

THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HANTS. & DORSET AMATEUR ROWING ASSOCIATION, BTC ROWING CLUB, SOUTHAMPTON, SATURDAY, 21st MARCH, 2009 at 10.30am.

There were 27 delegates in attendance when the Chairman, Mark Viner, opened the meeting. All Clubs and Events were represented except Newport and Worthing neither of whom had sent apologies..

Apologies were received from - Vice Presidents - Les Foad, Bob Sivier and Brent Hartland plus Pete Lock of Lymington and Martin Bradbeer of Itchen Imperial. Denny Woodford advised the meeting that Bob Sivier had had another heart operation which had been successful. The Association Secretary was instructed to send him the Associations best wishes.

The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read on a proposal from Denny Woodford, seconded by John Bailey and it was agreed that Matter Arising would be covered by Agenda items other than the following points raised at the Autumn Delegates meeting –

- 1) Delegates had expressed their concern regarding the late change of names of the Coalporters Men's Championship Junior Crew and the Clubs failure to follow the correct procedure for crew alterations that resulted in urgent telephone calls to the Association Secretary that resulted in him having to resolve the issue at the Friday evening reception. The Association Secretary was requested to write to Coalporters regarding their failure to comply with these instructions which could have resulted in them being unable to compete in the event. A response had been received from Coalporters apologising for their mistake and promising that their would not be a repeat.
- 2) The Association Secretary had written to the Secretary of the National Championships regarding the Coastal events advising them that the Saturday of the National Championships was liable to be a Hants & Dorset Fixture and that their would only be a Hants & Dorset entry if the Heats and the Finals took place on the Sunday and even then the entry was liable to be significantly reduced. The National Championships Regatta had responded acknowledging the letter and stating that they would stage the heats and finals on the Sunday. A discussion on the continued award of Championship Points followed with the meeting agreeing to stay with the procedure agreed for the 2008 National Championships – although the Association Secretary expressed some concern and advised the meeting that as he did not think Ryde would compete and therefore he was very unlikely to be in attendance to administer the process.
- 3) The Association secretary had written to the ARA regarding the "stable" boats plan the Coastal boat was given due consideration. No formal response had been received but it was known that consideration was being given.
- 4) The Association Secretary had written to the Secretary of Bournemouth Regatta regarding concerns over Safety Boats but no formal response had been received although the concerns were discussed at the Associations safety meeting where Westover/Bournemouth Regatta was represented.

The Association Secretary then gave his report on the 2008 season (see attached - master only), which was accepted on a proposal from Mark Viner seconded by John Bailey.

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, Late scratching's fines, questionnaires and enquiries responded to, meeting minutes published and information on meetings attended and the Association Web site. A letter of thanks had been sent to Gareth Cook following the Annual Presentation Dinner in November and to Barbara Carr to keep her informed on who won the Trophy donated in memory of her late husband Hank.

The Association Secretary also advised the meeting that he had ample stock of Point claim and registration cards and had Coxswains caps in stock until 2011. However there were only 20 Championship Medals left – and a minimum of 35 were required for a seasons awards. Also there were only two past presidents medals left. Quotes from the usual supplier had been received and after a brief discussion it was agreed on a proposal from John Bailey seconded by Alan Wigmore to purchase a further 400 championship medals at a cost of £4.75 each and 5 Past Presidents Medals at £24.25 each.

The Treasurer then presented his audited report on the year 2008 (see attached) which showed the Association to be in a reasonably comfortable financial position. The treasurer advised the meeting that the South Coast Levy if retained at the current level would be around £20,000 by 2011 and while we should keep this ring fenced for the event this should be kept under review at Hants & Dorset ARA Meetings. The position of Bournemouth Universities unpaid affiliation fee was mentioned and Westover agreed to have a "quite word" to see if this could be resolved. Future affiliation would be refused

until the outstanding payment was received. 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 John Bailey, seconded by Denny Woodford 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 as were Swanage Regatta where a corrected profit figure of £584.13 was noted.

The meeting then elected the Association Officers for 2009 as follows -

President – John Adams, of Ryde, on a proposal from Ryde Rowing Club, seconded by John Purkess and passed unanimously; Chairman – John Purkess, on a nomination from BTC Rowing Club, seconded by Steve Bull and passed unanimously. In his acceptance address John proposed a vote of thanks to retiring Chairman Mark Viner for his five years service. Hon. Treasurer – Keith Warland was re-elected unanimously on a proposal from Tim Bull, seconded by Graham Reeve. Hon. Secretary – Steve Bull was reelected unanimously on a proposal from Sue Southcott, seconded by Alan Wigmore and it was also agreed, on a proposal from Brian Gowman, seconded by Pete Staddon that his honorarium should remain at £450 per year. As John Purkess had been elected as Chairman of the Association he was no longer in a position to continue as an Auditor and following a request to the floor for volunteers Pete Staddon agreed to take on this role which was approved on a proposal from Colin Eales, seconded by Sue Southcott.

