

The Minutes of the Autumn Delegates Meeting of the Hants & Dorset Amateur Rowing Association, held at the BTC A. R. C. Clubhouse, Southampton on Saturday, 27th October, 2007.

There were 27 delegates in attendance with apologies received from a further 10 delegates (John and Pat Bailey, Southampton A.R. C. and Woolston Regatta; Malc and Kaye Hume, BTC R. C.; Pete Staddon, Christchurch R. C; Brent Hartland, H&D ARA VP; Alan Wigmore, Shanklin R. C. and Pete Jacobs, Poole A. R. C.) when the Chairman, Mark Viner opened the meeting.. There were no delegates in attendance from Coalporters, Southampton, Westover or Worthing Rowing Club or Coalporters Regatta.

The Minutes of the last Delegates Meeting were taken as read, and agreed as a correct record on a proposal from Bob Siver, seconded by Brian Gowman and the only matter arising that would not be considered as part of the Agenda for this meeting was weather Bournemouth University had ever responded to the letter regarding their outstanding affiliation fees, where the Association Secretary advised the meeting that no response had been received.

The Association Secretary then gave details of the correspondence he had undertaken on the Associations behalf since the Annual General Meeting in March.

This included all the usual correspondence relating to a busy Hants & Dorset season - Club affiliation, Club and individual registration, Points claims, plus correspondence relating to the affiliated Regatta's - permit applications and issues, results, etc.. He have written on a regular basis to Racing Officials and Club and Regatta Safety advisors with relevant information and administered the Racing Officials ARA membership contributions for Insurance purposes and their availability for Regatta's. Association bulletins were sent out in June and October. Documentation required for the season for Clubs, Regattas and racing Officials were sent out in April and the South Coast Rowing Handbooks which provided the contact lists for all Executive, Officers, Clubs, Regattas and Racing Officials were distributed during May and early June. Various correspondence relating to this years South Coast Rowing Championships at Dorney including entering the Championship Crews and letters of invitation and congratulation to the H&D Representative crews. As required by South Coast Council Rules the regatta results were sent to the South Coast Council, CARA and West of England and following a request from them for information on Hants & Dorset Entry fees in anticipation of a review of South Coast Entry fees. On behalf of the Association the Secretary attended Wessex Regional Rowing Council Meetings, served on the organising committee for this years South Coast Championships Regatta and attended three Amateur Rowing Association Water Safety Meetings. Clubs had been contacted regarding late withdrawal from Regatta fines and have co-ordinated the payment of fines and appeals against them plus the nomination process for the Daily Echo Trophy in memory of Arthur Chatfield and the engraving of the medals have been arranged as well as communicating the results of the Coxswain of the Year contest and writing to all Clubs who won Hants & Dorset Championships congratulating them on their success. The Hants & Dorset ARA web site - hdara.co.uk - has been substantially updated during the year with a number of new features added. All Regatta results and a Championship Table were also published on the Internet on a regular basis via David Biddulph's Rowing pages.

The following correspondence had also been received which needed and received consideration by the meeting -

1. Lymington A. R. C. had requested two extra Championship Medals for their Senior Oarsman who won the Men's Senior Pairs Championship Trophy. All four met the criteria of racing in three point winning races. The meeting agreed the request and those they should be presented at the Presentation Dinner.
2. Newport R. C. requested a change to their racing kit which was agreed by the meeting.
3. Gary Joyce (Itchen) has, as requested, found out the costs for providing each Club that wins a H&D Championship with a wooden plaque. The quote was from a company called Military Marketing International based in Birmingham. They offer 3 different shapes of shields size 140 x 180mm. Each shield comes with a bottom scroll included, to add a top scroll if required and £1.00 plus VAT to prices below. There is a one-off artwork charge of £35.00 for new designs on orders of less than 50. 25 - 49 shields will cost £12.95 plus VAT, 50 - 99 shields will cost £12.25 plus VAT, 100 - 199 is £11.25 plus VAT and 200 + is £10.25 Gary's thought was just to have the H&D badge/logo in the centre of the

shield with the Championship won and year below. To change the artwork on the bottom scroll to indicate the relevant championship won and the year (e.g. Men's Novice Fours 2007 or MN4+ 2007) can be done at no extra cost. The H&D currently has 16 Championships and they do have a minimum order of 25 shields so we might have to order minimum of two years worth in one order or 3 years worth to save the artwork charge. A 3 year order would cost £756.84 inc. VAT. The meeting gave considerable thought to this proposal and agreed in principle that it was a very good idea but had the following concerns that needed to be resolved before proceeding - what do we do about shared Novice Championships or when there was no championship. Could the plaques be produced without a date and we have them added locally when all the Championships were settled - or would the company be prepared - if we purchased three years supply up front to produce the basic plaque with logo, hold in stock for us, and add Championships and date annually at the end of each season. The Association Secretary to feed these thoughts back to Gary Joyce.

