



# **Annual Report and Accounts**

**for the year ended 30 September 2005**

The Thames Regional Rowing Council  
c/o The Amateur Rowing Association  
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# 1. Introduction

The Thames Regional Rowing Council (TRRC) is a body made up of representatives of all Member Clubs and Events affiliated to the ARA in Divisions 10 to 19, stretching from Oxford to Westminster.

The TRRC Mission is:

*To enable the Thames region to develop rowing at all levels, by enabling every community within the region to participate in the sport and to maximise our strengths at local, national and international level.*

This aligns with the ARA's national vision of:

- New participants, through new partnerships
- Rowing for life, through well resourced clubs
- Inspiration, through success on the world stage.

In line with the ARA values and principles, the TRRC is committed to:

- Providing a transparent and accountable organisation
- Encouraging and developing good practice in the region
- Providing equal opportunities regardless of gender; race; disability; sexual orientation; age or religion
- Creating opportunities for athletes with the desire and talent, to join the High Performance Pathway
- Playing an active part in developing rowing within the wider sporting community
- Playing an active part in developing rowing to benefit local communities
- Providing a welcoming environment and support for all participants in the sport, at whatever level they choose to participate
- Valuing, recognising and supporting the work of volunteers.

THAMES REGIONAL ROWING COUNCIL		BALANCE SHEET - 30 SEPTEMBER 2005	
		COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT	
2004	2005	2004	2005
£	£	£	£
3,523.00	2,789.00	2,789.00	5,060.00
(734.00)	2,271.00	Bank Balance	
<u>£2,789.00</u>	<u>£5,060.00</u>	<u>£2,789.00</u>	<u>£5,060.00</u>
Notes:			
1. No revenue from hire of equipment is anticipated			
2. The bank balance is currently subsumed within that of T.R.R.C.			
		GENERAL ACCOUNT	
2004	2005	2004	2005
£	£	£	£
39,695.00	39,757.00	£42,880.00	£38,237.00
(358.00)	(4657.00)	152.00	28.00
		(3275.00)	(3175.00)
420.00	-	Provisions - Expenses 5 Year Plan	-
<u>£39,757.00</u>	<u>£35,090.00</u>	<u>£39,757.00</u>	<u>£35,090.00</u>
Notes:			
Provisions have been made for unbillied Secretarial Expenses, costs of producing the 5 Year Plan, and for reimbursement of course costs unclaimed or unpaid to date.			

J. Chapman F.C.A. Hon Treasurer 15 October 2005

## COMMUNICATIONS AND EQUIPMENT FUND

	2005 £	2004 £	2005 £
1190.00 Receipts from Hire	2,457.00		200.00
220.00 Damaged Equip Refund		1,570.00 Purchase of Equipment	85.00
63.00 Bank Interest (notional)	115.00	176.00 Travel	16.00
714.00 Deficit for year		441.00 Repairs etc. including batteries	2,271.00
	<u>2,572.00</u>	<u>2,187.00</u>	<u>2,572.00</u>

## GENERAL ACCOUNT

	2005 £	2004 £	2005 £
4,472.00 A.R.A. Regional rebate	4,542.00	110.00 Courses & Workshops	1,109.00
551.00 Bank Interest (net)	867.00	1,030.00 Certifications	2,279.00
1,000.00 Other costs w/back		P.R.	892.00
Junior Rowing Regional		1,130.00 Website (incl. Artwork)	3,177.00
765.00 Championships	-1,072.00	557.00 Meetings	347.00
378.00 Deficit	4,667.00	999.00 Secretarial	250.00
	<u>£9,004.00</u>	3,340.00 Centenary/Awards	631.00
		<u>£7,166.00</u>	<u>£9,004.00</u>

I have examined the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2004 and the attached notes together with the books and vouchers and find the same to be in accordance therewith.

