

THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HANTS & DORSET AMATEUR ROWING ASSOCIATION, THE BTC ROWING CLUB, SOUTHAMPTON, ON SATURDAY, 22nd MARCH, 2014 at 10.30am.

Prior to the formal start of the meeting delegates stood in silence to remember three members of the Association who had passed away in recent months - Brian Gowman, Pete Proudly and Mike Wall. Pete Staddon of Mike Wall's Club Christchurch was also able to announce the arrangements for his funeral which would take place on Friday, 4th April at the Christchurch Priory at 2.30pm.

There were 36 delegates in attendance when the Chairman John Purkess opened the meeting with all Clubs represented except Worthing and all permitted events represented except the Bryanston/Wessex Junior Regatta. Apologies were received from Brent Hartland, Association Life Vice President; Andy Sothcott, South Coast Council delegate and Poole ARC and Mark Crook from Newport R. C.

The minutes of the previous AGM had been circulated in advance of the meeting and were agreed to be a true record on a proposal from Bob Sivier, seconded by Jeff Watling. The only Matters arising from previous meeting that would not be covered in the agenda were – 1). Swanage Regatta – had been agreed that additional medals should be purchased in support of additional/last minute events – and this was in hand - and it was confirmed that a Veteran Ladies event would be formally offered in 2014 regardless of its championship status. 2). It had been agreed that the SCC Championship Trophies were to be displayed and the winning crews acknowledged at the H&D Presentation Dinner – and this had duly taken place.

The Secretary's Report on the 2013 Season had been previously circulated so was not read at the meeting – but was accepted without amendment on a proposal from Denny Woodford, seconded by John Bailey [see attached. Appendix 1.] The Association Secretary then reported on the correspondence he had received and undertaken on behalf of the Association since the Council Meeting in November noting that all matters of correspondence that relate to Agenda items would be reported on and considered at that point in the meeting. He reported that he had undertaken all the usual correspondence relating to Hants & Dorset ARA activities including preparation of information on the 2013 season for the British Rowing Almanac and South Coast Rowing handbook. He had made arrangements and sent out notices for the Racing Officials Meeting at BTC in January and the Water Safety Meeting at the Hengistbury Head Education Centre, hosted by Westover R. C. in February and had provided secretarial services to both these committees. An Association Bulletin were sent out in March with the notice and Agenda for the AGM this meeting which included the minutes of the October Council meeting and the revised rule package – and these were all sent to the Executive Officers, Life Vice Presidents and Club and Event Secretaries. British Rowing records with regards to Club and event contacts and the 2014 Fixture list have been updated and the various forms required by Clubs for the forthcoming season distributed along with Race Officials availability sheets. There were only fifteen fines imposed for Late Scratching and one for failure to attend a pre-regatta briefing, with five the subject of appeals - which were reviewed by the Associations Executive Officers at the delegates meeting with four appeals upheld and the fines refunded. He had received a list of Association Officers and Club and Regatta officers and fixture lists from both CARA and WEARA – and have responded with the same details from this Association. On behalf of the Association he had attended most Wessex Regional Rowing Council Meetings, National Water Safety Meetings, meetings of the Associations Rules and Competitions Sub Committees and the meetings of the 2014 South Coast Championships organizing committee. Following the Annual Presentation Dinner in November he wrote to Paula Williams to thank her for organizing the event last year - and to Barbara Carr to keep her informed on whom won the Trophy donated in memory of her late husband Hank and very sadly has had to send the Associations condolences to the families and Clubs of Ken Fraser, Pete (Bluey) Proudly, Brian Gowman and Mike Wall following their sad loss – and notices of these were posted on the H&D Web site. Communications with Clubs, events, Association Officials and race officials have often been reinforced via E Mail and the flow of traffic via this method of communication has continued to increase – although I have maintained a “belt and braces” approach by, in most cases, circulating hard copies as well.

The Hants & Dorset ARA Web – at www.hdara.co.uk has been maintained – and is reasonably up to date. The web site is also hosting the site for the 2014 South Coast Rowing Championships, at Swanage, the next to be hosted by the Association. The web site currently averages around a thousand hits a month – with around two and a half thousand page views. A letter had been received from Shanklin Rowing Club regarding the collision incident involving their Novice Ladies Crew at Christchurch Regatta in which they had expressed some concerns regarding the Association and Christchurch Rowing Clubs response to the incident. The Association had offered to meet representatives of Shanklin Rowing Club to discuss their concerns but Shanklin had yet to respond to this offer and their delegates at the meeting made no further comments. An E Mail from Westover reference a disabled rower and what Association events she might be able to compete in and all event secretaries were asked to consider this and advise Westover – bearing in mind that they feel that any event she competes in should have the following characteristics - Rowing conditions - Safe conditions only, ideally flat, sheltered and allows for easy access into her adaptive scull. Distance - Distance of less than 1k. She cannot exert herself for prolonged periods at this stage. One proposal could be a start at the buoy turn to finish line. Perhaps assigned to the J16s event. Subject to conditions, 13 mins upper limit will be required by her to complete a 1k section and needs factored into the schedule. Safety requirements - dedicated safety boat. She does not have the mobility to turn around to aid her sighting in a

scull, so a safety boat is essential to help her direct her course and to ensure her safety. Poole Regatta indicated that they would offer her a race – others to advise.

The meeting then considered the Treasurer's Report and balance sheet which was circulated at the meeting [see attached. Appendix 2]. They should the Associations accounts to be in a reasonable situation with a very healthy South Coast Championship fund – although this would be significantly depleted this year as the costs of staging the 2014 event were met. The Association auditor confirmed that he had audited them accounts and found them to be all in order. The Hon. Treasurer explained that he had inadvertently only paid the Association Secretary a £400 honorarium in 2013 when it should be £500 and this had now been rectified – but the additional payment of £100 would now show in next year's accounts. The meeting agreed that Bournemouth University affiliation fees that had shown in the accounts as outstanding for a number of years should be deleted as the only chance of ever recovering them would be if they sought affiliation to the Association again. The meeting then adopted the accounts – including the accounts from 2013 Swanage Regatta and the 2013 Hants & Dorset ARA Presentation dinner accounts on a proposal from Denny Woodford, seconded by John Adams.