The 2007 Regatta season was then considered in detail by the meeting. (see attached summary. Appendix 1).

The Association Secretary then read his report on the 2007 South Coast Championship Regatta held at Dorney Lake and hosted by the Hants & Dorset ARA. He was able to report on a very successful Regatta, both on and off the water for the Association (See master copy for full report).

Mike Green, as Chairman of the organising committee then submitted a detailed report from the organising committee, congratulating and thanking all the volunteers who had worked so hard to put on such a successful event. He was also able to give brief details of a surprisingly strong financial position but warned the meeting that a return to Dorney in 2011 would probably cost far more and without the benefit of the grant aid received on this occasion. A final version of the accounts was not yet available as some items of income and expenditure still had to be finalised. [Full copy of report attached - master only]

Denny Woodford then reported, in detail, on the South Coast Council meetings than had taken place since the AGM and matters arising from these. The negative attitude from CARA ref. Dorney Lake was a feature at all the meetings with their delegates showing more concern about the availability of the beer and bar staff than the rowing and a ridiculous argument about which side of the course should be number 1! At the Saturday morning meeting before the Regatta there was discussion regarding changes to events to accommodate a Novice oarsman coxing a championship crew which was agreed. and the exclusion of two members of Deal Rowing Club at CARA's request who were then reinstated later in the day following a CARA delegates meeting! An explanation from CARA for this debacle is required. The meeting also expressed its displeasure over two incidents at the reception - a very public row between Geoff Hutton and Ray Mallett of the South Coast Council regarding confirmation of the names a qualification to race of West of England Championship Crews which should have been left to the next days South Coast Council meeting and the appearance of Ronnie Coote of Falmouth who had completely ignored the reception dress code by turning up in what appeared to be rowing kit.

It was agreed that our delegates should express their concern regarding these incidents at the South Coast Council AGM on Saturday, 12th January and that the Association Secretary should also write to the Council Secretary Hilary Bastone regarding the above. The Association Secretary should also write proposing the following rule changes should be considered -

- 1) That a set of rules for multi-lane racing be established.
- 2) That the core Junior events that should be part of every Junior Regatta should be detailed.
- 3) That the Pre Regatta Meeting should always be held on the Friday.
- 4) That an additional Open Events for Veteran over 50's be introduced.
- 5) Entry fees should be reviewed (already tabled).

and that the following items should be discussed -

- 1) Attendance at the Captains Meeting.
- 2) A Correct dress code to be laid down for the Friday night reception.

With regards to the 2008 event at Plymouth it was understood that the Junior events would be held on the Friday and it was noted that the 2009 event was to be staged at Folkestone. Keith Warland also announced that he intended to stand down as a Hants & Dorset delegate to the South Coast Council at

the next H&D and that South Coast Council Secretary Hilary Bastone would be standing down at the Council AGM.

The meeting then briefly debated the Coastal Events at the National Championships that had been better supported this year and agreed that the award of a Hants & Dorset Championship Point to the first H&D Crew in each event, given at the status of that crew was encouraging entries should continue.

The Regatta dates for the 2008 season were then discussed and agreed where possible. The difficulties related to Southsea, Christchurch and Itchen Regattas where there was a clash of dates. Itchen needed either the 12th July which was Southsea's only available date or the 9th August which was Christchurch's only available date. The only other alternative, for Itchen, apart from a Sunday was 26th July which would traditionally be Swan age Regatta. After some discussion it was agreed that Sue Southcott would contact Swan age Council to see if Swan age Regatta could be held on 5th July, freeing the 26th for Itchen. The agreed dates were as follows - (H&D CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTA'S IN CAPITALS. Junior Events in Italics.)

Sunday, 9th March.	Head of the Stour, Christchurch.
Saturday, 19th April.	Junior Inter Regional's, Nottingham.
Saturday, 26th April.	Southampton Coastal Fours HERR.
Saturday, 24th May.	RYDE REGATTA.
Sunday, 25th May.	SHANKLIN REGATTA.
Saturday, 31st May.	MILFORD (LYMINGTON) REGATTA.
Saturday, 7th June.	WOOLSTON REGATTA.
Saturday, 14th June.	POOLE REGATTA.
Sunday, 15th June.	Wessex Junior Regatta, Bryanston. To be confirmed.
Saturday, 21st June.	NEWPORT REGATTA.
Saturday, 28th June.	COALPORTERS REGATTA.
Saturday, 5th July.	SWANAGE REGATTA. To be confirmed.
Saturday, 12th July.	SOUTHSEA REGATTA.
(Friday, 18th to Sunday, 20th July	National Championships, Nottingham).
Saturday, 26th July.	ITCHEN IMPERIAL REGATTA. To be confirmed.
Saturday, 2nd August.	BOURNEMOUTH REGATTA.
Saturday, 9th August	CHRISTCHURCH REGATTA.
Saturday, 23rd August	BTC REGATTA.
Sunday, 24th August.	Hants & Dorset Championship and South Coast Selection row-offs if required.
Dock head, Southampton. 11.00am.**	
Friday, 12th September.	South Coast Junior Regatta, Plymouth.
Saturday, 13th September.	South Coast Championships, Plymouth.