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 John Bailey 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. However there were two new nominations for Life Vice President – the retiring chairman Mark Viner of Lymington Rowing Club, on a proposal from Steve Bull, seconded by Denny Woodford, and Ken Fraser of Westover & Bournemouth Rowing Club on a proposal from Steve Bull, seconded by Brian Gowman, both of which were approved by the meeting.

There was then some discussion on why we had Life Vice Presidents and Vice Presidents and after a quick look at the rules it was discovered that there was no mention of a Live Vice President – but there was of honorary members. The conclusion was that there had been some confusion introduced a number of years ago that had been compounded year on year. The meeting agreed that the current position as agreed at this meeting would be retained for this year but that the Association Secretary should review the rules and make a recommendation to the Autumn Delegates Meeting or next AGM to clarify the situation.

The meeting then discussed the latest developments with the South Coast Rowing Handbook which was something of a shambles! Of the three South Coast Rowing Associations it is only the Hants & Dorset ARA which has been fully committed to continuing the booklet. Both WEARA and CARA have dithered – and WEARA have now definitely decided they do not wish to be involved sighting cost as the reason. CARA had eventually decided that they do want to continue – in a two Association booklet with us (H&D ARA) but do not want WEARA to have any involvement – including the printing which has traditionally been arranged by Jimmy Jewell of WEARA. CARA indicated they would organize the printing – at an estimated cost of around £300 per Association, but Phil Challen, the organizer and the only one who seems to know what there plans are is now away until the 16th April! Further more they (CARA) have not advised Jimmy Jewell (WEARA) that they don't want to use his services – in spite of the fact that both Phil and Jimmy sit on a South Coast Council where the subject has been an Agenda item for the last three meetings. What neither Associations seems to be able to get to grips with is that, if they follow the H&D method of adding the cost of the handbook to the Association Affiliation fee, then its effectively recoverable from the ARA – and is produced at almost no cost to the Association – a fact that has been pointed out to them on a number of occasions. While unsure who would be producing the booklet the Associations Secretary has continued to prepare the H&D section and could, subject to changes as a result of this AGM, have the H&D information ready to go to the printers within a week. A number of quotes for a H&D only booklet – which range from around £500 for 200 x 60 pages – with no photos – to around £800 with photos had been obtained. Jimmy Jewell's printers have quoted around £600 for a one Association booklet. All these are higher than the estimated costs for our share of a two association booklet from Phil/CARA – but we have no idea when this would be available. Clearly nothing would happen until after 16th April when Phil returns. H&D currently raise via the affiliation fee (recoverable from the ARA) £46 x 13 = £598 towards the cost of the handbook – so it was proposed by Brian Gowman and seconded by John Bailey, and accepted by the meeting, that the Association accepts Jimmy's Jewells offer – and produce a one Association handbook - probably by late April and that CARA should be advised accordingly – and that the current method of funding the booklet should be retained i.e. £46 as part of affiliation fee & therefore deductible from ARA Affiliations fees].

The continuation of the South Coast Seat Levy at H&D Regatta's was then discussed by the meeting and after a brief discussion it was agreed by the meeting, following a proposal from Peter Trist, seconded by Denny Woodford, that this should remain unchanged at £1 per seat. .

The meeting then considered the rates of subscription, permit fees and entry fees for the ensuing year and following another brief discussion it was agreed, on a proposal from Peter Trist, seconded by Sur Sothcott that these to should remain unchanged for 2009 at - £2.50 per registered member/minimum £60 + £46 Handbook contribution making minimum £106; Regatta permit - £20; Entry fees - £3.00 per seat + £1.00 South Coast Levy.

The Regatta dates for the 2009 season were then agreed with the following changes from the dates proposed at the Autumn Delegates Meeting –

1) The Swanage Regatta and Carnival had advised the Association that Saturday, 25th July was no longer appropriate because of a visit by the Red Arrows. An alternative of Saturday, 4th July had been suggested to them which they had accepted and this was approved by the meeting on a proposal from Denny Woodford, seconded by Sue Sothcott. Ironically this was now the same weekend as last year – which the Swanage Regatta & Carnival Committee had strongly objected to at the time, threatening to withdraw their trophies.

2) Itchen had requested a change to the date of their Junior Regatta and the meeting agreed that this would now be staged on Saturday, 26th September.

3) Ryde detailed the contingency plans they have put in place in case there is a repeat of the double cancellation of the IW Regatta's that took place last year – which would make the Ryde Regatta course available on the Sunday for a cancelled Ryde or Shanklin Regatta.

4) BTC announced that a trial Regatta on their proposed new River Itchen course would be staged on Saturday, 18th April as an invitation only event.

As a result of these discussions the 2009 fixture list was agreed as follows –

H&D CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTA'S IN CAPITALS.

