

The Minutes of the ASSOCIATION RACING OFFICIALS MEETING held on SATURDAY, 26th JANUARY, 2013. 10.30am at the BTC CLUBHOUSE, SOUTHAMPTON.

[POSTPONED – from 19th JANUARY following heavy Snow over that weekend]

All full and assistant Race officials had been notified of the meeting by mail and reminded by E Mail. The following information had been circulated with the notice of the meeting – the Agenda, Officials Availability Form – 2013, Umpires Committee – Chairman's Report, Full Racing Officials - summary of activity, 2012 season. Times Officiated & Forms returned 2012 season and Number of Active Racing Officials per Club, 2012 Season.

Prior to the start of the meeting those in attendance were notified of the sad loss of Race Official, Chris Eveleigh of Lymington ARC and a one minutes silence was held.

Present at the meeting, which started at around 10.35 were fifteen full and assistant racing officials with the Chairman of the Umpires Committee, Andy Parsons, taking the chair. Apologies were received from Ian Hutchings, Keith Warland, Simon Clements and Peter Diffeff – plus Les Foad – who had also indicated that he did not wish to officiate in the coming season for personal reasons.

The Association Secretary advised the meeting and apologised for some errors in the package sent to racing officials - ref. selection of Race Officials for SCC. Missed off Agenda – added as item 8 – subsequent Agenda items re-numbered and Race Officials availability sheet – Head of the Stour, on Sunday, 17th March and Shanklin Regatta, on Sunday, 12th May were missed off some availability sheets.

The Minutes of the last meeting which had been previously circulated were agreed to be a true record and accepted on a proposal from Martin Bradbeer, seconded by Andy Sothcott – and all matters arising from these minutes would be covered by Agenda items. It was noted that the facility to download the minutes from the web site was not working and the Association Secretary promised to address this as soon as possible.

The Umpires Committee Chairman's Report on the 2012 season, which had been previously circulated, was then presented to and accepted by the meeting – see attached. The Chairman, Andy Parsons added some further comments and gave a verbal report on the National Umpires Committee Meeting he had recently attended. Among the additional comments made was – concerns regarding the use of radios at events – and the difficulties of race officials getting these back from commentators on occasions; on-going concerns regarding Buoy Lines – although these was an improvement in 2012; the need for Race Officials to be on time and ready to go afloat and the lack of Lack of Assistant Officials. This led to a lengthy discussion on Race Assistants and the need for a proper induction process to include the criteria for assistants which Andy Parsons and John Purkess would develop. Sharon Ayles commented that only one Regatta that she had officiated at – Ryde – had provided her with any information prior to the Regatta – and event secretaries were to be reminded to include the Assistants in their communications with officials. With regards to Assistants who had not responded it was believed that Chris Foad had decided to step down – and that Alan Stewart would check with Trev Gay regarding his situation and that Mark Viner would check with Bob Speeding and Martin Bradbeer would check with Karen Fancett. The Assistants would be organised by Keith Warland or Andy Parsons – but event secretaries should be encouraged to invite assistant officials who were available even if they were not allocated a post by the Umpires committee. With regards to the National Umpires Committee Meeting areas discussed included - Examination of Officials – some regions include scenarios others – an exam without Rule Book; Rules of Racing; Abuse of Officials; Numbers and age of Officials and Expenses paid. Denny Woodford reported that the South Coast Council had imposed a new Rule that any Association failing to provide the required number of Race Officials would be fined £100 per official – but this was hardly a concern to the Hants & Dorset ARA as traditionally over the past few years we have provided officials to cover the failings of the other two Associations.

The membership of the Umpires Committee was then considered by the meeting and it was agreed, on a proposal from Brian Gowman, seconded by Steve Bull that a recommendation should go to the Associations AGM that the existing committee of Andy Parsons, Chairman and John Purkess, John Bailey, Martin Bradbeer, Alan Wigmore and Keith Warland should be re-elected.