The Election of the Association Officers for 2014 then took place as follows -

President – Ian Hutchings having stood for his maximum of two years stood down, thanking the Association for the honor and he was presented with his past presidents medal by the Association Chairman – John Purkess – who in turn was standing down after serving the maximum five years in this role – and was nominated for the position of President, on a proposal from Steve Bull, seconded by Ian Hutchings and unanimously agreed by the meeting. John thanked the meeting for the honor bestowed. Chairman – Martin Bradbeer of Itchen Imperial was nominated for the role of Chairman by Keith Warland and seconded by Pete Staddon and was unanimously elected to this position by the meeting. The Treasurer – Keith Warland was then unanimously re-elected on a proposal from John Bailey, seconded by John Adams – and the Association Secretary – Steve Bull – was also unanimously re-elected on a proposal from John Bailey, seconded by Bob Sivier – which included the agreement of a continued Secretaries Honorarium of £500. The Hon. Auditor – Pete Staddon was also unanimously reelected on a proposal from Ian Hutchings, seconded by Andy Parsons. During the review of the rules it had been noted that Rule 18 required that Trustees to the Association should be appointed – but apparently this has never happened. This omission was corrected with the appointment of John Bailey, Ian Hutchings and Mike Green as the Association Trustee on a proposal from Bob Sivier, seconded by Adam Radcliffe. The Rules also allow for the appointment of Hon. Members of the Association although none had been appointed for many years – but the meeting agreed, on a proposal from Steve Bull, seconded by Mike Green that Jimmy Jewell of Bideford A. R. C should be appointed to this position in recognition of his service, as a volunteer, in editing the Associations South Coast Rowing Handbook for many years. The Association had the sad duty to record that two of the Associations Life Vice Presidents had passed away during the year - both from Westover & Bournemouth Rowing Club – Ken Fraser and Brian Gowman. The retiring President, Ian Hutchings was, appointed a Life Vice President by the meeting on a proposal from Steve Bull, seconded by Andy parsons – and joins B. Hartland, E. Shergold, S. Moody, M. Green, P. Glover, P. Trist, K. Warland, S. Bull, L. Foad, J. Bailey, D. Woodford, R. Siver, M. Viner, A. Wigmore, J. Bryant, K. Ayles, J. Purkess, John Adams and S. Sothcott who already hold this position.

The meeting was advised that the South Coast Rowing Handbook is due for publication in May, in the same format as last year and at a similar cost so there is no need to increase the Club contribution. As agreed at the Council meeting slightly fewer handbooks will be distributed to the Clubs so we will have enough to send each CARA and WEARA Club a copy as part of the SCC Communication plans – as it provides them with many contact details.

The South Coast levy on entry fees - currently £1 per seat – was reviewed by the meeting and it was agreed to keep this the same on a proposal from Sue Sothcott, seconded by Gary Joyce.

The rates of subscription permit fees and entry fees for the year were then discussed by the meeting and it was agreed on a proposal from Gary Joyce, seconded by Sue Sothcott that these should also remain unchanged at - Subscriptions - £2.50 per registered member/minimum £60 + £46 Handbook contribution making minimum £106; Regatta permit - £20; Entry fees - £4.00 per seat + £1.00 South Coast Levy total per seat - £5. The meeting also agreed that as Itchen paid a permit fee for their Junior Regatta – Newport must pay one for theirs – as they are regarded as separate events.

The Regatta dates for 2014 were confirmed as follows - .

HANTS & DORSET ARA/WESSEX (WEST) REGION FIXTURES - 2014.

H&D Championship Regatta in CAPITALS.

H&D Meetings - provisional dates - in Italics.

Sat	18 th	January.	<i>H&D Race Officials. BTC.</i>
Sat	25 th	January.	<i>South Coast Council AGM. Christchurch.</i>
Sat	1 st	February	<i>H&D Safety, Westover.</i>
Sun	14 th	February	Itchen Eights & Fours HERR.
Sun	2 nd	March	Head of the Stour.

Sat	22 nd	March	<i>Hants & Dorset ARA AGM, BTC.</i>
Sun	13 th	April	BTC Small Boats HERR.
Sat	19 th	April	Southampton Coastal HERR.
Sat	17 th	May	RYDE REGATTA.
Sun	18 th	May	SHANKLIN REGATTA.
Sat	31 st	May	LYMINGTON/MILFORD-ON-SEA REGATTA.
Sat	7 th	June	COALPORTERS REGATTA.
Sun	8 th	June	Wessex Junior/Bryanston.
Sat	14 th	June	WOOLSTON REGATTA.
Sat	21 st	June	SWANAGE REGATTA.
Sat	28 th	June	CHRISTCHURCH REGATTA. [Fours only].
Sat	5 th	July	ITCHEN REGATTA.
Sat	12 th	July	NEWPORT REGATTA. [Fours only].
Sun	13 th	July	Newport Junior Regatta.
Sat	19 th	July	SOUTHSEA REGATTA.
Sat	26 th	July	BOURNEMOUTH REGATTA.
Sat	2 nd	August	POOLE REGATTA.
Sat	9 th	August	BTC REGATTA.
Sat	13 th	September	South Coast Championships Regatta. Swanage. Championship & Open Events [Fours only].
Sun	14 th	September	South Coast Junior Regatta. Swanage. Junior & Small Boats.
Sat	8 th	November	<i>Hants & Dorset ARA Presentation Dinner, Novotel, Southampton.</i>

Still to be advised Itchen Junior,

The BTC Small Boats Head on Sunday 13th April and the Wessex Junior Regatta at Bryanston on Sunday, 8th June were agreed additions to the dates agreed at the November Council Meeting – and Christchurch stated that they hoped to stage the cancelled Head of the Stour in the autumn. Steve Bull on behalf of Ryde Regatta reiterated the statement made in 2013 that - *“Ryde R. C. statement - Ref. Ryde - You will be aware that the tidal conditions and sandbank at Ryde restrict the Regatta to around four and a half hours – about 22 events – and that we impose entry restrictions on small boat events as a result. In the past few years this has allowed us to accommodate heats in just one event – usually the Men’s Novice Fours. Following an increase in new members at most clubs there is a possibility of a significantly higher than usual entry in both the Men’s & Ladies Novice Fours events which may require heats in both these events. This can probably only be accommodated by dropping some of the small boat events. Therefore, with the Associations approval, if Heats are required in both the Men’s and Ladies Novice Fours event we will drop some of the small boats events – starting, subject to entries received, with the Double sculls and the Men’s and Ladies pairs events. The policy will be to advertise all the usual events and refund the entries where any event is not staged due to the need to allow heats in the fours events”.* The meeting confirmed the dates and the Ryde statement – which it felt may also apply to other events – on a proposal from Denny Woodford, seconded by Jeff Watling.

With the balance sheet for Swanage Regatta having already been approved by the meeting the format of the Committee was given consideration and with most of the Clubs and individuals who had supported the event in recent years pledging their continued support the meeting agreed that the existing format should continue with the Association Secretary coordinating the preparations as he had in the past few years. It was noted that the Buoys that it was agreed to purchase at the Council meeting had been acquired but that there would be an extra spend on weight and ropes – but with the event turning a healthy profit this was not an issue.

A report on the recent South coast Council Meeting and changes to the South Coast Council Rules was then reviewed – a report on the AGM having been circulated in advance by Hants & Dorset ARA SCC delegate Denny Woodford.[see attached – Appendix 3.] Since the report had been circulated further rule amendments had been received from the CARA Association Secretary Phil Challen – which the meeting had not had the opportunity to discuss – although many of these were just a change in layout or format and the rules themselves did not change substantially – although it did appear to be something of a one man review!. These rule changes and those already noted would be discussed at the special South Coast Council Meeting due to be held the next day – and the H&D delegates were authorized to use their best judgment in deciding which rule changes to adopt but that any substantive changes should be rejected and the Association consulted. It was noted that inclusion of J18 events in the Junior Regatta was opposed as they can row Novice.

