

H&D Association Autumn Delegates Meeting

Saturday 29th October 2022 – Itchen Imperial ARC

Attending: S Bull – H&D President and Ryde RC, P Staddon – H&D Chairman and Christchurch ARC, S Sothcott – H&D Treasurer & Poole ARC, Penny Budd – H&D Secretary & Coalporters, J Purkess – BTC RC, J Bailey – Southampton ARC, J Clarke – Newport RC, J Coulson – Newport RC, N Slater – Newport RC, M Sturgess – Newport RC, M Viner – Lymington ARC, A Barnes – Lymington ARC, K Warland – Coalporters ARC, P Newman – Bournemouth RC, P Jacobs – Poole ARC, C Eales – Southsea RC & SCC, James Barwell – Southsea RC, A Noice – Southampton ARC, J Mountford – Southampton ARC, P Kearney – Ryde RC, G Walters – Shanklin RC, J Denby-Roach – Shanklin RC, G Joyce – Itchen Imperial RC, M Bradbeer – Itchen Imperial RC, M Weeks – Christchurch ARC,

P Staddon opened the meeting with thoughts on the passing of Denis Woodford who passed away in September and his work and participation throughout his life for BTC, H&D and South Coast Council. J Purkess reported to the meeting that Denis' ashes were scattered in the River Itchen recently.

Item 1: Apologies: P Lock – Lymington & SCC Netley Chairman, A Williams – SCC Chairman, B Sivier – Southampton ARC, G Seward – Coalporters ARC, A Ratcliffe – BTC ARC, I Hutchings – Coalporters ARC,

Item 2: Minutes of previous meeting

- No matters arising from the minutes of the autumn meeting or AGM. Considered that the minutes submitted were a true reflection of the meetings. Minutes accepted – Proposed J Purkess, Seconded S Sothcott

Item 3: Correspondence – Penny Budd

- Letter from Coalporters ARC expressing the lack of results after each race at some regattas over commentary, particularly highlighting Newport Regatta resulting in crews and captains not knowing if they were through to the next round etc. Have passed to Race Officials meeting in January to discuss as Judges need to communicate with PA and also noted on regatta reports to Newport and will also communicate out to regatta secretaries any recommendations from Race Officials.
- Email from Graham Reeve at Ryde RC regarding lack of entries / possible ways in which to develop the season of racing. A development committee was convened with almost all clubs in attendance via Zoom at the end of September. Update on progress later on in meeting.
- Sarah McCorry stood down and handed over Association Secretary duties for CARA to Rebecca so have been dealing with her on all matters relating to our associations.
- Various correspondence with SCC / Paignton and entries for the South Coast Champs. Thanks to all championship crew clubs for getting their names into me so quickly, we were the only association to have their entries and crew names in at the specified time (even the host association didn't manage it!)

Item 4: Season Report 2022 – Penny Budd

After several seasons – bar Covid – in which we have enjoyed for the main part, good weather and conditions for racing, 2022 season was blighted by three months of strong, gusting southerly winds. Affected regatta's included Ryde – who endeavoured to get the regatta underway but after two races, succumbed to the strong onshore winds – Southsea who had to cancel and were unable to reschedule due to council restrictions and Poole who had to cancel again due to high winds but were able to reschedule later on the calendar but saw a significant drop in entries from the original date. Even courses which could run in strong winds saw challenging conditions such as Coalporters which had gusts of 35+mph in the latter stages of the regatta.

The Mens senior fours championship was retained by the Itchen Imperial crew with 6 wins and who also went onto retain their South Coast Championship in emphatic style. A fruitful season which also saw two of the crew members once again have a successful Henley Campaign in the pair. Runners up in the senior fours was BTC whose senior crew also dominated the Mens Masters 40 championship and then went onto win the Masters south coast championship – fittingly the Denis Woodford Cup.

The Ladies senior fours saw the BTC junior crew members step up into senior status and claim the H&D title with 6 wins to Christchurch's 2 wins. Christchurch would put up a tremendous fight at Paignton only to lose to Greenbank Falmouth in one of the closest championship races of the day.

