<u>The Minutes of the Hants & Dorset ARA Autumn Council Meeting, held at the Itchen Imperial</u> Rowing Club, Southampton, on Saturday, 19th October, 2017.

There were 31 delegates in attendance when, in the absence of the the Chairman, Martin Bradbeer, through illness, the President Pete Staddon took the chair and opened the meeting at 10.35am.

Apologies were received from – Martin Bradbeer, Association Chairman; Keith Warland, Association Auditor; Tim Bull, Lyminton and Secretary of the 2017 South Coast Championship Organising Committee and Jeff Watling of Southsea Rowing Club. There were no representatives present from Worthing Rowing Club – all other H&D ARA Clubs and events being represented.

The Minutes of the previous Autumn Council meeting of 5/11/16 which had been circulated in advance of the meeting were agreed to be a true record and approved on a proposal from J. Bailey, seconded by J. Purkess. The <u>matters arising</u> from the previous meeting – the AGM of 18/3/17 and the Council Meeting 12/8/17 were considered and agreed as follows – THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of 18/3/17

- The First boat from Southampton mould to be built by Burgashell had still not been completed – but the first from the Wessex mould was launched at BTC on Saturday, 25th March and has been raced throughout the season – although there has been some teething problems.
- A new supply of H&D Championship Medals has been purchased and received, made from the old die but from a new supplier. We now have sufficient stock for five years. Thanks are due to Denny Woodford for all his efforts to locate the die and order the medals. The order included a Life Members Medal presented to our only Life Member Jimmy Jewell, by the association Presidents at the South Coast Championships regatta.
- It is still unclear if CARA made a contribution to Wessex last year (2016) as the Hants & Dorset ARA did and the agreed H&DARA contribution of £300 for 2017 had been paid.
- The outstanding fines from WEARA and CARA for failure to provide race officials at previous South Coast Championship Regattas had been paid.
- The approved request for additional Hants & Dorset ARA Championship Medals for 2016 for Southsea Rowing G. ELDER has been handed over with apologies for the lateness.
- As agreed the Associations accounts for 2016 have been examined by the Auditor with no issues hi-lighted to the Executive Officers.
- The SCC levy payment of £375 due to be paid to Herne Bay via the South Coast Council had been paid.
- The Association Secretary put on record his disappointment at the response from many of the H&D ARA Clubs to requests for assistance at the 2017 Championship Regatta - a Hants & Dorset ARA hosted Championships. He commented that while in the end we had enough support and volunteers – it was only just – and the pressure on the key committee members, especially in the final build up to the regatta was intense. Very few extra volunteers came forward – the obvious exceptions being Paula Williams from Coalporters and Alex Barnes of South Coast Journalisam from Lymington. But in the main it was the same old faces – and there is a clear and urgent need to refresh this team in the build up to the next time we will host a championship in 2020 – especially as I believe there are a few in the existing team who may not want to commit to the same degree next time.
- A meeting was held with BR on 17/10/17 to consider changes required to Status Comparison Rules between H&D and BR following introduction by BR of Ranking System although no final conclusion was reached and discussions are ongoing.
- The new recommendation to regatta committees that where practical two buoys be placed a minimum of two lengths before the start line to assist the crews and the starters in lining up for the races was implemented by a number of regattas.

- Southsea have responded positively to the charge on Clubs who run an event but have less than two active Officials available for at least three events by having an assistant racing official active during the 2016 season although they still need to do more.
- Following their failure to attend the 2017 Safety Meeting, Newport, Coalporters and Christchurch Regattas were re-audited by the safety committee as agreed with no major issues found.
- For a number of reasons the agreement the Association should purchase a Defibrillator to be passed from event to event along with the Race Officials Safety Kits and Life Jackets was not fulfilled and will be reviewed at the 2018 Safety Meeting.

COUNCIL MEETING of 12th AUGUST, 2017

- Subsequent to the meeting it emerged that the winning Christchurch crew at Bournemouth Regatta had an unregistered oarsman and the point was withheld resulting in this championship being shared between Christchurch and BTC.
- Itchen took the 3rd slot in the Mixed Masters Championships when it became available after WEARA failed to provide any Championship crews. A strongly worded complaint was received from Poole ARC regarding what they considered to be unfair decision making at the meeting. They considered the process was flawed and that the two fastest crews were not selected to represent the Association. It was agreed that the Rules Sub Committee should be asked to consider this point.

