

THE MINUTE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HANTS. & DORSET AMATEUR ROWING ASSOCIATION, HELD AT THE BTC ROWING CLUB, SOUTHAMPTON, ON SATURDAY, 29th MARCH, 2008 at 10.30am.

AGENDA.

There were 27 delegates in attendance when the Chairman, Mark Viner, opened the meeting. All Clubs and Events were represented except Worthing Rowing Club.

Apologies were received from - Mike Wall and Carole Pead of Christchurch R. C; Brian Gowman, VP & Westover & Bournemouth R. C; Kevin Bennett, Newport R. C. and Regatta; Trev Gay, Southampton; Martin Bradbeer, Itchen Imperial; Sue and Andy Sothcott, Poole A. R. C; Brent Hartland, VP and Southampton A. R. C.; Colin Eales, Southsea R. C and the Wessex Regional Rowing Council; Sarah Sterne, Southsea Regatta.

The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read on a proposal from Bob Sivier, seconded by Denis Woodford and it was agreed that Matter Arising would be covered by Agenda items.

The Association Secretary then gave his report on the 2007 season (see attached - master only), which was accepted on a proposal from Alan Stewart seconded by Bob Siver.

The Association Secretary then gave details of the correspondence he had undertaken on the Associations behalf since the Autumn Delegates Meeting, which included information on bulletins published, correspondence undertaken, the South Coast handbook, questionnaires and enquiries responded to, meeting minutes published and information on meetings attended and the Association Web site. There was one other item of correspondence from Coalporters Rowing Club requesting additional medals for Hants & Dorset Championship winning Senior Ladies Crew. As the Presentation evening medals were given to - S. Inskip, M. Dunn, S. Wallach, J. Heyes and Cox M. Carey. They are requesting additional Medals for - L. Wheeler, J. Langmead, S. Jones, K. Redband and E Commerford a second cox. Those presented at the dinner won on seven occasions - those seeking additional medals on six occasions - so they meet the criteria laid down by the Association however the final decision is up to the meeting. After some discussion at which concern was expressed about the number of additional medals being awarded and the thought that this might devalue the medal the meeting voted in favour of selling Coalporters the additional medals with 13 votes for and 7 against.

The Treasurer presented his audited report on the year 2007 (see attached) which showed the Association to be in a reasonably comfortable financial position – even if the surplus from the South Coast Rowing Championships is deducted the Association still has a surplus of around £800 on the year.

The Accounts were adopted unanimously on a proposal from Denny Woodford, seconded by Pete Jacobs with the thanks of the Association to Treasurer Keith Warland and Auditor John Purkess. The accounts for the Prize Presentation Evening were included within these figures and these showed – a profit of £11.50 - and from Swanage Regatta, which showed a profit of £766.54.

The meeting then elected the Association Officers for 2008 as follows -

President – John Adams, of Ryde, on a proposal from Lymington Rowing Club, seconded by Ryde R. C – by 15 votes to 5 for Martin Bradbeer, of Itchen Imperial, who was proposed by Gary Joyce of Itchen and seconded by Chris Foad of Itchen. Les Foad as outgoing President was thanked for his work and presented with his past Presidents Medal by the Chairman Mark Viner. He commented of much he had enjoyed his two years as President – and John Adams the incoming President thanks Les for his hard work for the Association and stated what an honor it was for himself and his Club to be elected.

Chairman - Mark Viner re-elected unanimously on a proposal from Steve Bull, seconded and Les Foad. It was noted that Mark would have to retire at the next AGM having been elected for the 5th time.

Vice Presidents - Kevin Ayles, John Bryant, Brian Gowman, Alan Wigmore and John Purkess were unanimously re-elected on block on a proposal from Steve Bull, seconded by Alan Stewart, with no additions. It was noted that the Live Vice Presidents - M. Green, B. Hartland, P. Glover, S. Moody, T. Shergold, P. Trist, K. Warland, S. Bull, L. Foad, J. Bailey, D. Woodford and R. Sivier did not require re-election.

