

The Minutes of the Hants & Dorset ARA Race Officials Meeting, Saturday, 18th January, 2014, held at the BTC Clubhouse, Southampton.

The agenda and various attachments had been sent to all full and assistant race officials prior to the meeting but there were minor adjustments to the Agenda and a new copy was circulated prior to the start of the meeting.

There were 21 Full and Assistant Race Officials in attendance when the Chairman of the Umpires Committee, Andy Parsons, took the chair. Apologies were received from - Pat Glover, Shanklin and Brian Gowman from Westover. Denny Woodford gave a brief update on Brian Gowman's health reporting that he was still quite unwell. It was agreed that the Association Secretary should send the Race Officials and Associations best wishes for a speedy recovery to him.

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated in advance and were agreed to be a correct record on a proposal from Alan Wigmore seconded by Denny Woodford. Matters arising from these minutes would be covered in other agenda items.

The Umpires Committee Chairman, Andy Parsons, then presented his Chairman's report – which had been circulated in advance (*see attached, Appendix A*) and then gave a report on the National Umpires Committee meeting he had recently attended. A written copy of his report on this meeting was distributed at the meeting (*see attached, Appendix B*).

British Rowing had also adopted a new “duty of care” statement for Race Officials – *“I acknowledge I have a duty of care to competitors, colleagues and the general public. I declare myself capable and competent to undertake all duties and activities required of me as an umpire*. In the event of a material change I will immediately inform my RUC Chairman. *These may include but are not limited to: accessing umpiring positions from a launch or scaffold tower, being exposed to inclement weather, standing or walking for long periods of time, assisting distressed or capsized competitors.”* The meeting agreed that this statement should be added to the H&D Race Officials Examination paper – and perhaps to next year's availability form and signed by the race official when he completing.

The meeting then considered the membership of the Umpires Committee and its chairman and after a brief discussion agreed, on a proposal from D. Woodford, seconded by A. Stewart to recommend to the Association's Annual General Meeting that the following be appointed and that the terms of reference for the committee should remain unchanged – Chairman - Andy Parsons, Coalporters Rowing Club; Commission Members - John Bailey, Southampton A. R. C.; Keith Warland, Coalporters A. R. C.; Alan Wigmore, Shanklin Sandown Rowing Club; Martin Bradbeer, Itchen Imperial R. C. and John Purkess, BTC Rowing Club. Plus Andy Parsons would organise and allocate the Assistant Race Officials.

The examination of Full and Assistant Racing Officials was then discussed – including the mentoring, assessing and reporting on Assistant Race Officials. The full official due to take their three year exam – who would be sent their question papers shortly were – Brian Gowman, Ian Hutchings, Pete Diffey and Pete Staddon. It was agreed that Sharon Ayles should be put forward for promotion to full official and that the Umpires committee would make arrangements for her assessment – although it was noted that she had not officiated at Southsea Regatta – which was a pre-requisite – but she agreed to officiate at Southsea this year and so it was agreed that her assessment should go ahead with this proviso. This hi-lighted the fact that the criteria assistants had to meet before promotion to full official had still not been circulated as promised – and the Umpires Committee agreed to do this as soon as practical and circulate to all Assistant Race Officials. There was some discussions around the mentoring, assessing and reporting on Assistant Race Officials and while those Assistants present felt that the mentoring by the full officials was really good as part of the on the job training it was questioned how many have read the rules and that it might be a useful approach for full officials to question assistants – at events – regarding what they would do in various situations. It was also thought that it might be useful to circulate old exam papers to assistants, to perhaps have a meeting on the rules with them – and to do a “table-top” exercise – as BR do. John Bailey criticised the layout of the new rules as he felt the old rules should have been shown as well.

With regards to the reports completed by Race Officials there was a discussion as to whether both the individual report and the "combined" de-brief report was necessary but the general feeling was that both reports provided useful and slightly different views on an event and Race Officials should continue to submit individual reports for all events they officiate at – including Head Races and Junior events – and that the combined de-brief report should continue. Alan Stewart again asked about a facility to complete forms on-line – and although our webhost software could probably handle this it quite difficult to set-up. It would remain a medium to long-term target – but in the meantime it was pointed out that the report form can be downloaded from the web-site, filled in and E Mailed to the Association Secretary which many Race officials now do. It was thought it would be useful if the location and approximate time of the de-brief could be agreed between race officials at the beginning of the regatta so everyone new when and where it would take place.

