

The Minutes of the Hants & Dorset ARA Autumn Council Meeting, held at the Itchen Imperial Rowing Club, Southampton, on Saturday, 13th October, 2018.

There were 33 delegates in attendance when the Chairman, Martin Bradbeer opened the meeting at 10.35am.

Prior to the start of the Meeting the Chairman and Association Secretary confirmed the requested return of the H&DARA Championship Trophies and advised the Clubs that still had Trophies that had not yet been returned.

Apologies were received from – Gary Joyce of Itchen and Andy Parsons of Coalporters & Chairman of the Umpires Committee. There were no representatives present from Dolphin or Worthing Rowing Clubs – all other H&D ARA Clubs and events being represented.

The Minutes of the previous Autumn Council 19th October, 2017 which had been circulated in advance of the meeting were agreed to be a true record and approved on a proposal from John Bailey, seconded by Colin Eales. The matters arising from this meeting, the AGM of 24/3/18 and the Council Meeting 4/8/18 were considered and agreed as follows –

Matters Arising from the last Autumn Council Meeting of 19/10/17 –

- the First boat from Southampton mold to be built by Burgashell had still not been completed;
- The agreement that the Association should purchase a Defibrillator to be passed from event to event along with the Race Officials Safety Kits and Life Jackets had now been implemented – as of 13/10/18 it was believed only Christchurch had not made their £68.50 contribution.
- BR never responded to the complaint about the need for full BR Membership to enter and the entry and boat hire fees in the Offshore Coastal Championships although “Silver” BR membership was accepted.
- There has been some progress with regards to a venue for the next H&D SCC in 2020 which is the subject of a separate agenda item.

Matters Arising from the last meeting – the AGM of 24/3/18 –

- In the absence of a Web site for the 2018 Championships at Deal all available information was posted on the SCC section of the H&DARA web site as it became available.
- The additional H&DARA Championship medals approved had been presented.
- The dispute between the H&DARA and BR regarding the use of their public liability insurance for H&D events was resolved as BR capitulated after the H&DARA challenged their decision.
- Worthing R. C. had now paid their H&DARA Affiliation fees and the arrears.
- The expected request from CARA to purchase some of the H&DARA SCC Championship medals was never received.
- There had been little progress with regards to succession planning for the role of Association Secretary.
- The handbook was duly completed, published and distributed.
- Bournemouth Regatta duly took place at Hamworthy Park, Poole, on the 4th August organized by Poole and with the support of the Association.
- The dates of the BR Offshore Rowing Regatta were kept clear as requested by British Rowing.
- Swanage Regatta – Southsea took on the role of policing the litter clearance and Itchen had undertaken the repairs to some of the Swanage Regatta Trophies as agreed at the meeting.
- There were no issues during the season regarding translation between BR’s PRIs and HD Status.
- The Revised Excel based H&D Entry was successfully trailed during the 2018 season.

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- BR Coastal Rowing Championships 17th and 18th August - BR looking for support from Coastal clubs. Some limited support provided but BR failed to provide details of what was required when requested.
- I assume the agreed £300 contribution to the Wessex Region by the Association has been paid?
- The damaged H&DARA Large Marker Buoys used at H&D events and owned by the Association have been repaired – but eventually would need to be replaced.

Matters Arising from the last meeting – the Council Meeting of 4/8/18 –

- Eventually Coalporters in the Senior Men and BTC in the Junior Ladies were confirmed additional H&D Crews in the Championship events.

The Association Secretary then gave his report and commented on correspondence received [*see attached/Appendix 1*].

The 2018 Regatta Season and Regatta's were reviewed – see summary attached which includes a comparison of entry numbers at H&D ARA Championship Regattas only (not Head races or junior events) – entry at close of entry plus late entries, but excluding scratchings - in 2018 with 2017 which shows that – there was a small increase in entries – from 1656 in 2017 to 1670 in 2018. [*Appendix 2.*] A summary of the reports received from race officials at the 2018 events – plus any other correspondence received had been previously circulated - the views expressed, and details shown being taken from the Race Officials reports and are not necessarily being the views of the Hants & Dorset Executive Officers. The summary covered the most significant incidents, safety related incidents, and deviations from H&D Rules and procedures expressed in the Race Officials reports. Copies of all reports have been sent to Event Secretaries & the Chairman of the Race Officials Committee. Prior to the discussions on the individual events the Association Secretary made some general points -

Under reporting, via the BR Incident Reporting System, which is an obligation by Clubs remains an issue – Race Officials reports often indicate several incidents at an event with less than half having a corresponding BR incident report. At the H&DARA Championship Regattas there were 34 separate incidents reported in the race Officials reports – but only 15 corresponding BR incident reports. This will be the subject of further discussion at 2019 H&DARA Safety meeting scheduled to be held at Coalporters in February.

