

# **Annual Report and Accounts**

**for the year ended 30 September 2009**

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Compiled, edited and typeset by E LI Rees, Honorary Secretary  
E&OE



# 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.

**Officers of the Council**

Richard Goddard, President  
Chas Newens, Vice President (Immediate Past President)  
Bill Mitchell, Vice President (Past President 2006/7)  
Margaret Adams, Vice President (Past President 2005/6)  
Chris Sprague, Vice President (Past President 2004/5)

*Executive Committee 2008/9*

**Elected and Co-opted Officers**

Martin Humphrys JP, Chairman (November 2008 to January 2009)  
Ruth Hatton, Chairman (thereafter)  
Edward Lloyd Rees, Honorary Secretary  
Paul Baldwin ACA, Honorary Treasurer  
David Hancock, Upriver Representative  
Jim Harlow, Downriver Representative  
John Biddle, Chairman, Thames Regional Umpires' Commission  
Richard Philips, Chairman, Coaching Commission  
Laura Lion, Chairman, Junior Commission (Upriver)  
Andy Crawford, Chairman, Junior Commission (Downriver)  
Murray Litvak, Chairman, Veterans' Commission  
Tony Evans, Events' Co-ordinator (Calendar)  
Tony Reynolds, Regional Water Safety Adviser  
Nick Watkins, Deputy Regional Water Safety Adviser  
Chris George, Regional Water Safety Development Adviser  
Richard Packer, Equipment Officer  
Peter Moore, Recreational Representative  
Elizabeth Wray, Marketing and PR Officer  
Richard West, Environment Agency Liaison Officer  
Bill Mitchell, Port of London Authority Liaison Officer

**ARA Divisional Representatives**

Mark Blandford-Baker, Division 10 (Oxford University)  
Andrew Weekes, 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)  
Martin Carr, Division 16 (Chiswick and Mortlake)  
Siobhan Cassidy, Division 17 (University of London)  
Neil Jackson, Division 18 (Barnes and Hammersmith)  
Paul Lorenzato, Division 19 (Putney)

**Representatives of ARA Appointed Members**

Michael Jones, Leander Club  
Mike Williams, London RC  
Emma James, Thames RC  
Mark Blandford-Baker, Council of Oxford University Rowing

**ARA Coaching and Development Officers**

Sarah Birch  
Phil Simmons

*Tideway Code Panel*

*(Code of Practice for Rowing on the Tidal Thames)*

Bill Mitchell, Chairman  
Julie Watson, Tideway Code of Conduct Organiser for Events

*Safety Panel*

Tony Reynolds, Regional Water Safety Adviser  
Nick Watkins, Downriver  
Lynch Mason, Upriver  
David Hancock, Member  
Jim Harlow, Member  
Neil Jackson, Member

*Thames Regional Umpires' Commission*

Chris Sprague (Chairman), John Biddle, Maggie Phillips, David Biddulph, Barbara Wilson, Jeremy Hudson, Rod Murray, John Robson, Andrew Crawford, Gary Painter, David Hancock, Nigel Smith, John Duff and Claire McIntosh.

*Financial*

The bankers to the TRRC are:  
HSBC Plc

The Independent Honorary Examiner is:  
John Chapman FCA

## 2. Chairman's Report

I took over the Thames Region January 2009 and I think I am just beginning (ten months later) to understand what the members of the Regional Council do, other than work very hard for the sport. It is quite easy to see why rowing has become one of the country's sporting success stories both in terms of international competition and growth at the grass roots level when one realises the incredible enthusiasm and dedication of volunteers such as we have in the Thames Region. All of this is a tribute to the legacy that my predecessor, Martin Humphrys, left behind, and I would like to thank him for all the hard work he so freely put into the Region and for the strong team he left behind.

It has been another very busy year on the Tidal Thames and I am grateful again to the Port of London Authority for their continued support of improving safety through the PLA awards. Thames Water has posed a health risk to those clubs on the Tideway as it continues to dump thousands of tonnes of raw sewage into the river, and we hope that the campaign initiated by the Thames Region will ensure that an early warning system is available to all river users and that the Mogden sewage plant is expanded.

