

**Minutes of the Hants & Dorset ARA Autumn Council Meeting, held at the Itchen Imperial Rowing Club, Southampton, Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2014.**

There were 23 delegates in attendance when the Chairman, Martin Bradbeer, opened the meeting at 10.35am. The Poole R. C. & Regatta delegates arrived late due to traffic issue.

Apologies were received from – John Purkess, H&D President & BTC; Pat Glover, H&D LVP and Shanklin; Mark Viner, H&D LVP and Lymington; Gary Joyce, Itchen Imperial; Jeff Watling, Southsea R. C.

Westover R. C & Bournemouth Regatta failure to send any representatives was noted and was of concern as this was becoming a fairly frequent occurrence by this Club. The Association Secretary was asked to contact Westover to express the Associations concern – and at the same time enquire as to how they would return the Associations Men's Junior Pairs Trophy in time for the presentation dinner on the 8<sup>th</sup> November. Worthing were also not represented but as they were primarily a CARA Club this was accepted by the meeting.

Prior to the start of the meeting proper - John Bailey of Southampton A. R. C made a statement – ref. Rossitors and Coastal Boat building explaining that Rossitors – who were building coastal boats based on Southampton's mould and design under a licensing agreement were withdrawing from the manufacture of Coastal Fours. This would leave just Burgashell manufacturing Coastal Fours and possibly Eric Sims. Burgashell may be interested in taking over the Southampton mould but Southampton would also be interested in any Club who may have contacts with a boat builder who might be interested and if so they should contact Andy Stephenson, Chairman of Southampton A. R. C. in the first instance.

The Minutes of the previous Autumn Council meeting of 19/10/13 which had been circulated in advance of the meeting were agreed to be a true record and approved on a proposal from B. Sivier, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Woodford. The matters arising from the previous meeting – the AGM of 22/3/14- were considered and agreed as follows –

1. A number of regatta's complied with Westover Rowing Clubs request to accommodate their disabled rower within a suitable event at their regatta during the season.
2. As agreed the small reduction in the number of South Coast Rowing Handbooks distributed to the Clubs allowed a handbook to be sent to all CARA and WEARA Clubs as part of the documentation package for the South Coast Championships Regatta.
3. As agreed Weights and ropes were purchased for Swanage Regatta/South Coast Championships in addition to the buoys already purchased.
4. The revised and amended Association Rules were published and made available to download from the web site as requested.
5. As requested a number of trial Ladies Masters/Veterans events were staged at various regattas during the season including an open event at the South Coast Championships Regatta.
6. Worthing Rowing Club were advised of the outcome of the debate at the AGM on dual affiliated Clubs – in 2014 Worthing did not register any members with the Association and therefore did not claim any points but have paid their affiliation fee. The need for a H&D Club finishing 2nd at Southsea Regatta and claiming the point if Worthing had not registered any members did not arise Worthing's only win taking place in the Ladies Novice Sculls where you have always had to win to be able to claim the point.
7. J16 racing continued to be an age qualification – with several events, but not all, imposing a local rule restricting entries, in addition, by status.
8. The term "masters" rather than "veteran" was adopted – although it will take a little while for this to filter through to all aspects of racing and many Trophies will have "Veteran" in the name for many years!
9. Junior (age) became more commonly titled - J14, J16 as agreed.
10. Ladies sculling events remained in place where possible – but these events still have limited support – although there were 8 points awarded in both the Senior and Novice Ladies Sculling events – with 5 in the Ladies Juniors.
11. The Two wins and up for junior and junior senior events was adopted although this probably needs a little clarification and the rule change would need ratification at the next Association AGM.

12. The introduction of a championship events league table for Clubs has yet to be done although this could be completed retrospectively as the records exist to compile this.
13. The H&D contribution to the Wessex Region of £250 for 2014 has been handed over.
14. Newport paid the permit fee for their main and Junior Regatta as agreed.
15. With no Regatta's cancelled Roger Hames concerns regarding event Cancellation – and the failure of organizers to inform Clubs appropriately was not put to the test.

The Association Secretary then gave his report and commented on correspondence sent and received since the Annual General Meeting in March. This included all the usual correspondence relating to a busy Hants & Dorset season - Club affiliation, Club and individual registration, Points claims, affiliated events - permit applications and issues, results etc.. . correspondence with Racing Officials and Club and Regatta Safety advisors plus racing Officials British Rowing membership contribution and their availability for events. This has included the thirteen Hants & Dorset Championship Regattas, three Head Races, two junior events and the Hants & Dorset ARA hosted South Coast Championships Regatta at Swanage. Association bulletins were sent to all Executive Officers, Life and Vice Presidents, Clubs and Regatta's in July and September - the July bulletin included the minutes of the AGM, Officials Meeting and the Safety Meeting. The September bulletin included the minutes of the Executive meeting of 24th August and the notice and Agenda for this meeting. Time and copying constraints meant that I was unable to circulate a number of documents relating to Agenda Items – as I have in the past – but was able to E Mail out most of these before the meeting – but accept that those without access to E Mail will probably not have received them for which he apologised. The Agenda and documents were also added to the calendar entry on the H&D Web site from where they could be downloaded in pdf. format. Documentation required for the season for Clubs, Regattas and racing Officials were sent out in April and the H&D ARA South Coast Rowing Handbooks which provided the contact lists for all Executive, Officers, Clubs, Regattas and Racing Officials were distributed during May and early June. The Association Secretary was heavily involved with this year's South Coast Championship Regatta, hosted by the Association, serving on the committee – with specific responsibility for the communications, merchandise and the program – and also dealt with H&D matters relating to the Championships - including entering the Championship Crews – including two additional crews, as allowed by the Rules, following WARA not filling all their places. Letters of invitation and congratulation were sent to all H&D Clubs with representative crews – only Ryde and Itchen replied thanking the Association for the honour. As required by South Coast Council Rules details of the Hants & Dorset Regatta results were sent to the South Coast Council, CARA and West of England. Any relevant items received from BR are passed on to those who need to know within the Association. On behalf of the Association our condolences were sent to the family on the sad passing of Les and Maria Foad. On behalf of the Association the Association secretary attended, on a regular basis the Wessex Regional Rowing Council Meetings, 2014 South Coast Championship Organizing Meetings. Hants & Dorset Sub Committee Meetings and meetings of the British Rowing National Rowing Safety Meetings, in his capacity as Rowing Safety Advisor to the Wessex Region and as a member of the Hants & Dorset Safety Commission. Clubs had been advised regarding late withdrawal from Regatta fines and the payment of fines and appeals against them had been coordinated. For the record there were 33 fines imposed 6 of which have been appealed, at the time of writing this report, which were considered by the Associations executive Officers this morning and Clubs will be notified of the results in the next few weeks with refunds where applicable. There was one fine this year for failing to attend Club Briefings at a Championship Regatta – Ryde at Christchurch – which was not contested and has been paid. The Association Secretary managed the nomination process for the Daily Echo Trophy in memory of Arthur Chatfield and arranged the engraving of the medals in time for the presentation Dinner as well as communicating the results of the Coxswain of the Year contest and writing to all Clubs who won Hants & Dorset Championships congratulating them on their success. Two applications for additional Championships Medals have been received – Richard Hume of BTC in the Senior Fours and Andy Hicks of Ryde in the Junior Senior. Both will be reviewed by the Association Officers as per the Rules and a recommendation made to the AGM for approval.

The Hants & Dorset ARA Web site - [www.hdara.co.uk](http://www.hdara.co.uk) – has been maintained with the “latest information” section on the web site home page in regular use – and these messages are automatically “tweeted” to anyone who follows the H&D Twitter account – and placed on the Associations Facebook page. The website also hosted the website for the 2014 South Coast Rowing Championships- in a special section – which had a well-publicized “quick link”. It is therefore no surprise that the page views the website receives which usually averages between 700 and a 1000 a doubled during August and peaked at 4,282 page views in the week leading up to the Championships.

The Association Secretary also advised the meeting that due to a change in his circumstances at work which had resulted in copying facilities now being far more restricted he would be looking to invoke rule 5.1 of the Associations constitution which states that – “*If agreed by the Club, Event or individual, electronic Mail (Email) is an acceptable form of communication*” - and that he would be seeking the agreement of some Clubs, events and individuals to adopt an E Mail only approach.

The 2014 Regatta Season and Regatta’s were reviewed – see summary attached. [Appendix 1.] There were very few additional comments made at the meeting – other than regarding Southsea Regatta – where following some difficulties at the event Southsea Rowing Club Regatta Committee had held an extensive de-brief resulting in the attached [Appendix 2] being submitted for the Associations consideration. Colin Eales, representing Southsea at the meeting added some detail confirming that they would probably aim to have a running and static umpires boats rather than two at the turn and that the control/start/finish tent would be reorganised. It was accepted that racing with fourteen turning buoys were difficult to umpire, that the wind and conditions played a significant part – and that the “CARA” effect also had an impact on the regatta – crews can’t just charge across the course from lane ten to lane three. Other points of discussion were – angle of the turns and staggering the buoy turn or start to address the (perceived?) inside lane advantage. The Southsea delegates agreed to take on and consider all the points raised – as would the Race Officials Meeting in January.