The <u>Association Secretary</u> then gave his <u>report</u> and commented on <u>correspondence</u> <u>received</u> [see attached/Appendix 1].

The 2017 Regatta Season and Regatta's were reviewed – see summary attached. [Appendix 2.] A summary of the reports received from race officials at the 2017 events – plus any other correspondence received had been previously circulated - the views expressed and details shown being taken from the Race Officials reports and are not necessarily being the views of the Hants & Dorset Executive Officers. The summary covered the most significant incidents, safety related incidents, and deviations from H&D Rules and procedures expressed in the Race Officials reports. There were very few additional comments made at the meeting – Lymington - as allowed by the Rules will not be refunding the entry fees from the second cancelled regatta- they did refund the first; Swanage - one safety boat only had crew ember for a while; Southsea - some Race Officials did receive some adverse comments from rowers regarding the cancellation; Poole – strong club support for Southsea following breakdown of Minibus; Bournemouth – to consider other venues after issues with local authority over trailer parking.

The meeting then considered the <u>Association Secretaries report on Swanage Regatta</u> [See attached – Appendix 3.] and the organization of the 2018 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. The report also covered a complaint made to the local Newspaper regarding litter left after the Regatta – which the Association Secretary had responded too but had received no further comments from the Newspaper or the Swanage Town Council (see report). The other debate was around where we lost so much time – the regatta finishing around ninty minutes behind schedule. There was no final conclusion reached – but among the thoughts expressed by delegates was that – some time was lost due to the safety boat issues; Clubs need to be better organised and take more responsibility for getting crews afloat on time and minimsing crew and boat changes and CARA's five minute rule was mentioned – but many delegates though this actually slowed regatta's down. 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 2018 Regatta – with most involved expressing a willingness to continue – it was agreed that the format and organisation should stay the same.

The meeting then discussed the 2017 South Coast Championship Regatta hosted by this Association at Dorney Lake where the Association Secretaries report on the event had been circulated in advance of the meeting. [See Appendix 4.] and was accepted by the meeting. Further comments were made, in addition to those made by the Association Secretary under matters araising regarding the disappointing response to the request for volunteers. Tim Bull, the event Secretary had commented in writing, which was read to the meeting by the Association Secretary, in his absence as follows – "The Hants and Dorset Rowing Association on September 2nd hosted the 61st South Coast Rowing Championships Regatta and 12th South Coast Junior Regatta. This is the 3rd time that the Hants and Dorset Rowing Association have used the Olympic venue for the Championships. The venue provides the fairest course, with excellent facilities and the event can be almost guaranteed regardless of weather conditions. The organising committee for the regatta is made up of a quorum of approximately 10 volunteers from 7 different clubs that have now been together for over 10 years. It works well, but does require either a change or at the very least the introduction of new blood for the purposes of sustainability and sanity. The event was blessed with some fantastic weather which only helped to enhance what turned out to be an excellent event. The regatta was potentially the largest Championships, with regard to the entries. 261 scullers and 43 coxswains taking part in the morning Junior regatta and 624 rowers and 156 coxswains taking part in the main Championship. A total of 1084 seats. 15 clubs also took up the opportunity to book pitches for their gazebos, this along with a high number of supporters and family, meant for those competing there was an additional boost as they approach to the finish. The Junior regatta was made up of some 30 races and finished slightly ahead of schedule despite having to run an additional race due to a dead heat. There were a good number of competitors from all three associations, giving promise for the future of rowing on the South Coast. The Championship regatta was scheduled for 31 races but some of the earlier heats were amalgamated into straight finals. With the good cooperation of the competitors the regatta ran to the scheduled times. Although, the last race of the day, the Men's Senior Championships fours started 2 minutes later than advertised. They were just trying to build the tension. From the outside the organising and running of the regatta seemed to run like clockwork but there were issues in the main outside our control or unforeseen and sent to test us. All the issues below were dealt with by individuals on the committee without fuss and I would like to thank them for their commitment. Failure of any of these could easily have led to the regatta not being successful or potentially not running.