The Race Officials for the 2014 South Coast Rowing Championships at Swanage. following the recommendation from the Race officials meeting were then appointed as follows –

Championship/Open Regatta. Saturday, 13th September.

CHAMPIONSHIP UMPIRE – ANDY PARSONS.
STARTER – CAROL WALL? Pete Staddon to clarify

JUDGE	-	JOHN PURKESS.
OPEN UMPIRE	-	ALAN STEWART
RESERVES	-	JOHN ADAMS IAN HUTCHINGS MARTIN BRADBEER MARK VINER/IAN HUTCHINGS
Boat Inspections	-	
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.

and the Associations delegates to the South Coast Council - Bob Sivier, Denis Woodford, Andy Sothcott were re-elected on a proposal from John Purkess seconded by Pete Staddon. [Note. H&D Life Members of the South Coast Council are - Brent Hartland, Ted Shergold, and Keith Warland.] Ted Shergold commented that he thought that CARA got away with murder regarding non-attending race officials and that there should be a rule that their names must be advised by the 1st June each. It was pointed out that there was a SCC rule regarding a fine for non-attendance in place.

A report on the preparations for and organization of the 2014 South Coast Rowing Championships at Swanage was then made to the meeting by Pete Staddon, on behalf of the organizing committee, with the Association Secretary voicing his concern regarding a lack of support from affiliated clubs that was endorsed by other organizing committee meeting. There were also concerns regarding the alternative course – which may well be switched from brands bay – and an issue with a clash with the Swanage Marathon on the Sunday. More support both prior and during the event was required – and the H&D Clubs had to step-up. A list of roles and responsibilities was distributed and information on accommodation available in the town distributed.

Amendments and additions to Association Rules were then debated with three areas for consideration emerging from the Association constitution, Autumn Council Meeting and Race Officials meeting –

i) Novice promotion. Review two wins before promotion. The meeting agreed that this should remain at one win before promotion in the fours events.

ii) Ladies Veteran – championship status. There was a lengthy debate over this subject – with the meeting – eventually deciding that, as had been the usual practice, a full trial of the new status should take place during the 2014 season with all events encouraged to offer the event – if necessary at the expense of poorly supported events that currently had championship status.

ii) Duel affiliated Clubs (H&D/CARA) – the award of H&D Championship points. The two Clubs effected – Worthing and Southsea had both been approached prior to the meeting for their comments – with Worthing the Club most affected. Martin Holden, of Worthing had sent the following response – “We have your email about points and appreciate that it is a decision to be made by the other clubs of the H & D. Realistically we are unlikely to attend many regattas and in fact have deliberately not claimed points in the past as we thought it distorted the results. Of course if people had preferred us to claim them we would have. From our point of view we would prefer the status quo simply as it allows us and Southsea to occasionally win both status championships. That is however not a reason for you to necessarily keep the existing rule. As mentioned above we are relaxed about whatever decision you make. As an aside, sentimentally, I would like to keep things as they are but of course if we can't claim points it would be pointless (pun intended) to remain members of the H and D.” After much discussion the meeting agreed that in future if Worthing attended a Hants & Dorset Regatta and met the qualifying rules for the event and were fully affiliated then clearly you should be able to claim a Championship Point for any Championship event they win however the meeting noted that in the last couple of years Worthing have not registered any members with the Association and have just paid the minimum affiliation fee. The view of the meeting was that if Worthing continued this approach then they will not qualify for a point for a race won as the winning crew/sculler would not be registered – and in future the Association will award the point, in all event except Novice, to the first fully affiliated Hants & Dorset ARA Crew or Sculler that finishes who meets the qualifying conditions. If on the other hand Worthing register their members and enter a Hants & Dorset Race the you will be asked prior to the regatta taking place of their intentions with regards to claiming points and if they confirm that it is their intention not to claim the points, as in the past, then the same logic will be applied. The same logic will apply to Southsea – except that there focus tends to be on the Hants & Dorset ARA Regatta's and they do register all their members.

iii) J16 status rules. Age qualification and or status – with local rule? This was briefly discussed and it was agreed that the current situation should be maintained in that J16 was an age qualification – but as a non-championship event – any Event could introduce a local rule restricting entries, in addition, by status. It was noted that if and when J16 Hants & Dorset ARA Championship status was introduced this rule would need to be reviewed again.

The Report from the Competitions Sub Committee – which had been circulated in advance of the meeting [see attached. Appendix 4.] was then reviewed and the following agreed - .

Introduce ladies masters 40 4+ as a championship event – agreed that this should be a trial event in 2014.

Increase the number of J16 events in regattas – agreed that the focus should be on quads with the following events indicating they would put on a quad event - Southsea, Shanklin, Newport, Woolston, Itchen, BTC, Poole, Swanage. (7) and these events indicating they probably would not - Ryde, Coalporters, Milford, Christchurch, Westover, It was noted that it may be necessary to carry out the quad events first – to elevate re-rigging issues.

Spread regattas more evenly throughout the season – efforts hampered by tradition, tide times, and date availability.

More autumn/winter head races – this was beginning to happen – with a number under discussion.

Work harder on organizing more junior regattas – the Association committed to this.

Rename “veteran” events “masters” – this was agreed by the meeting.

Call junior (age) events J14, J16 etc... – this was agreed by the meeting.

Leave ladies sculling events in calendar wherever possible – this was agreed by the meeting.

Two wins and up for junior and junior senior events – this was agreed by the meeting for the 2014 season – but as a rule change would need ratification at the next Association AGM.

Individuals winning events above status should count as wins at current status – this was held over for further consideration.

Allow regression of status for seniors (men and ladies) but after 5 years – this was held over until the 2015 season to allow for further consideration and to clarify the procedure – although there was some enthusiasm for immediate introduction – but the Association Secretary felt this significant change was too late for this season.

Introduce championship events league table for Clubs – it was agreed that this should but trailed in the 2014 season – with Jeff Watling agreeing to undertake the work – and may become the method for awarding the R. S. O “Hank Carr” Trophy in the future – which at the moment is just championship points based.

The recommendations with little support - introduction of ladies junior senior status, redefining masters status based on average age of crews and review determination of championship points were all held over – but the introduction of a coxswain of the day award at each regatta – based on the already in place – assessment by the race officials was well received and it was agreed that this should be introduced if possible.

