create a “welcome” document for new Assistant Race Officials and that he would take over the role of organizing the assistants, after consultation with Keith – as he has access to E Mail – which was seen as the best way to manage the process.

There were brief discussions on the consistency of decision making, the aggressive attitude of some officials on occasions and the need for mutual respect between Race Officials and competitors – and that starting needs to be improved. The responsibility of officials if there is a safety incident was also discussed.

The charge on Clubs who run an event but have less than two active Officials available for at least three events was then reviewed and strong feelings expressed, and it was agreed that a recommendation should be made to the Hants & Dorset ARA that this should be increased to £100 per person with effect from the 2012 season and that if Clubs fail to respond further punitive action should be taken that might include the suspension of their Regatta permit, withdrawal of race officials for their event or suspension from racing – and that this should be an Agenda item at the AGM and possibly the subject of a seminar. Male domination and in-adequate facilities were mentioned as putting people off – but paying expenses was not seen as the answer by the meeting. Following analysis of availability and officiating in 2011 events – Newport and Southsea would be charged/fined £100 and Westover - £50 for 2011 and this would be added to their 2012 Affiliation fees.

The system for selecting the H&D Coxswain of the Year – with Racing Officials making the nominations on the debrief form after each event, was then debated. It was agreed that the system worked reasonably well and certainly better than others employed in the past – but Coxswain recognition/identification remained a difficulty. While it had not been well supported last season, probably as a result of Clubs being unaware, it was agreed that the trial which Carol Wall had proposed that each Club should complete a form on the day of the regatta confirming the coxswains for each crew – which should be handed in at registration or the Captains briefing and made available to the Race Officials at the de-brief – would be tried again in the 2012 season.

The meeting was then scheduled to debate if clarification of any existing rules were required and if there were any recommendations for rule changes or additions to be submitted to the Hants & Dorset AGM but there were no recommendations from the meeting, but Race Officials were warned that significant Rules changes to the South Coast Council Rules had been proposed by WEARA that would be debated at the Associations AGM in March.

The Insurance of Officials via BR membership was then reviewed by the meeting, which agreed to recommend to the Association AGM a continuation of the current system with a contribution of £25 – the recreational BR membership fee - now called “Silver” membership - being available to each full and

assistant official who makes themselves available for at least three events in 2012. It was noted that the benefits of BR Insurance start to reduce once a person is 70 years of age but that BR had extended the third party cover by 10 years to 80. There was much debate about changing the age at which we allowed racing officials to go afloat – which had been 70 since an age limit had been introduced and it was eventually agreed that any Race Official who is 70 or over but is “able and willing” to go afloat would be allowed to do so subject to the appropriate facilities being available including an appropriate method of getting the umpires to and from the Umpires boat. Race Officials who were not prepared to go afloat should be offered appropriate shore based positions.

This led to a further debate on the facilities made available to race officials which was sometimes lacking and must include a suitable umpire’s boat, with safe means of getting afloat and ashore and adequate cover against inclement weather. Event Secretaries were to be reminded of this need.

The Safety Equipment provided for Racing Officials was then reviewed by the meeting and it was pointed out, once again, that it was the Regatta's responsibility, not the Racing Officials, to ensure that the Safety equipment was available at the appropriate time and fit for purpose on the day. Regatta Committee's must check the equipment upon receipt, well before the day of the Regatta and ensure that the equipment was handed over in time to the next Regatta. The Association always had and would continue to refund any reasonable costs involved in maintaining the equipment - batteries etc. The use of the sound signal device for finishing races was also not acceptable - Regatta's must provide their own and not use the ones in the Safety kits, which were to help to stop races and draw attention to incidents. Also Safety Kits often used by Regatta's in their Safety Launches - this is NOT what they are for - and is the main reason why the kits gets saturated damaging the contents. The Kits are provided for the use of Hants & Dorset Racing Officials. Regattas must provide their own Safety kits for Safety boats.

The Safety equipment had been checked following the 2011 season and had only suffered the usual “wear and tear” – first aid supplies, loud hailer batteries, sound signal device air cylinders needing replacement – plus two “mediwrap” exposure blankets that appeared to have been used. Around £60 had been sent replacing these parts. All the Loud Hailers were working and life jackets had been checked but not serviced – five would be serviced after this season.

Pete Staddon mentioned the Association four Small Loud Hailers that he is holding (used by Umpires at the 2007 and 2011 South Coast Championships) which were not really suitable for Race Officials use and would be offered to Clubs at £10 each.

The Race Officials for 2012 South Coast Championships at Bideford, subject to ratification at the Association AGM were agreed as follows -

CHAMPIONSHIP UMPIRE –	Pete Staddon.
STARTER –	Ian Hutchings
JUDGE -	Mark Viner.
OPEN UMPIRE –	Alan Stewart.
RESERVES –	John Adams, Brian Gowman.

