

Hants & Dorset Amateur Rowing Association Autumn Delegates Meeting

Saturday 16th October 2021 – Itchen Imperial Rowing Club

Attending: *P Staddon – H&D Chairman & Christchurch RC, S Bull – H&D President & Ryde RC, S Sothcott – H&D Hon Treasurer, P Budd – H&D Hon Secretary, J Bailey – H&D Trustee & Southampton ARC, I Hutchings – H&D Trustee & Coalporters ARC, K Warland – Coalporters ARC, J Purkess – BTC ARC, A Ratcliffe – BTC ARC, M Viner – Lymington ARC, H Mills – Lymington ARC, B Sivier – Southampton ARC, P Newman – Bournemouth RC, P Jacobs – Poole ARC, A Noice – Southampton ARC, C Eales – Southsea RC & South Coast Hon Secretary, O Starkey – Southampton ARC, J Bailey – Shanklin RC, P Glover – Shanklin RC, G Joyce – Itchen Imperial RC, M Bradbeer – Itchen Imperial RC, G Seward – Coalporters ARC, M Westmore – Newport RC, M Sturgess – Newport RC*

Minutes of the meeting

Item 1: Apologies

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting from *A Williams – Chairman South Coast Council, A Parsons – Chair H&D Race Officials, A Jewell – H&D Life Member, J Watling – Southsea RC & Secretary of Wessex & SE Coastal Regional Rowing Council*

Item 2: Minutes of 2020 Autumn Council Meeting on 14/10/20, Minutes of AGM 27/03/21 and End of Season Council Meeting 25/08/21.

- Matters arising: Minutes were circulated to clubs and delegates prior to the meeting. No matters arising.
- PJ proposed to accept minutes and KW seconded motion.

Item 3: Secretary's Report and Correspondence

- Correspondence. There has been the usual correspondence during the season with various clubs and WEARA & CARA on championship tables as the races panned out. Correspondence with the South Coast Council of nominated championship crews to represent the H&D together with the Associations' agreed proposal to reduce the number of race qualification from three to two races for specific crews due to Covid. The proposal was agreed and accepted by the SCC council.
- The Hon Secretary received in the last 10 days two letters. One from K Warland expressing concern over the behaviour of two members from BTC ARC to race officials/regatta control at the end of Coalporters regatta in full view of competitors, spectators and children. P Budd and S Bull were the two officials it related to and both stated to the meeting that whilst it wasn't a pleasant exchange at the time, both left the regatta believing it to be a 'heat of the moment' incident. PB did add that she wasn't aware until returning home that her own children had witnessed it which did make her question the incident. JP issued an apology on behalf of BTC of any distress caused and said that he would look into the matter with the club.
- The second letter was from Coalporters ARC requesting the Association look into the timings of race scheduling where novice races run after junior events making it hard for novices to row up a status in order to help crews race, without impacting on results. PB advised that a possible solution to a rule amendment for novices was being tabled later in the meeting which will deal with this situation.

Item 4: Report on the 2021 Season – Report submitted by P Budd

The 2021 season was scheduled to go ahead with twelve regattas but by March after the third lockdown and the ongoing restrictions, it was becoming apparent that some regattas may not be able to go ahead. The government produced a roadmap out of lockdown which would allow regattas to potentially go ahead from the last week in June which meant that the May and June regatta's would be affected.

The H&D Exec committee met on a regular basis to work with the regatta organising committees to try and reschedule as many of the regattas as possible and also support those in the latter part of the season dealing with the local authorities and their newly introduced covid risk assessments. It is safe to say that the increased paperwork and additional protocols for making an event as covid secure as possible was a huge challenge and vastly increased workload for organising committees.

Two regattas had to omit sculls and small boats due to covid restrictions on space (Swanage) and restricted time due to rescheduling (Coalporters) but in total eight regattas were held with championships being awarded in all classes apart from Senior Ladies Sculls (only one race was held).