Still to be advised –
Coalporters Winter Sculls HERR.
Southampton Small & River HERR.
Southampton Junior Sprint Regatta.
Itchen Junior Sprint Regatta.

** If postponement of a Regatta results in an Events being staged after the BTC Regatta any Hants & Dorset Championship and South Coast Selection row-offs will take place on the Sunday following the last Regatta, 11.00am at Dock head, Southampton.

Following agreement on the Regatta dates BTC and Newport Rowing Clubs made a presentation on a requested change of venue. BTC requested a move to the River Itchen, close to the Itchen Regatta course for their 2009 Regatta. A PowerPoint presentation was distributed which the meeting asked BTC to copy to the Association Secretary so it could be circulated to the Clubs for further consideration. Newport requested a change of venue - to the River Medina, finishing by their Clubhouse with a three lane straight 1500m course. While this change of venue was agreed concerns were expressed over the timing, other traffic on the river and there being enough water to accommodate all the usual races with a suggestion that they restrict entries for the first regatta on this new course.

John Purkess then reported to the meeting on behalf of the Umpires Commission. He was able to report on a relatively trouble free season with no major incidents. However their remained concerns regarding abuse of the H&D provided Safety Kits, which it was stressed were provided for the use of Racing Officials not as additional safety kits to supplement the equipment the Regatta should provide. In particular the Air Horns and Loud Hailers continued to be used by Regatta organisers and the safety Kits were often placed in Regatta supplied safety boats and as a result often got soaked. Regatta Secretaries were also reminded that they must check the kits before the Regatta. While the racing officials would be expected to check the kits as well it was usually, by then to late to solve any problems. Anther concern was tat Safety Boats were not always appropriately manned - and should be suitable for the role they had to perform. Regatta Secretaries also needed to ensure their was sufficient water to complete the program and not leave this to the racing officials to resolve. Better protection from the weather for Officials was also needed at some regattas and if shore based the area where the officials should be roped off from the general public and competitors. Regattas must also take responsibility for providing a boat and personal for any line adjustment needed and not rely on the race officials to do this and finally the need for pre-regatta briefings for Captains and Crews was stressed and was the Regattas responsibility. It was noted that all four assistant officials had officiated during the season.

The Association Secretary reported on the activities of the Safety Sub Committee since the Annual General Meeting including Club and Regatta audits and Boat Inspections and the ARA's changed plans for Club audits and incident reporting for 2007. The meeting was also advised about the extension to the Thames Boat ID system, the revised ARA Water safety code and the ROSPA investigation into Rowing safety. The Safety Sub committees plan to hold next years Safety Meeting on the Island, on the 5th February, so that the three Island Clubs could be re-audited was agreed by the meeting. [See Appendix 3. for copy of report - master copy only]

Colin Eales, Chairman of the Wessex Regional Rowing Council then gave a report on the regions activities – commenting on the work of the Regions ARA CDO, Coach development and Junior activity and on Ryde Rowing Club becoming the fist Rowing Club to win the CCPR Sports Club of the Year. The Region was also hosting the first Level 3 UKCC in Rowing in the country.

Division 22 ARA Representative Mike Green's then gave a brief report on the activities of the Amateur Rowing Association highlighting – how complimentary ARA Chair Di Ellis was about the South Coast Championships Regatta at Dorney: how the 2009. World Coastal Championships would probably be in Plymouth; that the ARA now had 104 staff and were very dependant on Lottery funding but had built up a financial reserve against redundancy payments. He also commented on the increase in ARA Affiliation fees up and the Whole sport plan which focused on Participation, participation, participation! Other issues that the ARA had debated were Bingo Lotto UK: National competitions: Regression: Use of Rowing machines by under 11's: Drugs and random testing outside of competition.

Arrangements for the Presentation Dinner on the 10th November, at the Novotel in Southampton, were well in hand and similar to last year. All Hants & Dorset ARA Championship Trophies were returned at the meeting except - those held by Coalporters, BTC, Itchen and Southampton and their delegates were asked to ensure that these were returned, in a clean condition in time for the Dinner. The traditional request was made that Ryde should bring the Bidiford Bowl to the presentation Diner.