The meeting then considered the Association Secretaries report on Swanage Regatta [See attached – Appendix 3.] and the organization of the 2015 event. The report had thanked the many individuals and clubs that supported the event – and the meeting added and thanked the Association Secretary for his coordinating role. Although the final accounts were not yet available – the event was expected to have made a profit of several hundred pounds. With regards to the organisation of the 2015 Regatta – with most involved expressing a willingness to continue – it was agreed that the format and organisation should stay the same.

Two further points were raised – it was agreed, in consultation with them, that Eastleigh – First Responders – (New name - South Central Ambulance Trust?) who provided First Aid cover for Swanage and other Hants & Dorset Events would “charge” a daily/1 day event fee of £150 and the Mayor of Swanage had offered to carry out repairs the needed to some of the Regatta Trophies.

The meeting then discussed the 2014 South Coast Championship Regatta at hosted by the H&D ARA at Swanage, where the Association Secretaries report on the event had been circulated in advance of the meeting. [See Appendix 4.]

There was unanimous agreement with the sentiments expressed in the report and the committee were congratulated for the organisation and decisions taken that allowed the majority of those competing to race in spite of the loss of the Sunday event due to the weather. While there will inevitably be some criticism from the other two Association it is clear that the correct decision were taken on this occasion and unlike Deal the previous year all Championship event were completed as well as all the open events and all the Junior Fours events. It was noted that the organising committee of the 2007, 2011 and 2014 Hants & Dorset ARA South Coast Championship Regatta – had been nominated for a British Rowing Volunteer Team award.

The Provisional accounts for the 2014 Championship were also presented the meeting by the Events Treasurer Sue Southcott - see below – who responded to one or two question from the floor and it was

noted that while sponsorship had proved difficult to come by the expenditure of £7000 from the South Coast levy fund was in-line with expectations.

**Provisional accounts – 2014 Coast Championship Regatta. SCRC Swanage 2014 Accounts.**

Provisional October 2014

Income

Starting Balance		£670.80
Sponsorship	£1,375.00	
Entry Fees	£2,188.00	
SCC Council Payment	£735.00	
Programme Sales	£429.00	
Merchandise Sales	£375.00	
Hants & Dorset Levy	£7,000.00	
		£12,772.80

Expenditure

SCC March Meeting	£81.00	
Programme	£1,356.00	
Reserve Course PHC	£300.00	
South Coast Levy	£262.00	
Insurance	£212.00	
Postage, etc.	£406.52	
Racing Numbers	£134.99	
Friday Reception	£1,131.55	
DJ	£300.00	
Umpire Boats	£800.00	
Safety Boats	£304.13	
Trophies, etc.	£2,158.53	
Souvenir Mugs	£1,250.40	
Marquee Hire, etc.	£1,406.00	
Toilets	£370.67	
Security	£535.50	
Road Closures	£287.50	
Refuse	£60.00	
First Aid	£193.00	
PA system	£817.20	
Control Trailer Hire	£125.00	
Officials Lunches	£250.50	
Signage	£59.50	
Miscellaneous	£104.40	
Gifts	£59.50	
	£12,906.39	
Closing Balance	-£133.59	

Denny Woodford, representing the Hants & Dorset Council delegates then went on to report on the Meetings on the South Coast Council. These included the Council Meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> March at Swanage where Council were given a briefing on the course and agreed to the switch of the alternative course. There was a further meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> July where CARA delegates were taken afloat to view the revised alternative course which they approved. There was a final meeting on the 12 September at Swanage where the organising committee proposed the cancellation of the Sunday events because of the forecast and suggested a plan that would accommodate most of the racing on the Saturday – which was agreed by

Council. The meeting thanks the H&D Council Delegates for their efforts to ensure that Council agreed to these various proposals.

There were no suggestions for changes to the South Coast Council Rules tabled at the meeting.

The Regatta & Head Race dates for 2015 where than agreed. The Association Secretary advised the meeting that it had been particularly difficult to come up with a recommendation this time with many compromises sought – and he was particularly grateful to Woolston Regatta who had switched to an unrequested date to accommodate the IW Regatta weekend. After a further brief discussion the meeting agreed to the Association Secretaries compromise recommendation as follows -

AGREED REGATTADATES -2015. Recommendation 1. COMPROMISE VERSION.

Sat	14th	March	Christchurch Hd of the Stour. 1st. {28/6}[1/7]
Sat	18th	April	Southampton Coastal HERR. Only. [10/9]
Sat	30th	May	LYMINGTON/MILFORD. Only [14/10]
Sat	6th	June	RYDE. 2nd. {25/6}[1/7]
Sun	7th	June	SHANKLIN
Sat	13th	June	CHRISTCHURCH. 2nd. {28/6}[1/7]
Sat	20th	June	WOOLSTON. [RRC Req.]
Sat	27th	June	SWANAGE. 2nd. [1/7]
Sat	4th	July	NEWPORT. 1st. {30/6}[1/7]
Sun	5th	July	NEWPORT JUN. 1st. {30/6}[1/7]
Sat	11th	July	SOUTHSEA (JW)
Sat	18th	July	BOURNEMOUTH. 2nd. [30/7]
Sat	25th	July	POOLE. 2nd. {1/7}[1/7]
Sat	8th	August	ITCHEN. 2nd {24/6}[1/7]
Sat	15th	August	BTC 1st. [4/10/14]
Sat	22nd	August	COALPORTERS. 2nd. [4/10]
Sat	12th	September	South Coast Championships. Wembleball.
Sun	13th	September	South Coast Junior Regatta. Wembleball.

The meeting next considered the venue and organisation for the 2017 South Coast Championship Regatta the next one due to be hosted by the Association. The Secretary advised the meeting that SCC Rule that covers this is Rule. 9. *The South Coast Rowing Championships shall be held in rotation, West of England ARA, Hants & Dorset ARA and Coast ARA. The actual order or sequence and the venue of each Championships shall be approved by the Council at its AGM. The Association having the honour to host these South Coast Rowing Championships shall notify the Honorary Secretary/Treasurer to the Council two months prior to the Annual General Meeting two years in advance of the Championships of the proposed venue so NOVEMBER, 2015. For the record the past H&D Venues were noted to be – Poole – 1957, 1995 (Studland) [2]; Southampton – 1960, 1963, 1971, 1983, 1991 [5]; Southsea – 1967; Shanklin (IW) – 1975, 1979, 1987 [3]; Swanage – 1999, 2003, 2014 [3]; Dorney Lake – 2007, 2011 [2]; Bournemouth, 1966? After some debate as which various options were considered including Western Shore, a return to Dorney or a return to the Swanage/Poole and Portland Harbour were discussed it was agreed that all Clubs or groups of local clubs should give this consideration and that it should be an item for discussion at the 2014 SCC de-brief meeting. It was noted that to comply with SCC Council Rules a venue should be agreed at the 2015 Association AGM in March.*

A Report from Hants & Dorset ARA “Rules” and “Competitions” Sub Committee that had been circulated prior to the meeting was discussed. [See attached. Appendix 5.] With the views of the Sub Committees clearly laid out there was little further discussion, the meeting agreeing with main proposals from the sub-committees – with recommendations to go forward to the Association AGM in March as follows -

- introduction of Ladies Masters 40 4+ as a Championship event
- encourage more Junior (age) quad rather than sweep events
- spread regattas more evenly through season

- encourage more Autumn/Winter Head Races
- individuals winning above status should count as wins at current status
- Regression of status for seniors (men and ladies) after 5 years without a win. The drafted regression rule would be circulated to clubs before the end of the year so applications in anticipation of AGM approval of the new rule could be submitted before the deadline.

There was a possibly need to agree a hierarchy of events to guide regatta secretaries if they are unable to offer all championship events due to time/tide constraints and this would be addressed by the Sub Committee.

These discussions led to the consideration of possible rule changes for discussion and approval at the AGM with the following agreed by the meeting –

- Introduction of Ladies Masters 40+ as a Championship event, which was also prompted by a request from Poole A.R.C. to consider a Masters Ladies Championship.
- individuals winning above status should count as wins at current status
- Regression of status for seniors (men and ladies) after 5 years without a win.

There was also discussion on a suggestion that the entries close date should be reduced to two weeks, with circulation of the draw allowed by E Mail at least 1 week before the regatta. The Rules Sub Committee were asked to consider this request – and the Secretary was asked to canvas the views of event secretaries.