Sadly, the new Junior Rowing Centre at Hammersmith has been put on hold due to the current economic climate, but we are still hoping to roll out indoor rowing to the schools in Hammersmith with a view to taking those youngsters who display exceptional enthusiasm/talent onto the water at local clubs.

The Regional team led by Bill Mitchell looking after the Disciplinary Code is going to run two upriver and two downriver briefings on the Tideway Code at which the new Tideway Code, Map and summary maps will be distributed. I am very grateful to all of the Clubs who have served on the Disciplinary Team throughout the last year and would like to stress that it is important that every club plays its part.

This autumn sees the introduction of a proposed framework for steers training and we hope that by this time next year every club on the Tideway will have an accurate list of registered steer and a

practical way of assessing the competence of their coxes, single scullers and steers. We also aim to have a web based test of the Tideway Code operating by early 2010, through the British Rowing website.

The divisions of the Upriver Thames somehow do not seem to throw up as many issues as those on the Tideway and just seem to 'get on with it'. We are waiting to hear the outcome of Richard West's negotiations with the Environment Agency and look forward to simplifying the license situation by enabling block licenses for all clubs in the Thames Region.

As always, the Thames Region continues to be well represented in the medals at all National and International events and I would like to thank and congratulate everyone in the national teams for their splendid efforts. British oarsmen and women truly are wonderful ambassadors for our sport.

We are now only three years away from the Games of the XXX Olympiad and I hope that all the clubs and events in the Region will be able to support British Rowing and LOCOG in their efforts to provide the best Olympics possible. In this way we will all be able to enjoy what I know will be a truly magnificent sporting experience.

I will conclude by thanking the TRRC Executive, and the unsung heroes of the Region namely the umpires, marshals, event officials, club officers, coaches etc. In particular Martin Carr, John Biddle, Paul Baldwin, Ed Lloyd Rees and Liz Wray, all of whom are retiring from the Council after many years of sterling effort. The Thames Region is also very lucky in the strength of our two CCDOs, and I would like to thank Phil Simmons and Sarah Birch for their efforts in promoting the sport.

I hope that next year will be just as successful for British Rowing and the Thames Region.

Ruth Hatton  
Chairman

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

### **Upriver Representative (David Hancock)**

#### **General**

I'll concentrate on events in this brief summary and leave the activities of clubs for the Divisional Representatives to report on.

#### **Events**

It was a good year for Upriver regattas despite fairly dull weather for most of the summer. None of the summer regattas was cancelled this year. Of the winter events in the first half of the year, only Burway Head (cancelled), Molesey Veterans' Head (postponed for 3 weeks) and the National Junior Sculling Head (moved to Dorney) were impacted by fast streams.

Dorney Lake continues to be used by many regattas and heads as either a permanent or stand-by home. Contingency planning for 2012, when there will be limited access to Dorney for much of the season, has already started.

#### **Safety at Events**

This "self-certification" approach to safety documentation mentioned last year appears to be working well. The umpire commissioners check the safety approach as part of their role at regattas.

#### **Umpire Jacket Refund Scheme**

This scheme was launched three years ago to both smarten up the image and recognise the many hours of voluntary support our Umpires give to Heads and Regattas throughout our Region. A high proportion of umpires in the Region are now wearing the jackets.

#### **Event Seminar**

A seminar for event organisers was held at the River and Rowing Museum in Henley on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

### 3. Executive Committee Members' Reports

The main objective was for delegates to realise that they are not alone out there and with 70 or so events in the Thames Region there is likely to be another event which can provide the solution to any problems encountered.

The seminar was based around the advice that could be given to someone intending to start a new event. The delegates discussed the following elements of events:

- ◆ Objectives of Event
- ◆ On Water
- ◆ On Land
- ◆ Event selection & Draw process
- ◆ Advertising & Marketing
- ◆ Entries Management
- ◆ Communications with crews
- ◆ Volunteers / Officials
- ◆ Crew registration
- ◆ Information flow on the day
- ◆ Winner Management
- ◆ Wash-Up Meeting

The seminar was well received by the 30 attendees. Output from the seminar will be posted on the TRRC website.