Worries of lack of entries and the fitness of competitors due to lockdown and a lost 2020 season were soon abated with high levels of entries in most categories, especially the novice status'. The ladies senior fours and ladies masters fours had the most entries in recent years but the Junior Senior and Ladies Senior Scull section continues to have low entries.

With a reduced racing season it was inevitable that some championships would have to be decided at a row off and we saw the WS4+, MS21 and MS1x championships decided on the last weekend of August.

I feel it is a testament to all of the clubs, coaches and athletes that all, bar five, of the junior, open and championship events at the south coast championships were won by H&D crews with all other placed crews providing both close and high quality racing.

We will await to see how, if any, Covid protocols and restrictions develop and possibly impact on the 2022 season, but for now, we continue to plan a full racing season and hope to see the continuation of development of new members in all status' and high quality racing.

Penny Budd - H&D Association Secretary October 2021

Item 5: Swanage Regatta – Report submitted by S Bull

Once again, on behalf of the Association can I thank you all for the part you played in what I believe was, in the circumstances, a really successful regatta. Its popularity remains as high as ever - in spite of making it a fours only Regatta - according to my records we had 97 entries!

The Covid-19 precautions and procedures we put in place seemed to work reasonably well - although social distancing was something of a challenge! A special thank-you to Sue who put in an enormous amount of work in the days before the regatta to put all these procedures in place and liaised extensively with Swanage Town Council to agree everything and make sure it all came together on the day.

It was to the great credit of the Race Officials and the competitors the regatta started on time and finished more or less on time - and presenting the prizes after each event meant we all escaped from the Regatta at a reasonable time - and maybe we should consider this the way forward. The conditions held up well - although we had bouts of rain throughout the day. But it was calm in the bay - a little rougher by the buoys. There were a few minor protests but no re-rows. All the volunteers did their jobs exceptionally and the hire services all performed to expectations - Marshes for the Umpires Boat, First Response for the First Aid Cover and Pier Watersports for the additional safety coverage.

Also we did not have a repeat of some of the previous year's issues - and the tidy-up and litter clearance - policed by Southsea worked well - and I can't believe there is any possibility of a repeat of the complaint received a few years ago - I think the beach was clearer when we left than when we arrived? The changes that we put in place, at Swanage Town Councils insistence regarding vehicle and trailer movement, policed by Coalporters after Southampton had to withdraw, appeared to work well. Another arguably less significant issue that needs addressing is the clash of radio channels with the local yacht club and moored boats on the course - although this was less of a problem this year.

The risk of thanking Clubs and individuals is that I will miss someone - but here goes - the Race Officials, Controllers and Commentators of course - including Assistant Jo Fucio who did a great job of boat marshalling - helping to keep the regatta on time; BTC for the PA system; Denny Woodford for the Trophies; Sue for contact with Swanage Council - and so much more - plus Alison and Clare from Poole at Regatta control; Poole for the Control Tent, the Tables and chairs. Christchurch and Lymington and Pete Locke for safety boats; Pete Staddon from Christchurch for laying the course - with Pete Lock's - help plus Pete for all the other things he does - Radios, Boat Marshal, receiving and sorting out the cups etc... etc.; Tim Bull - for the program and more; Ryde & Josie for the Officials lunches; Coalporters for manning the gate; Itchen/Gary for checking and bringing the safety kits and officials Life Jackets; Kevin and Sharon from Neaves for storing the buoys and weights and a special thank you to Kevin for commentating all day and Southsea for policing and undertaking the litter clear-up. I will have missed someone - sorry!

I am not aware of any significant safety issues - with no BR Incident Reports raised to my knowledge. There were a number of fairly minor incidents treated by the First Aiders in attendance.

As always the Association welcomes any constructive criticism or suggestions for improvement.

I hope I can rely on you all again next year.

With the **thanks** of the Association once again.

Steve Bull - H&DARA & Swanage Regatta.