The procedure for the examination of Full and Assistant Racing Officials was briefly discussed and it was agreed that the process for examining the full Race Officials should remain unchanged with the following Officials due to take the examination this year – Steve Bull, Keith Warland, Alan Wigmore, Mark Viner, Andy Sothcott, Martin Bradbeer and Andy Parsons – the deadline for completion and submission being 2nd March. It was also agreed following the earlier discussions that the Umpires Committee should meet to prepare the criteria for the examination of Assistant Race Officials.

The reporting on events by Race Officials was briefly discussed and it was agreed that the existing procedure and forms were serving the purpose well and should continue to be used. The Association Secretary apologised if any received reports had been missed of the analysis and reminded the meeting that they could submit their reports by E Mail. Copies of all reports were passed to event secretaries and the Umpires Committee Chairman. Copies of the reports on assistant officials were passed to the respective assistant official.

The charge made on Club who failed to provide at least two Race Officials willing to officiate at a minimum of three events in a season, currently £100 per official, was debated – and it was agreed that it should remain unchanged. The Clubs that were affected from the 2012 season and would be invoiced accordingly were – with no race officials - Southsea - £200, Newport - £200 and Westover – who have one Race Official (Brian Gowman) - £100. The meeting agreed that because of the tragic loss of Lymington's Chris Eveleigh, who had already submitted his availability for the 2013 season – Lymington should not be penalised in 2013 for only having one official available. A directive from the CARA Umpires Commission that the Association was aware of – was circulated and discussed. This imposed a similar fine on CARA Clubs – but only at the Rate of £75 – but announced that expenses would be paid to Race Officials, by the event, of £10 an event. The meeting rejected the idea of a similar rule indicating that they would prefer the current system of benefits in kind – refund of BR membership fees and subsidised Race Official Kit – which could be expanded on. This discussion developed into a general discussion on payment of expenses and while not strictly speaking being part of their brief it was agreed, on a proposal from John Purkess, seconded by John Bailey that a recommendation would be made to the Associations AGM that our South Council delegates should receive expenses for their meetings at CARA and WEARA venues especially when it involved an overnight stay.

Following a review of Racing Officials availability it was agreed to recommend to the Associations AGM that the following Race Officials be appointed to officiate at this year's South Coast Championship Regatta at Deal on the 14th September –

Championship Umpire	John Adams.
Open Umpire	Carol Wall
Starter	Denny Woodford
Judge	Pete Staddon
Reserves.	Martin Bradbeer, Mark Viner, Keith Warland and Steve Bull.
Boat Inspections.	Steve Bull

All had agreed to officiate in the Championship and Junior Regatta.

The method employed to select the H&D Coxswain of the Year was briefly reviewed and the meeting agreed that while not perfect, it was the best method that we have used and so should remain unchanged. The Association agreed to send all Race Officials the names of Club Coxswains recorded on the Club Registration forms as soon as possible after these had been received to assist with coxswain identification.

The proposed amendments to the constitution formulated by Rules Sub Committee and a summary of the results of the consultation with the club by the Competitions Sub Committee were handed round and a brief discussion followed. It was noted that the amendments to the constitution would go before the Associations AGM for approval but at this time there were no proposed changes to the Regatta Rules or the Rules for Boat racing from the sub-committee and that the Race Officials would be fully consulted before any were proposed.

The only existing rules that the meeting sought to clarify was a Rule of Boat Racing – number (13) where the use of the red flag was misleading as it could stop a race that could be allowed to continue. After some discussion it was agreed that an amendment to this rule should go forward to the AGM for approval – as follows –
(amendment in italics)

13. - If the umpire has disqualified a crew or is otherwise dissatisfied with the proper conduct of a race he shall hoist a red flag *at the end of the race* in which case the judges shall make no announcement of the result until the decision of the umpires has been notified to them. *An umpire will only hoist a red flag during the race if he wishes to stop the race.*

The meeting reviewed the Insurance of Race Officials via British Rowing Membership and agreed that a recommendation would go to the AGM to keep the current subsidy, paid by the Association to each official of a full BR Recreational membership should remain the same at £25 – or whatever figure BR decided upon.