J. Chapman F.C.A. Hon. Treasurer 15 October 2005

J.H. Bateman. A.I.B. 31 October 2005

## Executive Committee

The Executive Committee that managed the affairs of the TRRC since the last AGM is made up of the following:

### *Elected and Co-opted Officers*

Martin Humphrys, Chairman  
 Edward Rees, Honorary Secretary  
 John Chapman, Honorary Treasurer  
 Judith Packer, Upriver Representative  
 Nigel Smith, Downriver Representative  
 Chris Sprague, President  
 Richard Philips, Chairman of the Coaching Commission  
 Nigel Weare, Chairman of the Junior Commission (Upriver)  
 Ruth Hatton and Chris Williams, Joint Chairmen of the Junior Commission (Downriver)  
 Tony Evans, Events' Co-ordinator  
 Chris George, Safety Adviser  
 Richard West, Equipment Officer  
 Peter Moore, Recreational Representative  
 Elizabeth Wray, Media and PR Officer

### *ARA Divisional Representatives*

Mark Blandford-Baker, Division 10 (Oxford University)  
 Barbara Wilson, Division 11 (Upper Thames)  
 Peter Moore, Division 12 (Reading)  
 Tony Evans, Division 13 (Middle Thames)  
 John Biddle, Division 14 (Staines and Molesey)  
 Richard West, Division 15 (Kingston and Twickenham)  
 Ken Williams, Division 16 (Chiswick and Mortlake)  
 Jacki Dibden, Division 17 (University of London)  
 Neil Jackson, Division 18 (Barnes and Hammersmith)  
 Paul Lorenzato, Division 19 (Putney)  
 Ben Hunt-Davis, Leander Club  
 Mike Williams, London RC  
 Chris George, Thames RC

### *ARA Coaching and Development Officers*

Sarah Birch  
 Simon Blackburn

Between the last AGM and 13 December 2004 the following served:  
Margaret Adams, Chairman  
Martin Humphrys, Honorary Secretary  
Edward Rees, Downriver Representative

The following positions remained vacant:  
Chairman of the Women's Commission (not elected at the last AGM due to the national Women's Commission being disbanded)  
Chairman of the Veteran's Commission (no nominations at the last AGM).

The Independent Honorary Examiner is:  
John Bateman AIB

### **Approval of Report**

We approve this report and the audited accounts for the year ended 30 September 2005 and recommend their adoption by the Council at its Annual General Meeting

John Chapman  
Tony Evans  
Ruth Hatton  
Martin Humphrys  
Neil Jackson  
Paul Lorenzato  
Peter Moore  
Richard Philips  
Edward Rees  
Nigel Smith  
Chris Sprague  
Richard West  
Elizabeth Wray

being the members of the Executive Committee present at its meeting held on 17 October 2005.

### *World Cup*

World Cup leading to 2006 World Champs schools liaison and organisation and club legacy programme.

## **5. Accounts**

The Accounts for the year to 30 September 2005 and the Balance Sheet at 30 September 2005 appear on the following pages.

Legacy initiative and hopefully next year I can report exactly how they are getting on.

## **Coaching and Development Officers (Sarah Birch and Simon Blackburn)**

### **Joint Activities**

#### *Club support*

As well as working closely with the region's Clubmark and Project Oarsome clubs, we have supported several other clubs with advice and support on development, funding opportunities and applications.

#### *Liaison*

with local authorities, County Sports Partnerships and School sports partnerships to promote and generate rowing opportunity in the Thames region.

### **Simon Blackburn**

#### *Coach Education*

Instructor's Award Courses have run at, amongst others, Guildford, Eton Excelsior, Kingston, Reading, Walton, Dorney, Weybridge, Molesey, Civil Service BH, Upper Thames, Maidenhead, City of Oxford, MAA – with many of these clubs hosting more than one course. A Bronze Award course was run at Kingston University.

Tutor, Assessor and Course Leader training has been run in the region, and tutors and assessors from the region have helped out neighbouring regions with their coach education courses. We are grateful to the coach educators and these clubs for their support.

A series of seminars were held in Kew last autumn and another series is planned across the region this year.

### **Sarah Birch**

#### *Junior Development*

Involved with Junior Officials scheme with Judith Packer. J16 regional training camp organisation. Working with the Community Sports Coach in Slough/Windsor to form new school indoor rowing projects.

## **2. Chairman's Report**

It has been a very busy year for the region.

Having been elected Honorary Secretary in November I became Chairman in December.

Quickly established good relationship with PLA.

Salvage Association report received well by the region and must thank all the Clubs for helping us develop a strong and well received response.

Establishment of the Working Party for the next stage going well.

Busy year for rowing – the region has been well represented in the medals at all National and International events.