Item 6: South Coast Championships

6.i – South Coast Championship 2021 - Netley

- J Purkess as Chairman of the SCC Netley organising committee began by thanking all of the associations clubs and volunteers for helping put on one of the most successful SCC in recent times. He has received very positive feedback from both CARA and WEARA representatives on the course, the organisation, the venue and the reception/presentation evening. He also told the meeting that the venue, Royal Victoria Country Park were very happy with the organisation and the clear up of the venue and would be happy to welcome us back. JP reiterated that the way in which H&D organise South Coast regatta's, as a committee and not relying on individual clubs, has proven to be a successful formula and one which the other associations are keen to adapt but suffer from lack of volunteers. P Staddon wanted to echo JP's thanks to the clubs and individuals who helped make it such a success and that the South Coast Council had nothing but praise for the event.

6.ii – Report on South Coast Council Meetings

- A Williams, Chair of the SCC sent his apologies to the meeting but had asked for the following to be discussed / added to the minutes:

At present I am in communication with Bideford Regatta Committee to seek agreement to have the access to the Bideford Bowl for the purpose of various prize giving and other events. One option is that the Bideford Council can change the current insurance policy to allow SCC access for prize giving and other events. The other is to agree a loan agreement. I have issued this for their consideration. This is based on secure storage at Christchurch Rowing club and SCC take out the insurance policy in simple terms. In the background there is a small group within SCC supporting me in looking at the insurance options and the legal agreement that has issued. I can't promise, but we are seeing if we can have the Bideford Bowl at the H&D Dinner.

All the other SCC Trophies have been insured.

Please can I ask all H&D clubs to advise Colin Eales by the end of the year if they are able to loan or give away any coastal boats and oars that are in good condition for the Paignton SCCR in 2022 so this can be discussed at the SCC AGM in January 2022.

6.iii Consideration of changes to SCC rules

- There was no motions to consider changes to the SCC rules from the H&D

Item 7: Approval of Regatta and HRR dates for 2022

- PB had circulated the proposed dates for the 2022 season based on the clubs request for dates. PB pointed out that the IOW regatta's of Ryde & Shanklin will fall on the Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend due to tidal conditions so ferry crossings/accommodation will be busy/expensive.
- The meeting all agreed in favour of the dates as below for the 2022 season.

6th March 2022 – Stour HRR

19th March 2022 – BTC Spring HRR

2nd April 2022 – Southampton Coastal Fours HRR

14th May 2022 – Milford-On-Sea (Lymington) Regatta

21st May 2022 – Christchurch Regatta

4th June 2022 – Ryde Regatta

5th June 2022 – Shanklin Regatta

11th June 2022 – Swanage Regatta

18th June 2022 – Coalporters Regatta

25th June 2022 – Southsea Regatta

2nd July 2022 – Poole Regatta

16th July 2022 – Woolston Regatta

30th July 2022 – Newport (Fours) Regatta

31st July 2022 – Newport (Small Boats) Regatta

13th August 2022 – BTC Regatta

20th August 2022 – Itchen Regatta

10th September 2022 – South Coast Championships – Paignton

A full list of dates including autumn racing will be published after the meeting.

Item 8: Report of preparations for Paignton South Coast Championships

- P Staddon reported that preparations for Paignton 2022 are well underway and the organising committee had already provided the Council with very in depth information on course venues, including reserve courses etc. PS has a copy of the report if anyone wishes to view it. PS wanted to reiterate that WEARA clubs will struggle for boats and so any help clubs can provide if they have any 'spare' coastal fours would be greatly appreciated.

Item 9: Report from H&D Rules & Competitions Sub Committee

- G Joyce reported that due to lockdown and then a depleted season, the Rules and Competitions committee have not recently met.
- Southampton ARC had also asked for the Association to look into a points system for the season, rather than just the emphasis being on the Championship and runner-up position. GJ replied that the competitions sub-committee had started looking into this prior to lockdown and so the 2021 season was the first time he has started to look into points being accrued by clubs for places other than 1st, 2nd, 3rd and how this would look as an aggregate. GJ will continue into the 2022 season but perhaps the sub-committee should meet and discuss any other relevant ideas prior to the season?

