

**The Association Secretaries Report on the 59th South Coast Championship Regatta (and the 10th South Coast Junior Regatta), hosted by the West of England ARA Wimbleball Lake, Somerset, over the weekend of 12th/13th September, 2015. AMENDED FOR GENERAL PUBLICATION.**

It was the West of England Amateur Rowing Associations turn to host 2015 South Coast Championship Regatta – the 59<sup>th</sup> – which included the 10<sup>th</sup> Junior Regatta. The venue chosen was Wimbleball Lake, on the edge of Exmoor in Somerset, the venue used in 2010 and few would argue that it provides an excellent course, in stunning surroundings - probably 2<sup>nd</sup> only to the purpose built course at Dorney Lake. The downside is its remoteness and lack of facilities, the shortage of accommodation close by and access. But in spite of these problems – the organisers – which once again appeared to consist in the main of Stephen and Andrea Worley – with some support from the local club and some from WEARA – put on, what was, in the main, a good and enjoyable two day event with produced some excellent racing.

Communication was almost entirely via electronic means – which seemed to work ok – and will be the favoured format going forward - although some of the information arrived a little late in the day - and a full draw, not just a running order and own club entries - a few days before the regatta would have been helpful. The reception on the Friday evening in the Regatta Marquee well attended and was a very pleasant and friendly event. The prize giving on Saturday – again held in the Regatta Marquee – was reasonably well organised and well attended as always – and just about big enough to cope – with the prizes presented by BR Deputy Chairman Gary Harris. Having not attended the Junior Prize giving on Sunday I am unable to offer a view on how this went.

As in 2010 the organisers chose to put on any event where they received a reasonable entry – so in addition to the Championship events and the traditional fours open event – there was also racing for small boats and J17 and J18 crews and scullers on the Saturday over the 2000m course – with Sunday's racing over 1000m reserved for Juniors up to and including J16 in a range of boat types. This approach did not receive universal approval – with CARA in particular raising objections – in spite of entries being received from their clubs. It has to be said that some H&D ARA Clubs, Officials and individuals shared the CARA view – but as the planned events were presumably approved by Council in January – and will have provided useful additional revenue to the organisers – H&D Club's embraced the plan – dominated the entries and won the majority of the races in Saturday's Regatta.

The H&D and CARA provided 14 race officials – over the two days – CARA just 6. – and there were some communication issues – and role confusion – especially at the start. There were some safety concerns – a lack of safety cover in the junior events – and safety boats with a single occupant at times – and WEARA failed to provide a boat inspector – the inspections on both days being undertaken by the H&D and CARA representatives only.

Over the two days there were 286 entries with 172 of these on the Saturday and 114 in the junior events of the Sunday. WEARA failed to provide three championships crews – only entering one crew in the Ladies Senior, Men's Junior Senior and Masters Championship events which was a very disappointing in a WEARA hosted championships - but it did allow the H&D ARA to invoke Rule 25B and add an extra crew to the Masters Championship event. Also with WEARA having open entries in two of these events – there must be a question mark over the qualification rules. So the H&D ARA had the most Championship crews at 13 – CARA their full quota of 12 and WEARA 9. In the traditional open fours event the H&DARA had 38 entries against 21 from CARA and just 13 from WEARA Clubs, in the small boats events there were 36 entries from H&D Clubs, 6 from CARA and 14 from WEARA with 7 H&D ARA entries in the J17/J18 events alongside 1 from CARA and 2 from WEARA – so the H&D had 54% of the entries in this regatta.

The Junior Regatta on the Sunday had 114 entries with a much stronger presence from the WEARA Clubs with 48 entries to the H&D ARA's 59 and CARA's 7. So the H&D ARA had the majority of entries

in this regatta as well with 51% - and it would be true to say that the South Coast Championships would not be viable without the presence, commitment and enthusiasm of the H&D Clubs.

And so to the racing – as usual, with my thanks to John Bailey – I quote his Press report on the regatta to describe the how the Championship events went –

*“Rowed on the wide reaches of Wimbleball Lake in The Exmoor National Park crews were subjected to every aspects of Autumn weather with early morning torrential rain and a cross wind that made life difficult for both rowers and starting official alike, changing to a pleasantly warm afternoon.*