I have been able to attend numerous regattas throughout the region and have been grateful to all volunteers for their efforts in the sport at all levels.

We have welcomed competitors to the region from all over the World in both the World Cup and Coupe de la Jeunesse.

The strength of the Thames Regional Volunteers showed in force at both of the above events.

The Junior Programme originated by Judith Packer has established a strong group of Junior Officials for all events within the region and for the future.

We have been working closely with the developers of the Distillery site for the proposed new Junior Rowing Centre for Hammersmith and Fulham.

I was elected Chairman of the National Development Committee and also thereby to the ARA Executive.

The number of Thames Regional members on the Executive is considerable and they have a strong duty to ensure we establish the future of the sport in the years leading up to the Olympics at both Beijing and London.

I have recently attended the ARA Executive awayday where we are proposing the plan for the future of the sport at all levels for the next twenty years and once established will work hard to seek the views of the region for onward input to the Executive aims and ambitions.

In the Junior Inter-Regionals I am grateful to everyone who stepped in especially Downriver to ensure we had teams representing the region – hopefully next year we will be able to have a combined selection day for the teams and ensure that all events are contested. The results for both ends of the division were excellent I have asked whether we might create three divisions for next year but that does not seem likely. It would be nice to see the schools also playing their part as they do so much in the other regions!

The proposals to ensure Tideway Boat Identification are well under way and the major clubs deserve considerable thanks for ensuring they were first to lead the way. We will be monitoring all events to ensure that every club is obeying the rules – if not the PLA will in future take action with our full support.

The first Event Organisers' Seminar was held for the region at Leander and was well attended – regretfully only by those regattas and heads which already undertake good practice – those that need help support and advice, failed to show but as this will in the end become something all events will have to attend in the future – we will continue to work for good practice for all.

Three events were held around the region for Clubs to meet with the Regional Executive and to hear what our role now is – at City of Oxford RC, Kingston RC and London RC – they were well attended and I hope these were the first of many as we try to keep the clubs and events informed.

## **Divisional Representative, Division 18 (Barnes and Hammersmith) (Neil Jackson)**

- Visited all clubs at least once, sometimes by sculling boat, to show my face and invite comments or complaints.
- Used my Division 18 e-contacts list covering clubs, schools and events to inform them of ARA and TRRC activities or to raise issues.
- Meetings Attended:
  - Site visits by the Salvage Association (see below) and TRRC
  - Meeting on safety issues and Hammersmith Heads (see below)
  - Meeting between Auriol Kensington RC, ARA CDO and Fulham & Hammersmith LBC about stimulating rowing in the borough's schools.
  - PLA open consultative meeting for river users at Corinthians Sailing Club
  - All ARA Council and TRRC Council or Executive meetings.
- Deputized for the Regional Water Safety Advisor
- Contributed to e-discussions with RWSA, clubs or event organizers of safety and navigation issues affecting the division.
- Six Div 18 clubs hosted on-site visits by the authors of the Salvage Association report to the PLA on a risk assessment of Tideway rowing.
- Unfortunately Hammersmith heads were cancelled on safety management grounds.

## **Divisional Representative, Division 19 (Putney) (Paul Lorenzato)**

This being my first year as Division Rep, I have spent most of my time finding out what is expected of me from Clubs, ARA and the TRRC, I have now made contact with all the clubs and schools in my division either by e-mail or personally.

I am happy to report that two clubs from the division (HSBC RC and Parr's Priory RC) have been accepted on to the ARA World Cup

ensure the safety and smooth running of the events. Crisis point has not been reached as yet but it is very close.

## **Divisional Representative, Division 16 (Chiswick and Mortlake) (Ken Williams)**

### *Clubs*

- Contact maintained by e-mail, telephone and face-to-face with active clubs
- Little contact with alumni clubs – generally no response to telephone messages
- University of Westminster have recommenced rowing and are fully affiliated to the ARA and have taken part in regattas during the latter part of the year
- Mortlake Anglian & Alpha BC had a successful season with their Women's Squad getting wins at Henley Women's and Nat Champs plus representatives at the Home Countries International
- Putney Town RC is active with their Junior rowing programme
- London Oratory School BC is now rowing from PTRC
- Instructor's Award Course run at MAABC.