The meeting then considered possible rule changes to go forward to the AGM for consideration. The date of registration was considered - currently seven days before the first H&D Regatta with the Association Secretary expressing the view that the 1st of January might be more appropriate with all Head Races now under the H&D banner but there were few in favour of this and no consensus reached. With regards to status comparison with the ARA - the Hants & Dorset had unilaterally introduced their new rules following the ARA's failure to comment once again - the only problem being that as a result the issue of regression for those who had too many points registered under the old scheme could not be addressed. It was suggested that those affected simply register a different number of points at ARA membership renewal and that a letter of support would be provided by the Association. It was noted that once again the ARA were considering changes to their points system which would involve further adjustment of our rules. Southsea requested some clarification and if necessary a rule change/addition to crews receiving an audible single on completion of a race with the suggestion that the first three to

finish should receive the signal. The Association Secretary agreed to review the exiting rule, to ensure the Officials meeting considers the point and to suggest a rule change/amendment if needed.

The format and organisation of Swanage Regatta was briefly discussed and the view expressed that the Regatta had gone well again this year organised by the Association and that this format should continue as long as the current group of volunteers were prepared to carry on. It was agreed that the Association Secretary would continue to coordinate the organisation, predominantly by E Mail. It was noted that the Regatta currently had funds of £776 which was pretty healthy however cost continued to rise and there was a lot of "good will" currently involved in funding the Regatta as well as the additional entry fee. The Association Secretary agreed to seek additional funding through local event sponsorship as the town currently contributes nothing.

The issue of involving the Swanage Gig Racing Club was also mentioned but no consensus reached.

Under Any Other Business the meeting discussed the Executive Meeting held after BTC Regatta to select the Association representative crews with several delegates expressing concern regarding what they viewed as a manipulation of the meeting by Coalporters to ensure that they did not have two crews selected to represent the Association in the Senior Ladies Championship event. The Executive Officers disputed this view pointing out that no proposal for two Coalporters Crews to represent the Association had been proposed and that Christchurch had shown enthusiasm to represent the Association and were rewarded accordingly. It was agreed that the appalling conditions in which the meeting was held was not helpful.

Other items of any other business included the continuation of the South Coast Seat Levy - which it was agreed should be an Agenda item at the AGM and the Officials Meeting, where it was agreed that the meeting would be held on the 12th January in spite of this clashing with the South Coast Council AGM.

There was no further "Any other business" and it was agreed the date for the Annual General Meeting would be on a Saturday in March, depending on the Southampton F. C. Fixture List and Rowing fixtures. The Association Secretary would make the final decision in consultation with his fellow Executive Officers.

With no other business the meeting closed at 3.20pm with thanks to Southampton A. R. C. Rowing Club for their hospitality.

H&D ARA Chairman.

[Minutes taken and written by Steve Bull, Association Secretary, 14/11/07].

ATTACHMENTS.

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

1. 2007 Regatta Season, Regatta Reports Summary.
2. SCC2007 report - master only.
3. Safety Sub Committee Report - master only.
4. Report from Dorney SCC. Organising committee.

The Association Secretaries Report on the 51st South Coast Rowing Championships, held at Dorney Lake, Eton, on Saturday, 8th September, 2007 and hosted by the Hants & Dorset ARA.

Our own Association, the Hants & Dorset ARA had the honour of hosting the 51st South Coast Rowing Championships and took the controversial decision to try and move the event to a new level by staging the Regatta on the International multi lane course at Dorney Lake, Eton, the venue for the 2006 World Rowing Championships and the 2012 Olympic Regatta. Right up to the day there was criticism of the choice of venue from the other South Coast Associations and from some within our own Association. But the organizing committee, drawn from eight of the Associations thirteen affiliated clubs remained focused on their primary objectives - to produce the fairest ever Championship Regatta, that all but guaranteed that all events would take place and to put the athletes first - to steal the World Championships tag line - "the athletes South Coast Rowing Championships"

Concerns over cost, accommodation, travel and social events proved to be, in my somewhat biased view, relatively unfounded and surely there can be little argument that this was the fairest South Coast Championship Regatta ever, with a fully buoyed, perfectly straight 2000m course with an even depth and a "stake boat" start. With 30 events - 16 in the Junior Regatta, 6 Championship and 8 supporting, involving 54 races staged in just over 7 hours of racing this must have been the largest South Coast Championship Regatta ever staged. There was a total of 246 Entries. 105 in the Supporting, 106 in the Junior and 35 in the Championship. The Hants & Dorset entered crews for all 12 Championship places as did the Coast ARA - with the West of England just having one veteran crew missing. The Hants & Dorset contributed 58 crews to the supporting events and 65 to the Junior Regatta. CARA had 40 crews in the supporting events and 23 in the Junior Regatta, the West of England with 7 crews in the supporting events and 18 in the Junior probably had one of their larger entries - comparable to when they are on home waters - but still disappointing - in particular the absence of next years hosts Plymouth, was noted - I am sure they anticipate and will expect the full support of H&D and CARA Clubs! Ignoring the undoubted doubling-up in the Junior Regatta and of coxswains in the Championships and supporting events the 47 singles, 27 doubles and 32 Quads entered in the Junior Regatta plus the 140 fours entered in the Championship and supporting events means that around 900 athletes competed on the day.