### **Downriver Representative (Jim Harlow)**

The Hammersmith Junior Rowing Centre development is on hold as the Developer is unable to proceed in the current economic climate. In the interim I have been working with Hammersmith & Fulham Borough Council and London Youth Rowing to get junior rowing schemes up and running on the Tideway as well as taking time to update our existing plans.

My other downriver duties have included –

1. Participating in the Dove Pier steering group to make sure we all learn the lessons from the incident and act upon them accordingly.
2. I have been involved with the safety panel focussing on our continued work on the Tideway.
3. I have worked with Julie Watson and the Tideway events group.
4. With the RNLI and PLA I set up a joint group to look at the use of hi viz kit amongst rowers and a second project looking at improving safety boat training for our events
5. I continue to develop relationships and work with other river users such as the RNLI and PLA.
6. I have represented the Thames Region at NDC meetings
7. As Downriver rep I have sought to support rowing on the Tideway and its' events wherever possible.

## **Chairman of the Thames Regional Umpires' Commission (John Biddle)**

### **Umpires**

The Region currently has 127 umpires on its books as follows:

FISA	16
Multi-Lane Endorsed	36
National	75

The Region had 5 umpire candidates in 2009. Three have passed the other two failed at the written exam stage. The successful candidates were Mel Sage and Roy Prosser. The third candidate is on the SE Region list. (Harry Salmon).

We currently have four confirmed candidates for 2010 and several others to be followed up. Although as a Region we have a good number of umpires, we need to maintain the level of new candidates coming forward as a large number of our umpires will be retiring over the next four to five years.

One umpire was re-sitting their Multi-lane exam but due to personal circumstances had to withdraw just prior to the exam.

The commission will be nominating six umpires from the Region for multi-lane training in 2010.

One umpire from the Region, namely Peter Moore, retires at the end of this year having reached the age of seventy.

Judith Packer passed her FISA exam.

### **Seminars**

Two seminars were held during the Spring, one at London RC and the other at City of Oxford RC. The topics covered included:

- ◆ Rule and point changes
- ◆ The new water safety code 'Row Safe'.
- ◆ Approaching a casualty in the water by launch and from land and resuscitation techniques and dealing with breathing difficulties, i.e. hyperventilation
- ◆ Event Organisers seminar
- ◆ Race Monitor Training

The Commission continues to have one of its members attend every event and give feedback to regattas/heads where appropriate and aims to continue this in future.

### **Chairman, Thames Regional Junior Commission Upriver (Laura Lion)**

Thames Upriver fielded a strong team for the JIRR this year having had 188 athletes trialling for places in the team. The weather was kinder to us this year, providing rough but fairly bright conditions allowing a full days racing. Thames Upper rowed hard and finished a well-deserved 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Boys category and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Girls. Putting us in the 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall. This unique event brings the young athletes together as a team and gives them a taste of the wider world of rowing outside their club environment.

The Head and Regatta season saw Thames Upriver clubs and schools achieving significant wins at the Junior Sculling Head, the Schools Head, National School's Regatta and National Championships. The standard of our young athletes and their dedication to the sport was shown by a large number being selected to represent England in the Home Countries, and Great Britain at the Coupe and the Junior World Championships.

The introduction of the J17 category has been met with a positive response but the change in point system continues to cause controversy especially amongst the schools looking for races for their 8's.

I never fail to be impressed by our incredibly motivated youngsters, aided and abetted by similarly motivated coaches and supporters, without whom we would not enjoy such success.

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

- ◆ represented Thames Region at meetings of ARA Recreational Working Party
- ◆ attended ARA Tour Dinner at Leander Club

### **Chairman, Veterans' Commission (Murray Litvak)**

During the past year, I have continued to act as Secretary at meetings of the British Rowing Veteran Commission, where I have represented views of veterans, now Masters from the Thames Region.