Item 10: To discuss any possible rule changes for discussion and approval at the AGM

- P Budd requested that the delegates consider a rule change to when a novice rower status changes to junior status. An incident occurred at Southsea Regatta where a ladies novice rower had also rowed in the ladies junior crew in order to let the junior ladies field a crew. Due to race scheduling, the Junior ladies final was two races prior to the novice ladies final. The Junior ladies crew won their race and then the individual went out and also won with her novice crew. It was flagged up to the officials who had no choice to disqualify the novice crew and therefore their win due to the scheduling of the races. Whilst it is unworkable for regatta secretaries to schedule racing in order to accommodate this, P Budd proposed adopting a similar rule that is used on the river, where a novice win does not come into effect until midnight of the day of the race – therefore, eliminating the possibility of having to disqualify a crew due to racing schedules. All of the delegates were in favour of adopting this rule

which helps encourage more participation in novice and junior events. GJ will write the ruling up and this will be proposed for approval at the AGM to come into force for the 2022 season.

- G Joyce also reported that it had come up about the length of a coastal four and should it include the rudder? After discussion with S Bull and the H&D Exec, it was agreed that the length of 30ft would not include the rudder based on the fact that when the rule was introduced, coastal fours had to fit into the mail carriages of trains for transportation and therefore, the hull length should not change, irrespective of differences in rudder design. All delegates agreed that this should be clarified in the rules and GJ will draft the new wording for approval at the AGM.

Item 11: South Coast Rowing / H&D Handbook

- S Bull reported to the meeting that he was happy to once again with the help of J Jewell to facilitate and organise the handbook. Last years was produced using historical write ups from clubs which worked well as there were no results to report on.
- All agreed that it was a valuable record of the season along with a useful contact information. It was noted that if individuals did not wish for their contact details to be included, they needed to notify S Bull.
- The meeting agreed to the production of the handbook for 2022.

Item 12: Report from Race Officials Committee – A Parsons

Early season racing was reduced due to Covid – but racing resumed in July with the Association’s Swanage regatta and continued through the rest of the summer. Here are a few points and observations that I picked up from the umpires regatta reports:

Newport ran its 2 regattas with too few officials so we will need to see how we can support the regatta better next year. I would just say to the organisers, if you are short of support from officials, please get in touch and we can see if we can get more to make themselves available.

A couple of problems with turns buoys too close together causing difficulties for crews even when they turned correctly – the rules require a minimum 60ft between buoys, but if greater spacing is possible it will reduce unwanted turns incidents.

With everyone a bit rusty, there was the unfortunate list of disqualifications for wrong buoys turned, buoys turned anticlockwise and non regatta buoys being turned in error (including a random lobster pot in one report!) so I’d just ask that coaches and captains train all racing crews in turns rules and also get coxswains and scullers to take a look at the turns buoys from the shore before they race please. It would save a lot of disappointment.

Communications were generally good at all of the regattas (although some sailor calling himself Swan2Swan2 kept interrupting Swanage regatta with queries about his small yellow sausage buoy(?)). Some improvements could be made in keeping the lonely officials out on the water updated with results, draws and programme changes. It might be worth developing the current informal, social media based information exchanges to give all officials and clubs easy access to the most up to date programme information.

Only a couple of instances of bad language that I’m aware of – but as ever we need to protect our sport’s public image by not tolerating it at all.

A suggestion from a CARA umpire – CARA safety kits include binoculars for umpires, could ours?

And in other news:

Examination of Race Officials was postponed last year (only Pete Staddon and Alan Stewart as candidates) to 2021 and thanks and congratulations go to the candidates who all passed the written exam in the spring of 2021 (promoted assistant officials with asterisk): Alan Stewart, Carole Wall, Pete Staddon, Alex Robertson*, John Purkess, Penny Budd, Alison Houlton, John Adams, Garry Walters*.

Current list is 16 full race officials, 6 confirmed assistant race officials.

On a personal note: As I said a year ago, I will step down from the role of chair of umpires committee at the 2022 AGM, so some thoughts on a new chairperson are needed please.