Most Race Officials availability forms the 2014 season had been received – or were handed in at the meeting – and these would be analysed and summarised and event secretaries advised over the next few weeks. Those few not received would be chased-up – and the availability forms from assistant officials would be copied and sent to the Umpires Committee Chairman who would allocate assistant to events. The Race Officials for the 2014 South Coast Rowing Championships at Swanage were then agreed – subject to the approval of the Association AGM – as follows -

Championship/Open Regatta. Saturday, 13th September.

CHAMPIONSHIP UMPIRE	–	ANDY PARSONS.
STARTER	–	CAROL WALL.
JUDGE	-	JOHN PURKESS.
OPEN UMPIRE	–	ALAN STEWART
RESERVES	–	JOHN ADAMS IAN HUTVHINGS MARTIN BRADBEER
Boat Inspections	-	MARK VINER/IAN HUTCHINGS

Junior Regatta. Sunday, 14th September.

STARTER	–	Keith Warland.
JUDGE	-	John Adams.
OPEN UMPIRE	–	Sharon Ayles.
RESERVES –	-	Simon Clements Karen Fancett Max Maxwell
Boat Marshals	-	Several race officials offered to assist.

Steve Bull made a personal appeal on behalf of the South Coast Championships organising committee which, while not to be admitted publicly, was struggling from a lack of volunteers – which was causing some concerns. Several Race Officials in attendance offered their support – specifically Max Maxwell – and Karen Fancett – who thought she could make a useful contribution to the organisation of the reception.

Pete Staddon who had to leave the meeting at this point (with Carole Wall) advised the meeting that they were considering dispensing with the mid-course umpire in a fixed boat at Christchurch – and replace him/her with a umpires boat following the race. He wanted the Race Officials view on this especially at it would mean an umpire working alone with the launch driver. The view of the meeting was that this would not be an issue and that the change was worth trying in light of the Shanklin incident at the last Regatta.

The charge made on H&D Affiliated Clubs who run a Regatta but who do not provide a minimum of two racing Officials available for at least three Regattas was reviewed (currently £100 per official) – and it was agreed that this should be maintained as arguably the recent influx of new racing officials suggested that this was having some effect. The analysis of race officials availability in the 2013 (*see appendix C attached*) season means that Southsea would be charged £200, Westover £100 and Newport £100. This discussion led to a debate about insurance and permit charges at events – it was believed that the BR Public Liability insurance was per day – so a two day event would cost twice the amount. For Newport Regatta in 2013 – which was effectively a two day event with the Junior Regatta on the Sunday was only charged one permit fee (£20) by the Association in 2013 –

and it was suggested that the fee should be £20 per day. Clarification of this would be sought at the H&D AGM.

The method of selecting the H&D Coxswain of the Year was considered and while not perfect it was agreed that the current method, where race officials on the day nominate up to three coxswains in order should be continued. A suggestion that best coxswain nominated by the Race Officials should receive a “Cox of the Day” award, at the discretion of the Regatta Committee who would have to provide the award was generally thought to be a good idea and was to be encouraged.

A discussion then followed to clarify existing rules where required and consider any recommendations for changes to the Associations Rules, for forwarding to the Associations AGM. There was discussion with regards to the position of the two Clubs with joint affiliation to both the Hants & Dorset ARA and CARA – Southsea and Worthing with regards to claiming Championship points. There was no real issue with Southsea who traditionally competed in Hants & Dorset Regatta's, registered the members and claimed H&D points when they won championship events (and presumably claim CARA points as well). The situation with Worthing was a little more complicated as they had not claimed H&D points or registered any members with the Association for some years – however as an affiliated Club they had the right to claim H&D Championship points – and when they failed to do so the point becomes void and is not awarded to the 2nd Club – as per the rules and tradition. Some delegates were uncomfortable with this situation – and believed that there was a procedure where Worthing were asked their situation before the season started – but while this rule may have existed the Association Secretary could find no evidence of it – and believed it was something of a myth. It was agreed that this situation should be referred to the AGM for clarification.