Hon. Treasurer – Keith Warland was re-elected unanimously on a proposal from John Adams, seconded by Alan Stewart. .

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Hon. Secretary – Steve Bull was reelected unanimously on a proposal from John Purkess, seconded by Denny Woodford. It was also agreed by 25 votes, with one abstention that the Hon. Secretary's honorarium should be increased to £450 per year following a proposal from Denny Woodford, seconded by John Purkess. All re-elected officers were thanked for their efforts in the past year by the meeting>

The meeting then considered how we should fund the South Coast Rowing Handbook for 2008 and it was agreed that the current system of a contribution of £46 absorbed into the Affiliation fee so that it was deductible from the ARA Affiliation fee next year should continue on a proposal from Steve Bull, seconded by John Bailey. A number of errors and missing post codes were pointed out and noted by the Association Secretary – who would try to get them corrected. The Association Secretary was also asked if the Handbook could be made available as a download from the Web site – but it was pointed out that all the information in the H&D section was already available on the Web site – and more up to date.

The un-audited accounts of the 2007 South Coast Rowing Championships at Dorney Lake were presented to the meeting – and some minor clarifications were required which Mike Green and Keith Warland would address with Sue Sothcott. It was noted that while the Regatta had cost £20,000 to stage it had been financially very successful with a surplus of £3,967.11 recorded that would be retained by the Association and ring-fenced for future South Coast Championship Regattas. However to put the surplus into perspective it was noted that 75% of the Regatta income came from the South Coast Levy and unlikely to be repeated grant aid and that the “good will” figure was estimated at around £5000. The accounts would need to be formal adopted at the Autumn Delegates Meeting.

The continuation of the South Coast Seat Levy at H&D Regatta's was then discussed by the meeting and after a brief discussion a straight vote was undertaken on a proposal from Pete Jacobs, seconded by Alan Stewart to reduce the levy to £0.50 per seat which received five votes – and a proposal from Pat Glover, seconded by Ted Shergold to leave it unchanged at £1 received fifteen votes and was adopted by the meeting.

The meeting then considered the rates of subscription, permit fees and entry fees for the ensuing year and following a (brief) discussion it was agreed, on a proposal from Pat Glover, seconded by Gary Joyce that the Registration fee should remain unchanged at £2.50 per person with a minimum of £60 plus £46 Handbook contribution making the minimum fee £106 and that the Regatta permit fee should remain at £20. After some further discussion it was agreed, on a proposal Pat Glover, seconded by Pete Jacobs that the entry fees should be increased by £0.50 per seat to £3.00 per seat plus the South Coast Levy of £1.00.

The Association Secretary then reported on the Associations Officials Meeting of 19th January, 2007, John Purkess, Chairman of the Umpires Commission adding his comments and reporting on the meeting of the ARA Umpires Commission. (see report attached) It was also agreed that the 50% contribution to the Officials Associate ARA membership for insurance purposes of £11 paid by the Association should be continue. The meeting then re-elected the Umpires Commission of - Chairman - John Purkess. Commission Members - John Bailey, Mike Green, Keith Warland, Alan Wigmore and the Racing Officials - John Adams, John Bailey, Steve Bull, Les Foad, Pat Glover, Brian Gowman, Mike Green, Ian Hutchings, John Purkess, Pete Staddon, Mark Viner, Keith Warland, Alan Wigmore, Denis Woodford, Martin Bradbeer, Andy Sothcott, Alan Stewart. Also Assistant Racing Officials - Chris Eveleigh, Simon Clements, Carole Pead. New - Tazie Page, Trev Gay, Bob Springbett. Andy Parsons and Pete Diffey. These were all elected or reelected on a proposal from S. Bull seconded by Alan Stewart.