### *Events*

- Women's Head of the River Race successfully run but with concerns to be addressed by the organisers about restricted turning area at low tide below Putney Railway Bridge
- Borne @ Chiswick Bridge Regatta had to be suspended for a period during the early afternoon due to water conditions being judged unsafe. However the full regatta programme was completed
- Barnes and Mortlake Regatta was run successfully without incident.

## **Divisional Representative, Division 17 (University of London) (Jacki Dibden)**

No report submitted.

The Region has witnessed two inquests into participation in the sport concerning a young sculler, Sikander Farooq, at Reading and the reopened inquest on Leo Blockley from Oxford University. Both conclusions need the sport to look carefully at itself and practices of all our constituent Clubs and to ensure that everyone is aware of what is required for coaching at every level. The TRRC will work with the ARA to ensure that these issues are looked at and addressed where necessary.

The Region was saddened to learn of the following deaths this year: Neil O'Brien (Auriol Kensington RC, London RC and former Div Rep) Mike Seares (Wallingford Schools and GB Juniors); John Levy (Thames RC and Imperial College BC); Andrew Justice (Marlow RC and GB); Sikander Farooq (Reading RC)

The TRRC was delighted to learn that Bill Mitchell (Thames Tradesmen's RC) was awarded the ARA Medal of Honour this year.

Likewise that Chris Morrell (Windsor Boys' School) and Have been awarded the ARA Medal of Merit.

Finally, Falcon, Maidenhead RC, Marlow RC, HSBC RC and Parr's Priory RC were all accepted onto the ARA World Cup Legacy initiative.

### **3. Report on the Finances of the Region Honorary Treasurer (John Chapman)**

#### *General*

The ARA rebate was received in late September and, at £4,542, was 1.5% larger than for 2004.

Expenditure in the year totalled £10,891 of which approximately £900 will, hopefully, be recovered from junior athletes who represented Upriver and Downriver groups in the ARA Junior Inter-Regional Championships.

We continued to modify, expand and make more user-friendly and meaningful the TRRC website; we also produced a number of newsletters, mailed to each Club and Event in the region and the Executive Committee held three open evenings to meet with Members in our area.

Representatives of the Region held productive meetings with both the PLA and the Environment Agency, thus ensuring your views and needs were recognised by them.

#### *Communications*

Many event organisers are now utilising our radios and regatta equipment which we continue to maintain and update. This year shows a surplus of £2,271 after purchases of equipment, which recovers the deficits of the last two years.

#### *Balance Sheet*

The resultant bank balances as at 30 September 2005 were £40,150 after making reasonable provision for unbilled expenditure on activities within the year.

The Executive Committee met at regular intervals throughout the year and, with the support of the Divisional Representatives, can be seen to be working for the whole membership. It is hope that Clubs will begin to recognise the value of qualifications and courses and encourage their members to work towards proving their capabilities with a little financial help from the TRRC.

discussions with Molesey on a proposed new rowing tank to replace the one at Walton Leisure Centre, which did not feature in their plans for a new building.

Communications with Walton and Burway Small Boats Heads regarding new dates for 2006 due to the Scullers' Head moving back.

I attended several of the Junior training days at Dorney.

A lot of my time last year was taken up with the World Cup event at Dorney and almost certainly more time will be taken up next year.

### **Divisional Representative, Division 15 (Kingston and Twickenham) (Richard West)**

There have been a number of formal meetings with the clubs, schools and university during the year and a number of informal meetings at events – both within and outside the division. At the formal meetings the single agenda item has been navigation of the reaches and the impact of developments on the banks and expansion of moorings - both short term and residential.

The arrival of a new EA Regional Manager has brought into question the concept of river closures for processional races at the prompting of the motor boat fraternity and the hire organisations. Today there are, it is claimed, over 50 river closures that inhibit the freedom of navigation. Of the fifty the reality is that there are only five full river closures in place on the whole navigation and four of them are in Division 15, the “Gateway to the River Thames Navigation” for tourists and commercial traffic. There has been a meeting with the EA and as at the time of writing this report it is thought that the critical closures will remain in place.

The regattas and events associated with “Project Arcadia” are in close touch with the project managers and indications have been given as to how the project could be developed to enhance the opportunities for rowing. A close watch on this development is being maintained.