There was also a discussion on the Future of Hants & Dorset Subcommittees including their relationship with Wessex Regional Committee. Potential roles for the future were identified – Hants & Dorset - Organisation of Events (regattas and head races), Umpire training and organisation, Safety. Wessex Region - Club/Rower Development Planning, Coach Education (not just Level 2, etc. courses which are now organised nationally), Coach Support and resource documents (boat launching, rigging coastal boats, training for juniors, etc.) – including organisation of junior inter-regionals, Review, assistance and support of funding for clubs.

The continued publication of the South Coast Rowing/Hants & Dorset ARA Handbook was considered. The Association Secretary advised that Jimmy Jewell was happy to act as editor once again and the plan is to produce the booklet, in the same format as last year – which was approved by the meeting.

Andy Parsons, the Chairman of the Umpires Commission presented his report – which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. [See attached - Appendix - 6.] There were no additional comments from the meeting.

The Report from the Safety Sub Committee had also been circulated in advance of the meeting. [See attached - Appendix 7.] The report was accepted by the meeting with no additional comments.

Colin Eales, the Chairman of the Wessex Regional Rowing Council presented a report on the activities of the Council. This covered his attendance at British Rowing Council Meetings and Wessex Meetings. He reminded the meeting that the Wessex AGM and quarterly meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm at Southampton Rowing Club and advised the meeting that the region had undergone many changes recently as a result of British Rowing's reorganisation and needed to re-consider the direction it was taking and what its purpose was. Because of this a paper had been published and circulated entitled – "Wessex – the Future". [See attached – Appendix 8] -which led to a healthy debate. The agreed timetable for discussion proposed in paper was bit tight and there was a need to reach out to Clubs by organising series of local meetings to identify needs of Clubs and then to put together plan to meet their needs. Adam Ricketts (BTC) and Jeff Watling would be happy to visit H&D Clubs in the same way in the same way as they had for the Sub Committee consultations and arrangements for these meetings were already in hand. There was also a need for potential links with CARA on these issues. There was an Item on CARA Autumn Council Meeting regarding this and the potential for Jeff Watling and Colin Eales to visit CARA Clubs if they are interested.

Other areas briefly discussed were – a Coach forum, East Coast Coastal Rowing and CARA in Wessex Junior Inter-regionals Team.

The meeting was briefed on the arrangements for Presentation Dinner on 8th November, 2014 at the Novotel, Southampton, where Paula Williams, of Coalporters had once again agreed to organise the event on the Associations behalf. The Dinner takes place at the Novotel, Southampton, on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> November – and in the main will follow the usual format. All affiliated Clubs have been sent posters, information and booking forms – along with all Association Life Vice Presidents. This has been handed to clubs, repeated in a mail shot, sent again by E Mail – and can be downloaded from the Web site – so there should be no excuse for anyone being unaware of the event. Tickets at £26 – the same as last year.

The following any other business was discussed –

- It was noted that Kerry Wardell had been appointed by British Rowing as a Henley Charitable Trust Coach within the region – and would appear to be primarily based in Dorset at this time. She was organizing a Junior Training day T Bryanston on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> November for J14/J16's. Those attending had to provide boats and coaches. The application process was on-line via British Rowing. Cost £5?
- After many years of service to the Association the current Treasurer, Keith Warland announced his intention to stand down at the AGM in March – stating that he wished to give the Association time to find his replacement the meeting unanimously passed a vote of thanks to Keith for his outstanding contribution to Hants & Dorset and Coastal Rowing.

The provisional date and place of the Annual General Meeting would be considered by the Executive Officers and published in due course.

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

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Chairman, Hants & Dorset ARA.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

List of appendices attached –

Appendix 1. Summary of Officials Reports on 2014 Regatta Season. Abbreviated version.  
See separate attachment (5 pages) at the end of the report.

Appendix 2. Paper from Southsea R. C. on their Regatta.

Appendix 3. Report on Swanage Regatta. June, 2014.

Appendix 4. Report on the 2014 South Coast Championship Regatta.

Appendix 5. Hants and Dorset ARA. Rules and Competitions Subcommittees.

Appendix 6. Umpires Commission.

Appendix 7. Report from Hants & Dorset Safety Sub-Committee.

Appendix 8. Wessex - the Future.

## **Southsea Rowing Club**

# **SOUTHSEA REGATTA**

### **Introduction**

This paper has been produced in response to criticism of the Southsea Regatta course and the consistent late running of the regatta. The Southsea Regatta course is not unique. The fairness on the course depends on a combination of wind and tide but in most conditions it favours the inside lanes. Similar conditions apply for most truly coastal regattas. Part of the skill or racing is steering a course which makes the best of a lane draw whilst, at the same time, avoiding accidents, damage to boats and injury to participants. Southsea is different, in that it has the potential for 23 clubs participating from two coastal rowing associations. This brings with it pressure on the programme and a potential clash of culture between Clubs of the two associations.

The Southsea Management Committee has received advice from a number of umpires from each association. It has been suggested by one that a “turn your own buoy” rule should be introduced but this has been rejected because of the difficulty of identifying your exact buoy in relatively rough conditions and with reflection off the sea. This rule does not apply to any multi-lane coastal regatta within the two associations.

This paper proposes a set of local rules for Southsea Regatta plus some additional recommendations to ensure the safe and timely running of the regatta.

### **Southsea Regatta Local Rules**

1. The start will be identified by a shore based start post and a large outer buoy
2. There will be four buoys 10m above the start to assist alignment
3. There will be a start marshal’s boat to assist alignment above the 10m line and to keep crews clear of Lumps Fort
4. Crews will be at the start, ready to race 5 minutes before the end of the previous race, i.e. crews should be warmed up and in place as the previous race is approaching the turns, boat changes for successive races will not be allowed.
5. Two umpires boats will be deployed at the turns
6. The Associations’ Rules of Boat Racing will apply in relation to the course to be followed and at buoy turns. In particular H&D Rules of Boat Racing 5.1 – 6.4 and CARA Rules of Boat Racing 22-26 apply. However, it is incumbent upon all crews and coxswains to avoid collisions and following crews should always give way to leading crews.

### **Southsea Regatta Recommendations**

1. The Southsea Regatta Programme will be scheduled and sent out with the regatta invitation and races will be scheduled 15 minutes apart.
2. Races, wherever possible, will be scheduled: four, small boat, etc. but with 19 out of 35 races in fours, this will not always be possible.
3. Clubs will be expected to check in to race control at least one hour ahead of the start of the first race, however late entries, scratching’s and crew changes will be accepted and acknowledged by e-mail 48 hours before the event to avoid bottle necks and maximize opportunities for combining heats.
4. Boat marshals will be deployed on shore but commentators will be asked to remind Clubs of when races are due.
5. Umpires are requested to be suitably clothed and prepared to be picked up by rib from the sea shore to be transferred to the umpire’s boats.

### **Proposal**

It is proposed to adopt the above local rule changes and recommendations for 2015 and reviewed, prior to the Associations’ 2015 autumn meetings for 2016 onwards

## **Swanage Regatta – report on 2014 event - + organization for 2015.**

Once again, on behalf of the Association can I thank you all for the part you played in what I believe was another very successful regatta. Its popularity remains as high as ever - with 161 entries according to Sue/166 according to me - after late entries received. (Sue's is probably the correct figure - mine is from the results sheet hurriedly produced on the day). This is either a new record or very close to the record - and was certainly a record number of events staged.

We had a few issues - minor issues with the radios and a safety boat - and the regatta did run pretty late. Not quite sure where we lost so much time - probably a combination of buoy adjustments along with re-rows/re-starts, however in the sunshine no one seemed to mind too much!

I think the solution to the "road works on the prom/trailer issue" worked pretty well - and a special thank-you to Roger Hames and Southampton R. C. for picking this one-up.

The risk of thanking Clubs and individuals is that I will miss someone - but here goes - the Race Officials, Controllers and Commentators of course - including Max who did a great job chasing up the crews; BTC for the PA system, Tables and Chairs; Denny Woodford for the Trophies; Sue for Regatta Control, contact with Swanage Council - and so much more - plus Alison from Poole at Regatta control; Poole for the Control Tent and more Tables and chairs and a safety boat; Lymington and Christchurch for safety boats, Pete Staddon from Christchurch and Dave Smith from Westover for laying the course plus Pete for all the other things he does - Radios, Boat Marshal, receiving and sorting out the cups etc... etc...; Tim Bull - for the program and more; Ryde & Josie for the Officials lunches. Special mention for Royston of Christchurch who worked hard all day organising safety boats - and Mike Kelly - who happened to have a Rib with him and helped out when the Lymington RIB broke down. I will have missed someone - sorry!