The Recommendations from Rules Sub Committee regarding the Championship Trophies, Status Rules, Championship Event Rules, Registration and Competition Rules, Event Safety, Regatta Rules, Rules for Boat Racing which had been laid out in a new format had been circulated in advance of the meeting with the changes highlighted shown in red for clarity and these were reviewed by the meeting. The general consensus appeared to be that the Rules Sub Committee had done an excellent job and the new format was thought to be an improvement. However there was at least one area where delegates thought the rules required further amendment -

In the Rules for Boat Racing – the section for processional racing – the start procedure needed amendment as it was not in line with current practice. It was suggested that three sections should be amended to read as follows -
6.1. Each crew shall be allocated a number which shall be prominently displayed throughout the race as instructed by the Race Rules. In coxed boats the number shall also be worn on the back of the coxswain. 6.3. The Start Marshal shall present crews, in number order, in procession, starting each crew with the words “number *XYX*, Go,” Allowing for a 10 second gap between each crew. Crews will then proceed to the Timing Line bringing their boats to race pace as they cross the Timing Line. 6.4. The Chief Timekeeper shall call out the race number of each crew as it approaches the Timing Line and will call out NOW as the crew crosses the start line. Their start time will simultaneously be recorded by the Timekeepers.

Max Maxwell raised the issue of the J16 Status Rule seeking clarification on the point that if J16x4+ became an H & D championship event, would the winning crew members be still allowed to compete in non-championship J16 sculling / sweep oar events. The General Status Rules: 15.2 as proposed, which covers J16 racing states that as long as the oarsperson is 'age compliant' a win at any J14, J15, J16 race would not affect their status in any other H & D Championship events, i.e. if a 16 year old rower had achieved H & D Junior status, and then won a J16x4+ championship race, they could still row again at J16 in another event. Although this could be the subject of a local regatta rule restricting the event to Novice Oars persons only. There is also the issue of composite crews for J16 racing – these points needing to be clarified at the AGM.

Any further suggestions with regards to amendments to these Rules should be forwarded to the Umpires Committee Chairman, Andy Parsons at the earliest opportunity.

The meeting reviewed the Insurance of Officials via British Rowing Membership. (2013 - £25 – BR non-racing/Silver membership – refunded in full. 2014 – BR Non-racing/Silver membership is £26) and it was agreed that a recommendation to continue to reimburse racing officials for the cost of a Silver membership of BR should be put before the Associations AGM.

The Safety equipment provided for Racing Officials was reviewed by the meeting – and the Association Secretary reported that the equipment was in reasonable condition although some costs had been incurred to bring them up to standard – one new life jacket, the full service of four others, new exposure blankets and the replacement of the waterproof bags with a new improved “holdall” type – as they had all deteriorated. Batteries, air canisters for sound signal devices and First aid kits had been replaced as required. The meeting agreed that no further action or additional equipment was required.

Any other business. The sad death of Pete “Bluey” Proudley was recorded – the Association Secretary had sent the Associations condolences to his family. The use of a starting pistol to start races was discussed but apparently there would be licensing issues – so this was probably a non-starter.

Attachments:

- i) *Appendix A . Season 2013 – Report from Chairman of Umpires Committee*
- ii) *Appendix B. Report on National Umpires meeting, Nottingham, Sat 11/1/14*
- iii) *Appendix C. Number of Active Racing Officials per Club, 2013.*
- iv) *Appendix D. Times Officiated – roles.*
- v) *Appendix E. BR Membership*

Steve Bull. Association Secretary. for the H&D Umpires Committee.

Appendix A . Season 2013 – Report from Chairman of Umpires Committee

Officials

Tremendous support from all clubs in providing officials – good to see so many new assistant officials all making progress really well, and including more ladies. Thanks to all officials for giving freely of their time to help create fun and fair racing at our heads and regattas.

Future possibility of split shifts at some of the longer regattas?

Individual mentions: best wishes to Brian Gowman who has been very ill and to Trevor Gay who has decided to take on a new career and won't be able to continue as an assistant official.

Regatta timings

Lots of late entries and scratching's at start of regattas. Officials not in position on time. Realistic times per race. Importance of good boat marshal chivvying crews onto the water, crews to be urgent to get to the start on time. Crews not to stray away from the start – some have been left behind!

Communications

Good radios make a very positive contribution. Commentary needs to be aware of need for officials to be heard, speaker systems not always very audible from the water, officials need to be kept updated on programme changes and draws,

Conduct of races

Tactical scratching's of crews 'doubling up' are not tolerated – if you enter, you race!

Better technique from coxes at the turns and crews need to learn to hold the boat down to avoid some of the very wide turns seen this season. Some good examples of coxing to take turns cleanly when close to other boats. Avoid impeding racing crews when rowing up the course (problems reported at Itchen regatta and Southampton Coastal head). Club colours – several warnings for unpainted blades this season.