Andy Parsons – Chair H&D Race Officials

Item 13: Report from Safety Sub Committee – S Bull

BR, National Safety Committee and National Safety Committee (NSC) Meetings. There have been no “face to face” National safety Meetings for around 18 months – although we had held brief National safety Meeting most months via Zoom and I “attended” most of these.

There are no current plans to resume “Face to Face” meetings that I am aware of – the staging of Zoom Meetings certainly saves time and money and are probably as effective.

Among the matters discussed at NSC Zoom Meetings was – RowSafe, incidents of interest, the club audit, Clubs/Events of concern (none in Wessex), Event Safety plans and the incident reporting system – where agreed improvements have not yet been made due to lack of IT resource at BR.

The governance issues i.e. the terms of office of representatives appears to have reappeared and this may effect my position in the future – but this is still under discussion – especially with replacement volunteers in all regions hard to recruit.

The Hon. BR Water Safety Adviser (HRSA) - Stephen Worley sends out a monthly report which is forwarded to Club RSA's and the BR Safety Alerts which Club RSA's should receive direct from BR - are also sent out again by the RRSA to try and ensure they are not missed.

Annual BR Club Audit. All Wessex region clubs duly completed the 2020 BR Club audit – more or less on time. All the audits are archived on BR's google drive which RRSA's and CRSA's have access to and where Clubs & Event Risk Assessments are also archived. But note - to be of value the BR database needs Club Management information to be up to date - a Club responsibility.

The 2021 Club Audit – went live on or around 4th October and closes on 16th November. The RRSA is supposed to Accept / Accept with provisos / Rejects – the audit within two weeks of receipt. Cut-off - and suspension from racing in BR events for non-compliance will take place 6th December. There are no significant changes to the questions this year. Soft reminders would be sent – by E Mail – along with Guidance for use of Google Folders. Reports will be sent out to RRSA's, by region, in CSV / Excel format. CWSA are reminded that they have to upload their completed Audit to their BR Google Folder along with copies of Risk Assessments, safety plans etc....

H&D Safety Meeting. The Hants & Dorset Club Safety Meeting was held over Zoom on the 27th February, was well “attended” and seemed to be pretty successful.

Event Safety Audits. All H&D (Wessex) events that took place submitted an event safety audit with risk assessments, safety and communication plans - and emergency plans accompanying most. These were reviewed and approved by the RRSA and if requested BR were advised so that the BR Event Public Liability insurance would be issued by BR on payment of the appropriate fee.

Incident Reporting. In the period from 1st January to 30th September I have records of ninety-two incidents (92) in the Wessex Region of which 7 were linked leaving eighty-five (85). Of these only four were recorded by CARA Clubs (they would appear to be remarkably safe!) leaving 81 incident recorded by Wessex West Region/H&D Clubs of which sixty-three came from Hants & Dorset Clubs and eighteen from Wessex West Clubs. There is probably still an element of under reporting – and I had to remind a number of Clubs about incident I was aware of that had not been initially reported. Of the 81 incidents submitted by Wessex/H&D

Clubs 3 related to H&D ARA Equipment inspections. These will be analysed in detail along with those reports received between 1st October and 31st December - at the 2022 H&D ARA safety meeting which is scheduled to be held at Southampton and will probably be held in February and be a "face to face meeting - when I would also hope to have some national statistics available.

There were only four incidents reported from events – but I have not seen the Race Officials Reports for this season so I do not know if more incidents were recorded by Race Officials – but again I suspect that there is under reporting here.

As of 31st September there were also seven Wessex/H&DARA Clubs had not recorded any incidents at all in 2021 – Shanklin, Dolphin, Ryde School Boat Club, Winchester College, Bournemouth University, Portsmouth University and Canford School – although it is not clear how active all of these Clubs are. All Hants & Dorset Clubs except Shanklin and Bournemouth – who were not active - recorded at least 1 incident. The most incidents recorded – at 25 was Christchurch. Bryanston School were second with 16. All the others were in single figures.