The pressure on volunteers gives cause for concern in that a number of events are finding it difficult to recruit the right calibre of help to

## **Divisional Representative, Division 12 (Reading) (Peter Moore)**

This year, I have been involved in:

- Supporting Reading RC after the drowning tragedy
- Liaising with Environment Agency Middle Thames Navigation Office regarding conditions for events and other rowing issues
- Assisting Thames Valley Park in locating and obtaining site for new boathouse
- Officiating at all open events in the Division.

## **Divisional Representative, Division 13 (Middle Thames) (Tony Evans)**

Since I took over the role in January 2005, I have been involved in:

- Establishing contact with most Clubs (15), Schools (8), Events (17) via either visits, e-mails, or phone
- Consulting the above when contentious issues arose e.g. J14s at Nat Champs
- Chasing up Club Safety Audit data at request of Regional Safety Adviser
- Helping two new Clubs become affiliated (Phyllis Court, Thames Valley Sculling Club)
- Progressing communication issues with ARA
- Attend ding nearly all TRRC monthly meetings and all ARA Council Meetings
- Advising a prospective new event (current)
- Liaising with Environment Agency re complaints against rowers (ongoing)
- Answering requests for information from general public, on joining rowing Clubs.

## **Divisional Representative, Division 14 (Staines and Molesey) (John Biddle)**

As this was my first year it was a matter of finding my way around what is expected, as a result I do not feel a great deal was achieved.

There was a lot of contact with several clubs regarding the outstanding audits, which was done over the phone. I had some brief

## **4. Executive Committee Members' Reports**

### **Honorary Secretary (Edward Rees)**

- Put in place structured process for collating agenda items and written reports from Officers to improve the efficiency of meetings
- Attended all except one of the Executive Committee / Full Council meetings and produced minutes
- Developed standard template for TRRC reports and other documents
- Chaired initial meeting of the TRRC Website Sub-Committee and was involved in planning and scoping the new website with PR & Marketing Officer
- Organised venues for TRRC meetings
- Facilitated and assisted in planning the Event Organisers' Seminar
- Attended at took minutes at the meeting regarding the PLA Tideway Risk Assessment and took minutes with PR & Marketing Officer to produce a transcript of the discussions
- Assisted with training of Junior Officials
- Sat on the TRRC Forward Plan Sub-Committee.

### **Upriver Representative (Judith Packer)**

#### *Junior Officials*

My main objective of this year was to run the Start at the World Cup and Coupe de la Jeunesse at Dorney Lake with Juniors from the region. This rather daunting challenge in fact presented a great opportunity for junior involvement in these international events taking place on our doorstep. The Junior Officials Scheme was born out of the need to recruit stakeboat personnel and the desire to provide them an insight into aspects of regatta operations as well as provide them with some skills for them to put into practice in their own rowing. Of the 97 juniors who attended one of the three Junior Officials training days in September 04, March and April 05, 50 were selected to help at one or both of these events. Taking into account involvement at domestic events (Wallingford, Ball Cup and Marlow),

it is estimated that overall, the Juniors contributed 1,320 'volunteer hours' which is a great credit to them and their parents.

The juniors, aged between 13 and 17, have come from 13 Clubs in the region: Dorney, Dr Challoner's School (based at Dorney), Eton Excelsior, Guildford, Kingston, Maidenhead, Marlow, Molesey, Sir William Perkins (based at Staines), Staines, Walton, Weybridge Ladies, Weybridge. The juniors have really worked well as a team, have made new friends and are all geared up to be involved in the World Championships in August 2006.

The year concluded in the Junior Official's Award Presentation Day at Dorney Lake on October 9th which was attended by approximately 100 people – Juniors, parents, regional umpires and representatives of the Thames Regional Rowing Council. Dorney Lake was presented a framed photograph of the Junior Officials Teams from the World Cup and Coupe de la Jeunesse by two of the Juniors on behalf of the Council and the ARA to celebrate the start of the Junior Officials programme and in recognition of the support to the scheme. Andy Hodge and Elise Laverick from the GB squad inspired the juniors as they spoke of their experiences in training, personal goals and of course winning medals, which they passed around the eager audience. They then presented the juniors with their certificates, most of which they were then persuaded to sign!