As far as I am aware there was only one safety incident that requires a BR incident report a "simple capsized" involving a Shanklin Sculler - for which I have done a report. The dedicated First Aider from Eastleigh First responders report states - "There were only two people that approached myself with injuries, There was a female competitor that had reoccurring back problems (Spasms), She was lifting one of the boats out of the water and said she had back pain. I explained that as a first aider there wasn't anything that I could do other than offer advice. I advised her to see a doctor or seek medical attention from a Minor Injuries Unit or Hospital should her pain not subside. The only other person that approached me was a Young male that was one of the team / clubs officials, he had a small cut on his finger that he did when throwing stones in the water. When he came over to me the wound was closed and I cleaned this with sterile saline and put a plaster on it. This injury wasn't caused by the rowing regatta event itself. Words of advice was to soak the injury and re-apply plaster (s) to protect it from infection."

As always the Association welcomes any constructive criticism or suggestions for improvement.

I had a number of people I did not know approach me at Christchurch Regatta and say what a good regatta it was - and I have had E Mails from others congratulating and thanking-us - which is always nice to receive.

With the thanks of the Association once again – and I hope I can rely on everyone again for the 2015 Regatta – which I propose we organise in the same way and in the same format – although hopefully with a fully open promenade!

S. Bull, Association Secretary, September, 2014.

**The Association Secretaries Report on the 58<sup>th</sup> South Coast Championship Regatta (and the 9<sup>th</sup> South Coast Junior Regatta, hosted by the Hants & Dorset ARA in Swanage, Dorset, over the weekend of 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> September, 2014.**

It was the Hants & Dorset ARA's turn to host the 58<sup>th</sup> South Coast Rowing Championships – and the 9<sup>th</sup> South Coast Junior Championships – with a return to a Coastal venue – at Swanage in Dorset – for the first time since 2003 - following two very successful H&D hosted events at Dorney Lake in 2007 and 2011. A two day event – with the Championship and Open Fours events on the Saturday and Junior – and for the first time, open small boat events on the Sunday.

In addition to the risks of a Coastal venue the small but dedicated organising committee, drawn from several Hants & Dorset Clubs faced a number of difficulties that they had not anticipated – among them the loss of key committee members, a date clash with Swanage Marathon – which probably worked in our favour in the end due to shared facilities, the on-going and much delayed improvement work on Swanage Promenade and the need to switch the venue for the alternative course fairly late in the day due to concerns over its fairness and access. With all these issues eventually overcome – the concerns in the week running up to the Championships focused on the poor weather forecast, with uncharacteristic Easterly winds – the worst case for the normally sheltered Swanage bay – prevailing all week. Mindful of the disappointment of the Deal Championships in 2013 where, for the first time in its history two Championship events were not staged because of the conditions – the committee had put together a plan that would give four options over the weekend for completing at least the Championship events. By the time of the well-attended Reception on the Friday evening got underway – and following the earlier meeting of the South Coast Council – it was clear that the primary course at Swanage would be unrowable on the Sunday – but there appeared to be a window of opportunity to stage the Saturday events – where the conditions would be difficult but racing possible. So the committee, in consultation with the South Coast Council came up with a revised plan that involved switching all the Junior Coxed Quad events to the Saturday – after the main regatta was completed delaying the finish but ensuring that almost everyone who attended got to race. This brave decision looked like it might back fire as the Clubs gathered for the start of the Regatta on Saturday as although the anticipated conditions in Swanage Bay were rowable they delayed – and in one case prevented - the arrival of the support boats – and a breakdown to one of the safety boats added a further complication. It is to the credit of the organisers that their planning was such that they were able to switch boats around to accommodate the regatta's needs – although this did delay the start of the regatta by nearly an hour. But once the Regatta was underway, with the cooperation of the Clubs and dedication of the race officials, sometime was made up and the Championship and Open fours events were all completed just half an hour behind the scheduled time. The switch of the Junior Quad events to the end of the regatta, from Sunday, obviously added further time and these events did not run quite as smoothly with boat and crew changes and the limited experience of the junior rowers coping with the at times difficult conditions. Certainly great care had to be taken when boating and coming ashore and a number of crews were swamped undertaking these tasks – but no crews sunk during the racing – confirming that the decision to go ahead on the primary course was the correct one.

The total entries for the weekend were 229 – and following the cancellation of the Senior and Junior Small boat events 153 actually raced – less any scratching's on the day. There were 32 crews involved in the Championships races with WEARA having one entry in each Championship event – a small but encouraging improvement on 2013. As a result the Hants & Dorset ARA invoked rule 25B for two events - Shanklin entering the Men's Coastal Junior Fours and Lymington the Men's Senior Fours. CARA did not take-up this option.

Crews from Hants & Dorset Clubs provided 68 of the 97 entries in the open events – over two thirds of the crews entered – CARA had a disappointing 26 entries – and WEARA were even more of a disappointment with just three crews entered. The junior and open small boat events planned for the Sunday attracted 100 entries – 72 in the junior events where H&D Clubs with 48 entries again provided around two thirds of the entries received with CARA a disappointing 15 and 9 from WEARA which was a

little more encouraging. The open small boat events attracted just 28 entries in total – with H&D Clubs providing more than half with 17 and CARA providing the other 11 – with no entries from WEARA Clubs - raising question mark over it is worth including these events in future Championship Regatta's. However the main challenge remains - how do we attract more entries from the WEARA Clubs across all events?

As ever, with his permission and my thanks, I turn to John Bailey's press report for an unbiased review of the Championship races -

*"Grey skies and a tumbling surf greeted crews at the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual South Coast Rowing Championships at Swanage on Saturday, and a delayed start due to the late arrival of the Official Starters Boat due to conditions in Poole Harbour led to an air of apprehension amongst the crews and the hundreds of supporters who had travelled from all over the West of England and South Coast from Herne Bay and Bideford. With the Junior Regatta, scheduled for Sunday, already cancelled after an adverse weather forecast, It looked a brave choice by the organising Committee for the Championships to go ahead at Swanage instead of moving to the more sheltered reserve course in Poole Harbour as, with the surf picking up with the rising tide, many of the crews in the early supporting events were soaked to the skin just getting afloat. But for once the delayed start worked in the organizers favour, with the sun breaking through and the seas becoming more settled, the first of the Championship events got underway an hour behind schedule.*

*Masters Championship.*

*Masters Championship Fours with crews from Folkestone, Hastings, Poole, BTC (Southampton) and Bideford AAC (Blues) coming to the line. Poole with M Sewell (Bow), R Wilson (2), R Murphy (3), P Jacobs (Strk), F Hill (Cox) were first to show after the start, closely followed by Folkestone and Hastings with BTC and Bideford taking time to settle to the following seas driving the crews down the course demanding solid entries and clean finishes to each stroke to avoid being trapped by the waves. Poole extended their lead throughout the race but positions never changed with Folkestone following them over the finishing line in second place, Hastings third being closed down by BTC, followed by Bideford Blues.*

*Ladies Junior Championship*

*The Ladies Junior Championship saw crews from the Southampton based Itchen Imperial and BTC clubs dominate from the start, with Itchen P Emery (Bow), M Paul (2), B Jones (3), L Townly (Strk), S Moore (Cox) proving the stronger, establishing clear water between their boats, BTC unable to match their rhythm or power, leaving the Coast crews from Shoreham and Hasting to fight their private battle for third place whilst Exeter did their best in conditions that were clearly not to their liking.*

*Men's Junior Championship*

*With a marked improvement in conditions as the tide passed its peak, Poole and Shanklin moved quickly into their rhythm and looked to be the early leaders as the two Deal crews kept their eyes on each other, whilst BTC and Bideford Reds took time to settle. At the half way stage Shanklin looked likely winners but with 500 metres remaining a push by Deal A M Handley (Bow), O Mullaney (2), R Mullaney (3), L Mullaney (Strk), J Dodrill (Cox) took them past Shanklin and Poole. With the finishing positions between Poole and BTC also deciding who would be this season's Hants and Dorset Champions, Poole raised their rate keeping an eye on the improving BTC, but it was Shanklin who hung on to the Deal A crew's stern to make a race of it, but Deal A were in control, crossing the finishing line with barely a length separating the two crew leaving Poole to finish third with the Hants and Dorset Medal as their consolation.*

*Men's Junior / Senior Championship*

*Herne Bay, Lymington and Ryde made all the running in that order, with Herne Bay G Holness (Bow), T Walton (2), L Towner (3), W Campbell (Strk), D Wareham (Cox) looking certain winners as they lifted their rate to establish a clear lead despite an unexpectedly high performance from Lymington. But the expected charge from Ryde, who had dominated the Hants and Dorset season, never came and Herne Bay were more than six lengths clear of Lymington as they crossed the line with Ryde a disappointing third followed by Deal and Bideford Reds.*

*Ladies Senior Championship*

*Bexhill's R Holdaway (Bow), K Skelton (2), M Hill (3), E Young (Strk), L Quinn (Cox), pushed hard from the start, settling quickly, they establish clear water between themselves and Itchen Imperial who seemingly had their eyes set on the progress of the Coalporters a length and half further back. With neither Itchen nor Coalporters making any progress the Bexhill Ladies seemed content with a bit of a push at the half*

[Hants & Dorset ARA Autumn Council Meeting, 18/10/14.]