Saturday, 14 th March.	Southampton Eights, River & Small Boats HORR.
Sunday, 29 th March.	Head of the Stour, Christchurch.
Saturday, 25 th April.	Southampton Coastal Fours HORR.
Saturday, 9 th May.	RYDE REGATTA.
Sunday, 10 th May.	SHANKLIN REGATTA.
Saturday, 23 rd May.	BTC REGATTA.
Saturday, 30 th May.	MILFORD (LYMINGTON) REGATTA.
Saturday, 6 th June.	NEWPORT REGATTA.
Saturday, 13 th June.	POOLE REGATTA.
Sunday, 14 th June.	Wessex Junior Regatta, Bryanston School.
Saturday, 27 th June.	WOOLSTON REGATTA.
Saturday, 4 th July.	SWANAGE REGATTA
Saturday, 11 th July.	SOUTHSEA REGATTA.
Sunday, 12 th July.	Coalporters Junior Regatta
Saturday, 18 th July.	COALPORTERS REGATTA.
(Friday, 17 th to Sunday, 19 th July	National Championships, Nottingham).
Saturday, 1 st August.	BOURNEMOUTH REGATTA.
Saturday, 8 th August	CHRISTCHURCH REGATTA.
Saturday, 15 th August.	ITCHEN IMPERIAL REGATTA.
Sunday, 16 th August.	Hants & Dorset Championship and South Coast Selection row-offs if required. Dockhead, Southampton. 11.00am.**
Saturday, 5 th September.	South Coast Junior Regatta and South Coast South Coast Championships Regatta, Folkestone.
Saturday, 26 th September.	Itchen Junior Sprint Regatta.
Friday, 23 rd to Sunday 25 th October.	FISA Coastal Championships, Plymouth.
Sunday, 22 nd November.	Coalporters Winter Sculls HORR..
Dates still to be advised:	Southampton Junior Regatta.

The meeting then discussed the format of the Swanage Regatta Committee agreeing to maintain the method employed during the last three 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, Westover 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. It was noted that the shortened course used last year because of the conditions may be maintained as it would speed-up the Regatta and there might be less disruption from other water users. The Regatta was short of a number of Trophies and John Purkess agreed to take a look at the Southampton Town Regatta Trophies to see if any might be appropriate. It was also noted that the Senior Ladies Trophy had not been returned by Coalporters and they had advised that it was missing. The Association Secretary was asked to write to Coalporters asking

them to supply a suitable/appropriate replacement or to pay for a new Trophy. Sue Sothcott also reported that their had been some contact with the local Gig Club and the possibility of them acquiring some Coastal Boats and participating in local Regatta's was discussed – as well as some involvement with Swanage Regatta – and the possibility of a Gig race on the Sunday after the Coastal Regatta.

Denny Woodford then reported on the recent meetings of the South Coast Council on behalf of the Hants & Dorset Delegates that attended. At the South Coast Council AGM in January much of the discussion had focused on the 2008 Championships Regatta at Plymouth where the general conclusion was that the Regatta Control – or lack of it – had let the event down. The attitude of Exeter in withdrawing from the Men's Senior Championship Race was also a topic of much debate as was the Hants & Dorset ARA's proposal to return to Dorney Lake in 2011 – which is covered in another part of the minutes. Updates were given on the 2009 event at Folkestone and the 2010 Regatta at Wimbelball. A further update on Folkestone was given at the March sight meeting – the main points being - 1800m course with the start on outside of course. Unloading – limited access. Trailers may have to stored up to 2 miles away. Junior Regatta – now the last events of the day. 1 H&D rep. needed for Boat Inspections. Dress code will be enforced at the Saturday prize giving. Open over 50's event will be held. Alternative – Deal, 40 minutes from Folkestone. 10.30start. 1850m. 3rd choice - Herne Bay – Championship and Junior events only. The meeting was advised that Bob Board WEARA Secretary had had heart attack. but was OK and that Jimmy Jewell had been voted off the council by WEARA and that Andy West was CARA President for 2009. The 2012 Championships would be held at – Falmouth, Sithians Lake and the 2013 event at Hastings. The changes that had been agreed to the Rules of the South Coast Council were noted (see attached notes).

The meeting then elected the following Racing Officials for the 2009 South Coast Championship Regatta at Folkestone on the 5th September, on a proposal from J. Bailey, seconded by G. Reeve, as follows - Championship Umpire – Mark Viner; Championship Starter – Pete Staddon; Championship Judge – Andy Sothcott. The meeting was unable to appoint an Open Umpire or Reserves at this time – an issue the Umpires Commission would need to address. Steve Bull agreed to be the H&D ARA representative for the Boat Inspections at the Championships.

The meeting also re-elected the Associations South Coast Council delegates Bob Sivier, Denis Woodford and Andy Sothcott on a proposal from Steve Bull, seconded by John Bailey and it was noted that Keith Warland had been made a Life Member of the South Coast Council – and that Colin Eales had been elected the Council Secretary/Treasurer.