JUNIOR REGATTA –	STARTER –	Alan Stewart
	UMPIRES –	John Adams
	JUDGE –	John Purkess
	RESERVES –	Pete Staddon.

Items of any other business were then discussed by the meeting as follows –

- There was to be a special South Coast Council General Meeting at Bideford on the 28th April to discuss WEARA proposed rule changes and the venue for the H&D hosted 2014 South Coast Championship Regatta.

- Denny Woodford briefed the meeting on plans for the 2012 South Coast Championship Regatta at Bideford and the 2013 event at Deal.
- John Adams noted that this year's South Coast Championship in Bideford clashed with their Town Carnival and so accommodation might be in short supply and we should book early.
- Alan Stewart asked about being able to complete the Race Officials Reports on-line via the H&D Web site – but this facility was not available and it was not anticipated that it would be for some time as it would require significant programming. However the report form could be downloaded from the site in word format, completed on a PC and E Mailed to the Association Secretary – which was entirely acceptable.
- Mark Viner reported that the new Lymington Clubhouse had funding and planning permission and would be going ahead.
- Pete Staddon thanked all the Race Officials involved in the 2011 South Coast Championships at Dorney for all their help and support.

They're being no other business the meeting closed at 3.10 pm with thanks to BTC for their hospitality.

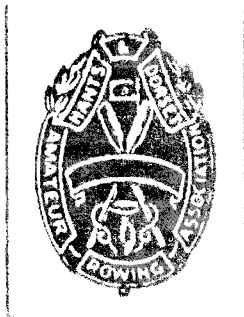
[Minutes taken and written by S. Bull, Association Secretary. 10/2/12]

Chairman.

_____ Date.

Attached:

1. Umpires Commission Chairman, John Purkess, Annual Report to the Hants & Dorset ARA Delegates Meeting and to the National Umpires commission.
2. H&D ARA Full Officials, Times Officiated and Forms Returned, 2011.
3. H&D ARA Racing Officials. BR Membership Status.



Hants & Dorset Amateur Rowing Association

UMPIRES COMMITTEE

*John Purkess B.T.C. R.C. (Chairman), Martin Bradbeer I. I. R.C.
John Bailey S.A.R.C., Alan Wigmore S. & S. R.C., Keith Warland C.A.R.C.*

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE NATIONAL UMPIRES COMMITTEE FOR YEAR 2011

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The five persons in the heading above make up the Umpires Committee.

PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE MEMBERSHIP

There are no plans to change the membership of the committee.

MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

The annual Umpires meeting was held on 22nd January 2011, with eighteen Full Racing Officials, and two Assistant Officials in attendance. In addition, the autumn Regatta Delegates Meeting was held on the 5th November 2011 to review the current season's regattas and headraces, to which, 11 Full Racing Officials were in attendance. Also 'wash-up' meetings were held at the end of each regatta with at least one official from the different umpiring disciplines attending, i.e. starters, running & static umpires and judges.

TRAINING AND NEW LICENCES – EXAMINATIONS

There was one new umpire's licence granted in 2011. Peter Diffey (Poole A. R.C.) was granted a Full Umpires licence following his panel interview and successfully passing his Umpires written exam. Senior umpires gave the 2 remaining assistants training and supervision throughout the 2011 season, and both have proved to be very adept at the duties given to them by Regatta Controllers. One assistant has indicated that he would be seeking upgrading at the end of the 2011 regatta season.

LICENCE RENEWALS

Three existing Full Officials had their 3-year licences renewed in March after completing their exams successfully. They were Messer's Brian Gowman (Westover R.C.), Ian Hutchings (Coalporters A.R.C), and Peter Staddon Christchurch R.C.)

COMPLIMENT

We have 20 Full Racing Officials and 2 Assistant Officials.

SEMINARS

No seminars have been held this year, but 11 Full Umpires attended the H. & D. ARA's Autumn Delegates Meeting in November.

MONITORING REGATTAS AND HEADS

The Water Safety Sub Committee continued to check all racing boats throughout the regatta season, to ensure that they comply with British Rowing's 'Row Safe: A Guide to Good Practice in Rowing'. The post regatta 'wash - up' meetings, held by the racing officials of the day, were continued throughout the 2011-racing season.

COMPLAINTS

There were no serious complaints made to the Umpires Commission during the 2011 racing season.