Unfortunately, from my boats marshals post I had a very poor view of the racing and I am indebted to, and thank John Bailey, who as one of the Regatta Controllers had an equally poor view, but still managed a detailed press report on the racing which I am pretty much quoting in full.

"The Hants and Dorset Crews excelled at the Regatta winning four out of the six Championship Titles including the magnificent Bideford Bowl for the Men's Senior Fours by Ryde and the Ladies Senior Title by Coalporters. Itchen Imperial won the Junior Senior Championship with Lymington returning to form to romp away with the Men's Junior Championship Title. The two remaining Titles going to Folkestone, who won the Veteran Championship, and Greenbank Falmouth who won the Ladies Junior Championship after narrowly beating Coalporters by ½ a length.

Mike Green, Chairman of the organising committee received congratulations from National Chair Di Ellis who was Regatta Guest of Honour and Olympic Gold Medal Winner Sir Matthew Pinsent who presented the Championship Prizes.

Both Ryde and BTC dominated the Senior Championship in a great race that had seen challenges from both Bexhill and Greenbank Falmouth brushed aside. But it was Ryde's Ben Ade, Mike Jenner, Matt Allsopp, Ian Hayden at stroke with Bryony Reeve coxing who proved the stronger winning by 1 ½ lengths from BTC, with Bexhill a further 4 lengths back, and who duly received the Bideford Bowl and the Championship Medals from Matt Pinsent to take back to the Isle of Wight for the first time for twenty years.

In the Ladies Senior Championship Event Coalporters Sarah Inskip (Bow), Laura Wheeler, Maddie Dunne, Sil Wallach (Stroke), Marie Carey (Cox) had unshakable confidence that allowed them to ease away from Greenbank Falmouth, who had matched them stroke for stroke for more than half the 2000 mtr. course, to win by just a length with Shoreham 3 lengths further back in third place.

In the Junior Senior Championship, Itchen Imperial's Jonathon Riceman (Bow), 2 Paul Joyce, 3 Mark Wardell, Luke Williams (Stroke) Elliot Weaver (Cox) took control at the halfway mark after Greenbank Falmouth, Eastbourne and Bexhill had all contested the lead, going on to add the Junior Senior Title to the Junior Title they won at Dartmouth last Season.

In the Junior Championship, Lymington's Robert Maltby (Bow), Thomas Springbett, Liam Oliver, Lewis Roberts (Stroke) Laura Viner (Cox) had the row of their lives. Leading from the start, they took the race by storm as they steadily pulled away from the pack to win by 2 lengths, with Hants and Dorset Champions, Christchurch, putting a late charge to gain second place 1 foot ahead of Exmouth."

The Ladies Junior Fours Championship saw a rare win for a West of England Club with Falmouth Greenbank taking the honours, while Hants & Dorset Champions Coalporters will be disappointed with their 2nd place as will Itchen with their 5th position. Perhaps Falmouth deserved something for their strong support of the Regatta with five crews involved in the Championship events.

The Coast ARA's only Championship win came in the Veteran Fours, with Greenbank Falmouth 2nd and the Hants & Dorset representative crews - Champions BTC and runners-up Poole, finishing in 3rd and 4th place respectively.

Further success for the Association came in the supporting events with wins for Lymington in the Veteran Fours and the Men's Novice Fours as well as a second in the Men's Senior Fours which was won by Deal with Newport 3rd. Coalporters were 2nd and 3rd in the Men's Novice Fours. Poole won a poorly supported Junior Senior Fours event and Itchen won the Men's Junior Fours with Christchurch second and Southsea 3rd. Coalporters achieved a Championship and supporting event double by winning the Ladies Senior Fours where Southsea were 3rd and Christchurch won the Ladies Junior Fours and Itchen the Ladies Novice event with Poole in third.

The Junior Regatta saw further wins for Hants & Dorset Clubs - Itchen Imperial taking the Girls J14 Single, the Girls J16 double and the Girls J14 double with BTC winning the Boys J 16 double, and Coalporters the Boys J16 Singles plus numerous 2nd and 3rd places which involved these three clubs plus Southampton, Christchurch and Poole.