The meeting then considered the reaction of CARA and WofE delegates to H&D proposal for a return to Dorney for the 2011 Regatta which was as follows – “Members of the South Coast Council (CARA and WEARA delegates) have expressed disappointment over plans by the Hants & Dorset ARA to stage the 2011 South Coast Championships inland at Dorney Lake, Eton. They (CARA) pointed out that the venue switch would mean the Championships were no longer a Coastal event in the true sense and would become a flat water regatta. In fact, with Wimbleball in mid-Devon hosting the Championships on their Lake in 2010 the Coast representation were concerned that, after this years event at Folkestone, it would be another four years before the event would be held at a Coastal venue. The Coast ARA asked if the Hants & Dorset delegates would go back to their Association and look again at alternative venues such as Swanage or the proposed new course at Sandbanks in Poole. However West of England delegates supported the Dorney Lake idea and hoped that consideration would be given to using fine river boats rather than the heavier shorter Coastal Boats”. The 2011 Organizing Committee have met to discuss – their recommendation is that – we have already considered other options and do not feel the need to alter our views in any way – and should continue to plan for and propose Dorney as the venue for the 2011 South Coast Championships Regatta. A view was expressed by John Bailey that Dorney Lake was detrimental to Coastal Rowing – and the option of Swanage – with a paid organizer (Kevin Ayles) was discussed however the feeling of the meeting, agreed on a proposal from Sue Sothcott, seconded by Emiley Harrison, was to accept the recommendation of the Organizing Committee and return to Dorney Lake.

The meeting then considered the amendments and additions to Association Rules as follows - .

- 1) A proposal from Gary Joyce, of Itchen Imperial, and seconded by Tim Bull of Lymington, that the Association should present Club Shields for Hants & Dorset Championship wins in addition to the individual Hants & Dorset Championship medals, failed to get the necessary two thirds majority to be accepted (14 for, 9 against) and was lost.
- 2) A new “Condition Governing the Trophies” to cover the award of additional Hants & Dorset ARA Championship Medals proposed by Mark Viner of Lymington and seconded by Graham Reeve of Ryde was approved by the meeting, with one vote recorded against. The new condition is to read – “ Additional Championship Medals may be awarded subject to the following conditions being met - 1) Applicants must have competed as a member of the championship crew and won at least three Championship points in that crew' before qualification for a medal can be discussed. 2) Clubs must submit a written request prior to delegates meeting where said request is to be read out with supporting evidence, however decision and vote would be deferred to the Associations AGM to allow all parties time to investigate evidence and circumstances and to eliminate any problems at the presentation dinner. 3) Clubs must prove qualifying points were needed to secure the championship. Once a Championship is won any additional wins would not count towards qualification for an additional

medal to be awarded. 4) The application will be discussed by the Executive Officers of the Association before the AGM and a recommendation as to whether to accept or decline the application would be announced at the meeting.

3) A proposal to amend the Veteran Status Rule so that no Championship Point would be awarded if it was a composite crew - with the first full Club Crew to finish receiving the point as long as two full Club crews were in the race was agreed by the meeting following a proposal from Steve Bull of Ryde, seconded by Peter Trist from Christchurch – with four votes recorded against. The Veteran Rule would now read -

REGATTA RULES. B. -Status of Classification of Oarsman/Woman. (e)

(e) Veteran Oarsman/Woman. A Veteran Oarsman/Woman is one who has attained the age of 40 years on the day of the Regatta. A Veteran fours crew must have a minimum age of 40. Mixed crews are allowed and one member of a crew can be from another Club as long as they meet the criteria of a Veteran, but a composite crew can not be awarded a Hants & Dorset Championship point – the point being awarded to the first full Club crew to finish as long as two full club crews started the race.

4) The meeting unanimously agreed to amend the rule relating to fines for crews scratched after the Regatta has started from £10 per crew/sculler to £5 per seat excluding coxswain plus changes to wording to bring rule in line with current practice, on a proposal from Steve Bull, from Ryde, seconded by John Bailey of Southampton. The amended rule would now read as follows -

Regatta Rule. X. Any scratching made after the first race of the Regatta has come under starters orders will have a £5 per seat Association fine imposed on the Crew. The Club will be advised in writing of the fine within one month of the end of the Regatta season and will have a further month to appeal, in writing to the Association. Appeals will be considered by the Associations Executive Officers (at least three from President, Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary) if the fine has been received by the Association and the Club will be advised of the result in writing. The decision of the Association Officers will be final.

5) The meeting discussed the qualification for Junior (J16 etc) races with the view to introducing a rule that prevents any rower/Sculler who is not novice status from entering Junior races, at Hants & Dorset Regatta's regardless of whether their age qualifies them or not. However it was agreed by thirteen votes to ten not to change the current rule although it was noted that some events, who feel strongly, about this issue could and would impose a local event rule restricting participation.

6) The meeting discussed in some detail a proposal from the Race Officials meeting that, in order to ensure safe and fair competition, there should be mandatory attendance at Captains/Coxswains briefing at H&D Regatta's by a delegated representative of each Club competing and that failure to attend would result in a £25 fine – subject to appeal to the Associations Executive Officers. Effectively Clubs failing to attend the meeting must seek a personal briefing that would cost them £25 – the important point being that they receive the briefing before going afloat. This is in line with the precedent set by changes to the South Coast Championship Rules. Race Officials could represent their Clubs as long as they then brief their Clubs. Regatta Controllers/Secretaries/Senior H&D Race Official should complete a provided Club register which must be forwarded to the Association Secretary with the Regatta Results. While there was general agreement regarding the principle behind the rule there was much discussion over who could represent a Club at the meeting and as to whether a nominated representative from another Club would be allowed in special circumstances – for example if a club only had crews racing late in the regatta program. The meeting eventually agreed to accept the new rule but with an amendment to allow a member of one club to represent another in special circumstances and as long as the Club in question notified the Regatta nominee prior to the start of the meeting. The new rule reads -

New Regatta Rule. XA.