To Safety equipment provided for Racing Officials was reviewed. Apart from the usual wear and tear – notably two of the first aid kits - and one used Mediwrap exposure blanket the equipment was in a reasonable state of repair. Around £140 had been spent bringing the three kits up to the expected standard for the 1013 season. However there was two of the Blue Crew saver Racing Officials Life Jackets missing and all Officials were asked to check at their Clubs to try and locate these. They are auto-inflate which is unusual and marked H&D ARA inside the cover. The Association was reluctant to spend the £300 required to replace them until a proper search had been carried out by the Clubs – and an E Mail to this effect would be sent to all Club and the matter would be bought before the Safety Meeting at Southsea on the 2nd February.

The following matters of any other business were discussed -

1. It was assumed the suggested Wessex Head Race in Langstone Harbour, scheduled for the 8th February was not going ahead.
2. A trial Head was taking place at Wareham – this was a closed event with only local Clubs invited – but with plans to expand if successful.
3. The move to two Regattas' over a weekend had limited appeal – although it was confirmed that the 2013 Newport Regatta would be a two day event – with plans to retain in future years if successful.
4. Regatta dates – Southampton had yet to confirm if the Coastal HERR would be on the Saturday or the Sunday; the Southampton Eights and Small Boats Head would take place on Sunday, 10th March, the day after the Hants & Dorset ARA AGM.
5. South Coast Championship Trophies are now to be returned at the Association AGM – not at Southsea Regatta.
6. Event secretaries need to confirm invitation of race officials and should not rely solely on E mail for their communication – on all matters, not just Race Officials invitations.
7. Concern expressed at the drunken/over-hung state of a Race Official (not H&D) at the Junior event at this year's South Coast Championship Regatta. He was clearly not up to the task and should have been replaced.
8. The 2015 South Coast Championships Regatta would be at Wimblesball.
9. First Aid cover at Regatta's was discussed – especially as charges by St John Ambulance appeared to be increasing dramatically. Suitably qualified and equipped First Aiders was an alternative although this put pressure on Regatta organisers to provide this and have full responsibility for first aid cover.

They're being no other business the meeting closed at 2.20 pm with thanks to BTC for their hospitality.
[Minutes taken and written by S. Bull, Association Secretary. 2/2/13]

_____ Chairman. _____ Date.

Attached:

1. Umpires Commission Chairman, Andy Parsons, Annual Report to the Hants & Dorset ARA Delegates Meeting.
2. H&D ARA Full Officials, Times Officiated and Forms Returned, 2012.
3. H&D ARA Racing Officials. BR Membership Status.

**HANTS & DORSET ARA UMPIRES COMMISSION.
Report from Chairman. Andy Parsons.**

General observations:

Communications

Although generally good, improvements could be made in communications at most regattas – especially to ensure that the officials at the turns are kept up to date with scratchings, results of heats, race draws etc. – it can get lonely if you are 1000m away from regatta control and no one is talking to you! And a technical issue – make sure all radios have fully charged batteries fitted at the start and issue the umpires with spares.

Boat handling skills

Race crews should practice the skills required in getting afloat and ashore, manoeuvring into position for the start and allowing for wind and tide at the turn – standards were generally good this season but there is always room for improvement here – it makes the officials much happier if there are no incidents where they have to disqualify someone.

Knowledge of the rules

A couple of junior scullers disqualified for turning buoys the wrong way is a reminder to coaches to tell them the right way – and get them to practice it!

Buoy lines

Generally the management of buoy lines has improved this season with fewer reported long delays for buoy realignment. However, there is no room for complacency and improvements can be made in terms of alignment, stability and visibility of the turns buoys, especially in the more challenging coastal courses where swell, tide and wind present significant challenges.

Officials

We have a number of new assistant officials in training but still need more volunteers for this essential part of our sport – all clubs are encouraged to find new officials so our events continue to be run for our athletes to enjoy fair and well-organised competition.

As ever, the weather can make an official's comfort levels very low at the end of a six hour stint in the rain. Some regattas are reminded that a bit of cover would be very much appreciated!

Andy Parsons. Chairman. H&D Umpires Committee. 23/9/12.