*way mark to increase their lead but Itchen were far from finished and with 200 meters left they put in their effort and with the angle of the finishing line in their favour had a chance, but Bexhill had done enough, crossing the line with just a length between the two crews.*

*Men's Senior Championship*

*With Itchen Imperial looking to repeat their last season performance when they won their first Bideford Bowl Championship in appalling conditions at Deal and, with BTC, the current Hants and Dorset Champions looking for their third Bowl win in five years, still smarting after finishing second behind Bexhill in the Grand Challenge Cup final at Southsea Regatta. And Deal, much fancied amongst their own supporters and Plymouth an unknown quantity from the West of England Association being a wild card along with Lymington who are known, on occasions, to do the unexpected, this year's Bowls race had all the ingredients' to be a classic. Three false starts highlighted the tension, but on the fourth they were away with Bexhill on the outside, Deal on the Inside with BTC and Itchen the meat in the sandwich. Itchen and Bexhill had the better of the first 100 metres, leading BTC and Deal by a length but unfortunately that's as close as it got. Whilst Itchen fought a losing battle to stay ahead of BTC, Bexhill's M Mitchell (Bow), D Holdaway (2), M Hellier (3), K Cahill (Strk) R Holdaway (Cox) moved relentlessly ahead, BTC took up the chase but were no match for Bexhill who crossed the finishing line with six lengths to spare with Itchen a further length and a half behind BTC.*

While only winning two Championships was disappointing for the Hants & Dorset ARA – and CARA's for wins was an impressive set of results – the performance of the Hants & Dorset representative crews should not be under estimated with several finishing in podium places securing the aggregate shield for the Association with 29 points against CARA's 25.

The Hants & Dorset also dominated the open events winning nine of the ten events staged - Ryde winning the Men's and Ladies Open Seniors, Christchurch the Men's juniors, Shanklin the Ladies Novice, Lymington the Maters B and BTC the newly introduced Ladies Masters event. But the best performance in these events came from Itchen Imperial who won the Men's Novice, Ladies Junior and Masters an events. Herne Bay was the sole non-Hants & Dorset winners taking the Open Junior Senior Event. The Hants & Dorset ARA therefore comfortably won the Open Events aggregate trophy – with Itchen the lead club with 19 points and Ryde runners-up with 10.

In the four Junior events that were staged a WEARA Club actually won an event – the Girls J16 Coxed Quad going to Bideford ARC – but wins for Shanklin in the Boys J16 Coxed Quad, Newport in the Boys J14 Coxed Quad and Christchurch in the Girls J14 Coxed Quad ensured that the Hants & Dorset ARA took this aggregate trophy as well – Christchurch's 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Boys J14 Quad securing the Trophy for them. With the Hants & Dorset ARA securing all three aggregate Trophies I think we can claim to be the South Coasts top Rowing Association once again.

I am not going to comment in this report on the organisation of the event – which should be left to others to comment on – and will be the subject of a “wrap-up/de-brief” meeting for the organising committee on the 21st of October. However I would like express the thanks of the Association to all those who served on the organising committee and supported the event over the weekend for their dedication, enthusiasm and hard work.

The challenge going forward will be who will organise our next Championship where will it take place – with the change to a three year cycle – that's in 2017 – requiring the process to begin within the year.

Steve Bull,  
Association Secretary,  
Hants & Dorset ARA.  
October, 2014.

**Entries.**

	CARA	H&D	WEARA		CARA	H&D	WEARA		
Saturday	Championship				Open				
	12	14	6	32	26	68	3	97	129
Sunday	Junior				Small Boats				
	15	48	9	72	11	17	0	28	100
40 of these crews/scullers did not race.					None of these crews raced -			76	229
								Actually raced -	153

**RESULTS.**

**South Coast Championship Results - Swanage 2014**

British Rowing Almanac Format.

Date

13th September 2014

Boat Type	Men's Ladies Mixed	Event Type/ Status (Coastal)	Total Event Entries	Winning Club	2nd	3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>South Coast Championship Events</b>						
C4+	Men's	Senior	6	Bexhill	BTC	Itchen Imperial
C4+	Men's	Junior Senior	5	Herne Bay	Lymington	Ryde
C4+	Men's	Junior	6	Deal	Shanklin	Poole
C4+	Ladies	Senior	5	Bexhill	Itchen Imperial	Coalporters
C4+	Ladies	Junior	5	Itchen	BTC	Shoreham
C4+	Men's	Masters	5	Poole	Folkestone	Hastings
Aggregate				Hants & Dorset (29)	CARA (25)	

<b>Open &amp; Invitation Events</b>						
C4+	Men's	Senior	8	Ryde	Lymington	Coalporters
C4+	Men's	Junior Senior	4	Bexhill	Westover	Southsea
C4+	Men's	Junior	20	Christchurch B	Shanklin	Deal
C4+	Men's	Novice	16	Itchen Imperial B	Herne Bay	Itchen Imperial A
C4+	Ladies	Senior	6	Ryde	Coalporters	Southampton
C4+	Ladies	Junior	19	Itchen Imperial A	Itchen Imperial B	BTC
C4+	Ladies	Novice	14	Shanklin A	Deal	Southampton
C4+	Men's	Masters A (40)	6	Itchen Imperial	BTC	Lymington
C4+	Men's	Masters B (50)	4	Lymington	Bexhill	Herne Bay
C4+	Ladies	Masters		BTC	Christchurch	Southampton
Aggregate				Itchen Imperial (19)	Ryde (10)	BTC (9) Lymington (9)
<b>Junior Regatta Events</b>						
C4x+	Boy's	J16		Shanklin A	Deal	BTC
C4x+	Girl's	J16		Bideford ARC	Worthing	Bexhill
C4x+	Boy's	J14		Newport	Itchen imperial	Christchurch
C4x+	Girl's	J14		Christchurch	Itchen Imperial	
Aggregate				Christchurch (6)		

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

**Notes of meeting Tuesday 14th October 2014**

**BTC Rowing Club**

**Rules and Competitions Subcommittees 18.00**

9..14.1	<p>Present Steve, John, Garry, Dave W, Adam, Colin, Jeff</p> <p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Roger Hames, Keith Worland</p>
9.14.2	<p>There were no notes of the meeting on 18th February 2014, however the subcommittee recommendations of 14th February together with extracts of notes from H&amp;D AGM were attached to the agenda</p>
9.14.3	<p>Revised Hants &amp; Dorset Rules - to review the rule changes 6 months on Rules for boat racing parts A and B</p> <p>In general there had been very little comment with regard to Regatta Rules, etc. The electronic circulation appeared to have been accepted and umpires, etc. generally had copies available when required for reference.</p> <p>Agreed to invite the Umpires Committee to comment of rules at their January meeting.</p> <p>Regatta Rules</p> <p>Very few comments</p> <p>Regatta Safety Rules</p> <p>No reaction</p> <p>Membership and Status</p> <p>Some queries regarding two wins and up rule for juniors and above, but requests for clarification, not adverse comment.</p> <p>Registration and Competition Rules</p> <p>No comments</p> <p>.</p> <p>Status Rules</p> <p>Some doubts about junior age status, J14, J16, etc. But BR rule does need reading more than once to be clear. Garry has modified wording slightly to clarify</p> <p>Championship Event Rules</p>

	<p>No comments</p> <p>Championship Trophy Rules</p> <p>No comments</p> <p><b>Potential recommendations to Autumn Delegates meeting and AGM</b></p> <p>Potential for slight tweak of Junior (age) rules will need ratification at AGM.</p> <p>Alternative wording for starts discussed. Possible use of BR's "Attention.....Go".</p> <p>Potential to ask umpires meeting about possible change also potential to have an air horn, in addition to verbal, "Go."</p>
9.14.4	<p>Review of draft Competitions Subcommittee recommendations for 2014 AGM</p> <p><b>Introduction of Ladies Masters 40 4+ as a Championship event</b></p> <p>On average there were 3.5 ladies crews entered in master's events during the season. Agreed to recommend ladies masters 40 4+ as a championship event and review at the end of 2015.</p> <p>On the basis of the average number of entries during the season also need to consider ladies junior 2-</p> <p><b>Junior (age) quad events</b></p> <p>There were only three regattas that held J16 quad events: Newport (b&amp;g), Southsea (b&amp;g), Swanage (mixed)</p> <p>Shanklin, Woolston, Itchen, BTC and Poole ran sweep events</p> <p>Lesson learned during year – need to send crews to start line as a group, rather than letting them away in dribs and drabs only for some crews to get cold and wet on the start line.</p> <p>Should be recommending running of quad events wherever possible because of link to SCC.</p> <p><b>Spread regattas more evenly through season</b></p> <p>Maybe a "vain hope" due to need for some regattas to be linked to tides. May also take some time to change attitudes, potential also problems with dates in August with some local authorities. Steve struggling to accommodate dates requested by Clubs for 2015</p> <p><b>More Autumn/Winter Head Races</b></p> <p>This was tried but less successful than planned due to cancellations. Christchurch have requested 14th or 15th March 2015 as date for Stour Head. Jeff to ask Shoreham to avoid this weekend if possible.</p> <p><b>Two wins and up for junior and junior senior events</b></p> <p>No problems noted in 2014</p> <p><b>Individuals winning above status should count as wins at current status</b></p>