I have discussed new initiatives with rowers across the Region at regattas, heads and towpaths. As a result of this I have pressed issues at a national level when needed. During the past year, this has included revisiting the handicap system to ensure safe, fair and competitive rowing for all levels of Masters from older novices to more experienced seasoned oarsmen and women. These handicaps will now be revisited regularly to ensure they are accurate and appropriate. I am always seeking to bring the delights of masters rowing to a wider audience.

A further meeting of the Veterans Commission is planned for January 2010, so please advise of any views you wish represented.

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

### **2009 Calendar**

The 2009 Calendar is being followed. No changes have been made during the year so far, and I believe that all events have been run successfully.

### **2010 Calendar**

The 2010 Calendar is nearing completion; a first draft was circulated in August 2009.

Many folk are probably unaware of the fact that there can be four or five week-ends in May, however to anyone organising the Regatta schedule, it is highly significant, since there are Bank Holidays on the first and last week-ends. The last week-end changes its "week number" relative to Henley Royal Regatta. A meeting of representatives of Regattas usually staged at this time was held, and a new set of dates agreed. Subsequently, some requests for date changes nearer to the first Bank Holiday have also been accommodated. At the time of writing, a new draft Calendar is about to be issued.

### **2011 Calendar**

As usual the first 3 months of the year are included within draft for the previous year. This includes three major Tideway events – the Boat race, the Men's and Women's Head of the River races. It is only within the last week that the week-end of the Boat race has been agreed, and also the dates for the two major Heads fixed. Details of the rest of the programme can now be settled.

## **Chairman of the Tideway Code Panel (Bill Mitchell)**

During the past year the Code has worked well. A group of volunteers carried out observations of crews at various points on the Tideway from February to July. These allowed a compliance percentage to be worked out. Few clubs were below 70% and several were in the high 80s and even 90s.

The Panel has met less often as there have been fewer reports. This may have been due to the switch to the ARA reporting system which was initially difficult to access. The peer-to-peer system has not been used very much and will, I think, need much more publicity. Club briefings will continue to be needed as it is becoming clear that some coaches and oarsmen who are new to the Tideway are not making themselves sufficiently familiar with the code.

The PLA is again giving the PLA awards, the winning clubs are not known at the time of writing.

The Tideway Code has been reviewed after three years of operation and updated. New pamphlets, charts and pocket guides are being given to clubs at the RWSA's safety briefings.

## **Tideway Code of Conduct for Events organiser (Julie Watson)**

In the past year the Regatta Code has been ongoing and the Head Code is being brought in.

### **Tideway Regatta Code**

The use of the Tideway Regatta Code is ongoing, with all Regattas taking an active part and using the code. There is one meeting taking place per year to discuss problems and any amendments that may need to be made. Invitations go out to: All the Regattas (usually the Chairman of the Race committee of the safety Advisor attends); The Regional Safety Advisor; The Chairman of the TRUC; The PLA (Alex Brown); The Coast Guard and The RNLI. The next meeting should be taking place in the New Year.

### **Tideway Head Code**

A meeting was held in April '09 with representatives of the Tideway Heads to disseminate and discuss the Tideway Head Code. Invitations went out to: All the Heads (usually the Chief Umpire, the Safety Advisor and the Chief Marshal); The Regional Safety Advisor; The Chairman of the TRUC; The PLA (Alex Brown); The Coast Guard and The RNLI. All groups were represented.