Hants & Dorset Racing Officials. ARA Membership Status.

FIRST_NAME	SURNAME	ARA_MEMBER	NUMBER	EXPIREY_DA	GRANT_CLAI	PAID
Pat	Glover,	Non-racing	201012G101761	31/12/2010	15/07/12	16/07/12
Kevin	Ayles.			30/01/1999	Not active	
John.	Adams.	Non-Rcaing	201009G101224	30/09/2010	15/07/12	16/07/12
Steve	Bull	Non-racing	201012G101756	31/12/2010	15/07/12	16/07/12
Pete	Staddon,	Non-Racing	20110751010705	31/07/2011		
Ian	Hutchings	Non-racing	201010S1014107	31/10/2011	15/07/12	16/07/12
Brian	Gowman,	Non-Racing	201006G100553	30/06/2011	15/07/12	16/07/12
Andy	Sothcott.	Non-racing	201008G100738	31/08/2011	15/07/12	Not claimed
Mike	Green.				Not active	
Gary	Walters			31/07/1999	Not active	
Alan	Wigmore,	Non-racing	201005S1008325	31/05/2011	15/07/12	16/07/12
John	Bailey.	Senior	201102S1002599	28/02/2011		
Keith	Warland,	Non-racing	201004G700542	30/04/2011	15/07/12	Not claimed
Denis	Woodford	Non-racing	201104S1006075	30/04/2011	15/07/12	16/07/12
Les	Foad.	Non-racing	201106S1009430	01/07/2012	15/07/12	16/07/12
Mark	Viner	Non-racing	20100G1605240	30/04/2011	15/07/12	Not claimed
Martin	Bradbeer	Non-racing	201007G101058	31/07/2011	15/07/12	Kit
John	Purkess.	Racing	201006S1008542	30/06/2010	15/07/12	16/07/12
Alan	Stewart	Not advised	201211G101631	30/07/2012	15/07/12	Not claimed
Simon	Clements		201305G109943		15/07/12	Kit
Carole	Wall	Senior	2011011013428	31/01/2011		
Chris	Eveleigh	Non-racing	201104G104199	30/04/2011	15/07/12	16/07/12
Trevor	Gay					
Bob	Springbett				Not active	
Andy	Parsons	Senior	201207G101067	12/07/1937		
Pete	Diffey	Non-Racing	20110751035337	10/07/1937		
Chris	Foad	Senior	201009S1000821	07/09/2009	Not active.	
Sharon	Ayles.		201206S1014132	30/07/2006	15/07/12	Kit

H&D ARA. Full Officials. Times Officiated + Forms returned - 2012.

FIRST_NAME	SURNAME	UMPIRE	STARTER	STARTER/JUDGE	JUDGE	TIMES OFFICIATED	FORMS RETURNED	Other
Pete	Diffey	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
John	Adams	9	0	4	2	15	13	0
Steve	Bull	0	0	2	5	7	6	2
Pete	Staddon	4	1	0	0	5	0	1
Ian	Hutchings	1	3	0	0	4	2	0
Brian	Gowman	1	0	1	0	2	1	3
Andy	Sothcott	0	0	1	1	2	2	0
Alan	Wigmore	0	1	1	1	3	2	0
John	Bailey	2	0	2	1	5	3	2
Keith	Warland	2	0	2	2	6	5	1
Denis	Woodford	2	3	1	0	6	6	1
Les	Foad	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Mark	Viner	4	2	2	2	10	4	1
Martin	Bradbeer	5	1	2	0	8	6	0
John	Purkess	3	1	1	1	6	3	0
Alan	Stewart	6	3	2	0	11	7	0
Simon	Clements	2	0	0	0	2	0	0
Carole	Wall	1	1	0	0	2	2	0
Chris	Eveleigh	3	0	0	0	3	0	0
Trev	Gay	2	0	0	0	2	0	0
Bob	Springbett	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Andy	Parsons	2	0	2	2	6	5	0
Pat	Glover	0	0	1	1	2	1	1
Chris	Foad	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sharon	Ayles	0	1	2	1	4	3	0