	<p>Potential issue of keeping track of wins out of status. Sensible extension of two wins and up, in that it doesn't force individuals to row above ability following one "lucky" win. Worthy of consideration at AGM.</p> <p><b>Regression of Status for Seniors (men and ladies) after 5 years without a win.</b></p> <p>Agreed worthy of consideration for sweep events only, not sculling. NB SCC events are non-status and should not affect the 5 year cut off.</p> <p>Proposed wording of rule:</p> <p>Any Senior Oarsman or Oarswoman who has not won a Senior Status race shall have the opportunity to regress back after five years of holding Senior Status. Senior men may regress to Men's Junior Senior Status and Senior Women to Women's Junior Status. All applications for regression shall be made in writing to the Association Secretary on the regression form provided, stating the year and regatta at which they had their last senior win. The application must be submitted by 31st January of the year that they wish to regress their status.</p> <p>The change of rule should be flagged to the Autumn Council Meeting and applications for regression sought immediately but subject to ratification of rule at March 2015 AGM.</p> <p><b>Introduce league table for Clubs.</b></p> <p>Jeff had not taken this forward but agreed to do so on offer of information on regatta results from Steve. Also agreed to look at best three results of day as well as proposed system.</p> <p><b>Potential recommendations to Autumn Council meeting and AGM</b></p> <p>In summary the following need to be flagged as recommendations to the Autumn Council Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• introduction of Ladies Masters 40 4+ as a Championship event</li> <li>• encourage more Junior (age) quad rather than sweep events</li> <li>• spread regattas more evenly through season</li> <li>• encourage more Autumn/Winter Head Races</li> <li>• individuals winning above status should count as wins at current status</li> <li>• Regression of status for seniors (men and ladies) after 5 years without a win.</li> </ul> <p>Possibly need to agree a hierarchy of events to guide regatta secretaries if they are unable to offer all championship events due to time/tide constraints</p>
9.14.5	<p>Future of Hants &amp; Dorset Subcommittees including relationship with Wessex Regional Committee.</p> <p>Potential roles for the future:</p> <p>Hants &amp; Dorset          Organization of Events (regattas and head races)          Umpire training and organization          Safety?</p>

	<p>Wessex Region          Club/Rower Development Planning          Coach Education (not just Level 2, etc. courses which are now organized nationally)          Coach support and resource documents (boat launching, rigging coastal boats, training for juniors, etc.) – including organization of junior inter-regionals          Review, assistance and support of funding for clubs.</p> <p>Specific suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entry level courses for new coaches – similar to the old IA – need to be flexible with regard to any prerequisites – need to have a system for signing off any prerequisites undertaken</li> <li>• Coastal coxswains’ course including available video of most racing courses</li> </ul> <p>Agreed timetable for discussion proposed in paper a bit tight, may need to reach out to Clubs by organizing series of local meetings to identify needs of Clubs and then to put together plan to meet their needs. Adam and Jeff would be happy to visit H&amp;D Clubs.</p> <p>Potential links with CARA on these issues</p> <p>Item on CARA Autumn Council Meeting. Potential for Jeff and Colin to visit CARA Clubs if they are interested.</p>
9.14.6	<p>Any other business</p> <p>None</p>
9.14.7	<p>Dates of future meetings</p> <p>No meeting date agreed</p>

## **2014 Annual Report from Chair of Umpires Committee**

H & D officials safety equipment was generally OK although a brand new loudhailer proved temperamental at times. Once again, thanks to Steve Bull for ensuring that these essential kits are in good condition for every season. Regatta organisers please note that they need to be looked after and handed over to the next regatta in good time (didn't always happen) and in good condition.

There were a couple of mentions by officials for good work by boat marshals at our regattas this season and I'd like to thank all of the boat marshals. They really do make huge contribution to keeping regattas on schedule and ensuring that all of the races on the programme can take place.

Coaches need to spend more time getting their crews boat handling skills up to a good standard. Particular issues (again) were awareness of the effects of wind and tide, ability to manoeuvre and in particular back down to get aligned at the start and for many novice crews, holding the boat to achieve a sharp buoy turn – the very first race of the season resulted in disqualification of a crew which traversed along the line of turns buoys, impeding other crews. Coxswains, scullers and steersmen need to take time to familiarise themselves with each course before going afloat – quite a few crews rowed a longer course than necessary due to poor steering. I would like all coaches to spend more time on these oft-neglected aspects of our sport.

As in every season, starters had to call back a number of false starts, including some where the cox had shouted 'Go!' to their crew. Some starts were delayed by crews paddling away out of contact to warm up. Club captains and coaches please train your crews to marshal up, align and start correctly – it will save us all a lot of wasted time and avoid the very real risk of disqualification.

Christchurch's introduction of running umpires following the race was a welcome innovation which won approval from all. Newport regatta radio communications were poor and Woolston's start platform access was difficult/risky so I request improvements for next year please – we all need our race officials to be both safe and effective.

We had a number of clashes and protests at Southsea, many caused by the 'free for all' scramble of outside crews in to take the first 3 buoys. We need to resolve differences in rules and their interpretation with our colleagues in CARA or this undesirable situation will just persist. All of the disputes on the day contributed to a very late finish time.

We should review the requirements for additional safety cover for adaptive competitors to avoid leaving too little safety cover on the course for other competitors.

And finally.....a mention for the best novelty disqualification of the season goes to our own Ray Murphy, who was a late substitute in the Poole ladies masters crew at Ryde – I think the beard might have given the game away Ray!

Andy Parsons

October 2014

## **The Regional Rowing Safety Advisers (and H&D ARA Safety Committee's) Report to the Associations 2014 Autumn Council Meeting and to the 2014 Annual General Meeting of the Wessex Regional Rowing Council.**

National Safety Committee and National Safety Committee (NSC) Meetings. As the regions Rowing Safety adviser (RRSA) I attended 2 of the 4 BR National Safety meetings that were planned for 2014 – one early in the new year – and one just a few weeks ago – both held at the BR HQ at Hammersmith. I was unable to attend the Spring meeting due to a clash with an H&D event at which I was officiating and the summer meeting, due to be held in July was cancelled due to the on-going dispute between BR and the NSC following the appointment of Stephen Worley as the new BR Honorary Rowing Safety Adviser (HRSA) over the acting HRSA and Chairman of the NSC – Chris George. BR also decided – against the advice and view of the NSC that in future the HRSA could not also be chairman of the NSC - which has always been the case. As a result Chris George resigned his position as Chairman to the NSC – and the dedication, enthusiasm and hard work he brought to this role will be missed by the committee and will be a significant loss to BR. NSC members do not dispute Stephen Worley's qualifications for the role of HRSA, with his background in health and safety, or that he will be equally as enthusiastic and hard working in the role – but they were disappointed that he failed to advise the NSC of his intention to challenge Chris George for the role – and for his support for splitting the role from the Chairmanship of the NSC – when, in committee he had appeared to support Chris's nomination and the views of the NSC on the format. This and further issues over funding of safety and BR's refusal to commit to a budget for safety matters – and the lack of IT support for safety issues has left the NSC wondering exactly what their role is. The "air was cleared" at the September NSC meeting which Deputy Chairman Gary Harris attended and addressed although issues still remain over funding and IT. However the meeting accepted Stephen Worley as the new HRSA and will support him in the role – and a new Chairman of the NSC – Clive Pendry – was elected with Tony Reynolds as his deputy.

### Annual BR Club Audit.

All Wessex region clubs duly completed the 2013/2014 BR Club audit – although some were a little late in complying – risking suspension from racing by BR. The 2014/2015 Club Audit – unchanged from last year due to lack of BR IT support will launch in mid-October – with completion and submission to the RRSA by the end of December, 2014 – or Clubs will again risk suspension from racing.

Event Safety Audits. All H&D (Wessex) events submitted an event safety audit with risk assessments, safety and communication plans – and emergency plans accompanying most. These were reviewed and approved by the RRSA and BR advised so that the BR Event Public Liability Insurance would be issued by BR on payment of the appropriate fee. All H&D Events except Newport use the BR Public Liability insurance scheme – Newport use another provider.

Incident Reporting. In spite of more than 2000 incident reports being submitted nationally between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 30<sup>th</sup> September it is known that there is still much under reporting of incidents – nationally and within the Wessex Region. Nationally collisions – the majority with a moving object (i.e. another boat) are by far the biggest incident type reported – with over 1600 recorded – and this is a cause for concern at national level. Capsize is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest incident at around 300 – although one suspects many more have taken place.