Late payment of entries fees. The H&D Rules states that - 7.1. All entries must be submitted on the Association forms by the competing club together with the entry fee. The Association Treasurer, Sue Sothcott stated that having run 3 Regatta this year she was fed up with chasing the fees in and that the same clubs who are always late with their entry fees with Itchen, Christchurch and sometimes Shanklin mentioned. The meeting agreed that it may be appropriate to consider some form of financial penalty for late payment of entry fees and that the Rules Sub Committee would look at this. Non-payment of South Coast Levy. The Treasurer advised that all events had now paid.

There were very few additional comments made at the meeting – Coalporters – safety concern regarding crews climbing over the rails for boat changes – a hand rail or rope should be provided; Christchurch – the line-up of the turning buoys was always contentious; Woolston - the program changes were contentious and there was concerns raised about sailing boats on the course at the start of the Regatta; Itchen Junior – only just held so no reports received or analysed as yet – but regarded as a very good and well run regatta although there was a fairly serious safety incident when a safety boat ran into a Poole quad.

The meeting then considered the Association Secretaries report on Swanage Regatta [*See attached – Appendix 3.*] and the organization of the 2019 event. The report had thanked the many individuals and clubs that supported the event – and the meeting added and thanked the Association Secretary for his coordinating role. Although the final accounts were not yet available – the event was expected to have made a profit of several hundred pounds. With regards to the organisation of the

2019 Regatta – with most involved expressing a willingness to continue – it was agreed that the format and organisation should stay the same with Steve Bull agreeing to maintain his coordinating role regardless of the outcome of any change in Association Secretary. Additional points raised – need to try and get an agreement with the local Yacht Club regarding Radio Channels used; it would be helpful if the safety boats could be on station earlier and the possible additional safety cover indentified should be pursued for 2019 and the Club/Race Officials briefing should be held earlier. The report was then accepted by the meeting on a proposal from Pete Staddon, seconded by Bob Siver.

The meeting then discussed the 2018 South Coast Championship Regatta hosted by CARA at Deal where the Association Secretaries report on the event had been circulated in advance of the meeting [*See Appendix 4.*] and was accepted by the meeting.

Denny Woodford then briefed the meeting on the Council Meetings that took place over the Championship Regatta weekend – [*see attached - Appendix 5.*] This prompted further discussions on the inclusion of WEARA Offshore Clubs at South Coast Championship regatta's – where there were no objection as long as the met WEARA and SCC qualification rules and there was some discussion on FISA boats prompted by John Bailey.

The meeting then considered any suggested changes to the South Coast Championship Council Rules to be put before the Council AGM in January with the following agreed –

- 1) That a Championship Event be introduced for Ladies Masters with a minimum age of 40 years as per the mixed master's Championship event – effecting SCC Rules 15 and 29.
- 2) That SCC Rule 21 be amended to allow a more flexible approach with regards to umpiring the Championship races in line with the procedure agreed and adopted for this year's Championship Regatta at Deal where the Championship Umpires and Open Umpires umpired all events allowing them to umpire half the course each – which significantly helped the flow of the regatta and saved time.

The meeting also agreed that the H&DARA delegates would support the introduction of J16 boys and girls coxed quad as championship events – but not J14 at this time - however it was felt that the introduction of a possible master 50 event should not be supported until the H&DARA had a championship of its own. Imposing a deadline for Associations to submit their Championship crews was also considered – because WEARA only identified their championship crews less than a week before the Regatta. As a result, additional championship crews could not be confirmed until this point which was unfair on them with regards to their preparations. Our delegates were asked to bring this up at the SCC Council AGM as a concern – but no rule change was proposed at this time.