- The Scout troop that promised to carry out the car parking duties but were unable to attend for a valid reason. Thanks to Coalporters for being prepared to task on this task.
- The inability of the Post Office to be able to weigh and charge for a letter which lead to the delay of information reaching clubs.
- The printers for the program having a machine failure meaning that the programs had to be delivered directly to Dorney on the Friday. A very close shave.
- The withdrawal of the first aid support in the week before the regatta meaning a replacement had to found at very short notice."

Gary Joyces had also made some written comments read out by the Association Secretary – "There were also a few unsavoury incidents - The so called rowing supporter who verbally abused one of our volunteer car park attendants and then threatened to run her over twice because they thought they were a special case and not to be treated the same as everyone else. The so called rowing supporters who ignored our car parking volunteers who were following specific Dorney Lake Services instruction to park parallel with the lake because as they said 'I have paid to park so I am entitled to park where and how I like'. The rowing supporter who ignored the signage and who parked their cars on the grass by the side of the road particularly the one that parked just 6 feet infront of a permanent metal DLS sign which read 'No cars to be parked on the grass'. The rowing supporters who thought it fun to push over the metal traffic barriers and in one case drag one of the road onto the grass. The rowing supporter who thought it appropriate to relieve DLS of a sign instructing blue badge holders where to park. The rowing supporter who thought it appropriate to activate the clubhouse emergency fire

alarms by vandalising a 'break glass to sound alarm' fixture. He and the rest of the meeting were particularly upset by the abuse that Penny Budd was subjected to in the first instance above and this should be brought up at the next SCRC Committee meeting. Unfortunatley the individual and club involved was unidentified.

Andy Crawford, Chairman of the BR Sports Committee was in attendance and was very complimentary about they way the event was organised and run – as were the BR employees present – who had been given the opportunity for a stand by the organisors.

Sue Sothcott, the events Treasurer circulated a provisional set of accounts for the Regatta which showed the cost of staging the event at Dorney was around £24,000 [See attached. Appendix 5]. There were some questions and clarifications regarding the accounts made and The Treasurer would produce a final set of accounts for approval at the Associations AGM.

The result of the open aggregate shield which was awarded to Bexhill was questioned – there was a feeling that this may actually have been a tie with Poole – which the orgainising committee said they would investigate.

Denny Woodford then briefed the meeting on the Council Meetings that took place over the Championship Regatta weekend – [see attached - Appendix 6.]

The meeting then considered any <u>suggested changes to the South Coast Championship Council Rules</u> to be put before the Council AGM in January with the following agreed –

1) That the term "Veteran" is replaced with the term "Masters" where ever it occurs in the Rules bringing it in line with British Rowing and the Hants & Dorset ARA. This effects Rules 28 and 29 and may affect others.

2) That in the J14 and J16 Boys fours events Clubs are allowed to have one girl oarsperson as a member of the crew – in order to encourage participation. Note: there are several instances of past precedent where this has been allowed although the Rules do not allow it.

3) To bring the start procedure in line with the Hants & Dorset ARA and the Coast Amateur Rowing Association. This effect Rule 43 and requires the dropping of the "Set" command. I.e. "The race shall be started by a pistol, cannon or a suitable audible device, coinciding with the dropping of the yellow flag, which will be accompanied by a verbal command of "Set – Go". The "Go" to coincide with the dropping of the Yellow flag and the firing of the pistol, cannon or suitable audible device. The dropping of the Yellow flag being the overriding signal. It is also our view that part that reads "pistol, cannon or a suitable audible device" in two places could be amended just to say "suitable audible device".