In the same period I have records of seventy-four incidents recorded by Wessex Region Clubs – six of which came from CARA Clubs – which means that they are either incredibly safe or under report on an

*[Hants & Dorset ARA Autumn Council Meeting, 18/10/14.]*

even greater scale than we do! The data I can retrieve from the BR Incident Reporting statistics indicates ninety two incidents reports made by Wessex Club in this period – and I need to do a comparison to see if I have missed or not received some reports. There will be duplicates in both sets of figures. I would certainly expect to see a report from any Club who had a safety related incident in competition – and to see a report from the event safety adviser – and this is one area where we certainly under report. This is easily proven as Hants & Dorset ARA Race Officials reports indicate 36 safety related incidents at Hants & Dorset ARA events during the season – but only seventeen of the incident reports received state that the incident occurred during competition. A full analysis of the incident reports in the region will be compiled at the end of the year and reported on to the Associations Safety Meeting which is usually held in February.

#### Boat Inspection at H&D/Wessex Events.

Unannounced and random boat inspections were undertaken by the H&D ARA Safety Committee at four H&D events during the season – Ryde, Coalporters, Christchurch and Bournemouth Regattas. A total of 89 boats of all types were inspected with 29 faults found – some boats having more than one fault. As ever over two thirds of the faults found were with heel restraints, others were – no boat ID, long rigger bolts and compromised buoyancy tanks. Two Clubs – Southampton and Southsea – went through the inspection process with no fault found during any of the inspections – and will/have received an award in recognition on this. The boat inspection at Christchurch Regatta was a full heel restraint check on every boat present and a full inspection of Coxswains Life Jackets was undertaken. The BR Incident reporting system was used to summarise the results of the boat inspections and by opening these for comment ensured the Club Safety Advisers were advised of the issues with their boats as quickly as possible and were able to comment – and some did!

H&D Race Officials Safety Equipment. Although not returned yet for their end of season inspection and refurbishment it is believed that the H&D ARA Safety equipment has survived another season fairly intact although there will be the inevitable wear and tear. There were the usual issues during the season with the Loud Hailers – including an intermittent performance from a new one. Two new Loud Hailers were purchased just prior to the South Coast Championships Regatta to ensure we had enough working units but neither was actually used and are available as replacements. The new waterproofs bags have been a success – being larger with better access, easier to handle/carry and providing better protection for the contents. The Life Jackets are in a good condition – although we have not recovered the missing one. Event Secretaries/Safety Advisers need to be reminded once again that the safety kits and Life Jackets are for Race Officials use only and are not to be used to supplement the safety equipment on event safety boats.

Steve Bull.

Wessex Region Safety Adviser and

Hants & Dorset ARA Safety Committee.

October, 2014.

## Wessex - The Future?

In recent years there have been many changes in British Rowing which will have a direct effect on our clubs in the Wessex Region. In the next few paragraphs I shall explain why those involved with Wessex want the Clubs to have a say in the service Wessex provides them.

### A brief history

The restructuring of BR and how it is organized has been led by Sport England (Government). 90% of the funding is via Sport England, so BR had little choice. The Executive Board was cut to 12 members, including a paid CEO. The Council has been reduced to 11 regional chairmen, a few divisional reps (mainly from the Thames area) and committee chairmen. This resulted in Wessex being enlarged to include the SE coast, i.e. CARA.

### The problem

In other, regions, the Regional Rowing Council controls all aspects of rowing. In Wessex, Racing, the Regatta Programme and Umpiring is controlled by Hants and Dorset and CARA. Coach Education and Water Safety is organized via Wessex. However, as part of the changes, Coach Education is to be run in-house by BR Head Office staff. Without Coach Education responsibility, what is Wessex for?

### The opportunity

BR is our governing body and clubs are recognized through the regional structure. Most grant funding will come through the Region so Wessex is needed.

At Wessex meetings we have discussed how we would like to move forward and make Wessex more relevant to our Clubs. We should be more demand driven. The Clubs in the two Associations are the customers. This is where club input is needed. We would like all clubs in Hants and Dorset and CARA to discuss what they would like from Wessex, and have an informed debate with proposals at their delegates meetings on 18th October.

### The solution

From the delegates meetings the input will be taken to the Wessex AGM in November to form part of the forward plan to grow rowing in the Region. For example, Wessex could deliver the following:

1. Run entry level coaching course aimed at coastal rowing
2. Rigging seminar for coastal boats
3. Provide training video for coxes including tips on various regatta courses
4. How to launch and recover from various beach and sea conditions seminar/  
Video/both.

Finally, for Wessex to be relevant to our Clubs we need Club input.

Colin Eales  
Wessex Chairman  
7.10.2014

**Hants & Dorset ARA. 2014 Season. Summary of Officials Reports. Autumn Council Meeting.**

Regatta	Date	Entry	Percentage - up/down.	Late Scratch Fines	Reports received	South Coast Levy
Itchen Eights and Fours HARR	16/02/20			0	1	n/a

Significant incidents

No major issues. A few crews passed the wrong side of the judges boat at the finish and it might be helpful if this could be buoyed/marked in some way in future or clearer instructions giving at the briefing. We gave them a time when we could. Identifying crews seemed to be a bit easier - but this may simply have been because the entry was quite small.

Safety incidents

Not aware of any safety related incidents. There were at least three - and probably four - safety boats spared along the course which appeared to be suitably crewed and experienced. There was a qualified First Aider present in the Clubhouse.

Regatta	Date	Entry	Percentage - up/down.	Late Scratch Fines	Reports received	South Coast Levy
Head of the Stour.	02/03/20	69	-0.46	0		n/a.

Significant incidents

Race canceled - Saturday - adverse forecast.

Safety incidents

Regatta	Date	Entry	Percentage - up/down.	Late Scratch Fines	Reports received	South Coast Levy
BTC Small Boats HARR	13/04/20			0		n/a.

Significant incidents

Race canceled - Saturday - adverse forecast.

Safety incidents

Regatta	Date	Entry	Percentage - up/down.	Late Scratch Fines	Reports received	South Coast Levy
Southampton Coastal HARR	19/04/20	48	0.38		2	n/a

Significant incidents

Three disqualification's in the first division for passing the wrong side of the red post after Northam Bridge and a further five in the 2nd division - same offense. Disqualified crews identified by one of the marshalling/safety boats. There were some protests/representations regarding these disqualification's - apparently not mentioned at the briefing - but clearly stated in race instructions. Perhaps -for the future - consideration should be given to a clearer sign of the correct route at this point on the course - although it must be stated that the vast majority of crews steered the correct course. Disqualification is unfortunate - perhaps a time penalty should be considered

Safety incidents

Not aware of any safety related incidents. Three - and probably four - safety boats spread along the course - suitably crewed and experienced. Qualified First Aider present. The H&D Kits were spread around some of the safety boats - 1 with Coalporters, 1 with BTC and 1 with Southampton. Incorrect use as they should be reserved for race officials use - and safety boats should have their own safety kits - as the Itchen Imperial one did.

**Hants & Dorset ARA. 2014 Season. Summary of Officials Reports. Autumn Council Meeting.**

Regatta	Date	Entry	Percentage - up/down.	Late Scratch Fines	Reports received	South Coast Levy
RYDE	17/05/20	113	0.05	0	10	325

**Significant incidents**

Re-row in event 1 after Christchurch impeded Shanklin, race re-rowed, Christchurch disqualified.

**Safety incidents**

No significant incidents. Collision between Minibus and Trailer in car Park after Regatta [2525]. Summary of incidents received from Regatta Safety Adviser [2684]. Clash between Itchen and Christchurch - boat damage. Report from Itchen only. [2612]

Regatta	Date	Entry	Percentage - up/down.	Late Scratch Fines	Reports received	South Coast Levy
SHANKLIN	18/05/20	101	0.09	5	6	311

**Significant incidents**

Buoys had to be adjusted on a number of occasions after event 6. Start post fixed to brake water broke at event 20 causing some issues for Starters and judges.

Two disqualification's - both for missed buoy turns - Itchen Ladies Novice Scull and Ryde Men's Novice Four. Newport Junior Pair failed to finish after getting entangles with lobster buoy.

**Safety incidents**

Two capsizes - both in single sculls - Rafferty/Christchurch/Novice Ladies - no report received; Groves/Ryde/J16 Boys [2496]. Lymington Sculler capsized. Reported by Club [2578]

Regatta	Date	Entry	Percentage - up/down.	Late Scratch Fines	Reports received	South Coast Levy
LYMINGTON/MILFORD	31/05/20	132	0.4	6	8	421

**Significant incidents**

Protest in Ladies Senior & Junior Pairs. Christchurch claimed they were impeded by Ryde. Not upheld.