Pragmatic approach to put both crews through to final (space permitting) when dead heated in an heat has worked well. Impose disp action if deliberate scratch. Kit & blades.

Safety matters

Milford praised for having 2 safety boats alongside small boats races. Several incidents of illness during/after races – captains should question fitness to race more.

Buoy placement

Always an issue in high, changeable winds and currents. Attention needed to adequate spacing of turns buoys and training of boat crews who make adjustments to buoy placements during the day.

Appendix B. Report on National Umpires meeting, Nottingham, Sat 11/1/14

Event posters – should refer to the applicable rules of racing

Recruiting - looking for young recruits both for umpiring and regional competition organisers. Some events are, for a variety of reasons, struggling to get umpires to chair the race committee. Volunteer burnout is a recognised problem. BR is looking for young (30-40) recruits to become multilane umpires and take FISA exam by age 40-45.

Umpire training methods

Seminars are held in all regions to go through training issues. Before season: trainees sit a 50 minute test on the rules, 80% pass mark, resit this year only if mark 70% + achieved. During season: attend 6 regattas of various types and take different roles, consult with mentor, get pints towards overall pass mark. (Mentors all report to a co-ordinating mentor). After season: 'table top' exam going through 4 or 5 simulated race scenarios. Structured points scheme administered by a panel of up to 6 officials.

Umpire licence renewals

Refresher exam every 3 years up to age 70 then annually – this now going online multiple choice format. This needs to demonstrate competency and not discriminate only on age. Umpires sign a declaration of capability to carry out duties. BR insurance covers up to age 80 for personal and public liability, over age 80 for public liability only.

Umpire clothing

A lot of time was devoted to this topic. Examples of possible branded BR clothing for umpires were displayed, no general consensus for a single uniform but something like 3 versions – 1. white trousers, blazer, shirt and tie; 2. Grey trousers, smart shirt with BR crest, 3. Polo shirt, grey trousers. Aim must be that the umpires are readily identifiable to competitors, organisers and spectators and present a suitably smart appearance. Name badges were suggested.

Safety

A draft 'Row Safe' section on umpires was shown – will be sent back for rewrite as it confused the roles of the umpire and safety cover.

Competition structure

Points system under serious review (Guin Batten/Fiona Dennis), points in present form will probably not be updated after spring 2015 (to be agreed at Council meeting in Feb this year). Aim will be to restructure competition along the lines of local, regional and national competition categories, with some sort of beginner-novice-intermediate-championship progression for competitors. Regional leagues across all age groups and categories should encourage participation.

BR Rules changes

Masters will be able to use a substitute from a different club (aligns with FISA rules)
Numbers of subs in a crew will reduce from 50% to perhaps 1 in a four and 3 in an eight.

Andy Parsons 13/1/14

Appendix C. Number of Active Racing Officials per Club, 2013.

H&D Racing Officials. 2013. Availability/Times Officiated.					
	FIRST_NAME	SURNAME	Available for	TIMES OFFICIATED	Other
BTC					
	Denis	Woodford	14	10	1
	John	Purkess	12	8	0
	Dave	Wyatt	4	4	0
	Max	Maxwell	20	5	0
Christchurch					
	Pete	Staddon	11	8	0
	Simon	Clements	4	3	1
	Carole	Wall	7	4	0
Coalporters					
	Ian	Hutchings	7	6	0
	Keith	Warland	7	5	1
	Andy	Parsons	14	8	1
	Penny	Budd	7	4	1
Itchen Imperial					
	Martin	Bradbeer	14	8	0
	Karen	Fancett	4	2	0
	Bill	Dalby	5	5	0
Lymington					
	Mark	Viner	11	9	2
	Peter	Lock	6	5	1
Newport R. C.					
	Dave	Lathem	4	3	0
Poole					
	Pete	Diffey			
	Andy	Sothcott	7	4	0
	Ray	Murphy	2	2	0
Ryde					
	John	Adams	19	14	0
	Steve	Bull	11	6	5
	Sharon	Ayles	5	4	0
Shanklin					
	Alan	Wigmore	3	1	0
	Pat	Glover	4	2	1
Southampton					
	John	Bailey	10	6	4
	Alan	Stewart	16	9	0
	Trev	Gay	3	3	1
Westover					
	Brian	Gowman	8	3	1

Appendix D. Times Officiated – roles.

H&D ARA. Full Racing Officials. Times Officiated. 2013.