Boat inspections at H&D/Wessex Events. Unannounced and random boat inspections were undertaken by the H&D ARA Safety Committee at only three H&D events during this reduced season – BTC, Woolston and Itchen Regatta's. A total of 58 boats of all types were inspected with 9 faults found - some boats having more than one fault.

As ever the largest fault found was heel restraints – in fact all 9 faults found were with heel restraints. A full heel restraint check on every boat present was undertaken at Woolston Regatta - with 43 boats and 7 faults found. The safety Sub Committee were unable to complete a full inspection of Coxswains Life Jackets this year. The BR incident reporting system was used to summarise the results of the boat inspections once again and by opening these for comment ensured the Club Safety Advisers were advised of the issues with their boats as quickly as possible and could comment - and some did! The National Safety Committee continue to regard this as an example of good practice and are encouraging other regions to adopt this system. Seven Clubs – Lymington, Newport, Poole, Ryde, Shanklin, Southampton and Southsea - went through the inspection process with no faults found during any of the boat inspections but due to the limited extent of the season and boat Inspections and because there was no Life Jacket inspection this season we will not be awarding any awards at the H&DARA Presentation Dinner this year.

H&D Race Officials Safety Equipment. Although not returned yet for their end of season inspection and refurbishment it is believed that the H&D ARA Safety equipment has survived another season fairly intact although there will be the inevitable wear and tear. New boxes have been provided for the Loud Hailers to try and give them more protection. All the Life Jackets were professionally serviced prior to the season - and the intention remains to do this annually. The Association owned Defibrillator is still operational – and is kept with the Life Jackets - but has thankfully not been needed.

Steve Bull - Wessex Region Safety Adviser and Hants & Dorset ARA Safety Committee.

Item 14: Report from Wessex & SE Coastal Regional Rowing Council

- J Watling sent his apologies for the meeting as he is away racing but did send the notes from the recent September meeting for discussion to a possible competition review:

Following on from this meeting Roger (Smith), Bob (Noakes) and Jeff Watling had an e-mail discussion and agreed to write to H&D and CARA Secretaries asking for the possibility of review to be raised at Autumn/Half Yearly Council meetings. Questions to include:

- how do we develop the sport so that we can have an increased participation?
- how do we take into account the growing impact of FISA boats, and potentially of fixed seat rowing? Do H&D and CARA want to extend their remit to cover all types of boat, or to remain with traditional coastal boats with informal links across into FISA boats and fixed seat rowing?

- how do we establish a clear set of relationships between H&D and CARA and Wessex SE Coast Regional Committee, so that it is clear how they interact?
- Do CARA and H&D wish to work together or separately on these issues or could they have joint development subcommittees via Zoom, at least to see if there is common ground.
- It was discussed that all of the points raised were valid and one for consideration, maintain the dialogue with Wessex and therefore CARA etc. to form both best practice and increase participation in events other than association regattas.

Item 15: Arrangements from Presentation Dinner 13th November

- P Williams has been sending out booking forms for clubs along with dietary requirements and so far, looking like a good turn out.
- M Bradbeer and P Budd will organise all H&D trophies to the venue.
- Lymington will be hosting the guest speaker duties and announced that Livy Bull will be guest speaker for the evening.

Item 16: Any other business

- M Sturgess from Newport reported to the meeting that Newport are wanting to resurrect the Medina Head Race in the autumn of 2022 but any help in organising would be greatly appreciated. At this stage, it is not known what format / events will be offered.
- H Mills from Lymington announced that Lymington ARC will be organising their first Coastal event for all coastal boat types including FISA boats at a date planned for April. H Mills to confirm the date and have it included in the fixture list.

Item 17: Date for Annual General Meeting

- P Budd reported that no fixed date for the AGM is in place but the Exec Committee will look at dates including Southampton FC fixtures and will notify clubs as soon as it is confirmed but will be mid to late March 2022.

P Staddon thanked Itchen Imperial for hosting the meeting and catering.