At every Hants & Dorset ARA Championship Regatta there shall be a Club Briefing, of all pre-race information prior to the start of the Regatta. Failure to attend will automatically disqualify a Club from competing in the regatta until they have received the briefing. However an individual club briefing can be given allowing that Club to compete in the Regatta but this will incur a penalty of £25 to the Association. A register of Clubs represented at the meeting will be maintained by the Regatta organizers and this must be forwarded to the Association Secretary with the Regatta Results. Club Race Officials can represent their Clubs at briefings provided they then brief their clubs and Clubs can, in special circumstances, be represented by a nominated member of another Club, as long as the Club in question notifies the Regatta of the nominee prior to the start of the meeting and the nominee then briefs the Club in question. The penalty imposed is subject to appeal, in writing and on payment of the penalty, to the Associations Executive Officers whose decision will be final.

7) The meeting also approved an amendment to the Rules of Boat racing, number 17, proposed by the Officials meeting, to include the statement that the toggle on a life jacket must be visible – the amended rule to read as follows -

17. - Coxswains must wear life-jackets of approved type (current BS standard) and the manual inflation toggle if fitted must be visible, during the course of a race and must be able to swim and clubs shall be responsible for ensuring that they are capable of performing their duties adequately and with safety.

8) As required the meeting also reviewed the Novice status rules - Regatta Rules – B - Status of Classification of Oarsman/Woman. – which states that, for oarsman and women – “The Association will decide annually at its AGM if a single Novice win or two wins will be required before promotion to Junior status. Rule B -Status of Classification of Oarsman/Woman, section (a) will be applied accordingly, the meeting agreed that there should be no change at this time and that two wins will be required before promotion to Junior status in the 2009 season.

9) The Amateur Rowing Association have recently announced (effective from 1st April, 2009) new status rules and this requires the Association to amend its agreed and adopted, but not ratified by the ARA, status comparison rules – between the Hants & Dorset ARA and the Amateur Rowing Association. The revised comparison table was approved by the meeting – and the opportunity was taken to “tweak” the rule to remove the anomaly where by a winning Junior Senior – and a non-winning Senior receive different points, under comparison, when they are effectively, the same status. [See revised comparison matrix attached].

John Purkess, Chairman of the Umpires Commission then reported on the Associations Officials Meeting of 24th January, 2009, which was attended by 19 Full and Assistant Racing Officials. His report covered - his annual report to the National Umpires commission; a new rule at Club Regatta briefings; the Southsea Regatta course; safety equipment; heel restraints; the Championships in Plymouth and Child Protection issues at Junior Regattas. Race officials retirement age was discussed (compulsory at 70 on the River) and the age limitation on the ARA individual insurance – no personal insurance after 70, no third party cover after 75 - where the meeting agreed to recommend to the H&D AGM that no race Officials should go afloat to officiate after they reach 70 but they could carry on officiating ashore. Currently this would impact – Alan Wigmore, Pat Glover, Brian Gowman, Les Foad – and Mike Green? Also the meeting discussed and agreed that the examination of Full and Assistant Racing Officials should be maintained with Full Officials John Purkess, John Adams, Denny Woodford, Andy Sothcott and Pat Glover due to be reassessed this year. It was also revealed that one of the WEARA Officials at the last South Coast Championship had not officiated at any/or just 1 of their regattas that season it was agreed that a recommendation should be made to the H&D ARA AGM – for forwarding to the South Coast Council that SCC Officials should have officiated in at least 3 regattas during that season. Also discussed was the £50 charge on Clubs who run an event but have less than two active race officials with a recommendation that this should be continued and the system of judging the H&D Coxswain of the Year which should be maintained. The Insurance of Officials via ARA membership was also debated and it was recommended that their should be continuation of the current system with a contribution of £11 toward the minimum ARA membership of £22. All the recommendations were approved by the meeting.

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 - FULL 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 and Carole Wall who was promoted to Full Official. Plus ASSISTANT OFFICIALS - Chris Eveleigh, Simon Clements, Andy Parkins, Bon Springbett, Tanzie Page, Trev Gay and Pete. These were all elected or reelected on a proposal from S. Bull seconded by Mark Viner and it was agreed that Keith Warland would continue to organize the allocation of Assistant Race Officials to events.

Colin Eales, Chairman of the Wessex Regional Rowing Council reported on the activities of the Wessex Regional Rowing Council and the ARA, his report covering the work of the Regions shared Coaching Development Officer; the Club Conference; working in conjunction with the Hants & Dorset ARA; the ARA partnership with industry – and the re-branding of the ARA as “British Rowing” and the new ARA Five Year plan.