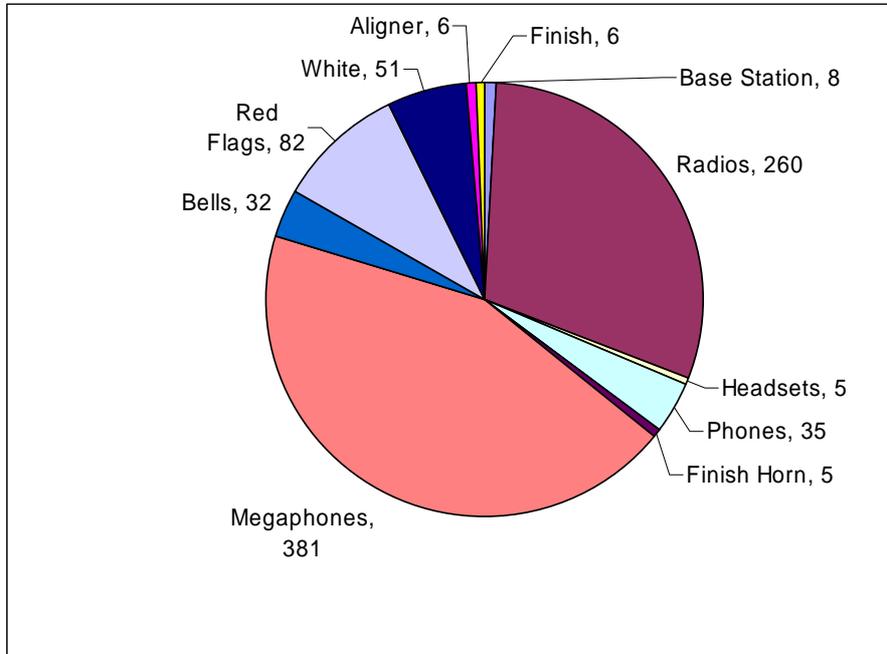
The Tideway Head code and the self assessment for it, was discussed and the meeting was used as a forum for other issues including:

- ◆ The Radio Protocol
- ◆ Parking arrangements for the heads
- ◆ Safety Launch details for the PLA
- ◆ The Standard Events Letter (SEL)
- ◆ All Events use similar paperwork to send out to officials (Chief Marshals should get together and discuss)

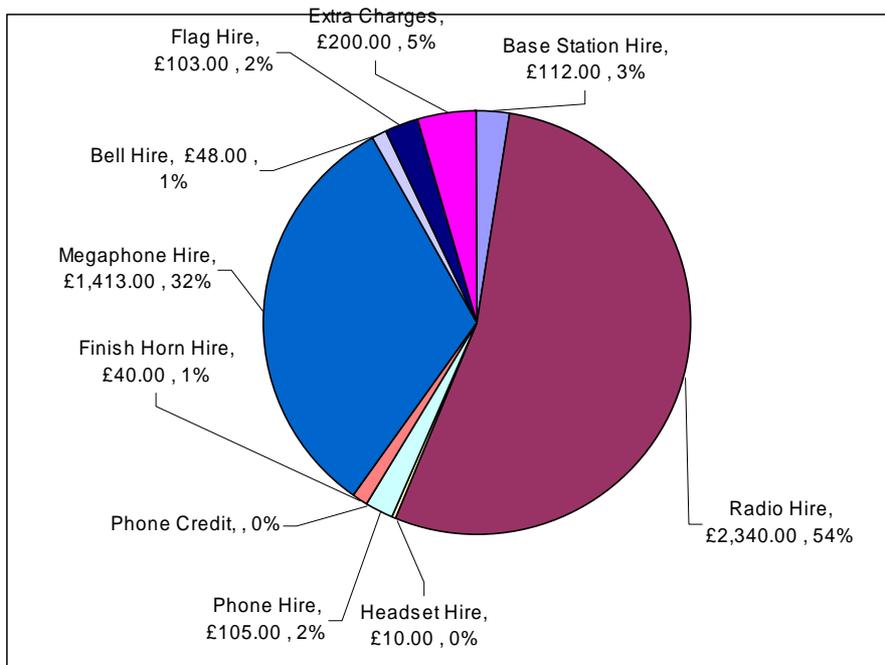
The next Meeting will be taking place in Jan / Feb after the pairs and fours Heads to see how the code and other issues are progressing.

### Equipment Officer (Richard Packer)

TRRC equipment continues to be in great demand, and by the end of 2009 we will have supported 27 Regional events, 3 national events at Holme Pierrepont and the ARA Tour in the Lake District. Total income for the calendar year is expected to be £4371. The two charts below show the breakdown by number of hires and income.



