

Minutes of the Hants & Dorset ARA Race Officials Meeting

Saturday 11th January 2020 – held at BTC Clubhouse, Southampton

Attending: Penny Budd - Coalporters, Peter Staddon - Christchurch, Steve Bull – Ryde, Andy Parsons – Coalporters, John Purkess – BTC, Ian Hutchings – Coalporters, Denis Woodford – BTC, John Adams – Ryde, Keith Warland – Coalporters, Martin Bradbeer – Itchen Imperial, Mark Viner – Lymington, John Bailey – Southampton, Alan Stewart – Southampton, Simon Whiting – Poole, Alison Houlton - Poole

Apologies: Carol Wall – Christchurch, Ray Murphy – Poole, Garry Walters – Shanklin, Nigel Perry – Bournemouth, Gary Joyce – Itchen Imperial, Simon Clements – Bournemouth

No communication from: Bryony Reeve, Alex Robertson

Item 1: Minutes of last meeting – No matters arising

Item 2: Chairman's report – Andy Parsons

- Thank you to everyone for your continued support for the past year but we need to recruit some new blood for officials. So if everyone could go back to your club to try to recruit.
- Looking at race official reports, there was a common occurrence where it was difficult to start novice/junior races on a strong tide – perhaps regattas could try to programme these races on a slower/slack tide.
- There was a few incidents this season – namely Shanklin and Southsea, all of which has been previously discussed, but the resulting factor seems to be with more officials on the water/helping out this may have been averted.
- Andy felt that seniors and masters could take more responsibility in becoming role models for younger athletes on the starts and turns.
- There were a couple of fours capsized this season which is worrying for boat control for some crews and there were also incidents when safety boats have provided unwanted washes.
- Special mention to John Purkess for his personal delivery service to officials for their lunches on his bike!
- John Purkess felt that this season we need to be more stronger with discipline straight from the start of the season if crews. **All agreed that this should be done.**
- Alison Houlton brought up an incident at the end of the season where a pair had been allowed into the final from a protest but they had been warned in a heat from the officials and it was a weak protest but as there was a place in the final, they were let in. This would have impacted on the aggregate and seasonal scoring for championship points. **This needs to be addressed and to bear in mind when making a decision next year.**
- Discussions were taken on what could happen and benefit at Southsea, especially at the turns. Areas that were discussed could be filming at the turns or possibly two boats at the turns as the range of buoys is hard to manage with one point of viewing.

Item 2: National Umpires Meeting

- Andy Parsons reported back from the National Umpires Meeting last weekend. For H&D Officials, we need membership to British Rowing and we need for insurance – **Penny to clarify with BR which is the relevant category for officials.**
- BR – like the H&D – are struggling to recruit umpires. 15% of BR umpires are over 70 years of age.

- Discussion took place on if we mentor and train our new officials well and if we can improve? Alison said that she felt that during her training, she was supported and given access to a full range of officiating areas – starts, turns etc. and she felt it was a positive experience.

Item 4: Membership of Umpires Committee & Chairman

Currently: Chairman is currently Andy Parsons

Committee is currently: John Bailey, Keith Warland, Martin Bradbeer & John Purkess.

It was felt that a new member would be beneficial. Martin Bradbeer proposed Alison Houlton and seconded by Penny Budd. Alison accepted.

- Write to Alan Wigmore to thanks for being on the committee and his service over many years. ***Penny Budd to write to Alan.***

AGREED: Proposed the Chairman and Committee to go to H&D AGM for approval.

Item 5: Examination of Full & Assistant

- Ian Hutchings will be standing down as full racing official after 40 years of voluntary service.
- Pete Staddon will be taking his exam as full official. For Assistant Officials Alex Robertson and Garry Walters will take their exams this year.
- Proposed by John Purkess that we contact Garry Walters, Alex Robertson, Joe Fuccio and Bryony Reeve to check and confirm that they still wish to officiate for this season and reiterate the terms of officiating. Also contact Sharon Ayles to see if she would like to come back to officiating as she had stepped down last season for a year. ***Penny to contact all of the above and also attach an availability form for the season.***
- Alison proposed that we insist every club supply one person to come and be an ‘assistant’ at THREE regattas during the season. It was discussed this maybe hard to enforce for some clubs and we already have a fine in place. It was considered that we promote the positives of officiating (free lunches?!!) and that people can still compete whilst officiating. ***Penny to produce a poster to send to all clubs.***

Item 6: Review of reporting of Race Officials

- This season a list of full officials and assistant officials will be sent to regatta secretaries so not two separate lists as assistant officials were not being invited.
- Martin Bradbeer reported that most officials had completed their reports for regattas which they officiated at – he did point out that he had not got many reports through from assistant officials.
- Penny will send out all regatta reports to relevant regatta secretaries by the end of the month.
- Language from athletes was a concern from the reports this season. Need to reiterate to all clubs at each regatta about language and conduct.

Item 7: Review Officials Charge to clubs

- Currently, the H&D charge clubs £100 per non supply of officials (clubs to supply two for a season of being available for a minimum of 3 regattas).

Lymington, Newport & Southsea all to receive £100 fine for not supplying two officials.

Item 8: Race officials availability for SCC 2020 at RVCP, Southampton

Race officials available: *Mark Viner, Alan Stewart, John Adams, Penny Budd & Martin Bradbeer.*

Alison Houlton will be on Race Control.

John Adams – Judge

Mark Viner – Starter

Alan Stewart, Penny Budd - Umpire

Martin Bradbeer, Andy Parsons – Reserve Umpires

Alison Houlton – Race Control

Item 9: To review method of selection of Coxswain of the Year

Alison asked for when being announced, could the reason why be announced at the regatta. Penny suggested a form which could be produced at wash up which can be given to regatta for presentation – ***Penny to provide.***

Item 10: Rule clarification and recommendations

- i) Association rules recommendations to be put forward to the AGM for approval.
 - ADD RULE CLARIFICATION – not agreed to take the incident appeal recommendation go forward
- ii) Review recommendations for Regatta Rules
 - Trial of points for seasonal championship – much discussion taken on this idea of how feasible this would be to be undertaken by judges and how it would be collated. As officials, we will support the trial in recording the results.
- iii) Recommendations for amendments to the Rules for the South Coast Rowing Council
ADD RULE RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 11: Review rebate of Officials BR Membership/Insurance

Steve Bull proposes that we continue with the ability to claim back the £32 insurance back. Penny to send a copy of the claim form out with minutes which needs to be sent back to Sue Southcott for rebate.

Item 12: Review of Officials Safety Equipment

We are purchasing a new loud hailer which needed to be replaced in the safety kit.

All lifejackets have serviced and looking at getting crutch straps added.

Item 13: Any other business

- Henry said that he attended the SCC wash-up meeting which he reported that was very productive.
- Keith Warland asked if we had received any official recommendations through prior to the SCC that WEARA are looking to impose a years ban on the Herne Bay crew for their conduct at Dartmouth. Steve has not received any correspondence on this and would have to be a delegates decision on behalf of the H&D.

Meeting closed at 1354

Thanks to BTC for their hospitality and catering.