The Regatta & Head Race dates for 2019 were then provisionally agreed. The Association Secretary advised the meeting that, while difficult, it had been a little easier than last year to come up with a recommendation to go to the Autumn Council Meeting for a H&DARA Fixture List for 2019 – but some issues remained to be resolved. Among these were - Southsea requested 10th July but CARA had already awarded this date to Herne Bay so Southsea moved to 29th June subject to confirmation from Club – which was confirmed and is OK with CARA; Bournemouth have not submitted a date and have advised that they do not have the volunteer resources to stage a H&D Regatta; Swanage Town Council have pencilled in Saturday, 13th July. Only other date is Saturday, 15th June which is the IW Festival weekend; BR had asked H&DARA to keep date of BR Offshore Championships clear of H&DARA Fixture but are unable to provide a date for the 2019 event yet. They have been advised that if they wish to avoid a clash with an H&D ARA Fixture the later in August the better. It was also noted that the Wessex Region consultation in H&D & CARA implied that (some) clubs are interested in more "double" weekends and a general reduction in the number of Championship Regatta's held. At the meeting Bournemouth announced that they now did feel they had enough resources to stage a Regatta and, they were offered 13th or 20th July – or the 10th of August as possible dates – and advised that they would let the Associations Secretary know if one of these was

appropriate as soon as possible. Sue Sothcott advised the meeting that Swanage Town Council had now stated that the 15th July was their preferred option for Swanage Regatta – which was a disappointment to the Island Clubs as this clashed with the IW Festival and would have an impact on their entries. Coalporters were asked about a “Take That” concert at St. Mary’s Stadium that clashed with their chosen date but did not think this would be an issue. The meeting agreed the fixture list as follows, which the Association Secretary would publish as soon as possible – to include WEARA, CARA, BR, Wessex Region and the organisers of the BR Offshore Coastal Championships –

Hants & Dorset Amateur Rowing Association.						
2019 FIXTURES.						
<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>Holiday/ Events.</i>	<i>H&D ARA Championship Regatta's are shown in CAPITALS.</i>	<i>Approx. start time if advised. (all TBC)</i>	<i>Actual or Earliest Date Entries can close. (3 week rule)</i>
Sun	10th	March		Head of the Stour.		(17/2/19)
Sat	23rd	March		BTC River & Coastal HERR.	11:45	(2/3/19)
Sat	6th	April		Southampton Coastal HERR.		(16/03/19)
Sat	11th	May		LYMINGTON/MILFORD ON SEA REGATTA.		(20/04/19)
Sat	18th	May		RYDE REGATTA.	10:00	03/05/2019
Sun	19th	May		SHANKLIN REGATTA.	10:30	(28/4/19)
Sat	25th	May	Spring BH	COALPORTERS REGATTA.	10:30	(04/05/19)
Sat	1st	June		CHRISTCHURCH REGATTA.		(11/05/19)
Sat	8th	June		POOLE REGATTA.	10:30	(18/05/19)
Sat	15th	June	<i>IW Festival</i>	SWANAGE REGATTA.		(25/05/19)
Sat	22nd	June		NEWPORT FOURS REGATTA.		(01/06/19)
Sun	23rd	June		NEWPORT SMALL & JUNIOR REGATTA.		(01/06/19)
Sat	29th	June		SOUTHSEA REGATTA.		(08/06/19)
Sat	13th	July		Possible date for BOURNEMOUTH REGATTA. TBC.		
Sat	20th	July		Possible date for BOURNEMOUTH REGATTA. TBC.		
Sat	27th	July		ITCHEN REGATTA.	11:00	(06/07/19)
Sat	3rd	August		WOOLSTON REGATTA.		(13/07/19)
Sat	10th	August		Possible date for BOURNEMOUTH REGATTA. TBC.	12:30	
Sat	17th	August		BTC REGATTA.	12:00	(27/06/19)
Sun	18th	August		H&DARA/SCC Championship row-offs - 11.00am Dockhead, Soton.		
Sat	24th	August	late Aug	<i>Possible date of BR Offshore Regatta.</i>		
Sat	31st	August		<i>Possible date of BR Offshore Regatta.</i>		
Sat	14th	September		SOUTH COAST ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS. Dartmouth. WEARA.		(24/08/19)
Sat	5th	October		Itchen Junior Sprint Regatta.		(14/09/19)
Sat	12th	October		BTC Autumn HERR. Depending on Southampton FC Fixtures.		(21/09/19)
Sun	13th	October		BTC Autumn HERR. Depending on Southampton FC Fixtures.		(21/09/19)
Not yet requested -						
Itchen Eights & Fours.						
Others to note -						