The meeting then agreed on a proposal from Keith Warland, seconded by Sue Sothcott, that the Hants & Dorset ARA contribution to the Wessex Regional Rowing Council should be £200 in 2009 and this was agreed by the meeting.

The Association Secretary reported on a well attended H&D ARA Safety Commission Meeting held at Coalporters Rowing Club on Saturday, 7th February with Mark Viner in the chair and all but BTC, Newport and Shanklin Rowing Clubs and Regattas represented. The main focus at the meeting was to brief Clubs and Events on the new ARA Water Safety Code “Row Safe” and the new “on-line incident reporting” both introduced by the ARA this year. A second opportunity to be briefed on these new procedures was presented at the Wessex Region Development Conference on 1st March and it is disappointing that BTC and Newport were also unrepresented on this occasion. Hopefully they have made themselves familiar with the new guide and procedures via other publicity but it was a missed opportunity. The Regional Water Safety Advisor also briefed the meeting on the other activities of the National Safety Committee including the ROSPA inquiry into Safety in rowing and “Row How” – the ARA's distance learning system. The meeting was also briefed on the ARA's expansion of the Boat ID system which will apply to all regions from 1st April, 2009. The code requires boats to be identified by the Clubs 3 digit code and a 3 digit fleet number. It was noted that the Hants & Dorset ARA dose not have to comply in H&D ARA events – but it was agreed by the meeting that it would be much easier if we came into line and so that was the recommendation that would be made to the H&D AGM. Clubs would have to comply in all ARA events anyway – even if in Coastal boats and boat insurance might be at risk if we did not comply. The meeting also discussed and analyzed last years club safety audits, event safety audits and reported incidents and statistics and agreed the procedures that will be adopted for the 2009 season. It was noted that all H&D Clubs had submitted their Club Audits to the ARA for 2009. The condition and content of the H&D Race Officials equipment was reviewed and it was noted that half of the Officials Life Jackets had been serviced by Crewsaver at a cost of around £20 each and that the others would be serviced next year. The missing Life Jacket reported at the delegates meeting had been located. The meeting then gave some consideration to the eight

reportable incidents recorded in the Wessex Region in the last year including an incident at a Wessex Region Training day at Canford School which had led to the development and publication of a code of practice and procedures for Safety at Regional Training days. The boat inspections undertaken last year were also reviewed by the meeting and it was noted that the percentage of boats found with a fault increased during the season. The meeting agreed that the current method of boat inspection procedure should continue with the fault form modified to show Boat ID – and circulated to all as a reference/guide. The target for boat inspections would be for between four and six events and the support of the local event Safety Advisor in addition to the commission members would be requested to spread the work load. Last season's event safety audits and plans for 2009 were discussed - all events had submitted safety audits except the Southampton Coastal and Coalporters Junior Regatta. Some had been re-audited by members of the Safety Commission but this had been less stringent than in previous years – the burden often falling on those also trying to officiate. It was agreed that this procedure, which the Hants & Dorset ARA has had in place for some years, and goes further than current ARA requirements, should continue but a better way of ensuring an event was re-audited on the day was needed and it was agreed to try a "buddy" system for the re-audit where the Safety Advisor – or a responsible club officer - from the last Regatta would check the next Regatta and the Secretary would circulate event secretaries and safety advisors accordingly. The meeting agreed that the format of the Hants & Dorset ARA Water Safety Commission should consist of - Mark Viner remaining as Chairman with Steve Bull, Gary Joyce and Trevor Gay remaining as Commission members and with Sam Doddy of Southsea and Will Powell from Westover joining the commission. Bernie James of Southsea and Petra Saunders of Ryde had decided to strand-down and were thanked for their past contribution. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the 2010 meeting would be hosted by Lymington Rowing Club – and that the Association Secretary would consult the records to establish the "rota" for future years.

The meeting agreed that the arrangements for the Prize Presentation evening will be similar to last year with Gareth Cook once again agreeing to organize the event at the Novotel in Southampton , booked for Saturday, 14th November.

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 was a request from Colin Eales on behalf of the ARA as to whether any Hants & Dorset Club had to pay Harbor dues as they were carrying out an exercise with a view to trying to standardize the system and payments throughout the country. It appeared that only Christchurch currently paid any dues – and this was in the form of a donation.

Their being no other business the meeting closed at 3.04pm with thanks to BTC for their hospitality.

H&D ARA Chairman.

[Minutes taken and written by Steve Bull, Association Secretary, 17/04/09].

ATTACHMENTS.

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

- 1. A copy of the Association Secretaries Report on the 2008 Season.*
 - 2. Audited Financial Report on the year 2008 including the Presentation Dinner and Swanage Regatta Accounts.*
 - 3. SOUTH COAST CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTA COUNCIL, RULES AND RECOMMENDATIONS. CHANGES AGREED AT THE 2009 SOUTH COAST COUNCIL AGM.**
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Hants & Dorset Amateur Rowing Association.

Association Secretaries Report on the 2008 Season.