*As throughout the Hants and Dorset season Itchen Imperial’s crews dominated the Championship Events with wins in both the Ladies Senior and Ladies Junior Championships and the Men’s Masters+40 Championship, but once again Bexhill won the coveted Bideford Bowl in a race that saw both Bexhill and Itchen Imperial dominate. By the half way mark Bexhill were 1/2 length up having moved across the course with Itchen, now on the inside of the final bend, unable to gain the same advantage. Building for their finish Bexhill eased ahead to gain clear water over Itchen as they entered the final 100 meters. Itchen, now rowing in the unsettled wash of the Bexhill blades started to close on the Bexhill crew but had left it too late and, despite launching an official protest regarding the Bexhill course Bexhill were declared the winners, retaining the Bideford Bowl for another year.”*

The Associations 4<sup>th</sup> Championship win came in the Men’s Junior Coxed Fours which Westover won ahead of BTC who were also 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Masters Championship event with Westover also gaining two 2<sup>nd</sup> places in the Men’s Junior Senior Coxed Fours and the Ladies Junior Coxed Fours Championship events – to complete an impressive set of result for the crews we had been selected to represent the Association.

Crews from Hants & Dorset ARA Clubs won 7 of the 9 traditional open regatta events – with Newport taking the Men’s Junior Senior Fours, Christchurch the Men’s Junior Fours and Ryde the Men’s Novice Fours. In the Ladies events BTC won the seniors and Southampton the juniors with Coalporters taking the Masters Event and BTC the Ladies Masters. In the small boat and J17/J18 events there were further victories for H&D Clubs – with Newport winning the Men’s Senior Sculls, BTC the Men’s Junior Sculls and Ryde the Men’s Novice Sculls. In the Pairs events – Christchurch won the Men’s Senior and Ryde the Men’s junior events and Christchurch won the Men’s J18 Coxed Fours and the Men’s J17 Single Sculls – a total of 7 wins for H&D Clubs compared with 3 each for CARA and WEARA Clubs.

However the junior events on Sunday were dominated by WEARA Clubs – some of whom only entered the Junior Regatta - who won 15 of the events - with the Hants & Dorset winning 2 – the Men’s J16 Sculls for Itchen and the Men’s J14 sculls for Christchurch – with CARA taking just 1 win. It is difficult to understand why the WEARA Clubs enter and contest the junior events so strongly but fail to do so in the open events. There were clearly WEARA Crews – especially in the older groups – who could have competed successfully on the Saturday as well.

So the Hants & Dorset ARA dominated the entries and with the exception of the Junior Regatta – the results – and we are once again the South Coasts top Rowing Association - To quote John Bailey once again – *“Whilst the big one got away the Hants & Dorset Association were once gain proud winners of the Eileen & Eric Memorial Challenge Cup for overall Championship winners and dominated the Sesquicentennial Regatta Trophy.”*

But – as the event approaches its 60<sup>th</sup> year – there are major concerns – the attitude of CARA who seem so reluctant to embrace change and move the event forward and the lack of support from – and enthusiasm for the Championships from WEARA – you have to fear how big their presence will be at the “very” coastal venue of Herne Bay next year – and even at Dorney in 2017. There is little doubt that without the commitment, support, enthusiasm and determination to see the event

succeed of the H&D Clubs and Officials this Championship would probably cease to exist and remains under threat – which needs addressing by Council and the three Associations.

Steve Bull,  
Association Secretary,  
September, 2015.

**South Coast Rowing  
Championships.  
ENTRIES TABLE.**

**2015**

	H&DARA	CARA	WEARA	Totals	% H&D.
Sat.12/9/15.					
Championship	13	12	9	34	38.24
Traditional	38	21	13	72	52.78
Small Boats	36	6	14	56	64.29
J17/18	7	1	2	10	70.00
Sat. Totals	94	40	38	172	54.65
Sun.13/9/15	59	7	48	114	51.75
TOTAL	153	47	86	286	53.50

**Results**

*Note. Results compiled from records maintained on the day by Sue Sothcott on the Saturday and Steve Bull and Val Adams on the Sunday – the junior results being incomplete – with no formal results received from the organisers at the time of publication. E&OE.*

**Championship Events**

**Men's Senior Coxed Fours.**

1 Bexhill, Bow Mark Mitchell, 2 Greg Anderson, 3 Matt Hellier, Stk Kieran Hahill, Cox Rachel Hollaway  
2 Itchen Imperial, Bow Wayne, 2 Andras Bator, 3 Mark Wardell, Stk Tom Foad, Cox Robyn McGregor-Ritchie  
3 Greenbank Falmouth. Bow Phil Farndon, 2 Tim Wilkenson, 3 Tom Worden, Stk Jame Kerr, Cox Alice Tetley.