The <u>Regatta & Head Race dates for 2018</u> where than provisionally agreed. The Association Secretary advised the meeting that for a number of reasons it has proved to be particularly difficult to come up with a recommendation to go to the Autumn Council Meeting for an H&DARA Fixture List for 2018. The main considerations and issues were - the date requests are very front end loaded - only one event requested a date in August - and that was a 3rd choice date!; Avoiding clash with Parade of Sail/Great Coal Row (20th May) and BR Offshore Championship (18th/19th August). Three recommendations were considered – bearing in mind the above and with the following caveats - Swanage Town Council agree to the date of 23/6/18: CARA agree that Southsea should take place on the 7th July. CARA and Swanage Town Council have been asked to confirm but neither have yet responded. If Swanage is on the 23rd June - this clashes with the IW Festival and may have an impact on the entries from the IW Clubs. Christchurch Head of the Stour - if they went for their 2nd date of Sunday, 18th March - H&D Club Head races. None of the recommendations made were ideal and discussion were then further complicated by news from the CARA half yearly meeting re-laid via Jeff Watling who was attending this meeting on Southsea's behalf that some CARA Clubs were insistent that no Regatta was held over the Henley finals weekend

which forced Southsea Regatta on to their 2nd choice date of 21st July and Bournemouth advising that due to difficulties with Bournemouth Council it seemed unlikely that they would be ab le to use their usual Bournemouth Beach location and were considering a switch Hamworthy Park were Poole stage their regatta. After a break for lunch in which further discussions and contact with the CARA meeting took place – there was agreement as follows on a provisional fixture, although there were a number of points still needing clarification.

Hants & Dorset Amateur Rowing Association. 2018 FIXTURES.

Day Date	Month	Bank Holiday	CAPITALS.	Approx. start time if advised. (all TBC)	Actual or Earliest Date Entries can close. (3 week rule)	
Sat 3rd Sun 4th Sat 10th Sat 17th Sun 18th Sat 24th Sat 31st	March March March March March March April April April		[Head of the Adur (CARA Event)]. Christchurch Head of the Stour.		11/2/18.	
		Easter	Alternative date for Christchurch Head of the Stour.		25/2/18.	
Sat 7th Sat 14th Sat 21st			Southampton Coastal HORR. (Junior Inter regional Regatta, Nottingham).	11:30	24/3/18.	
Sat 28th Sat 5th	April May	Early	COALPORTERS REGATTA.		14/4/18.	
Sat 12th Sat 19th	May May June June June June June July July July July July July July August August August August Septembe Septembe		LYMINGTON. TBC. [Great Coal Row].		28/4/18.	
Sun 20th Sat 26th Sat 26th Sat 2nd Sat 9th Sat 16th Sat 23rd Sat 30th Sat 7th Sat 14th Sun 15th Sat 21st Sat 28th Sun 29th Sat 4th Sat 11th Sat 18th Sun 19th Sat 25th Sat 3th			[Great Coal Row]. CHRISTCHURCH RYDE REGATTA. SHANKLIN REGATTA. ITCHEN WOLLSTON SWANAGE. TBC. POOLE BTC SOUTHSEA NEWPORT REGATTA. Fours. NEWPORT REGATTA. Fours. NEWPORT REGATTA. Small & Junior. BOURNEMOUTH. TBC. Maybe at Hamworthy Park, Pool [BR Offshore Rowing Championships. Sandbanks, Pool [BR Offshore Rowing Championships. Sandbanks, Pool SOUTHCOAST ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS. Deal/CAF	e.] e.]	5/5/18. 18/5/18. 19/5/18. 26/5/18. 2/6/18. 9/6/18. 23/6/18. 30/6/18. 7/7/18. 7/7/18. 7/7/18.	
Sat 15th	r Septembei	r				
NOT YET REQUESTED			Itchen Junior Sprint. Itchen Eights & Fours. BTC River & Coastal HORR BTC Autumn Head.			

Sun 11th Sat 24th Sat 21st Wed 4th Sun 8th	March March April July July	to	Head of the River Race. University Boat Race. Junior Inter Regionals, Nottingham. Henley Royal Regatta.
Thur 21st Sun 24th	June June	to	IW Festival.

With regards to the BR Offshore Championships this provisional fixture list does not schedule an event on this date – to encourage/allow H&D Clubs to participate. If we don't it may be seen as a snub by BR and there was a view that we should be prepared to keep this date clear and encourage our clubs to enter – and try something different/new? However it was also pointed out that we need to bear in mind the cost of entry – you have to be a BR Registered Rowing Member – last year they allowed "Silver" members to compete – so £30. There is an entry fee - £15 per seat in 2017 – and you had to pay a hire fee for the boats - £30 a seat so unless you are already a registered BR member you are probably talking about £75 a head which would probably put clubs off. The Association Secretary was instructed to write to BR making these points.