With an eye on leaving a legacy out of this year's experiences, the Junior Officials Handbook *Attention Go!* was launched and will be sent to the 50 juniors who participated in this year's International events. We hope this will be a valuable resource to others both preparing to race as well as wanting to help out at regattas.

Based on the buzz, praise and excitement from juniors and their parents alike, as well as enquiries about the next training days, we are well on track to provide a top team for the World Champs 2006 Start Team. Here's to 2006!

## **Divisional Representative, Division 10 (Oxford University) (Mark Blandford-Baker)**

- There are 41 clubs in the Division, made up of university and college clubs.
- My main contact with the Members has been through the Council for Oxford University Rowing.
- Oxford beat Cambridge in the Boat Race but lost the Women's Race and the Goldie Isis race; however the Lightweight and other women's crews all won making a 5-2 overall result in Oxford's favour.
- Torpids (February college bumping races) Oriel retained the men's headship and New College took the women's headship.
- Summer Eights (May college bumping races) Magdalen retained the men's headship and New College the women's.
- There were some college wins at domestic regattas, most notably Magdalen men winning S1 & S2 Eights at Bedford. They also won S1 at Wycliffe Head.
- There were a number of college crews entered in a variety of head races and regattas over the season. University crews also competed in domestic regattas and at Henley. Several squad members also competed for their country at international level.
- Work on the OUBC boathouse at Wallingford is well underway with the wet dock and piling complete. The main building, due to be complete by the start of next academic year has now begun.
- The Hertford College boathouse suffered an arson attack in early July with the animal liberation front claiming credit. Eights belonging to Mansfield, St Catherine's, St Benet's and St Hilda's colleges were destroyed; fortunately no small boats were affected.

## **Divisional Representative, Division 11 (Upper Thames) (Barbara Wilson)**

Nothing to report. No major issues.

## **Recreational Representative (Peter Moore)**

My main activity this year has been constructing a database of clubs specialising or encouraging recreational rowing and sculling.

## **Media and PR Officer (Elizabeth Wray)**

No report submitted.

## **Environment Agency Thames Waterway Working Group Representative (Richard West)**

The Working Group of the Environment Agency has met four times in the last year, one of the meetings being held on board the Agency flagship Windrush. It is a sad reflection on the observational powers of one coach or maybe it is a lack of training of the coach that he passed Windrush, which was cruising at 7.5 kilometres per hour going upstream, on full throttle. A few minutes later he returned at the same speed, exceeding the speed limit by a considerable margin, quite acceptable when coaching a crew but not when alone. The message is simple don't break the speed limit and certainly not in front of the Head of Navigation on the Thames.

The major issues discussed were:

- The size of the increase in licence fees (one proposal put forward has been totally rejected by the Working Group, and the EA are expected to come up with a revised number in the next few weeks)
- River Closures and their duration (this affects Division 15 and to a much lesser extent Division 13)
- Lock closures and maintenance programme for the winter months (it is necessary that the programme is complete by the end of September so that all users may be notified)
- How to increase tourism within the River Thames area. (Both on the water and on the bank to towns and villages beside the Thames). It is interesting to note that the Inland Waterways Association will be holding their annual boat rally at Beale Park next year. Clubs should be aware of the dates since there will be a significant increase in the number of boats on the river many of whom will be visiting the Thames for the first time.
- Harmonisation of rules and licences with other navigations.

## **Downriver Representative (Nigel Smith)**

Apart from attending Council meetings during the year, I have:

- Spoken to local Captains, especially the new ones to tell them about the Council;
- Spoken to local commercial boat operators, sailing club members and organisers of a Sea Scout group to give them a little "TLC";
- Dealt with enquiries from people wishing to join rowing clubs – either as novices or more experienced rowers;
- Raised the awareness of people, including non-rowers, of the World Cup and the World Championships;
- Raised the awareness of coaches and rowers of the RYA II launch driving course, together with the other RYA courses on offer;
- Assisted with training and examining Umpire candidates, as well as performing other duties carried out by Members of the Regional Umpires' Commission;
- Assisted with the provision of a meeting venue, as and when possible.

All in all, a fast but enjoyable year.

## **Chairman, Thames Regional Umpires' Commission (Chris Sprague)**

The Commission has continued with its work of recruiting, training and examining umpire candidates and has also provided training and advice for existing umpires. Members of the Commission attended all regattas and heads in the Region to observe umpires in action and the conditions under which they were required to operate.