Colin Eales Chairman of the Wessex Regional Rowing Council had sent his apologies and so Mike Green was asked to report on the activities of the Wessex Regional Rowing Council as well as the ARA in his capacity as divisional representative. With regards to the Wessex Region Mike reported on the Level 2 & 3 Coaching Courses undertaken, the Community Club Coach in the Dorset and Southampton area, the Junior Inter Regional and the Wessex training Camp. From an ARA perspective Mike commented on Westover having not yet paid their ARA Affiliation fees, Rebates to region - £1 for adult member Wessex will get the £500 – minimum - Up from £300. Leander winged about time of Olympic selection camp. Budgets 2008/2009 – International - £6.9million. National around 2 million. ARA employ 104 people. Almost all funding is National Lottery money – which is a concern. The ARA is supporting the new Bingo Lottery. World Coastal Rowing Championships are in Plymouth in 2009. Community Club grant scheme finishes on the 31st March.

The meeting then agreed on a proposal from S. Bull, seconded by Alan Stewart that the Hants & Dorset ARA contribution to the Wessex Regional Rowing Council should be £200 in 2008 and this was agreed by the meeting.

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The Regatta dates for the 2008 season were then agreed with no changes from those suggested at the Delegates Meeting now that Swanage Council had confirmed that Swanage Regatta could take place on 5th July. The dates agreed were as follows -

Sunday, 9th March.
Sunday, 23rd March.
(Saturday, 19th April.
Saturday, 26th April.
Sunday, 4th May
Saturday, 24th May.
Sunday, 25th May.
Saturday, 31st May.
Saturday, 7th June.
Sunday, 8th June.
Saturday, 14th June.
Saturday, 21st June.
Sunday, 22nd June.
Saturday, 28th June.
Saturday, 5th July.
Saturday, 12th July.
(Friday, 18th to Sunday, 20th July
Saturday, 26th July.
Saturday, 2nd August.
Saturday, 9th August
Sunday, 17th August.
Saturday, 23rd August
Sunday, 24th August.

Friday, 12th September.
Saturday, 13th September.
Saturday, 20th September.

Head of the Stour, Christchurch.
Southampton Eights, River & Small Boats HORR.
Junior Inter Regionals, Nottingham.)
Southampton Coastal Fours HORR.
Coalporters Scullers HORR.
RYDE REGATTA.
SHANKLIN REGATTA.
MILFORD (LYMINGTON) REGATTA.
WOOLSTON REGATTA.
Wessex Junior Regatta, Bryanston.
POOLE REGATTA.
NEWPORT REGATTA.
Southampton Junior Sprint Regatta.
COALPORTERS REGATTA.
SWANAGE REGATTA.
SOUTHSEA REGATTA.
National Championships, Nottingham).
ITCHEN IMPERIAL REGATTA.
BOURNEMOUTH REGATTA.
CHRISTCHURCH REGATTA.
Coalporters Junior Regatta.
BTC REGATTA.
Hants & Dorset Championship and South Coast Selection row-offs if required. Dockhead, Southampton. 11.00am.
South Coast Junior Regatta, Plymouth.
South Coast Championships, Plymouth.
Itchen Junior Sprint Regatta.

A discussion on the Coastal event at the National Championships followed with the expectation that they would be offering the same two events as last year - Men's Open Coxed Fours and Men's Open Single Sculls, but that these remained under pressure due to poor support. It was generally agreed that the H&D policy of offering a Senior Championship point to the first H&D crew to finish, as long as they met the Associations rules had increased participation and it was agreed that for 2008 this policy would be expanded to offer a Junior and Junior Senior Championship point to the first to finish/fastest crew in each status, again subject to meeting the usual criteria. If necessary times of crews would be used to allocate the points.