The Mens Junior Senior event continues to see low numbers of entries with the last three regattas of the season having no races for this status. BTC won the championship with 4 wins and also won the South Coast Championship.

In the Junior fours, Itchen Imperial dominated from the start of the season winning the championship comfortably with 7 wins but late form from Coalporters with three wins saw them go on to clinch the south coast championship. The ladies junior fours went once again to a very strong BTC crew who won 9 of the 10 races.

Novice entries were lower than in previous years, especially in the first part of the season which could have been impacted by exam for school/university students. Coalporters took the overall Mens Novice Championship with three wins and they also shared the Ladies Novice Championship with BTC with two wins a piece.

Ladies Masters also suffered with lack of entries at some regattas this year but the championship at the end of the season was tied between Christchurch and BTC with three wins a piece. With Christchurch unable to compete in a row-off and not competing at the south coast championship, BTC took the H&D title for 2022.

Itchen Imperial retained the Mens Senior Pairs championship with 8 wins and Shanklin took the ladies title with 6 wins. In the mens junior pairs Southsea won the championship with 4 wins to closest rival Lymington's 2 wins and in the ladies championship Shanklin again dominated with 7 wins.

Shanklins strength in small boats showed again in the ladies sculls championship with the Faithful winning the ladies senior championship over her clubmate Batchelor and the island club also shared the Ladies Novice sculls championship with Lymington. Merritt-Smith from Southsea took the Ladies Junior sculls win which was closely contested with Shanklin. It was great to see ladies sculls once again competitive and have a ladies senior sculls championship which has not been awarded since 2019.

In the mens sculls event, Gibbs from Poole retained his Senior Sculls title only dropping one point throughout the season. Itchen Imperial won the novice sculls championship with a credible 3 wins for the club.

The only row-off for the H&D Championships was for the Mens Junior Sculls championship with Taylor from Itchen and Sturley from BTC sharing 4 wins each. In ideal conditions on the 17th September, both scullers rowed off with Sturley from BTC taking the win and the championship.

Entries across all regattas were down from previous years. A combination of exam pressures for students, family commitments and holidays all seem to have played a part. A meeting attended by most H&D clubs was set up in September after the South Coast Champs to discuss how the association can address this. Some clubs continue to be stretched coaching whilst others have good numbers rowing in the week, yet this does not transfer through to racing. Discussions on lifestyles, work commitments, other sporting or family commitments together with the length of season were identified and the committee is now in the process of trying to come up with proposals which will hopefully address some of these issues.

Whilst we are facing some challenges, some of the positives from the season must be highlighted.

Once again, the H&D Association was the most successful association at the south coast championships in the championship events, the open events and the junior events. Small boats entries have picked up from previous seasons and are being contested at high levels by younger athletes. Many of our rowers have competed successfully both within the H&D and also outside of the association at elite, junior and master level. We have also had athletes competing for their clubs and selected for GB at offshore events. The Itchen Junior regatta highlighted some excellent talent which is rowing and racing currently under the age of 18.

Finally, my thanks to Gary Joyce for once again collating all of the membership registrations and results which is an enormous job each year and requires an eye for detail.

Penny Budd – H&D Association Secretary

Item 5: Swanage Regatta – Steve Bull

(Report from S Bull attached to minutes)

- Southsea confirmed that an incident report was made for the collapsed sculler
- S Sothcott – first year Swanage has come in at a loss, only a small amount but still the first time. Entries have been down, we need to pay £75 to the council for the closure of Shore Road, First Aid cover has increased too. However, the main cost is safety cover as we have to hire safety launches but if any H&D club who can transport and man a safety boat this would make a significant cost saving. If there are any clubs that can supply, transport their own safety launch, please contact either Steve or Sue.
- P Staddon wanted to thank Steve Bull for once again organising Swanage regatta which is a huge job.
- M Sturgess asked where the revenue from Swanage comes from, S Sothcott replied that it is purely from entries. S Sothcott reiterated that clubs who currently do not help out with Swanage currently who could, this would help out significantly. J Bailey said that whilst Shanklin members can't be there early or bring safety equipment, they may have members who could help out with manning safety launches. M Sturgess said that local Swanage companies maybe considered for sponsorship? S Sothcott replied that they are contacted regarding the event but it is a big task.