Two seminars for existing umpires and umpire candidates were held in April, one at London Rowing Club and the other at The Danesfield Club near Marlow. A number of topics were discussed and there was a demonstration of various types of life jackets with particular reference to the rule that coxes of frontloaded boats should not be wearing automatically inflatable life jackets.

There are 123 umpires on the Region's Register of Umpires at present. This is a healthy state of affairs but, with a number of retirements due in 2007 and 2008, there is still a need for suitably qualified candidates.

Seven umpires qualified last year. This year four candidates have qualified so far with, at the time that this Report was prepared, five still to take their practical examination. There were no retirements last year but there will be one retirement this year. Four umpires from the Region were selected for multi-lane training of whom two passed, and one remains to complete, the examination.

### **Chairman, Regional Coaching Committee (Richard Philips)**

The Region is running as many Coaching award courses as it possibly can. The bottleneck is finding suitably qualified instructors, assessors and venues, who can give the time necessary to run the courses.

In conjunction with the CDO's we have come up with targets for the number coaches required in the region. We have considered that Clubs that are nominated as High Performance centres should have a coaching team led by a coach who should be qualified to Silver or Gold Standard (levels 4+, under the new system).

It is also considered that all those who coach juniors should have taken the Instructors award. In the light of the events of the last few months, this could well become a statutory requirement in order to have Insurance cover.

It is accepted that, for many coaches, taking a further week of their holidays to attend a residential course is difficult. It is for this reason that we are pressing the ARA to allow courses to be run on a modular basis.

It is a requirement of many professions that members undertake continuing professional development (CPD). Coaching should be no different. Therefore we have now set up regional seminars, run in

### **Equipment Officer (Richard West)**

#### *Hiring*

The stock of equipment, which remains the same as last year apart from the addition of one megaphone, has been used at 30 events during the past 12 months generating a net income of £2,148.00. The majority of events have cared for the equipment but one or two have been lax with the result that there have been some losses or damage and on occasions items have been missing for up to a week. The view is taken that either the hirer pays the hire charges from the date of the event until return or pays the replacement costs which are defined on the invoice.

There are no plans, at present, to increase the range of equipment available although consideration would be given to requests.

#### *Stock*

As at the date of this report the following is held in stock

- 1 VHF, 7 channel, Base Station plus antenna
- 18 VHF, 16 channel hand held radios with carrying cases
- 12 Spare NiCad batteries for the radios (6 of the radios are fitted with long life metal hydride batteries)
- 1 Six gang battery charger
- 12 Single battery chargers
- 9 Aqua bags for the radios
  
- 7 Sets of Umpire's flags
- 1 pair of Aligners flags
- 1 Finish flag
- 9 Hand bells
- 19 Megaphones

#### *Specific Purchases*

A sufficient number of TRRC baseball caps were purchased for the two junior teams representing the region at the Junior Inter Regional Regatta. There have been suggestions that Umpires hats be purchased for resale to qualified umpires but the decision has not been taken.

Advised on making good the safety deficiencies leading to the cancellation of the TSBH and Hammersmith Heads.

Reviewed the implications of the wrecking of St Cuthbert's, Durham women's novice 8+ at the Black Buoy and published navigation advice for steerers in time for the Tideway HERR.

Advised on the safety plans for the region's many regattas. Found disappointing number of inadequacies in relation to conforming with both ARA Rules of Racing and well-publicised advice.

Reviewed in particular the incidents at Chiswick and Richmond regattas which attracted attention of or involved PLA.

Provided advice to clubs on safety and notification (to other clubs, river users or the PLA) requirements of more or less private races. A particular concern of PLA since they can unexpectedly inhibit the activities and safety of other river craft, especially at low tide pinch points, notably Kew Bridge area, Putney Bridge-Barn Elms and Hammersmith Bridge

#### *Incident reporting*

TRRC investigates reported incidents involving rowers, also the collects and collates incident reports by rowers. Handled all such reports, pursuing them with clubs to obtain appropriate outcomes (by way of training, changing club arrangements or disciplining individuals) and reviewing them at monthly meetings with PLA. (Grateful for individual expert and legal inputs to my investigations and appraisals.)