FIRST_NAME	SURNAME	UMPIRE	STARTER	STARTER/JUDGE	JUDGE	TIMES OFFICIATED	Other
Denis	Woodford	1	7	1	1	10	1
John	Purkess	5	1	2	0	8	0
Dave	Wyatt	3	0	0	1	4	0
Max	Maxwell	1	2	0	2	5	0
Pete	Staddon	5	1	0	2	8	0
Simon	Clements	3	0	0	0	3	1
Carole	Wall	2	1	1	0	4	0
Ian	Hutchings	3	1	1	1	6	0
Keith	Warland	1	1	3	0	5	1
Andy	Parsons	5	0	0	3	8	1
Penny	Budd	1	0	2	1	4	1
Martin	Bradbeer	3	0	1	2	8	0
Karen	Fancett	2	0	0	0	2	0
Bill	Dalby	2	1	2	0	5	0
Mark	Viner	7	1	1	0	9	2
Peter	Lock	2	2	0	1	5	1
Dave	Lathem	0	0	1	2	3	0
Pete	Diffey						
Andy	Sothcott	0	0	0	4	4	0
Ray	Murphy	1	1	0	0	2	0
John	Adams	9	3	2	0	14	0
Steve	Bull	0	0	2	4	6	5
Sharon	Ayles	1	0	3	0	4	0
Alan	Wigmore	0	1	0	0	1	0
Pat	Glover	0	0	0	2	2	1
John	Bailey	1	3	1	1	6	4
Alan	Stewart	4	2	0	3	9	0
Trev	Gay	1	1	0	1	3	1
Brian	Gowman	0	1	1	1	3	1

Appendix E. BR Membership

Hants & Dorset Racing Officials. BR Membership Status.

FIRST_NAME	SURNAME	ARA_MEMBER	NUMBER	EXPIREY_DA	GRANT_CLAI	PAID
Pat	Glover,	Silver	201312S1017618	31/12/2010	26/8/13	31/8/13
John.	Adams.	Silver	201309S1012248	30/09/2010	26/8/13	Kit
Steve	Bull	Silver	201312S1017565	31/12/2010	26/8/13	31/8/13
Pete	Staddon,	Silver	201407S1010705	31/07/2011	30/8/13	No claim.
Ian	Hutchings	Gold	201402G101410	28/02/2014	26/8/13	31/8/13
Brian	Gowman,			30/06/2011		
Andy	Sothcott.	Silver	201408S1007387	31/08/2011	17/10/13	Not claimed
Alan	Wigmore,	Silver	201405S1008325	31/05/2011	26/8/13	31/8/13
John	Bailey.	Silver	201402S1002599	28/02/2011	30/8/13	31/8/13
Keith	Warland,	Silver	201305S1005420	30/04/2011	26/8/13	No claim
Denis	Woodford	Silver	201304S1006075	30/04/2011	26/8/13	31/8/13
Mark	Viner	Silver	201404S1005420	30/04/2011	30/8/13	No claim.
Martin	Bradbeer	Silver	201407S1010582	31/07/2011	30/8/13	Kit
John	Purkess.	Gold	201306G100854	30/06/2010	26/8/13	31/8/13
Alan	Stewart	Gold	201311G101631	30/07/2012	30/8/13	31/8/13
Simon	Clements	Silver	201409S1099432	30/12/2014	21/09/13	5/10/13
Carole	Wall	Gold	201403G101342	31/01/2011	26/8/13	31/8/13
Andy	Parsons	Gold	201407G101067	12/07/1937	1/9/13	Not claimed
Pete	Diffey	Silver	201408S1035337	31/08/2013	21/09/13	5/10/13
Sharon	Ayles.	Silver	201308S1014132	30/07/2006	26/8/13	Kit
Pete	Lock	Gold	201310G102343	31/10/2013	30/8/13	No claim
Penny	Budd	Silver	201405S103401	31/05/2014	07/09/13	Not claimed
Karen	Fancett	Silver	201404S1114384	30/04/2014	17/10/13	
Dave	Lathem	Silver	201402S1003052	28/02/2014	17/10/13	
Dave	Wyatt	Gold	201310G101464		26/8/13	Kit
Steve/Max	Maxwell	Gold	201311G103728	30/11/2013	21/09/13	5/10/13
William (Bill)	Dalby					
Ray	Murphy	Gold	201310G110576	31/10/2013	07/09/13	Kit