**Ladies Senior Coxed Fours.**

1 Itchen Imperial, Bow Katie Taylor, 2 Jess Bull, 3 Robyn McGregor-Ritchie, Stk Kirsty McGregor-Ritchie, Cox Adele Walton.  
2 Greenbank Falmouth, Bow Anne VanHouten, 2 Harriet Eldred, 3 Nicky Halse, Stk Sarah Lewis  
3 Shoreham. Bow Sarah McCorry, 2 Gemma Stoner, 3 Charlotte Pigg, Stk Sarah Bareham, Cox Ezra Hulme.

**Men's Masters Coxed Fours**

1 Itchen Imperial, Bow Steve Taylor, 2 Russel Benham, 3 Lee Rayment, Stk Ian Barnaby, Cox Owen Barnaby  
2 Folkestone, Bow Stephen Tupper, 2 Andy Bassant, 3 Stewart Harries, Stk Mark Simmonds, Cox Sam Lewis.  
3 BTC. Bow Brent Mould, 2 Mark Wilson, 3 Malcolm Hume, Stk Mike Weaver, Cox Chole Weaver.

**Men's Junior / Senior Coxed Fours.**

1 Deal, Bow Matthew Handley, 2 Owen Mullaney, 3 Reece Mullaney, Stk Luke Mullaney, Cox Loas Mullaney

2 Westover, Bow Leigh Darlow, 2Jeff Hanafin, 3 Michael Joscelyne, Stk Ali Esinduy, Cox Louie Callaghan.

3 Plymouth. Bow Dave Reedy, 2 Ash May, 3 Paul Brew, Stk Lloyd Barron-Robinson.

**Men's Junior Coxed Fours.**

1 Westover, Bow James Kay, 2 Gian-Luc Angeiolini, 3 Jonathan Solly, Stk Josh Williams, Cox Anna Nolan.

2 BTC, Bow Ed Crampin, 2 Pete Snelling, 3 Ingvar Lukas, Stk Pete Sturlinmg, Cox Max Moody

3 Deal A. Bow Ross Wuddett, 2 John Rowarth, 3 Tyler Amos, Stk Reece Giles, Cox Loas Mallaney.

**Ladies Junior Coxed Fours**

1Itchen Imperial, Bow Megan Dunlop, 2 from Holly Fagin or Paige Lewis, 3 Rosie Daniels, Stk Alice Jenden, Cox Hayley Emery.

2 Westover, Bow Libby Perry, 2 Rosanna Bramwell-Reeks, 3 Alica Bramwell-Reeks, Stk Danielle Elmy-Liddard, Cox Anna Nolan.

3 Bideford Blues. Bow S Monaghan, 2 C Berry, 3 S May, Stk K Snow, Cox T Robertson.

**Open Events – Traditional.****Men's Senior Coxed Fours.**

1st. Eastbourne.            2nd. Herne Bay.            3rd. BTC.

**Men's Junior-Senior Coxed Fours.**

1st. NEWPORT.            2nd Bexhill.            3rd. Christchurch.

**Men's Junior Coxed Fours.**

1st. CHRISTCHURCH.    2nd. Christchurch.    3rd Shoreham.

**Men's Novice Coxed Fours.**

1st. RYDE.            2nd. Bexhill.            3rd Itchen.

**Ladies Senior Coxed Fours.**

1st. BTC.            2nd. Southampton.    3rd. Coalporters.

**Ladies Junior Coxed Fours.**

1st SOUTHAMPTON.    2nd Castle Dore.    3rd. Worthing.

**Ladies Novice Coxed Fours.**

1st. Castle Dore.            2nd. Deal.            3rd. Worthing.

**Men's Masters Coxed Fours.**

1st. COALPORTERS.    2nd. Christchurch.    3rd. Bexhill.

**Ladies Masters Coxed Fours.**

1. BTC.            2nd. Southampton.    3rd. Christchurch.

## **Open Events – Small and J17/J18.**

### Men's J18 Coxed Fours.

1<sup>st</sup>. Christchurch.      2<sup>nd</sup>. Christchurch.      3<sup>rd</sup>. Bideford AAC.

### Ladies J18 Coxed Fours.

1<sup>st</sup>. Bexhill.      2<sup>nd</sup>. Shanklin.      3<sup>rd</sup>. Southsea.

### Men's Senior Pairs.

1<sup>st</sup>. Bexhill.      2<sup>nd</sup>. Lymington.      3<sup>rd</sup>. BTC.

### Men's Junior Pairs.

1<sup>st</sup>. Ryde.      2<sup>nd</sup>. Itchen.      3<sup>rd</sup>. Dover.