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Sat	30 th	March		Head of the River Race.		
Sat	7 th	April		University Boat Race.		
Sat?	14th?	April?		Junior Inter Regionals, Nottingham. TBC.		
Wed	3 rd	July	to Sun 7th.	Henley Royal Regatta.		
		Aug?		BR Coastal Offshore Rowing Championships - See above for dates they are considering,		
Thur	13 th	June	to Sun 16th.	IW Festival.		
H&DARA Meetings.		TBA.				
Sat	??	Jan		H&DARA Race Officials. BTC or Itchen. TBC		
Sat	??	Feb		H&DARA Safety. Coalporters.		
Sat	??	March		H&DARA Annual General Meeting.		
Rev 1.	14/10/18.					

Bournemouth were asked to confirm the date and venue for their regatta at the earliest possible time.

The meeting then considered the venue and organisation of the 2020 South Coast Rowing Championships – the next due to be hosted by the Association. The time frame for this is that the H&D ARA need to advise the proposed venue for 2020 SCC at the SCC Council AGM in January 2019 with a written resume submitted. To come up with a proposal to put before the meeting the 2017 SCC organising committee had met again on two occasions under the chairmanship of John Purkess to consider options. Most of the combined clubs committee that had organised the last H&DARA hosted SCC's appeared willing to serve again including the Chair – John Purkess, Secretary, Tim Bull and Treasurer Sue Sothcott – but some “new blood” would be needed and would be very welcome. John summarised the discussions that had taken place to date which had considered a few venues and had agreed on three options –

- Netley/Victoria Country Park on the 5th or 12th September 2020. Course last used for a Championships in 1991. Facilities were excellent and provisional discussion with stake holders had been held and some costings established. Concerns were the tidal restrictions and amount of water on the course which needed to be investigated urgently. The alternative course for Championship events only would be Dock Head, Southampton. Venue would allow all championship and open events and a limited number of Junior events.
- Swanage. Would have to be on 12th September – 5th not available. Course last used in 2014. Should be possible to share some facilities with other events taking place which would reduce costs. Swanage Council have been made aware that we may want to stage the event in the Town and of the date which we believe clashes with the marathon – although this could be to our advantage - and the council are very supportive. Venue would allow all championship and open events and a limited number of Junior events.
- Dorney Lake. Last used in 2017. Would have to be on 5th September – 12th not available. A provisional reservation has been made. Although facilities and course are excellent (probably the fairest course of any of the SCC venues) and we are very familiar with organising an event the concern is the high cost to stage – in the region of £25,000 which would pretty much wipe out the Levy. Venue would allow all championship and open events and an extensive Junior Regatta including small boats.

The issue the Association has is that under the SCC Rules we are obliged to advise the Council at its AGM this January or our proposed venue and date for the 2020 event – which at this point we are unable to do as a final decision has not been taken – and the Association has no further planned meetings before the South Coast Council AGM. Therefore, on a proposal from the Association

Secretary, seconded by Colin Eales, the meeting agreed to give authority to the organizing committee to nominate a venue from these three options without referring to a General Meeting of the Association – although the fullest possible consultation should take place prior to a decision and all clubs were urged to send representatives to the organising committees meetings. It was also accepted and understood that if a final decision on the venue had not been reached by the date of the South Coast Council AGM the Association would have to make a presentation on the options available and seek more time from the SCC Council to make a final decision.