The requested additional presentation and update on the new Newport Regatta Course was made by Mike Westmore & Steve Hunns of Newport Rowing Club. Concerns were expressed regarding the docking of Vestas Ltd. "Blade Runner" during the Regatta and the planned static umpires. The meeting strongly recommended to the Newport organizing committee that they needed to have a following umpire. And it was also pointed out that Safety Boats need to be dedicated and not responsible for marshalling the course and that some marks behind the finish line might be useful, all points which Newport agreed to take on board.

The meeting then discussed the format of the Swanage Regatta Committee agreeing to maintain the method employed during the last two years where a broad based committee drawn from the affiliated clubs and coordinated by the Association Secretary with much of this undertaken by E Mail. It was noted that the organization relied heavily on the commitment of a number of local clubs – notably Poole, Christchurch and Lymington and the meeting thanked them and those from other clubs for their efforts. It was hoped that all would continue to help and the Association Secretary would be in touch soon to begin the arrangements. The provision and laying of the Regatta buoys was one of the bigger problems and Westover committed more assistance in this area. A small amount of local sponsorship had been obtained.

Denis Woodford, on behalf of the Associations South Coast Council delegates briefed the meeting on the South Coast Council AGM in January and the recent meeting in Plymouth. He reported on the rules for Multi lane racing; The Core Junior events which would be J14 & J16 Coxed Quads for Men and Women; the Council Meeting that would now take

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place on Friday again; Vet 50 event – at the discretion of organizing committee; non-attendance at the Captains Meeting, where there may be a fine; the Dress code – for the reception; the argument at the 2007 reception between member of the South Coast Council – apologies received – and that being registered with a Club in the previous year which means Registration with the Association. Commenting on the meeting in Plymouth he reported that Bob Sivier, Keith Warland and Denis Woodford were in attendance. He and 2 coast and one west officials were taken afloat at 11 a.m. to view course, Length 1650 metres - Lanes 1 - 6. Start will be at Laura bridge south to north, Start will be from 6 stake boats or a hundred metre wide pontoon (wow). Course will be buoyed with 10 orange buoys from start to finish Crews will finish inside two finish buoys. Starting in Lane No 1 taking depths of water over full length with 2.5 m at start to 1.2 metres at finish. Lane 6 back to start back to start with approximately same depths then centre of lanes from start to finish depth 3-2 to 2-3 at finish. Water will be approximately 1 metre deeper on day as it will be a spring tide. The river Plym will be closed to all other boats on Friday and Saturday by queen's harbour master. Friday SCC meeting @ 5.30, Friday Junior racing to start 2.30, Friday presentation of junior racing in marque, Friday main reception and draw at 8 p.m. in marque - Invitation Only. Dress code will be advised by SCC and hosts will attend entrance. Saturday start at 3.30 with high tide at 5.30. All racing 2 hrs each side of high water. Bowl race at 5.30. All championship races will have 3 races in between. No allowance will be made for boat and cox changes as Dorney. South Coast Championships – 2009 – Folkestone - 5/9/09. 1700m. 2010 –Wimblebowl. 2011 - H&D. 2012 - Falmouth Stithins Res. Entry fees all agreed as H&D proposal. The date for AGM - January 10th 2009

The meeting then elected the following Racing Officials for the 2008 South Coast Championship Regatta at Plymouth on the 14th September, on a proposal from J. Bailey, seconded by L. Foad, as follows - Championship Umpire – Andy Sothcott; Championship Starter – Alan Stewart; Championship Judge – John Purkess. Open Umpire – John Adams; Reserves - Pete Staddon and John Bailey, Junior Regatta – Keith Warland and Ian Hutchings.

The meeting also re-elected the Associations South Coast Council delegates Bob Sivier and Denis Woodford and elected Andy Sothcott to replace Keith Warland who was standing down and had been made an Honorary Member of the South Coast Council.

The changes that had been agreed by Council to its Rules were noted – see copy attached.

Hilary Bastone the current of Secretary/Treasurer of the South Coast Council had decided to stand down as soon as practical – and Council were looking for a replacement and suggesting that this should come from the Hants & Dorset ARA. Colin Eales, from Southsea, had indicated he would be prepared to take on this task and it was agreed that his name should be put forward – and that he should work with Hilary up until the next South Coast Council AGM when his appointment could be confirmed.