The meeting then considored the <u>venue and organisation of the 2020 South Coast Rowing</u> <u>Championships</u> – the next due to be hosted by the Association. The time frame for this is - Jan 2018. SCC AGM, Sept 2018. SCC Deal, Nov 2018. H&D to advise proposed venue for 2020. Jan 2019. SCC AGM. Written resume required, Sept 2019. SCC Dartmouth, Jan 2020. SCC AGM, Sept 2020. H&D hosted SCC. With the switch to a three year cycle the hosting of a South Coast Championships comes around very quickly. The 2017 committee started organising the event almost as soon as the previous regatta was over – in September 2014 – and were staging regular monthly meetings from April. The Association Secretary stated that Dorney Lake remained the fairest course of any for the championship – and the 2017 event had confirmed this – and this should certainly be considored again – although the cost of staging the event at £25,000 was an issue. Other options discussed were - Netley Country Park; Langstone Harbour; Stokes Bay, Lee-on-Solent, Christchurch and Swanage and initial research into these possible venues would be considored by those suggesting them and they would report back to the AGM in March.

A Report from <u>Hants & Dorset ARA "Rules" and "Competitions</u>" Sub Committees was then considored and discussed following the meeting of the 17th October – which included a meeting with representatives of British Rowing. *[see attached. Appendix 7].*

The Association Secretary commented on just how poorly supported the meeting was – with just four Hants & Dorset ARA Clubs represented Ryde, Southsea, BTC and Itchen. He then went on to try and summarise the new BR Ranking Index for the meeting – as many were unclear on the new system -"No Novice status/classification, no late entries possible. Points system ends March 2018. Head Races & Regatta results are used to build up your RI. Ranking Index Points are individual and are re-calculated after event you compete in. They are awarded based on how many crews you beat. Everyone who races get points – although you may get Zero Points. Max is 145 Points – for a win. Best/last eight events count – so max is 1160. Its like a "downward moving escalator". Events at Regatta decided on by spreaed of ranking index of indviduals/crew entered. A "stacking" system is employed. Races have to be entered via BROE2 and results recorded so ranking index can be continuousley re-calculated. Master & Junior catagories remain the same." Further meeting of the Subcommittees and with BR were planned to discuss the many issues raised in particular with regards to the status comparision. The Association Secretary expressed his concern about the BR approach and attitude and underlying threats to the Hants & Dorset ARA.

The meeting was then due to consider any <u>possible rule changes for discussion and approval at the</u> <u>AGM</u> but this had been covered under the previous item and the Rules Sub Committee were actioned to formulate the suggestion changes in time for circulation prior to the AGM.

The continued <u>publication of the South Coast Rowing/Hants & Dorset ARA Handbook</u> was considered. The Association Secretary advised that Jimmy Jewell has agreed to be the editor of the handbook once again and his printer has indicated that the cost is unlikely to change. Requests for updated information will be sent to Clubs and events by the end of November – seeking submission by the end of January at the latest – and preferably by Christmas so it can be worked on over the holiday period but the number printed would be returned to 2016 level as, with CARA hosting the 2018 South Coast Championships there was no need to provide WEARA and CARA Clubs with copies this time and this was agreed by the meeting.

Andy Parsons, <u>the Chairman of the Umpires Committee presented his report</u> – which had presented and circulated in at the meeting. [See attached - Appendix – 8.] There were no additional comments from the meeting.

The <u>Report from the Safety Sub Committee</u> had also been circulated in advance of the meeting. *[See attached - Appendix 9]* The report was accepted by the meeting with no further comments other than a reminder from the RRSA that Club Audits were due to be submitted by the end of November.

Colin Eales, <u>Chairman of the Wessex Regional Rowing Council gave a brief report on the regions</u> <u>activities</u> and on the activities of British Rowing. Much of the Wessex activities locally had been focused on the standardised coastal boat project where the first boat had been produced and raced – although there were still some teething problems. Colin also thanked Garry Walters from Shanklin for stepping-up to manage the Junior Inter Regional team who had a succesful regatta. From a national/BR point of view Colin regularly attend the Council Meetings at BR and the less formal meetings of regional chairman. The BR membership review appeared to have stalled – and much debate on goverance issues which could have wide ranging effects and force many volunteers across rowing and in our region to have to step down in the near future. The latest funding plan from Sport England – a significant reduction – had forced a number of redundancies at BR – and there was less support and help available for Clubs as a result. Colin also touched on BR's new "Ranking Points" system that has been covered elsewhere in the meeting.