The revised and re-laid out Rules developed by the Rules Sub Committee, which had been previously circulated and discussed at the Race Officials and Safety Meeting were then discussed and the meeting agreed to approve the changes as circulated – but subject to the changes agreed at the Race Officials and Safety Meeting, The meeting accepted that some minor changes to the layout and wording would emerge as the rules were put to use and that therefore there should not be a full re-print at this point. It was also agreed that a revised copy should be published of the web side – for down loading – as soon as possible – and this would be organized by the Rules Sub Committee - and that Event Secretaries should have a copy printed off and available to Race Officials at each regatta.

The Election of Racing Officials for 2014, a report on the Officials Meeting of 18/1/14 [see attached. Appendix 5] and election of the Umpires Committee was then discussed and agreed. The Racing Officials were re-elected en bloc, as follows - FULL OFFICIALS - John Adams, John Bailey, Steve Bull, Pat Glover, Carole Wall, Ian Hutchings, John Purkess, Pete Staddon, Mark Viner, Keith Warland, Alan Wigmore, Denis Woodford, Martin Bradbeer, Andy Sothcott, Alan Stewart, Andy Parsons, Pete Diffey (18). Pending promotion to full Official – Sharon Ayles (1). ASSISTANT OFFICIALS - Simon Clements, Bob Springbett, Karen Fancett, Pete Lock, Penny Budd, Bill Dalby, Max Maxwell, Dave Wyatt, Dave Latham, Ray Murphy (10) on a proposal from John Bailey, seconded by Alan Wigmore. The umpires committee was also agreed as follows - Chairman – Andy Parsons. Commission Members - John Purkess, John Bailey, Martin Bradbeer, Keith Warland, Alan Wigmore – and all other recommendations proposed by the Race Officials meeting were accepted by the meeting including the £100 charge, per official, for each club staging a Hants & Dorset ARA Event where a permit was issued, that failed to provide two race officials who were available for at least three events.

Colin Eales, Chairman of the Wessex Regional Rowing Council gave a brief report on the Wessex Region’s activities and on British Rowing including the resignation of BR CEO Kate Burt and her temporary replacement Neil Chagarney, the re-shuffle of responsibilities at British Rowing and the lack of support from them especially for coaching courses. He also commented on the Competition review that was ongoing at BR. There was a consensus that BR were currently not performing satisfactorily as our governing body at this time – especially with regards to the Wessex Region - and it was hoped that the management changes would improve the situation. In spite of the concerns expressed, the meeting agreed, on a proposal from Steve Bull, seconded by Gary Joyce to make a financial contribution from the Hants & Dorset ARA to the Wessex Regional Rowing Council of - £250 for 2014.

The meeting then reviewed the report from the Safety Committee and the Associations Safety Meeting of 1/2/13 which had been circulated in advance of the meeting [See attached Appendix 6] with all the recommendations made accepted by the meeting and a Safety Committee for 2014 of - Chairman – Mark Viner and Sub Committee Members – Steve Bull, Gary Joyce, Gary Walters, Peter Lamb appointed. Shanklin were invited to comment on the incident at Christchurch where they had been offered a meeting with the Association to discuss their concerns but declined.

The Prize Presentation Evening, where the balance sheet for 2013 had already been adopted by the meeting and which was scheduled to take place on Saturday, 8th November at the Novotel in Southampton was discussed briefly – with Paula Williams, of Coalporters re-appointed as the organizer with the thanks of the Association.

There were three items of Any other business discussed –

- 1) Newport Rowing Club were considering the introduction of some small boat events on the Sunday of their Junior Regatta – which was welcomed by the meeting although concerns were expressed regarding enough water being available. It was confirmed that Newport should pay a permit fee for both days of their regatta. .
- 2) Lymington Rowing Club advised that they hoped to take position of their new Clubhouse in January, 2016.
- 3) Roger Hames of Southampton ARC expressed his concerns regarding event Cancellation – and the failure of organizers to inform Clubs appropriately – i.e. by using the phone number provided on the entry forms.

It was agreed that the date, time and place of the Autumn Council Meeting would be agreed by the Associations Executive Officers once the Southampton F. C. Fixtures were known – and the Chairman then brought the meeting to a close at 3.00pm.

[The Minutes were taken and written by Steve Bull, Association Secretary, April, 2014. The attached appendices form an integral part of these minutes].

Chairman, Hants & Dorset ARA.

Date: _____

List of appendices attached –

- Appendix 1. The Secretary's Report on the 2013 Season.
- Appendix 2. Treasurer's Report and balance sheet. Including Swanage Regatta and Presentation Dinner.
- Appendix 3. Report from AGM of the South Coast Council AGM
- Appendix 4. Report from the Competitions Sub Committees
- Appendix 5. Report from the Hants & Dorset ARA Race Officials Meeting
- Appendix 6. Report from the Safety Committee and the Associations Safety Meeting

Appendix 1. The Secretary's Report on the 2013 Season.

The Association Secretaries Report on the 2013 Hants & Dorset Season.

All but one of the Championship Regatta's was completed in a season that was not badly disrupted by the weather. The one Regatta lost to the weather was Bournemouth, run by Westover Rowing Club, who repeated their gamble from 2012 to stage the event very early in the season – but on this occasion, in spite of indications that the weather would be OK - resulting in all the Clubs travelling – it was clear that the deteriorating conditions would mean that no racing would take place. Disappointingly they were unable to reschedule the event leaving the Association with a twelve regatta championship program.

There were pre-season indications – from the entries in the Head races - that there would be a significant increase in the number of both Men's and Ladies Novice crews entering regattas – presumably down to the "Olympic" effect. As a result the Association took the correct decision at its March AGM to amend the rule relating to the number of wins required before promotion to Coastal junior status seasons to a single win in the fours events. Entries in some of the higher status and small boat events appear to have dropped slightly – but overall there was an increase of 194 entries to 1475 in all H&D Regattas against 1281 in 2012 – an increase of around 15%. Nine regattas had entries that exceeded 100 – four more than in 2012.

Itchen Imperial had come close to winning the Men's Senior Fours Championships for several years – and in 2013 they finally delivered winning seven of the available Championship points. The early season challenge came from Christchurch – who won two championship points – but run out of steam – and as is so often the case there was a late challenge from BTC who came through to take three points and the runners-up slot. The failure of WEARA to provide full representation in the Championship Senior Fours event at the South Coast Championships at Deal meant that all three Clubs were able to represent the Association – with Itchen triumphing in the difficult conditions – to take the Bideford Bowl for the first time.

The Men's Junior Senior Fours was poorly supported with only six events taking place and BTC winning them all, to easily win the Hants & Dorset Championship – the opposition coming from Southampton and on one occasion from Newport. BTC and Southampton were selected to represent the Association at the South Coast Championships – but, very disappointingly, the event was never staged because of the abandonment of the Regatta – and while we suspect that BTC would have been comfortable winners we will never actually know.

In contrast the Men's Junior Fours was a closely fought contest all season long with Ryde and Lymington vying for the title and winning all the points between them. Ryde emerged as Champions, with seven wins against Lymington's five and proved worthy champions when they claimed the South Coast title as well. It is an indication of the standard of the Novice crews this year – when you note that both the Ryde and Lymington crews started the season as Novices.