The performance of the Hants & Dorset Clubs in the Championship and the supporting events saw the Association claim both aggregate trophies - the bass Charrington Shield for the Championship events - and the Port of Dartmouth sesquentennial Trophy for the supporting events. The Archie Fraser Trophy, awarded by the Association to the best performing Club in all the Championship and supporting events is shared by Lymington and Coalporters.

This South Coast Championships Regatta will be regarded as one of the best performances by the Hants & Dorset Rowing Association - both on and off the water. The Association was clearly the best represented and most successful of the three South Coast Rowing Associations and the association has delivered what I think was one of the best organised and staged Championships at one of, if not the best UK rowing venue. The atmosphere at the prize giving and post regatta party summed-up my view - there was enthusiastic support for the event and the winning crews from the Hants & Dorset Clubs in attendance. We should all take great pride in these achievements and congratulate all our competing crews and the event organisers. Follow that Plymouth!

CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS RESULTS

Men's Senior Fours Championship.

1 Ryde, 2 BTC, 3 Bexhill, 4 Greenbank Falmouth. 5 Herne Bay, 6 Dartmouth.

Men's Jun/ Sen Fours Championship.

1 Itchen Imperial, 2 Greenbank Falmouth, 3 Eastbourne, 4 Bexhill. 5 Southsea, 6 Bideford Blues.

Men's Junior Fours Championship.

1 Lymington, 2 Christchurch, 3 Exmouth, 4 Exeter, 5 Dover, 6 Hastings.

Veteran Fours Championship.

1 Folkestone, 2 Greenbank Falmouth, 3 BTC, 4 Poole, 5 Herne Bay.

Ladies Senior Fours Championship.

1 Coalporters, 2 Greenbank Falmouth, 3 Shoreham, 4 Exeter, 5 Deal, 6 Christchurch.

Ladies Junior Fours Championship.

1 Greenbank Falmouth, 2 Coalporters, 3 Exeter, 4 Shoreham, 5 Itchen Imp. 6 Bexhill.

SUPPORTING OPEN EVENTS RESULTS

Men's

Senior Fours 1 Deal, 2 Lymington, 3 Newport.

Veteran Fours 1 Lymington, 2 Hastings, 3 Christchurch, 3 Worthing.

Junior Senior Fours 1 Poole, 2 Bideford Reds.

Junior Fours 1 Itchen Imperial, 3 Christchurch, 3 Southsea.

Novice Fours 1 Lymington, 2 Coalporters, 3 Coalporters..

Ladies

Senior Fours 1 Coalporters, 2 Bexhill, 3 Southsea.

Junior Fours 1 Christchurch, 2 Folkestone, 3 Eastbourne.

Novice Fours 1 Itchen Imperial, 2 Worthing, 3 Poole.

SOUTH COAST JUNIOR REGATTA RESULTS

Girls J16 Coastal 1X 1 Dartmouth, 2 Folkestone, 3 Eastbourne.

Girls J14 1X 1 Itchen Imp., 2 Dart Totnes, 3 Coalporters.

Boys J16 Coastal Fours 1 Bideford Reds, 2 Deal A, 3 Herne Bay.

Girls J16 2X 1 Itchen Imp. 2 BTC, 3 Southampton A.

Boys J14 Coxed Quad Fours 1 Dartmouth, 2 Itchen Imp. A, 3 Itchen Imp. B.

Boys J16 1X 1 Dart Totnes, 2 Christchurch, 3 Itchen Imp.

Girls J14 2X 1 Itchen Imp A, 2 Christchurch A, 3 Christchurch B.

Girls J16 Coxed Quad Fours 1 Dartmouth, 2 Itchen Imp. 3 Bideford Reds.

Boys J14 1X 1 Deal, 2 Shoreham, 3 Dart Totnes.

Boys J16 2X 1 BTC, 2 Southampton A, 3 Southampton B.

Girls J14 Coxed Quad Fours 1 Herne Bay, 2 Poole.

Girls J16 Coastal Fours 1 Worthing, 2 Dover.

Boys J16 Coastal 1X 1 Coalporters, 2 BTC A, 3 Deal A.

Boys J14 2X 1 Dartmouth, 2 Shoreham, 3 Itchen Imp.

Girls J16 1X 1 Dartmouth, 2 Christchurch, 3 BTC A.

Report from the Water Safety Sub Committee to the Hants & Dorset ARA Autumn Delegates Meeting – 27th October, 2007.

The annual meeting of the Hants & Dorset ARA Safety sub Committee was held at the BTC Clubhouse on Saturday, 10th February and was fully reported on at the Associations AGM in March – which included a report from meetings of the national Water safety Committee which I attend on behalf of the Hants & Dorset ARA and as Wessex Region Water Safety Advisor.