The <u>arrangements for the Presentation Dinner</u>, which Paula Williams of Coalporters was organising once again, were then confirmed as follows - Hants & Dorset ARA Presentation Dinner on Saturday, 18th November, 2017 at the Novotel Southampton. The Cost of the evening is £27:50 and this includes: 3 Course meal, coffee, mints and shortbread – with a choice of menus. There would be a file/slide show on the 2017 season – with thanks to Lymington's Alex Barnes of South Coast Journalism. It was Newports turn to respond to the President's speech and toast the Association, but they had declined so BTC would now be responding. The fixture cards would not be available until later because of the uncertainties over the fixture list. Much lower numbers this year 198 against last year's 259 with no show from Newport or Bournemouth and just two from Southampton. The Association Secretary and Chairman were to chase up Clubs regarding the Championship Trophies that had not been returned.

The Association Secretary then made a statement and presented a paper – which had been previousley circulate [See appendix 10.] on the role of the Association Secretary. He stated that if reelected as Association Secretary at the 2018 Association AGM then that will be his last year in the role and will stand down at the 2019 AGM – by which time h4 will have served as the Associations Secretary for twenty-seven years.

His main reasons for this decision is that at this point I will be just a few months from retirement (probably in July, 2019) and will therefore no longer be working on the mainland and won't have a car on the mainland and will no longer have access to facilities at work that currently support this role – and that after twenty-seven years it is probably time for someone new – with new and fresh idea - to take over this role and move the Association forward. However, it was not my intention to walk away completely and he intended to remain active within the sport and the Hants & Dorset Amateur Rowing Association – as a race official and in some other National, Club and Association roles and would be prepared to help in the transition and will support, help and advise whoever is elected in his place in any way that he can. In preparation for handing over the role he thought it would be helpful if he tried to outline the current activities and actions undertaken by the Association Secretary – and so during this year has have been making notes/listing activities as Association Secretary as he carries them out (see attached). These are currently incomplete – he started compiling the list after the Associations AGM in March still must cover the activities between now and the next AGM – notably outcomes from the Autumn Council Meeting, preparations and notice of the Race Officials and Safety Meetings, Petty Cash, the H&DARA South Coast Handbook and preparations for the Associations AGM. After the AGM in March 2018, assuming he is re-elected as Secretary for the final time he will use that year to check and confirm this document – which can then be used as guide document for the newly elected Association Secretary. The meeting agreed that careful planning for a transition was needed but that it may also be time to change and spread out the role and involve more people. The meeting agreed that it may be necessary to form a small subcommittee to consider this and asked that the Rules and Development Subcommittee should also give the matter some consideration.

Any other Business was then considered by the meeting as follows -

- Mark Viner of Lymington advised the meeting that the long planned move of the the Club to their new Clubhosue should take place in the spring of next year.
- The meeting was please to hear that Alex Barnes South Coast Journalisam was to remain in business and a vote of thanks was passed to Alex for all his work in promoting and publicising the Associations Activities in the last year and wished him a speedy return to good health.
- Alan Wigmore queried the refund of Race Officials BR Membership for insurance purposes. The Association Secretary apologised that this had not yet been done – but he was now working with the Treasurer Sue Sothcott on this - and she has agreed to take over this responsibility for next year.

The provisional <u>date and venues for the Hants & Dorset Meetings</u> – the Race Officials, usually held in January, the Safety meeting usually held in February and the AGM usually to be held in March were to be decided by the Association Secretary in consultation with the Associations other Executive Officers.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 2.55pm with thanks to Itchen Imperial Rowing club.

[The Minutes were taken and written by Steve Bull, Association Secretary, November, 2017. The attached appendices form an integral part of these minutes].

_____ Chairman, Hants & Dorset ARA. Date: ______