### Ladies Junior Pairs.

1<sup>st</sup>. Deal.      2<sup>nd</sup>. Lymington.      3<sup>rd</sup>. Worthing.

### Ladies Junior Double Sculls.

1<sup>st</sup>. Plymouth.      2<sup>nd</sup>. Shanklin.      3<sup>rd</sup>. BTC.

### Men's Senior Sculls.

1<sup>st</sup>. Newport.      2<sup>nd</sup>. BTC.      3<sup>rd</sup>. Shoreham.

### Men's Junior Sculls.

1<sup>st</sup>. BTC.      2<sup>nd</sup>. Shanklin.      3<sup>rd</sup>. Coalporters.

### Men's Novice Sculls.

1<sup>st</sup>. Ryde.      2<sup>nd</sup>. Ryde.      3<sup>rd</sup>. BTC.

### Ladies Senior Sculls.

1<sup>st</sup>. Greenbank Falmouth      2<sup>nd</sup>. Plymouth.      3<sup>rd</sup>. Wimbleball.

### Ladies Junior Sculls.

1<sup>st</sup>. Exeter.      2<sup>nd</sup>. Plymouth.      3<sup>rd</sup>. Newport.

### Men's J17 Sculls.

1<sup>st</sup>. Christchurch.      2<sup>nd</sup>. Plymouth.      3<sup>rd</sup>. Shanklin.

## **Junior Events.**

### Men's J16 Coxed Four.

1<sup>st</sup>. Exeter.      2<sup>nd</sup>. Southsea.      3<sup>rd</sup>. Ryde.

### Men's J16 Coxed Quad.

1<sup>st</sup>. Deal.      2<sup>nd</sup>. Exeter.      3<sup>rd</sup>. Itchen.

### Ladies J16 Coxed Four.

1<sup>st</sup>. Exeter.      2<sup>nd</sup>. Shanklin.

### Ladies J16 Coxed Quad.

1<sup>st</sup>. Dart Totnes.      2<sup>nd</sup>. Shanklin.      3<sup>rd</sup>. Itchen.

### Ladies J15 Coxed Quad.

1<sup>st</sup>. Exeter                      2<sup>nd</sup>. Dart Totnes.                      3<sup>rd</sup>. Christchurch.

Ladies J14 Quad Four.

1<sup>st</sup>. Exeter.                      2<sup>nd</sup>. Plymouth.                      3<sup>rd</sup> Castle-Dore.

Men's J16 Double Sculls.

1<sup>st</sup>. Bideford AAC                      2<sup>nd</sup>?                      3<sup>rd</sup>?

Men's J15 Double Scull.

1<sup>st</sup>. Bideford AAC.                      2<sup>nd</sup>. Poole.                      3<sup>rd</sup>. Coalporters.

Ladies J16 Double Sculls.

1<sup>st</sup>. Dart Totnes.                      2<sup>nd</sup>. BTC.                      3<sup>rd</sup>. Bexhill.

Ladies J15 Double Sculls.

1<sup>st</sup>. Dart Totnes.                      2<sup>nd</sup>. Plymouth.                      3<sup>rd</sup>. Christchurch.

Men's J14 Double Scull.

1<sup>st</sup> Dart Totnes.                      2<sup>nd</sup>. Christchurch.                      3<sup>rd</sup>. Dartmouth.

Ladies J14 Double Scull.

1<sup>st</sup>. Wimbleball.                      2<sup>nd</sup>. ?                      3<sup>rd</sup>. ?

Men's J16 Single Sculls.

1<sup>st</sup>. Itchen.                      2<sup>nd</sup>. Castle Dore.                      3<sup>rd</sup>. Christchurch.

Ladies J16 Single Sculls.

1<sup>st</sup>. Exeter.                      2<sup>nd</sup>. Dart Totnes.                      3<sup>rd</sup>. Dart Totnes.

Men's J15 Single Sculls.

1<sup>st</sup> Bideford AAC.                      2<sup>nd</sup>. Plymouth.                      3<sup>rd</sup>. Poole.

Ladies J15 Single Sculls.

1<sup>st</sup>. Exeter.                      2<sup>nd</sup>. Plymouth.                      3<sup>rd</sup>. Dart Totnes.

Men's J14 Single Scull.

1<sup>st</sup> Christchurch.                      2<sup>nd</sup>. Dartmouth.                      3<sup>rd</sup>. Christchurch.

Ladies J14 Single Sculls.

1<sup>st</sup>. Wimbleball                      2<sup>nd</sup>. Plymouth.                      3<sup>rd</sup>. Dartmouth.