SAFETY / REPORTABLE ACCIDENTS

Due to the nature of Coastal Rowing, i.e. rowing in estuaries, and on the open sea, capsizes do occasionally take place during regattas; most of these are scullers and are generally handled quickly by the safety boats on station. At the autumn delegates meeting, it was highlighted by several regatta committees, that the level of safety boat cover during the 2011 season, was the best it has been for a number of years. There were no cases of serious or permanent injury to any competitor or official during the 2011 season, but some minor injuries did require medical attention by St John Ambulance or similar organisations.

Footnote!

The recent decision by the British Rowing Council to amalgamate the Coast Amateur Rowing Association (CARA) with the Wessex R.R.C. may in the future, have some impact on the Hants. & Dorset ARA's Rules of Racing (the H & D ARA provide the umpires for all rowing competitions organised by Wessex RRC) and there are some slight differences between the two association's Rules of Racing.

H&D ARA. Full Officials. Times Officiated + Forms returned - 2011.

FIRST_NAME	SURNAME	UMPIRE	STARTER	STARTER/JUDGE	JUDGE	TIMES OFFICIATED	FORMS RETURNED	Other
Pat	Glover	1	0	0	4	5	4	0
John	Adams	4	2	4	0	10	7	0
Steve	Bull	0	1	1	3	5	5	4
Pete	Staddon	4	0	0	1	5	0	1
Ian	Hutchings	3	1	1	1	6	3	0
Brian	Gowman	1	1	1	0	3	3	1
Andy	Sothcott	0	1	0	2	3	2	2
Alan	Wigmore	0	2	3	0	5	4	0
John	Bailey	1	1	2	1	5	0	3
Keith	Warland	1	0	3	0	4	3	0
Denis	Woodford	2	5	0	1	8	6	1
Les	Foad	0	1	0	0	1	0	5
Mark	Viner	3	1	1	3	8	3	1
Martin	Bradbeer	4	0	1	0	5	1	0
John	Purkess	4	0	1	0	5	3	1
Alan	Stewart	6	0	0	0	6	5	0
Simon	Clements							
Carole	Wall	3	0	1	1	5	4	0
Chris	Eveleigh	4	1	1	0	6	0	0
Trev	Gay	1	0	1	0	2	2	0
Bob	Springbett							
Andy	Parsons	1	0	1	1	3	0	0
Pete	Diffey	1	1	0	0	2	0	1
Chris	Foad	1	0	0	0	1	0	1

Hants & Dorset Racing Officials. ARA Membership Status.

FIRST_NAME	SURNAME	ARA_MEMBER	NUMBER	EXPIREY_DA	GRANT_CLAI	PAID
Pat	Glover,	Non-racing	201012G101761	31/12/2010	31/07/11	28/08/11
Kevin	Ayles.			30/01/1999	Not active	
John.	Adams.	Non-Rcaing	201009G101224	30/09/2010	31/07/11	28/08/11
Steve	Bull	Non-racing	201012G101756	31/12/2010	31/07/11	28/08/11
Pete	Staddon,	Non-Racing	20110751010705	31/07/2011	31/7/11	Not claimed.
Ian	Hutchings	Non-racing	201010S101410	31/10/2011	13/01/11	18/09/11
Brian	Gowman,	Non-Racing	201006G100553	30/06/2011	31/07/11	28/08/11
Andy	Sothcott.	Non-racing	201008G100738	31/08/2011	10/09/11	not claimed
Mike	Green.				Not active	
Gary	Walters			31/07/1999	Not active	
Alan	Wigmore,	Non-racing	201005S100832	31/05/2011	31/07/11	28/08/11
John	Bailey.	Senior	201102S100259	28/02/2011	Not recd	
Keith	Warland,	Non-racing	201004G700542	30/04/2011	31/07/11	Not claimed.
Denis	Woodford	Non-racing	201104S100607	30/04/2011	31/07/11	Not claimed.
Les	Foad.	Non-racing	201106S100943		31/07/11	28/08/11
Mark	Viner	Non-racing	20100G1605240	30/04/2011	31/07/11	Not claimed.
Martin	Bradbeer	Non-racing	201007G101058	31/07/2011	31/07/11	Not claimed.
John	Purkess.	Racing	201006S100854	30/06/2010	31/07/11	28/08/11
Alan	Stewart	Not advised			10/09/11	18/09/11
Simon	Clements				Not active	
Carole	Wall	Senior	2011011013428	31/01/2011	31/07/11	28/08/11
Chris	Eveleigh	Non-racing	201104G104199	30/04/2011	20/06/11	18/09/11
Trevor	Gay				10/09/11	18/09/11
Bob	Springbett				Not active	
Andy	Parsons	Senior	201207G101067	12/07/1937	31/07/11	Not claimed
Pete	Diffey	Non-Racing	20110751035337	10/07/1937	31/07/11	28/08/11
Chris	Foad	Senior	201009S100082	07/09/2009	Not recd	
Sharon	Ayles.					