To justify the effective delegation by the PLA of self-discipline by the rowing community, see a need for significant improvement in our current reporting culture. To that end agreed with PLA a simplified approach to near-misses and other lesser incidents.

two locations, to encourage coaches and oarsmen to increase their knowledge.

### **Chairman of the Junior Commission (Upriver) (Nigel Weare)**

This is still a small core of people, with Nigel Weare attending meetings on its behalf.

The group is organising the annual regional under 15/16 sculling camp in October.

The national Junior rowing commission now has Ruth Hatton as chairman (Tideway Scullers) and Alex Ballard (Latymer Upper School) as secretary, so the political strength nationally lies with Thames Downriver.

Future issues to consider, for which input is needed from those interested in junior rowing include:

- the split of the Schools Head into two events;
- the timing and format of the National Championships;
- the development of the Ball Cup;
- repercussions of the Reading inquest on coaching of juniors;
- further development of the junior officials programme for Thames Upriver multi-lane events;
- developing and explaining regional performance pathways for juniors.

### **Joint Chairmen of the Junior Commission (Downriver) (Ruth Hatton and Chris Williams)**

*Downriver team at ARA Junior Inter-Regional Championships*

We won the J14 division by 8 points with 5 TSS crews and Catherine O'Riordan from Thames. Very well done J14s you beat all the other divisions on your own, and half our team was actually J13!

We won the boys overall by 4 points.

We were 5th overall because of the lack of girls crews - in J15 and 16 we only contested 3 of 8 girls events.

The coaches of the crews who raced thought it was worthwhile doing but would have been much more worthwhile if everyone took it seriously. None of the big schools except Westminster took part, and most of the schools with girls in our region refused to take part! Let's do it but take it seriously!

### **Events' Co-ordinator (Tony Evans)**

Constructed Calendar for period Jan 2006 – March 2007. Issued two drafts to all events by post. National Calendar now accepted by ARA Council.

Assisted with admin and design etc of Event Organisers' Seminar at Leander Club on September 3, 2005.

Attended all National Competition Committee meetings held in 2005 (three and one to come).

Attended TRRC Meet the Executive evenings at London RC, Oxford RC, Kingston RC.

### **Safety Adviser (Chris George)**

Draft report by Neil Jackson (Deputy Safety Adviser):

#### *General*

Water safety was a high and rising priority for the Regional Council before the start of this period. The go on raising that priority even further was brought home by the tragic drowning at Reading in January, by the subsequent coroner's inquest and report and by the re-opening at the end of this period of the inquest into the drowning of an OULRC rower in Spain. It was reinforced by the preparation and submission to the Port of London Authority (PLA) of a report by the Salvage Association on a risk assessment of rowing on the tidal Thames ("SA Report").

During the year I found many clubs responding positively to those pressures, with many examples of good practice and timely adherence to ARA and TRRC requirements. Events (especially regattas) I found slower to take on board the inevitable burdens of

planning, management and delivery of safety matters. But progress was made. And my task – covering about 200 clubs - was made feasible only by the active backing of the Council Chairman and divisional representatives and by many individual, unpaid acts of assistance.

#### *Salvage Association Report*

Contributed, with the National WSA, evidence to the SA inquiry team. Handled Tideway interests in the report at National Water Safety Commission. Lead at a special meeting of TRRC (with many Tideway clubs and umpires present) a review of the recommendations and collected views about their validity and implementation.

Chairman set up liaison group with PLA on implementation. Response and ongoing process but some items in hand reviewed below.

#### *Club safety*

With advice from Liz Wray, improved then expanded the two websites on which we publish safety advice:

- <http://safety.thamesrrc.org>
- <http://thamesrc.atics.co.uk/cms/safety>

Reviewed all submitted 2003 and 2004 club safety audits – only 97 of the latter! Chased up remaining 108. Pursued inadequate or incomplete reports and advised TRRC on sanctions against worst back-sliders, including disaffiliation proceedings.

Putting together support team among club WSAs.

#### *Event safety*

Reviewed and commented on event safety plans for the nationally significant Tideway processional races, other such Tideway races (especially Tideway Small Boats Head ("TSBH"), the Hammersmith Heads), similar events off-Tideway, and a number of club-restricted races. Considered a number of reports on incidents (after too often having to chase them up from organizers or clubs/schools).