A very well supported and competitive Men's Novice Fours series saw eight different Clubs win with Christchurch taking the Championship with their three wins and Southampton runners-up with two. Single wins were recorded by Westover, BTC, Shanklin, Lymington, Poole and Newport.

The Ladies Senior Fours Championship was dominated by Itchen Imperial given the club the rare double of winning both Senior Fours Championships. The Itchen crew took eight of the available twelve points, with Christchurch runners-up with two and Ryde and Southampton recording single wins. Once again, the failure of WEARA to provide full representation in this Championship event at the South Coast Championships at Deal meant that three Clubs were able to represent the Association – Itchen, Christchurch and Ryde – but this time without success.

The Ladies Junior Coastal fours was a three horse race with BTC proving to be the strongest contenders taking the Championship with seven wins against three for Coalporters and two for Christchurch. BTC and Coalporters were due to represent the Association at the South Coast Championships – but this was one of the Championship events that fell foul of the conditions.

The Ladies Novice Fours was as well supported and as competitive as the Men's competition with nine different Clubs winning. BTC and Newport share the Championship after two wins each – Newport's first ever Hants & Dorset Championship – a fitting reward in their 150th year. Coalporters, Southampton, Itchen, Poole, Westover, Ryde and Southsea all recorded single wins.

The Veteran Fours was a close fought contest Coalporters taking the Championship by one point, with four wins from Poole with three. These two Clubs represented the Association at the South Coast Championship with Coalporters retaining the Championship.

The Men's Senior Pairs was another close contest that went to the wire with Itchen Imperial taking the honors with five points over Lymington's four plus a single win for Westover, who, in contrast totally dominated the Men's Coastal Junior Pairs winning all ten events staged. The Ladies Senior Pairs saw a return to a close contest that again went to the wire with Southampton taking the Championship with four wins against Itchen's three.

Chris Schreiber, now of Lymington, retained his men's Senior Sculls title winning six events with the competition coming from Richard Hume of BTC who won the other four. Tom Foad of Itchen was the comfortable winner of the Men's Coastal Junior Sculls with seven wins the only serious challenge coming from Rabbets of Christchurch who managed a single win. However Christchurch took the Men's Novice Sculls title with four wins from two scullers with Shanklin's two wins making them runners-up and Southampton and Westover achieving single wins.

A poorly supported Ladies Senior Sculls Championship was retained by Jess Bull of Itchen with two wins – the opposition coming from fellow Club member – Kirsty McGregor-Ritchie who won the other point available.

The Ladies Junior Sculls was marginally better supported with Andrea Davies of Southampton needing three wins to claim the Championship over Itchen's Paige Emery with two. Paige Emery also helped Itchen secure the Novice Ladies Sculling Championship, her two wins plus two from Milly Paul and one from Lauren Townley resulting in a comfortable win – with Anja Bennett of Newport recording the only other win. Itchen's Senior Men's Coxswain, Robyn McGregor-Ritchie, deservedly won the coxswain of the year award, voted for by the Race Officials with Club colleague Holly Fagan Runner-up. Itchen Imperial also collected the Archie Fraser Memorial Trophy for the best performing Club in all events at the South Coast Rowing Championships, with Ryde and Coalporters joint runners-up. The performance of these three Clubs helped the Hants & Dorset ARA retain the Eileen & Eric Crow Aggregate Cup for the best Association in the Championship events. Itchen Imperial outstanding season was crowned when they were awarded the R. S. O. Hank Carr Trophy, once again, as the Association's Championship Club. The Hants & Dorset ARA Chairman, John Purkess of BTC Rowing Club, in his final year in the role, was awarded the Evening Echo Trophy awarded in memory of Arthur Chatfield for his outstanding contribution to Hants & Dorset ARA and Coastal Rowing. Total registrations, at 800 – were 173 up on 2012 – an impressive 22% increase – again presumably, at least in part, due to the "Olympic effect". 703 of these – 88% – were at first registration with 97 – 12% – added during the year. The split between male and female – was 454 against 356 – 56% to 44% in favor of the men – and the largest Club, by registration was Christchurch, with BTC second and Lymington 3rd.

So a successful season with the Hants & Dorset ARA once again the top South Coast Rowing Association and a fairly spectacular growth in registrations. The challenge will be to retain the increase in registrations as the "Olympic" effect wears off – and to face the challenge from the growth in alternative "coastal" disciplines – and the preferential treatment they appear to be receiving from British Rowing whose recent reorganization has had a negative impact on our relationship with them.

Stephen Bull, Association Secretary. December, 2013.

Appendix 2. Treasurer's Report and balance sheet. Including Swanage Regatta and Presentation Dinner.

Income & Expenditure.

HANTS & DORSET AMATEUR ROWING ASSOCIATION					
ACCOUNTS FOR 2013					
<u>INCOME</u>			<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
	£	£		£	
<u>AFFILIATION FEES</u>		<u>SOUTH COAST LEVY</u>		<u>SECRETARY</u>	
BTC	234.5		384	POSTAGE	334.61
CHRISTCHURCH	236		324	SAFETY	85.12
COALPORTERS	243.5		337	STATIONARY	102.46
LYMINGTON	173.5		345	192.COM	11.94
NEWPORT	141		304	PHOTOS	4.87
POOLE	166		442	MEDAL RIBBONS	73.77
RYDE	158.5		308	<u>TOTAL</u>	612.77
SHANKLIN	106		243		
SOUTHAMPTON	216			<u>SEC HON</u>	400
SOUTHSEA	176		371		
WESTOVER	166 called off			<u>DONATION</u>	
ITCHEN IMPERIAL	158.5		389	WESSEX	250
WORTHING	106				
<u>TOTAL</u>	2281.5			<u>SOUTH COAST</u>	
SWANAGE			522	LEVY ENTRIES	
WOOLSTON			390	& INSURANCE	370
<u>TOTAL S.C. LEVY</u>	4359	4359		MEDALS	1011.5
REGATTA PERMITS	300			<u>HANDBOOK</u>	
FINES	695			A.J.JEWELL	748.8
INTEREST	9.46				
ARREARS	10			<u>MEDAL ENGRAVING</u>	
UMPIRES KIT	50			RYDE	250
PRESENTATION					
DINNER PROFIT	297.5			<u>REPAIR MEGAPHONE</u>	
SOUTH COAST				MURPHY TELECOM	18
SPONSORSHIP	200				
				<u>SKOOLKIT</u>	
				UMPIRES KIT	204.46
				<u>PRESENTATION</u>	
				FLOWER	24
<u>SWANAGE</u>					
<u>REGATTA</u>				<u>A.R.A OFFICALS</u>	350
PROFIT	1051.09				
				<u>REFUNDS</u>	
				CHRISTCHURCH	20
<u>TOTAL</u>	9253.55			<u>TOTAL</u>	4259.53
BANK ACCOUNT C/A	31.12.12	4814.28		BACK ACCOUNT C/A	31.12.13
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	"	17518.14		SAVINGS ACCOUNT	"
CASH IN HAND	"	26.8		CASH IN HAND	"
EXCESS INCOME		4994.02			14.03
				<u>TOTAL</u>	27353.24
<u>UNCASHED CHEQUES</u>	£				
NUMBER 000386	25				
NUMBER 000387	15				

CERTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE ACCOUNTS HAVE BEEN PREPARED FROM BOOKS RECORDS INFORMATION & EXPLANATIONS I HAVE RECEIVED

AUDITOR 
DATE 18/3/14

Swanage Regatta Accounts/South Coast Levy and Balance Sheet.