Consider using a running umpire in the larger RIB to better cover midcourse incidents. Shanklin Men's Junior Four disqualified for impeding Poole at the turn. Race not re-rowed. Need to make start/finish line markers much more visible - crews perception of the line was often way off, leading to delays and complaints at the start. Plus crews rowing away from start delayed starts - making regatta finish late. PA system stopped working after race 16 - remaining starts were by Loud Hailer.

**Safety incidents**

Novice ladies sculls: because one safety boat was dedicated to the Westover adaptive Sculler, it was out of position for three races. Sculler did capsize - got back in. Suggest that Westover provide an additional safety boat to cover their adaptive Sculler Novice men's sculls - three capsizes, dealt with by 2 safety boats - good work! No report received

Regatta	Date	Entry	Percentage - up/down.	Late Scratch Fines	Reports received	South Coast Levy
COALPORTERS	07/06/20	85	-0.19	3	6	311

**Significant incidents**

Position of start needs to be clarified and numbers on bridge were to close together. Itchen senior Lady Sculler disqualified after jumping the start after a warning was given plus two disqualification's for missed turns. BTC Men's Senior Four withdrew from final due to injury.

**Safety incidents**

Pete Staddon, Race Official, slipped and fell on bank by start/finish. Hurt arm. Was attended by first aider and taken to Hospital for check over. Not serious/badly bruised [2607/2811]. Reports received from individual, Regatta and Club. Consider safety of crew changing over - rope guide?

**Hants & Dorset ARA. 2014 Season. Summary of Officials Reports. Autumn Council Meeting.**

Regatta	Date	Entry	Percentage - up/down.	Late Scratch Fines	Reports received	South Coast Levy
WOOLSTON	14/06/20	118	-0.02	0	3	344

**Significant incidents**

Access to start platform difficult and "wobbly". Protest from Itchen Masters ref. BTC course - not upheld. Itchen Novice Sculler disqualified for impeding Lymington. Clash between to Christchurch crews in Men's Novice Final - protest not upheld both on wrong buoy.

**Safety incidents**

Safety Boat sometimes only manned by one person. Two scullers capsized in Ladies Novice Sculls event - BTC & Westover - no reports received Ladies Junior Fours Final - injury to Southampton lady - attended to by St. Johns Ambulance [2651]. Ambulance called. Collision in Novice Fours between 2 Christchurch Crews. Reported by Club [2630]

Regatta	Date	Entry	Percentage - up/down.	Late Scratch Fines	Reports received	South Coast Levy
SWANAGE	21/06/20	166	0.02	0	5	449

**Significant incidents**

Crews not obeying starters instructions led to disqualification's - 3 crews in one race. Claimed could not hear but checked and OK and only one of the 41 races that had the issue. 1 disqualification for missed turn. Public boats moored on course caused a few issued. Need to try and get moored boats moved - approach council. Buoy 3 broke free at one point - delayed regatta.

**Safety incidents**

Shanklin Sculler capsized after clash. Race stopped and re-rowed. Itchen Sculler collided with moored boat and had to be rescued [2696] Engine problem with Lymington Safety Boat. Summary of incidents received from Regatta safety Adviser [2768] Nothing from Shanklin. Also incident report [2695] from Itchen - not sure what its about - duplicate of 2696?

Regatta	Date	Entry	Percentage - up/down.	Late Scratch Fines	Reports received	South Coast Levy
CHRISTCHURCH	28/04/06	79	-0.02	0	7	308

**Significant incidents**

One disqualification - Christchurch Junior Crew - missed turn. BTC Junior Crew clashed with moored boat near sailing club. There was a verbal clash turn umpires and sailing club members regarding marshals boats. Umpires boat following races seen as improvement both to umpiring and safety of crews/racing. Finish judges - are not race control!

**Safety incidents**

BTC Junior Crew clashed with Sailing boat moored at Sailing Club. Complaint made ref. alleged bad language by BTC crew. There was no significant damage to blade or hull of sailing boat. No report received.

Regatta	Date	Entry	Percentage - up/down.	Late Scratch Fines	Reports received	South Coast Levy
ITCHEN	05/07/20	153	0.18	3	8	413

**Significant incidents**

Dead heat in Men's Novice Sculls - re-rowd. Ryde disqualified in Ladies Junior Pair - off course impeding Westover. Itchen disqualified for missed turn in Men's Novice Fours. J16 Sculler disqualified for taking the buoy the wrong way. A couple of small boat races stopped and re-rowed after clash at start. Commentator announcing result before judges had declared the result!

**Safety incidents**

A men's Junior Sculler - Chalk of Lymington and a Men's BTC Junior Coxed Four capsized - no reports received

**Hants & Dorset ARA. 2014 Season. Summary of Officials Reports. Autumn Council Meeting.**

Regatta	Date	Entry	Percentage - up/down.	Late Scratch Fines	Reports received	South Coast Levy
NEWPORT FOURS	12/07/20	98	0.38	0	6	324

Significant incidents

No significant incidents. Some issues with Radios on the Saturday - did not have the same issue on Sunday - range problem?

Safety incidents

None.

Regatta	Date	Entry	Percentage - up/down.	Late Scratch Fines	Reports received	South Coast Levy
NEWPORT SMALL BOATS &	13/07/20	51	0.34	1	7	89

Significant incidents

Disputed disqualification of Newport Men's Junior Sculler - following protest from Shanklin as impeded - resulted in some aggravation for race officials at finish. Boat changes delayed starts of some races.

Safety incidents

One Sculler capsized near boat compound while all safety boats further up the course. No report received

Regatta	Date	Entry	Percentage - up/down.	Late Scratch Fines	Reports received	South Coast Levy
SOUTHSEA	19/07/20	255	0.66	0	3	350

Significant incidents

[Entries - 255. 117 were H&D] More viewing space required in control tent and not enough Umpires? Regatta ran very late - started on time at 10.00am - finished 20.10 - scheduled 16.40. Need to limit events. CARA 5 minute rules delays regatta. Many complaints over incidents of clashing at buoy turns. Most crews took first 4 buoys leading to some disqualification's. Some buoys drifted and had to be realigned. Several disqualification's following incidents at the turn. CARA Club Deal main culprits? A set of agreed "local" rules required.

Safety incidents

Two or three capsizes well handled by safety boats. No reports received.

Regatta	Date	Entry	Percentage - up/down.	Late Scratch Fines	Reports received	South Coast Levy
BOURNEMOUTH	26/07/20	113	0.12	3	4	332

Significant incidents

Late arrival of H&D Safety Kits and Umpires Life Jackets delayed the start of the Regatta. Southampton Novice Men - unpainted blades two weeks running. To many boat/cox changes - with distance to start. Buoys out of position - multiple changes during the day. Three Borough Race canceled. Protest from Westover in Men's Novice Fours against Ryde - not upheld.

Safety incidents

Late arrival of H&D Safety Kits and Umpires Life Jackets delayed the start of the Regatta. Two sculls capsized - Newport and Christchurch - no incident reports filed. Safety Boat collided with Jet Ski [2909]. Near clash with swimmers (BTC) - reported by organizers of open water swimming event to Regatta safety Adviser who submitted report [2908]. Nothing from BTC.

**Hants & Dorset ARA. 2014 Season. Summary of Officials Reports. Autumn Council Meeting.**

Regatta	Date	Entry	Percentage - up/down.	Late Scratch Fines	Reports received	South Coast Levy
POOLE	02/09/20	175		6	5	505

**Significant incidents**

Event 14. Men's Senior Sculls. Gisborne/Southsea - disqualified at the turn by umpires for impeding other Scullers. Newport Sculler withdrew soon after start - captain advised boat breakage. Event 20. Men's Senior Pair. Lymington A did not finish. Event 31. Masters 50 Final - Lymington disqualified at the turn. Event 34. Men's Junior Fours Final - BTC protested result - saying they were impeded - protest not upheld. Difficult to start J16 races from turn due to wind. Better Loud Hailer at start needed.

**Safety incidents**

Novice Ladies Scull Final. Newport Sculler capsized going afloat. BTC capsized before start, another had difficulty getting afloat - swept against old wooden pier. Event 35. Men's Novice Sculls - two Scullers capsized. Safety boats coped well with incidents - except in the Ladies Novice Sculls event - slow to respond. [BR Report 2999 - from Race Official Steve Bull - nothing from Clubs or Regatta] Cut leg in Southsea Novice Ladies boat bringing boat ashore [2928]

Regatta	Date	Entry	Percentage - up/down.	Late Scratch Fines	Reports received	South Coast Levy
BTC	09/09/20	119	0.02	1	3	341

**Significant incidents**

Initial confusion over finishing inside or outside of post. Some disqualification's as a result plus one at the turn - one reinstated because of confusion. Separate crews when more than 1 status in the race. Men's masters - protest from Itchen - impeded at turn by BTC - not upheld. Event 25 not held - lack of water + crews in last couple of races instructed to use outside buoys.

**Safety incidents**

5 capsizes - all dealt with well by safety boats. No reports received