A Report from Hants & Dorset ARA “Rules” and “Competitions” Sub Committees was then considered and discussed following the meeting of the 4th October which was summarised by Jeff Watling. [see attached. Appendix 6]. It was noted that attendance at “Rules” and “Competitions” Sub Committees” remains poor – usually just Southsea, Itchen, BTC, Southampton and Ryde – less than half the Associations Affiliated Clubs and clubs were urged to send delegates to future meetings. Areas covered by the discussion at the meeting – with more details in the attached appendix - in addition to possible changes in the Rules of the South Coast Council that has already been covered in these minutes were - BR Revised competition structure – absorption of river rowers onto H&D Statuses – feedback on 2018 where there had only been two requests in 2018 (SCR and SARC) both resolved amicably and it was agreed to continue current system of “agreement between clubs and H&D Secretary.”; Revised H&D Entry form - Feedback on suitability. Any changes? - Only issue, Steve did not anticipate number of events on offer, so drop downs did not cover all eventualities. Otherwise the form worked well. Agreed to recommend permanent adoption by H&D; Timing of master’s events. Has splitting age 40- and 50-men’s masters events worked in 2018? No issues were thought to have occurred. Agreed to recommend continuation of this system; BR Coastal Rowing Championships 17th and 18th August. Commonwealth Sprint event was seen to be good fun. Longer races not exactly a spectator sport. As crews row out to sea and spectators can’t see what is going on. Needs a big screen and television coverage. Reported that FISA President has applied for offshore rowing to become an Olympic Event; Feedback from Wessex SE Coast Planning Consultations Noted that consultations within CARA not complete with two meetings yet to be held. Agreed to try to take positives out of feedback and try to drive forward in a working group, prior to March 2019 AGM; BR Membership - Agreed to consider the relationship between BR and H&D as part of the Wessex SE Coast Review; A request was made to confirm in which events composite crews are permitted. Agreed composite crews were not generally permitted except in Novice 4+, J14 and J16 4x+, M40, W40 and M50. Winning composite crews may collect the regatta prize but not the H&D point. Proposed H&DARA Rule changes and the role of the Association Secretary are covered later in these minutes.

The meeting then gave consideration to any possible H&D ARA rule changes for discussion and approval at the AGM many of which had already been discussed in some detail at the “Rules Sub Committee Meeting with more details included in *Appendix 6*. The possible rules changes discussed were as follows - A Proposal to increase points for lasts regatta(s) of the season to encourage entries was made and it was agreed to give this further consideration; BTC Regatta. "The regatta ran a local rule prohibiting boat changes in successive races. Umpires suggested the Rules Committee consider making official rules to cover this. Example of how it affected this regatta was that a Ryde junior crew was moved into a later heat to avoid a boat change, and with a scratching and no novice winner their heat was a row-over of 3 boats all going to the final while the second heat raced 7 boats. It meant everyone got a race but was not an ideal solution." It was generally agreed that BTC were within their rights to include a local rule. The principle that crews double up at their own risk is well established. Local rules should always be included in the invitation letter; At Coalporters Regatta there was a crew that raced and won a heat, then requested a substitute for a later race following injury to a crew member. The umpires consulted and concluded that a substitution could not be made once the crew had already raced however the H&D ARA Rule - 14.0 ALTERATIONS TO ENTRIES is open to interpretation. It was generally agreed that crew changes should not be accepted

once crews have raced and qualified for next round of the event (Heat, Semi or Final) and the Rules Sub Committee were asked to review the rule and ensure Rules of Racing are clear on this. There was a brief discussion on re-draws particularly at Southsea Regatta but it was agreed that no amendment to the existing rule was required and there was a discussion on an incident at Southsea Regatta where a Christchurch coxswain who had hand up when the starter said go. Coxswain was injured when crew started suddenly, to the extent that he could not cox in the final of the event. The meeting agreed there was no infringement of the rules by the starter but for this to be picked up at Race Officials' Meeting.

The continued publication of the South Coast Rowing/Hants & Dorset ARA Handbook was considered. The Association Secretary advised that Jimmy Jewell has agreed to be the editor of the handbook once again and his printer has indicated that the cost is unlikely to change. Requests for updated information will be sent to Clubs and events by the end of November – seeking submission by the end of January at the latest – and preferably by Christmas so it can be worked on over the holiday period. The format would be similar to previous years. It was noted that this would be the 30th edition of the handbook that Jimmy has produced – although early copies were a WEARA only booklet – and for some years it was produced for all three Associations before CARA and WEARA withdrew.

Andy Parsons, the Chairman of the Umpires Committee was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting and had not submitted a report. It was noted that the reimbursement of Race Officials BR Membership fees had not yet taken place and would be sorted out by the Association Secretary and Treasurer by the end of the year and that with a number of Race Officials due to retire shortly more were required.