<u>SWANAGE REGATTA ACCOUNTS 2013</u>					
<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
£		£			
ENTRIES +		INSURANCE	100		
LATE ENTRIES	2714	BOUYS	248.91		
DONATION	50	MARSH BOATS	140		
PROGRAMMES		FIRST AID	50		
SALES	38	TROPHY MAN	690		
		SOUTH COAST LEVY	522		
<u>TOTAL</u>	2802	<u>TOTAL</u>	1750.91		
<u>PROFIT</u>	1051.09				
<u>SOUTH COAST SEAT LEVY</u>					
<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
£		£			
<u>YEAR</u>					
2004	1954.5				
2005	1661				
2006	3138.				
2007	4011				
REPAID	3946.07	DORNEY	6853.5		
2008	3718				
2009	3724				
2010	4001	DORNEY	1000		
SPONSORSHIP	100	SPONSORSHIP	100		
2011	3921	DORNEY	10402		
2012	3483				
2013	4359				
<u>TOTAL</u>	38016.57	<u>TOTAL</u>	18355.5		
<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>19661.07</u>				
<u>ASSETS</u>		QTY	£	<u>DEBTORS</u>	£
CHAMPIONSHIP CUPS			43986	BOURNEMOUTH	
SOUTH COAST MEDALS	234		1331.5	UNIVERSITY	
COXSWAINS CAPS	8		280	SEASON 2003-4	106
UMPIRES KIT			93.15		
REGISTRATION CARDS	930		87.42		
POINTS CLAIM CARDS	1810		170.14		
BLANK CARDS	350		32.9		
RULE BOOKS	7		14		
CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALS	187		931.26		
MEDAL RIBBONS	80		49.6		
PAST PRESIDENTS MEDALS	6		145.5		
TIES	15		97.5		
<u>TOTAL</u>			47218.97		

Appendix 3. **Report from AGM of the South Coast Council AGM held at Christchurch on Saturday 25th January 2014.**

[1] Rule No. 1 should read "The Regatta shall be called South Coast Rowing Championships"

[2] **Deal 2013 Championships**

CARA stated that Rule 20 was adhered to on the Saturday and that a Sunday meeting was out of the question due to the weather forecast and no provision being made for safety boats.

CARA also stated that the Hants and Dorset attempt to row the two outstanding Championship races was out of order as no contact was made through Deal ARC as hosts, also crews would not be available. This decision was made not by Clubs, but by SCCC CARA and WEARA delegates. This the H&D did not agree with as we felt we were trying to complete Championship races.

H&D also asked why on Sunday the two races were not held using the Pier as a start point and continuing past Deal ARC, using Club ribs as umpire and safety boats. Again the same answer was given.

The H&D stated that Club Captains were ignored and told to "go away" and that "racing will not happen". The H&D stated that we felt let down by SCCC and that many lessons had been learned for future Championships.

[3] Letter was received from H&D Hon Sec regarding his role as Safety Officer. CARA stated that Phil McCorry was aware he was Safety Officer and also Boat Inspector as this was a double job. H&D did not agree and proposed Rule 18 be amended to ensure a Safety Adviser is appointed by the organising committee for Championship Regattas and this was carried by 9 votes.

[4] Rule No. 20 will also be addressed for clarification.

[5] Rule 60 - draw for Open and Juniors to be made by judges or regatta control as decided by organising committee.

[6] Rule 9 - Coast proposal confirmed carried by 9 votes.

[7] **WEARA Proposals**

Rule 14 - boat and rigging proposal defeated.

[8] Proposal for upgrading of juniors to championship status deferred for another year as CARA and H&D not ready, although we would have selected crews had voting dictated this.

[9] **Finance**

Balance in hand end of 2013 = £1766.65

[10] **Swanage 2014 Championships**

A presentation was made by P Staddon and K Warland - all was accepted and site visit for March will be confirmed as soon as possible.

[11] **Wimbleball 2015**

A written presentation was made by A Worley stating that the 2000 metre course would be as previous from the dam to regatta field and junior racing would be 1000 metres from the road bridge to the regatta field, all was accepted.

[12] **Herne Bay 2016**

This was confirmed by CARA and the course would change from previous Championships to run West of Herne Bay ARC parallel with the long promenade which will offer good viewing. Although this would be the 60th Regatta, no celebrations are planned.

[13] The SCCC Hon Sec will advise by 1st March proposed rule changes to CARA, WEARA and H&D to allow voting to take place at the special general meeting to be held at Swanage in March, same day as courses viewing.

[14] Although the meeting was fractious at times, all delegates left as friends and agreed to make South Coast Rowing Championships progress for the future.

Denny Woodford. H&D South Coast Council Delegate, January, 2014.

Appendix 4. **Competitions Subcommittee.**

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE APRIL 2014 AGM

Introduction

The subcommittee provided some draft recommendations to the Hants and Dorset AGM in March 2013. Subsequently we have consulted with CARA and undertaken a further round of consultation with Hants and Dorset Clubs. In addition there have been some developments within the 2013 season, which have moved forward some of the recommendations of February 2013. It is recognized that

- introduction of new events within the existing regatta structure will be difficult.
- all the recommendations will not be implemented in 2014

However, the subcommittee commend these recommendations to Clubs, Regatta Committees and the Hants and Dorset ARA Council.

Summary of recommendations

Recommendations with strong support:

- introduce ladies masters 40 4+ as a championship event
- increase the number of J16 events in regattas
- spread regattas more evenly throughout the season
- more autumn/winter head races
- work harder on organising more junior regattas

Recommendations with support

- rename "veteran" events "masters"
- call junior (age) events J14, J16 etc.
- leave ladies sculling events in calendar wherever possible
- two wins and up for junior and junior senior events
- individuals winning events above status should count as wins at current status
- allow regression of status for seniors (men and ladies) but after 5 years
- introduce championship events league table for Clubs

Recommendations with little support

- introduction of ladies junior senior status
- redefining masters status based on average age of crews

- review determination of championship points

Potential “wild card” recommendation

- introduction of a coxswain of the day award at each regatta

Recommendations

Ladies events

Introduce ladies masters 40 4+ as a championship event

Early meetings recommended that ladies masters 4+ events should be introduced as a trial event in 2014. The reality is that ladies masters 4+ was trialed very successfully in 2013. Races were well supported, in some cases better than equivalent men’s events. Most of the meetings in late 2013 strongly recommended ladies masters 4+ as a championship event.