### 3. Executive Committee Members' Reports



We have implemented a scheme to ensure that our stock of megaphones is regularly refreshed, and 6 new megaphones will be purchased every 6 months. A limited number of ex-hire megaphones are available for sale on a first come, first served basis for £20 each (batteries not included, and megaphones are sold as seen with no warranty). Applications should be made by email to the Equipment Officer at [equipment@thames-rrc.org](mailto:equipment@thames-rrc.org). Six have already been sold or reserved this year.

After several years where the hire rates were not increased, it was decided to update them for 2010. The 2010 hire rates are shown in the table below.



## **TRRC Equipment Hire List and Rates 2010**

The following equipment is available for hire to British Rowing affiliated Clubs and Events in the Thames Region (out of region requests will be considered, but priority will be given to in-region events).

Item	Number	Daily Rate (per item, per day)	Charge for damage / loss	Notes
VHF Radio Basestation	1	£15	£400	12 volt battery required
Handheld VHF radio	24	£10	£300	
Headset for radio	6	£2.50	£30	
Megaphone	28	£3.50	£100	Batteries included
Umpire's flag set (2 flags)	8	£2	£10 (each)	One red, one white
Aligner's flag set (2 flags)	1	£2	£10 (each)	One white with red diagonal cross, one red
Finish flag set (2 flags)	1	£2	£10 (each)	One chequered yellow and black, one white
Bell	11	£2	£50	
Finish horn	1	£5	£200	12 volt battery supplied
Mobile phone	33	£2.50	£50	Credit used is rounded down to the nearest £5

Bookings should be made by email using the booking form available on the TRRC website ([www.thames-rc.org](http://www.thames-rc.org)), at least TWO WEEKS before the event. The Club or Event hiring the equipment is responsible for arranging its collection and return. Any loss or damage must be paid for, and it is recommended that hirers consider their insurance position; TRRC does not provide insurance for the equipment at events. Payment is due within 7 days after the event.

## **Divisional Representative, Division 11 Upper Thames (Andrew Weekes)**

Another year of some periods of adverse river conditions but despite this the division has had another good year with success across all sectors.

Juniors, both schools and clubs in the Region had another good year including success at national events.

Senior rowing remains at a good standard in the division with clubs taking national honours. City of Oxford attained an unusual feat by getting both a gold and bronze in the same fours event at the Nationals.

A waiting list remains for people wishing to try the sport at both junior and adult levels.

The OARC adaptive club based at the City of Oxford Rowing Club is slowly expanding its membership with the help of both the BR coaching team and Oxfordshire County Council.

All the annual events in the area again proved successful and enjoyed by all

This year again proved frustrating for many with the river Thames in the Oxford area suffering from several bouts of serious fast flow although not involving flooding as experienced the recent years. However, the need for an alternative training protected water facility within reasonable distance needs to be urgently found. Again this year many used Dorney Lake when the river was closed but the lack of long term boat storage at this site remains an issue with many having to tow trailers from club to Eton and back on a daily basis. Often the course is over subscribed making worth while training a severe trial for both crews and coaches.

## **Divisional Representative, Division 12**

### **Reading (Peter Moore)**

- ◆ officiated at all open events in the Division, chairing the Race Committee at four
- ◆ visited all club boathouses in the Division
- ◆ attended all TRRC Executive (bar one), ARA Council and River User Group meetings throughout the year, plus the British Rowing conference
- ◆ liaised with Environment Agency Navigation Office regarding conditions for open events
- ◆ advised Thames Valley Park Rowing Club on constitution and affiliation to British Rowing
- ◆ directed telephone enquirers to suitable clubs
- ◆ organised TRRC Executive Dinner at Leander Club

## **Divisional Representative, Division 13**

### **Middle Thames (Tony [A.J.] Evans)**

My main method of communication to the Clubs and events in the Division continues to be by e-mail. There are now just over 50 names on the list. If others wish to be included then please let me know (ajevans837@btinternet or 01628 525977). There seems to be no desire to hold meetings.

I am somewhat disappointed that I still seem to be a channel for information *to* the Division's Members from the TRRC or British Rowing, rather than representing the Members' views *to* TRRC and British Rowing. I have attended all ARA/British Rowing Council meetings, and most TRRC meetings.