The Report from the Safety Sub Committee had also been circulated in advance of the meeting. [See attached - Appendix 7] The report was accepted by the meeting with no further comments other than a reminder from the RRSA that Club Audits were due to be submitted by the end of November.

Colin Eales, Chairman of the Wessex Regional Rowing Council gave a brief report on the regions activities and on the activities of British Rowing. He reported on the consultation process that was underway in the Wessex Regions as preparation for a new five year plan; the British Offshore Championships – which was not going to go away and need to be embraced; World Class performance rowing – offshore – which is both a threat and an opportunity; the commonwealth Sprint championships; the new BR Club hub where there will be a presentation Wessex AGM – and threat to fine boat rowing.

The arrangements for the Presentation Dinner, which Paula Williams of Coalporters was organising once again, were then confirmed as follows - Hants & Dorset ARA Presentation Dinner on Saturday, 10th November 2018 at the Novotel Southampton. The Cost of the evening is £28:00 and this includes: 3 Course meal, coffee, mints and shortbread – with a choice of menus including one for children at a reduced price. There will probably be a file/slide show on the 2018 season – with thanks to Lymington's Alex Barnes of South Coast Journalism. It was Bournemouth's turn to respond to the President's speech and toast the Association. The Association Chairman – Martin Bradbeer was unable to attend but he would be represented by Christchurch's Pete Staddon, a past President and Life Vice President of the Association. The Association Secretary and Chairman were to chase up Clubs regarding the Championship Trophies that had not been returned and Martin would arrange for them to be taken to the Dinner.

The role of the Association Secretary was then considered by the meeting as the present incumbent had indicated that it was his intention to stand down at the Association AGM in March. He repeated that his main reasons for this decision is that at this point he will be just a few months from retirement (probably in July, 2019) and will therefore no longer be working on the mainland and

won't have a car on the mainland and will no longer have access to facilities at work that currently support this role – and that after twenty-seven years it is probably time for someone new – with new and fresh ideas – to take over this role and move the Association forward. However, it was not his intention to walk away completely and he intended to remain active within the sport and the Hants & Dorset Amateur Rowing Association – as a race official and in some other National, Club and Association roles and would be prepared to help in the transition and will support, help and advise whoever is elected in his place in any way that he can. He had produced a paper on the role that had been extensively circulated and discussed at the “Rules and Competitions” Sub Committee meetings which had agreed that current H&D Secretary Role was unlikely to attract an applicant in its current form. They had agreed to try to segment the role, with some issues being transferred to others, e.g website, financial issues, umpires and a special subcommittee meeting would be held to discuss this.

Any other Business was then considered by the meeting as follows –

- There was a brief discussion on boat manufacture and the progress of the Wessex Boat where some design changes were under discussion and it was reported that Burgashell had not yet produced a four from the Marlin mould and there was currently a two to three year waiting list for a four from Burgashell.
- Race Officials Insurance. There was some discussion on the race officials insurance via BR membership and what is covered under BR event Insurance. Colin Eales agreed to make some inquiries.

The provisional date and venues for the Hants & Dorset Meetings – the Race Officials, usually held in January, the Safety meeting usually held in February and the AGM usually to be held in March were to be decided by the Association Secretary in consultation with the Associations other Executive Officers.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 2.44pm with thanks to Itchen Imperial Rowing club for hosting and for the lunches.

[The Minutes were taken and written by Steve Bull, Association Secretary, November, 2018. The attached appendices form an integral part of these minutes].

_____ Chairman, Hants & Dorset ARA.
Date: _____

List of appendices attached –

Appendix 1. Agenda item 3. Hon Secretaries Report.

Appendix 2. Agenda item 4. Reports on the 2017 Regatta Season and Regatta's.

Appendix 3. Agenda Item 5. Swanage Regatta – report on 2017 event.

Appendix 4. Agenda Item 6. The Association Secretaries Report on the South Coast Championship Regatta.

Appendix 5. Agenda Item 6. Report on South Coast Council Meetings.

Appendix 6. Agenda Item 9. Report from Hants & Dorset ARA “Rules” and “Competitions” Sub Committees including Agenda Item 10. Possible rule changes for discussion and approval at the AGM

Appendix 7. Agenda Item 12. Report from the Safety Sub Committee.