It was a difficult start to the regatta season, with, for the first time ever, both Ryde and Shanklin Regattas, scheduled over the first weekend, lost to the weather (there was one event completed at Ryde). However the season was quickly bought back on course and eventually all thirteen Regatta's were staged, including the reschedule of Ryde and Shanklin - just Bournemouth Regatta losing some events to the weather. With 1381 entries recorded in all Championship events there was an encouraging increase in entries of just over 5% from the 1312 recorded in the 2007 season. The Association also issued permits to two head races and three Junior Regattas - where another 486 crews and scullers raced under the Associations banner. Eight Regatta's showed an original entry of more than 100 crews, with Southsea, inevitably, as a combined event with CARA the biggest at 219.

Registrations, at 580, with 503 at first registration and 77 added during the year, showed a small increase of 6 over the 574 registered in 2007. The largest Club, by registration, is Christchurch with 88 followed by Coalporters with 75. Lymington showed the biggest year on year increase in registrations, Poole and Southampton the biggest fall. with Westover and Southsea also showing a fall - all other Clubs showing a gain except Worthing who remained the same.

Turning to the Regatta season - BTC re-claimed the men's Senior Fours Championship from Ryde winning 7 Senior events plus the point available in the Coastal event at the National Championships. Ryde's three wins assured them of the runners-up spot and representative honors with BTC at the South Coast Championships where both will have been disappointed with their result - BTC finishing 2nd and Ryde 4th. Itchen and Lymington also recorded Hants & Dorset Senior Fours wins during the season.

Christchurch dominated the Hants & Dorset Men's Junior Senior Fours Championship winning 10 events and going on to take the South Coast title as well. Itchen where the other representatives having won the other three events to secure the runners-up slot.

There was another dominating performance in the Men's Junior Fours where Ryde secured the Championship with nine wins and the point available from the Nationals. Coalporters were runners-up with four wins and these two represented the Association at the South Coast where Ryde narrowly beat Coalporters to secure this title as well.

The Men's Novice Fours event was very competitive with five Clubs securing wins during the season, although two of these, Southampton and Christchurch lost their Championship points due to unregistered oarsman. But this had no impact on the Championship, won by Coalporters with five wins, with three wins for Poole making them runners-up. Westover also gained a single win.

Competition in the Ladies Senior Fours was again disappointing with just six events held, Coalporters retaining the Championship with four points from five wins and going on to take the South Coast Championship as well. BTC's single win made them runners-up and gave them the second representative slot at the South Coast Championships.

Two Clubs contested the Ladies Junior Fours Championship, Itchen Imperial emerging as the Champions following nine wins, with Christchurch as runners-up with their three wins - and these two crews representing the Association at the South Coast Championships but finishing outside the top three places.

The Ladies Novice Fours was also very competitive with the four Southampton based Clubs - Coalporters, Itchen, BTC and Southampton sharing the Championship with two wins a piece, Shanklin and Christchurch taking single wins. Christchurch lost a point due to an unregistered crew.

BTC dominated the Veteran Fours with ten wins, Lymington finishing as runners-up with there two wins from Poole with one. So BTC and Lymington represented the Association at the South Coast with BTC winning once again.

The Men's Senior Pairs was a closely contested contest between Lymington and Ryde each Club securing five wins from a mix of crews with Itchen taking a single win. Surprisingly Lymington declined the opportunity to row for the Championship handing Ryde its first ever Men's Senior Pairs Championship Title.

The surprise winners of the Men's Junior Pairs was Shanklin, who, while starting their campaign late swept past early leaders Newport to take the title with five wins to Newport's three, with Ryde and Christchurch claiming one win each.

The Ladies Senior Pairs was a close fought contest Coalporters five points from four wins eventually seeing off Southampton with three wins and BTC with two.

Ryde's domination of the Men's Senior Sculls in recent years finally came to an end with James Foad of Itchen taking the Championship with six points from five wins with two Ryde Scullers - Nick Pike and Mike Jenner runners-up with two points each. Allsopp another Ryde Sculler, plus Wardell of Itchen and Gisborne of Southsea all claimed a single point.

Another Itchen sculler - Mark Kelly took the Junior Championship pretty convincingly with nine points from eight wins and once again it was a Ryde Sculler - Ian Hayden who was runner-up with four points from three wins.

Coalporters claimed the Men's Novice Sculls Championship with four wins from three scullers with Southampton, Ryde and Itchen runners-up with two. Single wins came from Southsea and Newport.

The Ladies Senior Sculls event continued to suffer from a lack of entries with only six events staged and only three of those where points were awarded - all going to Kerry Wardell of Itchen who duly claimed the Championship.

The Ladies Junior Sculls Championship also suffered from a lack of entries although points were awarded in six of the seven events held, Emily Bartlett of Coalporters taking five of them for the Championship with Club colleague Sarah Andrews taking the other.

However the Ladies Novice sculls was well contested, giving hope for an improvement in the higher statuses. Coalporters five wins gave them the Championship from Itchen with four and Southsea with two.

The competitiveness of all the Novice events should serve to open the debate, once again, on the "two wins and up" rule.