As far as I can remember, all events held within the Division were staged without problems from adverse weather / stream conditions. Clubs seem to be working well, through the efforts of very hardworking volunteers.

I helped to organise the recent Event Organiser's Seminar at the River and Rowing Museum, which was well attended.

I am currently a member of two working parties concerned with the British Rowing "Explore Rowing" initiative. These are "Stable Boats for Recreational Rowers" and "Competitions for Recreational Rowers". The first of these has reported. I am also a member of a British Rowing Working Party looking at Membership.

#### **Dorney-Based Regattas**

As you are probably aware, the Olympic Regatta will be staged at Dorney Lake in 2012. Between now and then, preparatory engineering works will be taking place. This will cause some inconvenience. All the Regattas usually staged at Dorney Lake are working with Dorney Lake Services to ensure that they can be held in the next three years.

#### **Longridge**

There is now a considerable amount of rowing and canoeing activity taking place on the Marlow to Cookham reach, most of it based at Longridge, the ex Scout Association Water Centre. Sir Wm Borlase's

Grammar School, Great Marlow School, parts of the GB National Rowing and Canoeing squads all boat from this centre. In addition Longridge itself is starting to run rowing sessions.

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

There were no major issues during the year and the majority of the events in the division took place as normal. The river conditions were far better than the previous year and we did not get the number of cancellations as last year. Burway Head in February was one of the only events to suffer.

Walton RC are proceeding with the building of a new club house, which they have been planning for some time. All the clubs in the division are in a healthy position.

I was unable to attend as many TRRC meetings as I would like but did attend all the ARA Council meetings during the year, including the British Rowing Conference.

All communications from the TRRC and EA have been passed on to all clubs and events in the Region.

I have attended a number of the events held in the Region when ever possible.

I will be standing down as Divisional Representative for Div 14 at the end of the year as I will be moving to New Zealand for 18 months with my family.

## **Divisional Representative, Division 17**

### **University of London (Siobhan Cassidy)**

The growth of rowing within the University of London Boat Club users is exciting. We are keen to support the increase in numbers of student boathouse users and to motivate and encourage students to take up coaching courses and to increase access to the river from local groups.

#### **Safety**

Safety and educating safe practice is a priority at the Hartington Road Boat House. With a large number of facility users it is essential that all users are clear about the regulations. Safety briefings are delivered at the beginning of the academic year and support is available to the various clubs throughout the season.

#### **Coach Education**

With the support of the TRRC and the Community Coaches we are able to offer coach education to the clubs. This is very much appreciated by the users as they are able to benefit at a reasonable cost. However we are keen to be able to offer coaching courses to the student users as this would enable the students to improve the quality of the sport.

#### **Facility Development**

The boathouse is now run independently from the university by the ULBC Trust and has completed its first year satisfactorily and on budget. There have been some minor improvements made. The final long-term lease will be signed shortly after protracted negotiation. The redevelopment process has now begun with an initial approach to the planners but it is likely to be a drawn out affair.

#### **Rowing Courses**

For the first time a summer rowing course was held at the boathouse. Aimed at 13 to 18 year olds it was small in number but well delivered and feedback was good. Another course is planned for Summer 2010.

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

2008-09 was a **relatively quiet year in Division 18**. There was, however, one cause of concern and two developments which are storing up problems for the future.

The cause for concern was **Dove pier**, the site of three serious incidents in the year:

- ◆ 8<sup>th</sup> November 2008: LSE M4x wrecked on the down-river moored barges on a flood tide.
- ◆ 25<sup>th</sup> July 2009: PTR M1x hit the down-river moored barges on a flood tide and capsized.
- ◆ 17<sup>th</sup> September: LTU WJ148x+ wrecked on the up-river moored barges on an ebb tide.

All individual rowers and coaches involved were rescued without reported injuries. There have almost certainly been other near-misses unreported to British Rowing or Thames Rowing because no actual damage or immersions occurred. Dove pier remains a key hazard. Thames Rowing issued a 'heads-up' notice to all clubs about it. And the PLA provided a two-picture A4 poster-style guide to steering towards it safely through Hammersmith Bridge.