The venue for the next Hants and Dorset staged South Coast Championships Regatta in 2011 was given some consideration and a paper indicating the available finances and problem cost of a return to Dorney presented to the meeting which indicated that it was financially viable. It was also noted that many of those who had been involved in the 2007 organization had indicated a willingness to be involved again. However while a Dorney was probably the “front runner” it was agreed that other venues should be considered. With a decision required at the Autumn Delegates Meeting it was agreed the Dorney Committee should reconvene to consider this as the next venue – and any other potential venues/organizers should make their thoughts know to the Association Secretary as soon as possible.

There were no amendments and/or additions to Association Rules for consideration however the Association Secretary did clarify the latest discussions with the AA regarding status comparison which were slowly edging to some sort of conclusion. It was noted that a number of individuals had managed to regress their points with the ARA in line with the latest policy without reference to the Hants & Dorset ARA.

The Association Secretary reported on a very successful and reasonably well attended Association Safety Meeting held on the Isle of Wight in which, audits and incidents from last season were discussed and procedures for 2008 agreed – as well as a an interesting presentation on the features and maintenance of life jackets by the RNLI Sea Safe Team. The Water Safety Sub Committee was elected as follows - Chairman - Mark Viner, Committee - Bernie James, Steve Bull, Gary Joyce, Petra Saunders, Trevor Gay [New] (Note Dave Hunt resigned).

The arrangements for the Prize Presentation evening will be similar to last year with Gareth Cook once again agreeing to organize the event and the Novotel in Southampton, booked for Saturday, 15th November.

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The Hants & Dorset Forum met again for the first time for two years, because of the Dorney South Coast Rowing Championships on **11th February, 2008 with five** of the thirteen H&D Clubs represented plus one apology. Area identified for further consideration were -

- 1) Coastal Boats and manufacturers. Type and specification, Only two current manufacturers of Coastal Boats - Burgashell and Browns - with the possibility of Neeves producing the Marlin.
- 2) Expansion of Events, different events.
- 3) Length of boats. Longer would be faster.
- 4) Coaching qualifications/skills. ARA/NVQ Coaching Award scheme or Hants & Dorset ARA Coaching Award. Two pronged approach - develop own basic club coaching award and pressure ARA to add a level one to existing scheme. At the appropriate time seek meeting with Chairman of ARA Coaching Commission. Get feedback from candidates on recent, locally run, level 2 and 3 courses.
- 5) To introduce a points system to establish the status of a crew - similar to the ARA system in place of the existing status system. Effect on Championship system. Reaction of CARA.
- 6) Introduce a league/points system to decide Hants & Dorset Club Championships and South Coast selection. Points for first three places?
- 7) Limiting events at Regattas - with Regatta not staging all events. Maximum of nine per Championship. Opportunity to include more events in season.

It was agreed that forum discussions should be open and available to all. Notes on meetings would be circulated to all affiliated Clubs and events, the Wessex Regional Rowing Council and shared with CARA. It was agreed that meetings would be held every other month, in the month when there was no Wessex Regional Council Meeting. The next meeting would be on Monday, 14th April at 6.00pm at Itchen Imperial Rowing Club with all Clubs invited to send delegates via E Mail, the Web site and through announcement at the AGM.

It was agreed that the Association Secretary should select a date for the Autumn Delegates Meeting - a Saturday in November - once the Southampton F. C. fixtures were known.

The only items of **any other business** were a further discussion of the award of additional championship medals with some delegates expressing further concern in spite of the decision taken earlier in the meeting. It was agreed that further consideration should be given to clarification of the guidelines as to when additional medals should be awarded and considered at the Autumn Delegates Meeting.

Also the development of Havant Thicket as a potential water park was mentioned and enquiries would be made.