- P Staddon also reiterated that we need help at the end of the day with clearing up and bringing all of the buoys etc in.
- M Bradbeer suggested increasing the Swanage entry fee with £2 per head to cover increased costs – based on this years costs, this would generate an additional £800
- **Action: Proposal to increase SWANAGE Regatta entry fees by £2 to cover costs – to be proposed at H&D AGM**

Item 6: South Coast Championship Regatta – Peter Staddon

- i) Paignton 2022
 - A very well organised event, mainly due to Rob Harris from Paignton and the communication to club captains via WhatsApp. Good Friday night reception and draw and well organised.
 - A good decision by Paignton to use coastal boats as it was quite rough mid-course and would not have suited river boats. There were a few queries on the finishing line but it was from photos on an angle not the actual line.
 - A good presentation and evening reception.
 - South Coast Council were pleased how everything was run.
- ii) South Coast Council Meetings
 - Met at the AGM in January and again at the site meeting in Paignton in April. Nothing significant to report.
 - Ladies Novice trophy has been lost by Exeter, they have confirmed that it will be replaced by Folkstone Championship and the SCC is going to get all of the history of previous winners names engraved on the new trophy.
 - C Eales said that lessons have been learnt from Dartmouth but the processes and south coast members currently in place have ensured that this has not happened and hopefully won't happen again.
 - K Warland raised the question if Deal had paid their outstanding fine? S Sothcott and C Eales believe that they have but will check.
 - Next meeting is Saturday 29th January 2023
- iii) Folkestone 2023
 - CARA are meeting today to discuss finalisation of details. It will be held on Saturday 16th September 2023.
 - Apparently, it is not quite the same course as previous championship in 2001
 - They are going to run it as a committee for the first time rather than club run as they have seen how successful this works from H&D hosted championships. Jeremy Holmes from Deal will be chairing the committee.
- iv) Proposed changes to SCC Rules
 - S Bull would like to propose the inclusion of a Ladies Masters Championship for the South Coast Championship. All of the meeting in agreement. CARA have got women's rowing on their meeting agenda today which includes ladies masters (as well as status sculling), Southsea, including Jeff Watling are attending and pushing the matter.

Item 7: Regatta and Events 2023

Possible changes / actions:

- Milford to see if they can move to the 29th April or 24th June which would mean Itchen could take 27th May
- Newport to check if they can run their regatta on 6th/7th June which would mean Ryde & Shanklin on the 20th / 21st May
- Woolston to check tides for Sunday 18th June to run double-header with BTC on 17th June
- Potential Bournemouth regatta (run by Poole) at Hamworthy Park on Sunday 23rd July (day after Poole)

(Dates in bold are confirmed / italics are to be confirmed)

Sunday 5th March – STOUR HERR

Saturday 11th March – BTC SPRING HERR

Saturday 25th March – SOUTHAMPTON COASTAL FOURS HERR

Saturday 29th April – Milford Regatta

Saturday 5th & 6th May – Newport Fours and Small Boats Regatta

Saturday 13th May – Christchurch Regatta

Saturday 20th May – Ryde Regatta

Sunday 21st May – Shanklin Regatta

Saturday 27th May – Itchen Imperial Regatta

Saturday 3rd June – Milford Regatta

Saturday 10th June – Coalporters Regatta

Saturday 17th June – BTC Regatta

Sunday 18th June – Woolston Regatta

Saturday 1st July – Swanage Regatta

Saturday 15th July – Southsea Regatta

Saturday 22nd July – Poole Regatta

Saturday 19th August – Woolston Regatta

Sunday 23rd July – Bournemouth Regatta

Item 8: South Coast Championship Netley 2024

- Pete Lock is Chairman, Tim Bull is Secretary, Sue Sothcott Treasurer.
- Next meeting via Zoom is Wednesday 23rd November, anyone who would like to join the committee (most meetings are undertaken by Zoom)

Item 9: Development Committee

- A meeting was held and attended by most H&D clubs about the development of the H&D association. There are minutes which will be circulated and some proposals.
- P Jacobs said that whilst we can come up with some proposals and ideas, we also need to come align with CARA and their proposals as they are also going through a similar process.
- A meeting will be held shortly to finalise proposals which can be reviewed with the idea of proposing them to the H&D AGM. Adam Ratcliffe will organise.