Itchen Imperials impressive haul of forty-two Championship points made them the Associations top Club allowing them to retain the "Hank Carr" Trophy. Runners-up were Coalporters with thirty-five - and Ryde were 3rd with thirty.

Jo Bull of Lymington received the Associations prestigious Coxswain of the Year Trophy with Matt Bailey of Christchurch, last year's winner, as runner-up.

John Bailey, of Southampton Rowing Club was awarded the Daily Echo Trophy, presented in memory of Arthur Chatfield for Services to Hants & Dorset ARA and Coastal Rowing - for his many years of service as a Race Official and Controller and for his research and publication of a history of the Association among the many other contributions he has made.

In conclusion, after a difficult start the 2008 season proved to be a reasonably successful one with increases in entries and registrations and some excellent and very competitive racing with the Association once again proving it's the best on the South Coast. But there can be no room for complacency as Coastal Rowing, while receiving more recognition from the National Governing Body remains very much a minority section and is under increasing pressure from offshore Coastal activities and Gig racing.

Steve Bull,
Association Secretary,
December, 2008.

SOUTH COAST CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTA COUNCIL

RULES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

CHANGES AGREED AT THE 2009 SOUTH COAST COUNCIL AGM.

Changes are in Bold and Italics.

RULES

The Administration

1. The Annual General Meeting shall be held *in January each year*. The Council shall elect a Chairman to take the Chair for a three year term on rotation between the three Associations. The Chairman shall have control of the meeting, and shall retain the power to vote, but shall not have a casting vote. In the event of equality of votes, the motion shall be deemed to be "Not carried".

The Championship Regatta arrangements

18. The Council members of each Association shall appoint a representative of each Association to inspect all boats ***together with the Championship Water Safety Adviser*** as soon as practicable, at the discretion of the organising committee but before going afloat, on the morning of the Championship Regatta; and in the event of finding a boat unfit or unsuitable ***shall have the power to prevent a boat going afloat until suitable repairs have been made and the boat has been re-inspected and found to be satisfactory.***

Entry conditions

25. (b) That all crews in the Championship events must have competed in at least three Championship Regattas ***within their Association*** for the Club that they are representing to qualify for entry into the South Coast Championship Regatta.
(c) That all crews in the Open events must have competed in at least three Championship Regattas ***within their Association*** or have been a registered Association member for 12 months for the Club that they are representing to qualify for entry into the South Coast Championship Regatta.
30. Any changes to crew personnel or crews scratched after the closing date for entries must be notified in writing to the organizing committee on the official form provided. Only two changes per crew are allowed and changes in crew personnel for Championship events must be submitted before the draw for positions. Changes to crew personnel in the Open or Junior events must be submitted before the Captains briefing on regatta morning. Only in exceptional circumstances will the Council consider changes after these deadlines Failure to notify the see changes or scratching's or late or non- arrival at the start by the required time, will result in a fine of £25.00 and will be considered a disciplinary offence reportable to the South Coast Championship Council. Any fine imposed must be paid immediately to the organizing committee and said fine transferred to the S. C. C. Council, who will preside over all disciplinary matters at their January meeting

Racing Rules and procedures.

Preparation

32. At every Championship Regatta there shall be a Captains' Briefing, of all pre-race information, immediately after the early morning Council meeting. It shall be mandatory that Captains of competing Clubs, or a nominated representative from the same Club, attend the Captains' Briefing. Where the Championship Regatta and the Junior Regatta are held on different days a separate Captains' Briefing will be held for each regatta at which attendance shall be mandatory at both meetings for Captains of competing Clubs or their nominated Club representative. Failure to attend will automatically disqualify a Club from ***Was Recommendation (I) – now a RULE.*** competing in the relevant regatta. However, on payment of a penalty of £25 to
33. All boats must race in the position that they are drawn, the No 1 position counting from the starboard/right hand side. ***Rejected by Meeting. No change/no explanation. Start at Folkestone will now be out to sea – idiots!***
36. A crew is allowed to make only two changes to personnel, provided that these changes are notified in writing as per Rule.30. No other substitutions are allowed. ***A proposal to change rejected by Meeting. NO CHANGE.***

The Finish

52. In the Open and Invitation events involving heats the draw for lanes should take place after the completion of the heats by drawing the club names and should not be predetermined by the position they finished in the heat. ***The draw should be undertaken by the Judges.***

Trophies, prizes and medals

53. The medals and ribbons produced by the Council shall be awarded for the Championship events only and awarded to the winning crew including the coxswain. Past winners shall not be entitled to purchase the same. Each Association shall purchase from the South Coast Championship Regatta Council enough medals to cover their hosted Championship Regattas. Championship pennants will be provided by the organising committee for both Championship and Open events. ***RULES 59 and 62 Amalgamated. No Changes.***

RECOMMENDATIONS

- H. A draft copy of the draw for a Championship Regatta, including time of heats and the names of crews participating in those heats ***and the date, time and venue for the Captains' Briefing*** to be in the post at least seven days prior to the event, and should be sent to all participating Clubs, officials of the day, and all Council members. Any invitations, information, etc., should be sent to the foregoing also.