Their being no other business the meeting closed at 3.05pm with thanks to BTC for their hospitality.

H&D ARA Chairman.

[Minutes taken and written by Steve Bull, Association Secretary, 10/04/08].

ATTACHMENTS.

The attachments listed below form an integral part of these minutes.

1. A copy of the Association Secretaries Report on the 2007.
 2. Audited Financial Report on the year 2007 including the Presentation Dinner.
 3. Swanage Regatta Accounts.
 4. South Coast Rowing Championships 2007, Consolidated Accounts.
 5. South Coast Rowing Championships – 2011 – at Dorney. Projection of income and expenditure.
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Hants & Dorset Amateur Rowing Association.

THE ASSOCIATION SECRETARIES REPORT ON THE 2007 SEASON.

With the inclusion of the regions Head Races and Junior Regattas, in order to bring them in-line with the Hants & Dorset and ARA Safety guidelines, 2007 saw the Association issue permits to thirteen Championship Regatta's, four head races and two Junior Regatta's - and host and organize the South Coast Rowing Championships, at Dorney Lake, Eton.

Of the thirteen Championship Regatta's, one less than in past years because of Southampton Towns demise, Lymington's Regatta at Milford on Sea was cancelled after two attempts because of the conditions and BTC was correctly abandoned with just four events completed because of the worsening conditions that saw six out of the Seven Men's Seniors crews sinking in their heat - which understandably became the last race of the day.

Regatta entries were significantly higher with 1312 entries recorded at entry closure in all events at the thirteen championship Regatta's as opposed to 1020 in 2006 - although this figure does include the non-championship events for the first time. Never the less nearly three hundred additional entries is an encouraging sign and five Regattas - Bournemouth, BTC, Swanage, Poole and of course Southsea where both H&D and CARA Clubs compete, exceeded one hundred entries.

The "flip side" to this encouraging news is a continued fall in registrations which seems as odds with the regatta entry figures. Are we missing some registrations from Clubs - only point winners are checked - or is this simply an indication of increased doubling-up at Regattas? There were 602 athletes registered with the 13 affiliated Clubs - 514 of these at first registration and 88 added during the season. This compares with 620 in 2006 - a fall of 18 which is just under 3%.

Christchurch is the largest club followed by Southsea and then Coalporters. Newport showed the biggest increase in registrations, BTC the largest fall.

Turning to the results the Men's Senior fours threatened to be a repeat of the previous season with BTC and Ryde the dominant crews with reigning champions BTC the stronger in the early part of the season - apart from a win by Itchen Imperial at Coalporters. But slowly Ryde turned the tables on their old rivals eventually winning six times - plus the extra point gained at the Nationals - to BTC's four - in spite of a late challenge being mounted by a resurgent Newport who finished 2nd in the last three regattas staged. So Ryde claimed their first Hants & Dorset Men's Senior Fours Championship for twenty years - and went on to win the South Coast Senior title as well which along with the Nationals title gave them a rare treble. BTC as runners-up for the H&D Championship where the second representatives at the South Coast where they finished second behind Ryde to complete a one, two for the Association.

The Men's Junior Senior Fours was dominated by Itchen Imperial, with the same crew that won the Men's Junior Championship in 2006. Their nine wins put them comfortably ahead of runners-up Southsea who won on two occasions. These two Clubs represented the Association at the South Coast where Itchen confirmed their Championship status with another fine win, with Southsea in 5th place.

The Men's Junior Fours was also very conclusive with Christchurch winning eight of the eleven events held with their main challenge coming from Lymington with two wins and Itchen with a single win. So it was Christchurch and Lymington who represented the Association at the South Coast where Lymington produced the race of their lives to take victory, the first ever South Coast Championship victory for the Club, Christchurch finishing 2nd in another one, two for the Association.