Ladies sculls

The subcommittee prompted discussion as to whether ladies sculling events should be restricted to more sheltered venues to encourage more participation. In general there was support for retaining ladies sculling events in regattas wherever possible but, perhaps moving the events to later in the day, after ladies 4+ events to encourage more participation.

Ladies Junior Senior status/events

This started out as a relatively strong lobby to introduce J/S as a stepping stone from junior to senior status and on the grounds of equality with men’s statuses. Later meetings have questioned the viability of a ladies J/S status and, in fact, the discussion has extended to question the viability of men’s J/S events. Potentially, there is an option to drop the men’s J/S event to accommodate ladies masters 40 4+ or J16 events. Potential to review statuses generally over next year or so, taking account of the British Rowing, National Competition Framework.

Junior Rowing

Strong support for development of junior rowing. A two track approach is proposed but will require further clarification.

1. Introduce J16 4+ or 4x+ in each Hants and Dorset regatta
2. Identify 3-4 safe venues and run junior regattas

Introduce J16 4+ or 4x+ in each Hants and Dorset regatta

The general idea of introducing J16 4+ events is strongly supported. There is less clarity about whether they should be sweep 4+ events or 4x+. If there is to be a South Coast Championship (SCC) J16 4x+ event, then the majority of Clubs would favor 4x+ events at H&D Regattas during the season. If SCC are to be sweep 4+ events then 4+ events would be preferred. The main reason for this is availability of boats and the need to switch riggers during the regattas. It would be important to arrange programs in such a way as to minimize time lost through rigger switching. It is recommended that ladies and men’s J16 4x+ events should be included in each Hants and Dorset Regatta

Identify 3-4 safe venues and run junior regattas

It is proposed that H&D Clubs should identify 3-4 safe venues to run junior regattas. These would involve J14 and J16 events in 1x, 2-, 4x+ and 4+. The association also needs to decide whether these events are to be run in coastal or river boats.

Junior (age) events

Preference appears to be to call junior (age) events J14, J16, etc. We could consider “under14” (U14), etc. to bring us in line with CARA but, in practice CARA members refer to J14, J16 events. Use of the terms J14, J16 etc. would mean that the Association would be accepting current custom and practice.

Other status issues

Rename “veteran” events “masters” for both men and ladies

This was widely supported with no dissenters.

Review current age limits

Changing the current over 40 and over 50 veterans statuses to a lower limit for the average age of a crew of 43, instead of the current minimum age of 40 and minimum crew average of 50 instead of the current minimum age of 50. This was not widely supported – not recommended at this stage.

Two wins and up for junior (status) and J/S events

To clarify, this means that crews/individuals would have to win two races at a status before they automatically moved up to the next status at the end of a season. It does not mean that crews/individuals would automatically move up to the next status after two wins within a season. The current system of competing for junior and J/S championships would continue.

This proposal was supported by most Clubs.

Individuals winning events above status should count as wins at current status

This means that if a novice, junior or J/S status rower substitutes in a higher status event and wins, they should only win a point at their current status and not automatically move to the higher status. This proposal was in the

first list of proposals, was not widely supported but came back again in the latest round of consultations. It would need to be considered taking account of any practical difficulties with “policing.”

Regression of status

The proposal to allow voluntary regression of status is supported but in a slightly different format to last February. The limitations listed below will apply:

- each individual may only regress one status once
- regression may only take place as part of the registration process at the beginning of each year – no “in year” regression to be allowed

However, the proposal that “regression may only take place following **two** years without a win for the individual at the status” was rejected and a proposal to adopt the CARA regression only after **five** years was preferred.

It is also proposed that regression should only apply to senior status but in both men and women.

Head races

Support for an increase in the number of head races during the autumn and winter. The initiative by BTC to run an autumn head race welcomed. It is proposed to run head races for 3-4 clubs at new venues, e.g. Wareham and Newport, together with the possibility for Southampton clubs to attend the Adur Head (unfortunately on 2nd March in 2014). It is very important that Clubs should support these new head races to ensure their viability.

It is recommended that the increase of head races as proposed above should be supported.

League table for clubs

Proposal to introduce a “Championship for Clubs” based on 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in finals. Proposed points system as per the table below:

1st	2nd	3rd	
3	2	1	Scull
6	4	2	Pair
12	8	4	Four

It is proposed that this could include non-championship events. It is recommended that this league table should be piloted in 2014.

Determination of championship points

There are mixed views about a similar system to determine championship events an alternative to the current system would be:

Proposed points system as per the table below:

1st	2nd	3rd	Position
5	3	1	Points

The top two crews would be selected on the basis of points scored. Because of mixed views on this issue it is recommended that the current system should continue.

Spread Regattas throughout the season

The current system of organizing regattas virtually every weekend during June and July restricts the level of training during the season and fails to recognize the pressures on younger competitors during GCSEs and A levels. Spreading the regattas further into August would recognize these pressures. It is recommended that there should be a maximum of three regattas per month in May, June and August with four allowed in July to accommodate the 13th regatta from 2015 onwards.

Coxswain of the day award

This is added as a “wild card” because it was suggested late in the consultation process and has not been widely discussed.

The proposal is that each regatta should award a coxswain of the day award based on feedback from race officials. This award would include a point towards the coxswain of the year award at the Presentation Dinner. No recommendation is made in this case because of the lack of consultation to date.

Jeff Watling

30th November 2013

Appendix 5. Report from the Hants & Dorset ARA Race Officials Meeting, Saturday, 18th January, 2014 + Actions/items for approval at the Associations AGM on 22nd March, 2014.

New British Rowing “duty of care” statement adopted 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.”

Membership of the Umpires Committee – recommendation 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.
P. Staddon.

Examination of Full and Assistant Racing 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. The criteria assistants had to meet before promotion to full official was to be circulated as promised plus various suggestions to improve assessment process for assistants agreed.

Both the individual report and the “combined” de-brief report by Race Officials following events would continue to be used and circulated.

Most Race Officials availability forms the 2014 season had been received and event secretaries would be advised which officials were available for their event.

The Race Officials for the 2014 South Coast Rowing Championships at Swanage – subject to the approval of the Association AGM – agreed 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 HUTCHINGS
		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.

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 - it was agreed that this should be maintained as arguably the recent influx of new racing officials suggested that this was having some effect. For 2013 Southsea would be charged £200, Westover £100 and Newport £100.

Question - should we be charging the £20 permit fee for each day of an event – i.e. should Newport be charged for both Saturday and Sunday?

It was proposed that the current method of selecting the H&D Coxswain of the Year 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 was to be encouraged.

Clarification of existing rules and consideration of any changes to the Associations Rules. 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 is to be referred to the Associations AGM.

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 were discussed. Some amendments proposed for the AGM. J16 Rules need clarification at the AGM.