Since this meeting I have attended a further two national safety Meetings one in April at ARA HQ in Hammersmith and one in July at the National Championships, in Nottingham. I did not attend the meeting in September as it was just one week before the South Coast Championships Regatta at Dorney and I had other things on my mind. The main business of the National Safety Meetings I did attend was the complete Revision of the Water Safety Code which is on going and should be completed and published next year. Plus the full ROSPA enquiry into safety in rowing prompted by the Spain and Reading incidents and the parents of Leo Blockley's campaign to improve boat buoyancy – and hold the ARA accountable for the tragic loss of their son – when in my view it is the Oxford University Lightweight Rowing Club who should bear the bulk of the responsibility. ROSPA are due to report in the New Year and this could have wide-ranging and disruptive consequences for the sport. The National Safety Committee has also agreed that the Annual Club Safety Audit and Incident Log Book summary year for 2007 will run from 1st January to 30th September and that the incident summary will become part of the safety audit. These will be due by 31st December and Clubs who have not submitted them on time risk suspension from the ARA – an approach which was very effective last year. I am pleased to say that after a little pressure all H&D Clubs complied with last years safety audit but the incident log book summary was disappointing – only four clubs responding – and if clubs fail to respond this year to both audit and log book summary suspension will follow. One other point to note nationally is that the tidal Thames boat identification system has now been extended to cover the whole of the Thames region – and it can only be a matter of time until the other River and Port authorities in the UK follow suite.

Turning to regional activity the Hants & Dorset ARA Safety Committee has continued to act as agents for the Wessex Regional Rowing Council with regards to safety matters. For the first time all major open events in the region were requested to and submitted safety audits – including three Heads and two Junior Regattas as well as the H&D Championship Regattas. All had to apply for a H&D Permit, were allowed use of the H&D Safety kits for their race officials and received a re-audit by a member of the safety sub Committee on the day of the event. There were no major safety issues identified during the re-audit process. Three Clubs within the region – BTC, Canford School and Bryanston School were also audited by the Sub Committee during the year. The Safety Committee also undertook random boat inspections at the Head of the Stour and at Shanklin, Poole and Southsea Regatta's as well as a 100% inspection of all boats at the South Coast Championship Regatta at Dorney. I am pleased to be able to report that there was no major safety issues found during these inspections but that a very lax attitude to heel restraints remains.

The H&D ARA supplied Safety equipment has suffered this year – and for once it is not the Loud Hailers that have come off worse – all three are still in working order – all be it that one of them was only purchased this year. The real problem has been the kits getting saturated on a regular basis which has ruined all three first aid kits which I have had to throw away. The use of the Air Horns by Regatta's for Judges when events should supply their own is also a continued annoyance. The exposure bags also need replacing or adding to as the current "space blanket" type is no longer recommended. I am also investigating the replacement of the current bags with proper waterproof bags and think I have found a suitable alternative at around £12 each – and have a sample that will be considered at the next safety meeting. The issue is that the kits are often not used as they should be. The Hants & Dorset ARA purchased the kits for the use of their racing officials at events – not as safety kits for the regatta supplied safety boats – which should be fully equipped anyway. The H&D safety kits are often used in safety boats – and are thrown into the bottom of these boats were they get soaked – as they are not currently in waterproof bags. Event Secretaries and safety Advisors are reminded that these kits are for race officials use only and it is your responsibility to provide appropriate safety equipment in your safety boats.

Finally the Safety Sub Committees plans for the 2008 safety meeting, as previously announced, are to hold the meeting on the Isle of Wight and to use this opportunity to carry out audits at Ryde – and at Shanklin and Newport who are the only H&D Clubs that have not yet been re-audited by the committee. The provisional date for this meeting and inspections is Saturday, 2nd February and I will be contacting the Island Clubs in the near future to firm this up.

Steve Bull.
H&D ARA Safety Sub Committee.
October, 2007.

REPORT TO THE HANTS & DORSET ARA ON THE DORNEY SOUTH COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS 2007.

1) INTRODUCTION.

The staging of the 2007 Regatta fell to the H&D ARA and there were no immediate local venues volunteered by Clubs in 2005. It was most rewarding to see the members of the H&D forum pick up the challenge and offer to organise and stage the Regatta at the 2012 Olympic venue of Dorney Lake near Windsor. This meant a break with some 50 years of tradition where coastal and river estuaries courses with all their uncertainties had become the accepted standard. Plus on more than one occasion inclement water conditions had seen open races cancelled, disappointing many athletes.

The Forum in its wisdom wished to stage a Regatta for athletes plus provide juniors with an experience of such events, to encourage enthusiasm and continue in the sport to race for the senior regatta medals and trophies in later years. So not only was the venue vastly different, but the introduction of a Junior Regatta was also a first for the South Coast.