The Men's Novice Fours was well supported, prompting the question, to late in the day, as to weather we should have returned to a single win before promotion to Junior status in this event - an area that probably deserves some debate. Five different Clubs won men's Novice Fours events, Christchurch's four wins, from two crews, giving them the Championship. Southsea, Newport and Poole all won twice and BTC secured a single win.

Coalporters totally dominated the Ladies Senior and Ladies Junior Fours to retain both Championships. In the Senior Ladies they won eleven of the twelve events, with several different crew formations, involving a squad of around eight oarswomen, which led to some controversy

when the South Coast representative crews were selected. Christchurch won one event giving them the runners up slot and their enthusiasm to compete in the Championships led to their selection alongside Coalporters who, went on to add the South Coast Title to their seasons haul, Christchurch finishing in 6th place.

In the Ladies Junior Fours Coalporters's domination was even greater as they won all eleven points awarded with Christchurch winning at their home regatta, following the withdrawal of the Coalporters crew - but they had boated a non-registered oarswomen so no point was awarded. Itchen, who had been consistently second in the last few Regattas accepted an invitation to join Coalporters as Association representatives for the South Coast Championships were they finished 2nd and 5th.

Itchen also produced a strong performance in the Ladies Novice Fours to take the Association Championship with five wins - Christchurch, BTC and Southsea each winning twice.

The Veteran Fours was initially a close contest between BTC and Poole but a steadily improving BTC crew slowly started to dominate and they ended up convincing winners of the Association Championship with nine wins to Poole's three. These two crews went on to represent the Association at Dorney where they will have been disappointed with their 3rd and 4th places respectively.

Pairs racing showed an improvement in participation levels with a well contested Championship in all three events. The Men's Senior Pairs was won by Lymington with six wins from various combinations of four different oarsmen. BTC were the main challengers with three wins - Itchen tasting victory on one occasion.

Lymington completed the double of Men's Pairs events by taking the Junior title as well in a closer contest, where they edged out Christchurch by winning five events to their three, Southampton taking the other point.

Not to surprisingly, considering their domination of the fours events Coalporters won the Ladies Senior Pairs Championship but again it was quite tight, their five wins beating Southampton, with three, into second place with Southsea and Christchurch taking one win a piece.

Results from the first half of the season indicated that Ryde's Nick Pike would comfortably retain his Men's Senior Sculls title for a fourth year. There were single wins from Itchen's James Foad and Ryde's Mike Jenner but with five wins Pike had moved into a comfortable lead - only to be seriously challenged over the last half of the season by Club colleague Matt Allsopp who, including the point from the Nationals, closed to within one point with the opportunity to draw level lost with the abandonment of BTC Regatta.

The Men's Junior Sculls event was also dominated by one Club - Itchen Imperial - who notched up nine wins during the season with Wardell taking the Championship with his four wins. Itchen's Riceman and Williams won two a piece and Leelohardy a single win with Doddy of Southsea also winning once.

Itchen also took the Men's Novice Sculls title with four wins, two from Leelohardy, one from Riceman and one from Dickinson. Coalporters were runners-up with three wins - two from Squires and one from Carey. Hayden of Ryde's two wins gave them third place in this Championship.

Very disappointingly no Championship was awarded in the Ladies Senior Sculls - where only one race was staged all season - and this was won by a sculler from a non-H&D affiliated Club.

However the Ladies Junior Sculls was well contested and won by Wardell of Itchen in what must be a unique double as she is the sister of the Men's Junior Sculls Champion. The only real challenge came from Langmead of Coalporters who won the other two events contested.

There was some strong competition in the Novice Ladies Sculls where once again Itchen were triumphant with four wins for three points - two for Hunter and one for McGregor-Ritchie - securing the Club Championship with Coalporters with two points the runners-up spot and Christchurch securing a single point.

This was a very impressive performance by Itchen Imperials in winning four of the five sculling championships and is almost certainly a reflection on the effort they have put into Junior Rowing in the last few years. We can only hope that individual Ladies now moving through into the higher

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status will lead to a competitive and well supported Ladies Senior Sculls Championship in the next few years.