Insurance of Officials via British Rowing Membership. Recommendation to continue to reimburse racing officials for the cost of a Silver membership of BR should be put before the Associations AGM (believe this is now £28).

The Safety equipment provided for Racing Officials reviewed by the meeting. The meeting agreed that no further action or additional equipment was required.

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

See attached Appendix 6. **Report from the Hants & Dorset ARA (Wessex Region) Safety Meeting on Saturday, 1ST February, 2014 at Hengistbury Head Outdoor Education Centre, Bournemouth and hosted by Westover & Bournemouth Rowing Club.**

Present: Clubs/Events represented - Southsea, Ryde, Shanklin, Newport, Itchen, BTC, Coalporters, Lymington & Westover (Bournemouth Regatta) plus Swanage Regatta. Non-H&D affiliated Wessex Clubs/Schools and Universities were invited but none attended. Phil McCorry, RRRSA of Wessex West invited but did not attend. Southampton and Christchurch Clubs and Regatta's (Woolston Regatta) were not represented.

Peter Lamb, representing Westover & Bournemouth Rowing Club explained the agreement the Club had in place with Hengistbury Head Outdoor Education Centre that allowed them to use the centre and showed the attendees around the centre and the facilities that had been made available to the Club – with the re-audit of their safety processes and procedures completed satisfactorily as part of this tour.

The Association Secretaries Report to the H&D Autumn Delegates Meeting and the Wessex Region AGM, and his report on the National Safety Meetings attended were reviewed.

The Club Safety Audits (Gap Analysis) for 2013/2014 were then examined. At the time only 1 Wessex West Club – Southampton University – had not submitted an audit – now all complete. Noted that - Southampton Solent University are NOT affiliated to BR and Langstone Cutters, Bournemouth Surf Club & Gig Clubs as well as water sports centres (SWAC, Hengistbury Head Outdoor Education Centre etc...) are not BR affiliated clubs.

Last year there were 18 questions where four or more Wessex Clubs stated "still to be addressed". This year there is only – 9 – so significant progress! These were reviewed by the meeting.

The BR on Line Incident Reporting procedure was discussed. Nationally there had been 889 Incidents reported during the period 1/1/13 to 26/9/13. In the Wessex Region in 2013 there had been 86 Incidents Reported with 12 duplications (linked) covering 9 incidents. There were just 14 incidents from CARA Clubs (only Dover, Deal & Shoreham reported incidents.) so the Total for Wessex West (Less CARA & duplications/linked) was 60 against 44 incidents were reported in the region in 2012 and 66 in 2011. Most common incident was collision, followed by health or injury and capsizes –

which mirrors the national trend. Ryde had reported the most incidents. 38% of incidents reported were in competition, 62% in training. There remains significant under reporting of incidents at H&D events.

With regards to the 2014 South Coast Rowing Championships in Deal there were 11 incident reports recorded. Four were from CARA Clubs – 1 from Dover and 3 appeared to be from Deal. However on closer inspection all 3 were submitted by Andrea Worley and related to the same incident – an injury to a race official. So the only CARA Club to report an incident was Dover! The other 7 were from H&D Clubs – 2 of which were duplications – leaving 5. One was from Ryde, two from Christchurch, one from Southampton and one from Lyminster.

The meeting discussed in detail 7 incidents that had been reported. Most discussion took place regarding the incident at Christchurch Regatta involving a Shanklin Ladies Novice Crew – where, following a collision with a pleasure boat – there was significant damage and risk of injury. The incident and its aftermath had generated much correspondence and Shanklin had expressed their dissatisfaction with the response of both Christchurch Rowing Club and the Hants & Dorset ARA. Christchurch Rowing Club had proposed a number of changes for the 2014 Regatta regarding marshalling on the water and the meeting agreed that these would help reduce the likelihood of a similar incident – although they did suggest that warning notices were also posted on all local areas of access to the river for other craft to increase awareness of the event taking place. The Association Secretary advised that the Hants & Dorset ARA Executive had offered to meet with Shanklin to discuss their concerns. It was noted that unless the Harbour or River authority had imposed local rules there was no legal obligation on a pleasure boat to carry any form of insurance.

The Boat Inspections undertaken by the Associations Safety Committee during the season – along with the Heel Restraint checks and the Life Jacket Check. As ever heel restraint faults are the biggest issue and as a result of the Boat inspections and the heel restraint checks – no Club went through the season – with “no fault found” and so no Safety Award was presented. The meeting agreed to continue with the current boat inspection, heel restraint checks and a Life Jacket check for the 2014 season.

Regatta/Event Audits for last seasons and plans for 2014 were considered. The policy in 2014 (as 2013) would be that re-audits would only be undertaken where requested or where concerns were raised and on an occasional random basis

The Safety Equipment Provided for Race Officials at events with H&D Permit were discussed and a report on their condition at the end of the 2013 season noted. One new Life Jacket and new and improved waterproof bags for the safety kits had been purchased.

The new Event Safety Section of the revised H&D ARA Rules developed by the H&D ARA Rules Sub-Committee had been circulated in advance of the meeting and following a further review were agreed by the meeting with a couple of minor amendments – that would go forward to the Associations AGM for consideration.

Membership of the Associations Rowing Safety Committee (Re-named “Rowing Safety Committee to bring in line with British Rowing.) The recommendation to the Associations AGM - is - Chairman - Mark Viner, Lyminster Rowing Club. Sub Committee Members - Steve Bull, Ryde R. C. & Wessex Region RRSA; Gary Joyce, Itchen Imperial Rowing Club; Garry Walters, Shanklin Rowing Club; Peter Lamb, Westover Rowing Club. .

The Venue for 2015 and future meetings would be Itchen.

Any other business was discussed –

- 1) Cold shock response. As part of the current review of aspects of RowSafe the National Rowing Safety had recommend viewing a BBC clip which will help rowers understand the importance of Cold Shock response in a capsize. There was also a clip available showing Throw Line Training – and both were shown to the meeting – and the links would be published – and added to the safety section of the H&D Web site.
- 2) The Fladen Flotation Suit had been recommended by British Rowing for Safety Crew and Coaches as a relatively cheap waterproof suit with in built floatation – a brochure was shown to the meeting.
- 3) Following a number of incidents on the River Itchen the Southampton based clubs were in consultation with the Associated British Ports regarding a Code of conduct for rowing on the River. It was agreed that when finalised this should be published as it may useful for negotiations with other Port and River Authorities in the region.
- 4) Mike Green, the new Club Safety Adviser at Christchurch Rowing Club had produced some documents regarding Coach, Club and Personal responsibilities within his club which he thought others might find useful and would be happy to share. These would be published in the safety section of the Hants & Dorset ARA web site.

See full minutes from meeting, available to download from the H&D Web Site – for more details of discussions and decisions and supporting document.

Steve Bull, For H&D ARA Safety Committee/Wessex Region RSA. February, 2014.