It was amazing and encouraging how quickly some 14 volunteers came forward from 8 of the H&D Clubs and committed themselves without question to the challenge of staging a ground breaking regatta. Two big challenges immediately faced the Organising Committee that first met up on the 9th January 2006. These being the selling the concept to the other 2 South Coast Rowing Associations via the South Coast Council and the funding of the event.

Committee members were very aware of the traditional attitudes that prevailed in some quarters, which would provide careful and professional proposals, presentation and organisation. On the funding side this was to be the most expensive South Coast Championship staged by the H&D ARA, early estimates being in the order of £25,000.00. The Committee is deeply indebted to the H&D Clubs for underpinning the event and then agreeing to establish a working fund, by introducing a regatta seat levy over 3 seasons. In fact the H&D became a major sponsor with a sum of £6,753.50

From here the journey to the 8th September 2007 commenced, almost a mystery tour into the unknown at a venue some 90 miles away from any H&D Club.

2) ORGANISATION AND PLANNING.

The Organising Committee with its brief and solid backing from the H&D ARA commenced its monthly meetings at Itchen Imperial Rowing Club.

The Committee comprised Steve Bull, Tim Bull, Colin Eales, Colin Fagan, Chris Foad, Penny Glazzard, Mike Green, Gary Joyce, Malcolm Hume, Pete Jacobs, Sue Sothcott, Peter Staddon, Jackie Wardell and Deny Woodford.

Nick Chmarney and Kevin Ayles had to withdraw at an early stage for personal reasons.

Early meetings were of a brainstorming nature, which then moved on to individuals taking on responsibilities for Communications, Health & Safety, Programme, Merchandising, Transport & Car Parking, Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman, etc. Establishment of an early website was to prove a valuable communication tool throughout the period.

Two presentations to the South Coast Council at Christchurch and Dartmouth were well received and the first South Coast Junior regatta was also approved.

On the finance side, the preliminary budget showed that funding would have to be worked at, and costs controlled to ensure at least a break even outcome.

Hiring of Dorney Lake and its associated services, safety boats, umpiring boats, etc was presenting fixed costs that had little possibility of being changed.

Early in the summer of 2007 it was necessary to find additional sponsorship and this was achieved by firstly Henley Stewards Charitable Trust who donated £2000 to the Junior Regatta. At a very late stage the Awards for All application was also secured which provided another £6000 for the Junior Regatta. These sums permitted the Committee to carry out some additional expenditure that had been put on reserve.

Besides the two regattas, the Friday evening reception was organised to take place in the Lake Room of the Eton College Rowing Centre building. A free disco was also organised to take place in the same venue on the Saturday evening after the prize giving.

3) REGATTA DAY.

The weather for the day was dry and a little cloudy; with a light tail wind the water conditions were perfect for two good regattas.

With 210 entries for both regattas all advertised events took place.

The Junior regatta over the 1000 metre course, with free boat starts commenced dead on 10.00.a.m. and was completed with an over run of 10 minutes.

Mrs Di Ellis, CBE, Chairman of the ARA was good enough to present the trophies and medals to winners and runners up.

Results are included on the attached sheet.

The Senior regatta commenced at 1.00. p.m over the full 2000 metre course with stake boat starts. The Senior Men's Fours Championship race commenced at the programme time of 4.10. p.m. It was certainly a great thing to have the main race as the final Race of the day.

Sir Matthew Pinsent accepted our invitation to attend the prize giving and present the trophies and medals

Results are included on the attached sheet.

Many of you were there to see and enjoy the day, so enough said about the day.

We are sure the athletes had the water and course they deserved to compete at this level of event.

Surely it was an athlete's regatta.

4) POST REGATTA.

The Organising Committee has met once since the regatta for a wash up session and finalise the accounts for the H&D ARA.

It is hoped that any financial surplus will be used as a sinking fund for the next South Coast Championships to be staged by the H&D ARA in 2011.

There is evidence of sponsorship in the accounts. I would advise you there was also a considerable amount of indirect sponsorship, which a conservative value of £3000.00 would not be far short of the mark. Another such regatta might have to take this into account.

Firstly the Organising Committee would like to publicly thank the host of volunteers that assisted in one way or another before or on the day. One of these is Andy Giles who designed the magnificent Souvenir Programme.

Thanks are also extended to Ivor Lloyd and his staff team at Dorney Lake for their support and help throughout the whole regatta project.

It is believed there were some 100 plus volunteers helping on the day. Their work proved invaluable in staging what many consider to be the best South Coast Championship ever.

John Bailey also did us proud with his write up and photographs in the October edition of the Regatta magazine.

You will be pleased to hear that Di Ellis in her opening remarks to the ARA Council meeting on the 29th September congratulated the H&D ARA on staging such a professional and successful regatta.

5) FINAL NOTE.

Your Organising Committee in reviewing how the event went, were very positive in saying they would be prepared to stage another such Championship at Dorney Lake.