Item 10: Proposals for Rules changes

- No rule changes have been submitted to the meeting for being proposed at the AGM

Item 11: South Coast / H&D Handbook

- S Bull said that last years handbook reverted back to its normal version with the championship winners and results of the season. Looking to continue this forward and Jimmy Jewell is happy to work with Steve on it.
- J Clarke asked if this could also mean a revamp of the H&D website with more details to up the profile of the association which would also link into social media and possibly sell advertising/sponsorship. S Sothcott raised that most people would come through via British Rowing to find clubs rather than an association? A Barnes said that the website could be used possibly more effectively for promoting races and reporting on results of regattas.
- C Foad proposes to continue the handbook in its present format as it costs the association nothing.

Item 12: Race Officials Reports

- 12 coxswains collected points for the Cox of the Year – down from previous years and thoughts from many officials is that coxswains need more training for turns.
- Many crews also need boatmanship, they can row but cannot back down, especially off the line which makes starting a challenge.
- Programmes at some regattas weren't available for race officials. J Bailey asked to clarify what is the rules for regatta's? Rule 13 of H&D Rules of Racing states that a copy of the programme and draw needs to be published 7 days in advance of the regatta and hard copies should be provided on the day to all race officials officiating on the day.
- Turning buoys. There are still some regattas which race officials don't believe that there is 60ft apart.
- Umpires boat at the turn is ideally there to officiate not move buoys.
- Reported that several regattas had safety boats with only one person in safety launches, it actually requires two people for assisting/rescuing capsized crews.
- Still need more Assistant Race Officials but the ones which have come through have been excellent and should be put forward to become full racing officials.
- P Staddon raised the point that Christchurch have produced a comprehensive cox training course and asked Christchurch Captain if this could be circulated? P Newman has also done a booklet for new coxswains which he will send through to P Staddon.
- A Barnes feels that commentating needs to be tidied up as there are instances where results are given before confirmation from officials / results are not confirmed by officials etc.

Item 13: Safety Sub Committee – S Bull

Report has been circulated, report attached to accompany minutes – only updates:

- 15 out of 22 clubs have yet to submit annual BR audit and they have to be in 5th December. Steve also has to go through these prior to being confirmed. Until these audits are completed and assessed by S Bull, clubs will not be able to entre BR or H&D events.

Item 14: Wessex Regional Rowing

- No report submitted
- K Warland asked about the offshore rowing events in Saundersfoot. P Staddon attended both of the events which were run by British Rowing and FISA (British Champs the following by World Champs). It is vastly different from H&D races, the number of volunteers required is huge. A lot of the races start with the boat in the water which we couldn't do on many H&D courses. Over 60 officials working on the day both on and off the water. M Sturgess asked if this was a big push by British Rowing? P Staddon answered that yes, this is their main priority and looking to get it into Olympics 2028.

Item 15: H&D Championship Presentation arrangements

- All trophies have been returned, many thanks to Itchen for storing these.
- Tickets and menu choices to be submitted tonight to Paula Williams.

Item 16: Any other business

- J Bailey requested that when clubs present trophies, can they check that there is sufficient plate area for new engraving. P Budd to send a memo out to all clubs reminding them to start getting their engravers done now, rather than a few weeks prior to the AGM.
- J Clarke are the H&D looking to raise seat entry fees for 2023? P Staddon said clubs need to review their regatta entry income for this year and decide if this is required.

ACTION Put on for discussion for AGM

Item 17: Date and place of H&D AGM

Saturday 25th February 2023 at BTC ARC

With thanks to Martin Bradbeer, Gary Joyce and Kate Taylor of Itchen Imperial for hosting and providing lunch.

Meeting finished 12:51