Itchen Imperial were the Champion Club with forty Championships points claimed and take the R. S. O. "Hank" Carr Trophy, Coalporters were 2nd with thirty-five points and Christchurch 3rd with twenty.

The Cox of the year - again based on nominations from race officials at each regatta - was awarded to Matt Bailey of Christchurch following another close contest, where fourteen different coxswains received nominations during the season.

While not formally recording the results of the "trial" events it should be noted that in the Veteran B (50+) Coxed Fours an event was held at seven regattas with at least three crews entered at six of them - there was only one entry at Woolston. In the Ladies Junior Pairs, there was a race at six regattas - although none of them appear to have had more than two entries and in the double sculls - there was a race at five regattas with three or more entries at two of them (see notes attached).

To conclude – I think this was a very successful season with higher entries and a good standard across nearly all the Championship events – and culminating in a Hants and Dorset ARA hosted and organised South Coast Rowing Championships which was a triumph for the Association both on and off the water. The only shadow cast being the fall in registrations.

Steve Bull.

Association Secretary.

March, 2008.

Hants & Dorset Amateur Rowing Association

UMPIRES COMMISSION

*John Purkess BTC.R.C. (Chairman), Mike Green C.R.C., John Bailey S.A.R.C.,
Alan Wigmore S. & S. R.C., Keith Warland C.A.R.C.*

REPORT ON THE 2007 RACING SEASON

1. PRE REGATTA BRIEFINGS

It is most important that regattas hold their Club Captains / Coxswains briefing meeting prior to the first race. This is the one opportunity for the regatta organisers to advise competitors on any course hazards, local tidal / river flow conditions, and any particular regatta rules (crews were disqualified at two regattas this year for not obeying local regatta rules) this job function is not the responsibility of the Racing Officials of the day.

2. REGATTA CONTROL

More regattas should try to provide a Regatta Controller from within their own club personnel; this would free-up H & D Umpires who are often requested to do this job function on an annual basis.

3. SAFETY BOAT MANNING

It was generally accepted that the manning of Safety boats at most regattas during 2007 was much improved, but we would like to remind all Regatta Secretaries and Safety Advisors that all safety boats are required to have a suitably qualified, or at least 'experienced' power boat driver, supported by a crew member capable of hauling an injured person into their boat, also all boats should carry a radio. On a few occasions, safety boats have been seen afloat with children (under 18's) manning them. It is especially important to have experienced safety boat handlers if the regatta is offering Junior events.

4. H & D SAFETY KITS

Thanks to the Associations' Secretary's efforts, these kits were much better equipped for the 2007 season. However there were two or three regattas where the bags, and therefore the contents, were presented for use by the Officials of the day, in a very wet condition. It is the responsibility of the next regatta to check the bags/contents, to ensure that they are dry and in working order. Also the H & D Lifejackets were not available for the 'afloat officials' at one regatta last year, these jackets must also be made available at each regatta.

5. COMPETITORS WITH HEALTH ISSUES

Any competitors with a known serious health / medical condition, which could occur during / after racing, should make the Regatta Controller aware of these conditions, so that the Racing Officials / Safety boat handlers could be advised if necessary. Inhalers should be always carried by the athlete or the coxswain whilst afloat.

6. WEATHER PROTECTION FOR OFFICIALS

With the terrible weather conditions encountered at several regattas this year, some racing officials in their reports pointed out the need for adequate protection against both RAIN and WIND. The fact that they are sometimes 'on station' for 5 to 6 hours at a time, highlighted the fact that some regattas make little or no effort to protect the racing officials from the elements in the course of their duties.

John Purkess,
Chairman

1st March 2008

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S. Bull, Association Secretary, Hants & Dorset
ARA. 10, Brookfield gardens, Binstead, Ryde, I.W.