The first of the Division's problematic developments was the **substantial growth in the lateral shoals**, especially in the boating areas at Hammersmith, Civil Service and Tideway Scullers and on the Surrey shore off The Ship. Those shoals have grown outward, narrowing the surface water available for rowing at mid to low tide. They have directly rendered more hazardous the transits of Hammersmith bridge, Barnes bridge, and the Surrey end of The Ship Crossing and indirectly made it more likely that crews will have to use the centre arch of Chiswick bridge rather than the Middlesex arch. Those are in addition to the more general attrition of the available surface water throughout the Division, especially in the long stretch of the in-shore zone from Hammersmith bridge to the Chiswick pier crossing.

The **shoaling problem can only get worse**. We have made occasional representations to the PLA about the difficulties for both rowers in terms of damaging groundings and for all river users in the way rowers using the in-shore zone against the tide are forced outwards towards the fairway, increasing the risk of baulking and collision incidents. The PLA general rule is that they will dredge the river only where there is a serious obstacle to commercial traffic (in effect the big 'Class V' passenger-carrying vessels). General silting up or lateral shoal development will, on that basis, continue.

The second adverse development has been the Division's **reducing capacity to boat visiting crews**, especially for the major Tideway head competitions. Building work at St Paul's school has disabled the school's usual hospitality. Network Rail's refurbishment of Barnes bridge has been carried out without undue obstruction of the arches, at least at our level. But the works depot currently occupies a lot of the space at Hounslow Boathouse (TTR and CHK) formerly available for visiting crews west of the rail bridge. At both ends of Duke's Meadows the borough has been changing the balance of priorities for in favour of general recreation, reducing the options for rowers. A similar policy shift has taken place at Furnivall Gardens. CYG and BBL have faced increased demand east of the railway line and had to impose tighter controls over parking and boating, beginning with the Pairs head 2009. Visitors will find matters more difficult for the forthcoming bigger events.

## **British Rowing Team Leaders: Phil Simmons and Sarah Birch**

### **Staff roles**

Phil Simmons: coaching and development officer for clubs and Boroughs from Kingston through London and team leader for all Community Sports Coaches, HSCT coaches and Sport England Funded coaches in this area.

Sarah Birch: coaching and development officer for clubs and Counties covering clubs from Molesey to Oxford and team leader for Henley Stewards coaches and Sport England funded coaches in the up river area.

### **British Rowing Whole Sport Plan 2009-2013**

Our roles will be adjusting to work towards the new WSP. Targets for the WSP are based on the principle of Grow, Sustain and Excel rowing. British Rowing aims to support 10,000 additional participants over the period of the plan. Explore rowing will play a part in this. Central to our roles will be the 'sustain' element of the plan and increasing satisfaction in rowing. We will be supporting quality clubs, programmes, new ideas, coaching structure, volunteer structure that will increase participant satisfaction in our sport.

### **Community Sports Coach Scheme**

The scheme has ended in the last 12 months and so the clubs in the Thames that had CSC's are now looking for alternative coaches. Some have applied to the ARA for money from the Physical Education Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP) and these are in the process of being confirmed. These clubs will be selected nationally on being able to achieve the aims of the government's PESSYP funding.

Sadly in the last few weeks Andy Dequidt the CSC working at Barn Elms has passed away aged just 26. All who worked with Andy were saddened by his death.

We are working with other clubs to support applications to Sport England for small grants towards coaching costs for junior schemes along the Thames.

### **Sport England Club and Coach programme**

The three coaches that started last year are still in post they are:

- ◆ Jessica Essex working with Twickenham and Vesta RC
- ◆ Phil Harfield working with Quintin BC
- ◆ Christy Job working with Burway, Weyfarers, Staines, Eton Excelsior, Upper Thames, Reading and Falcon.

In addition we now have John McArthur working with Sons of the Thames RC.

The monitoring system for these coaches is just about to change but the roles will not vary and the aims of the scheme will remain the same. The coaches have run or assisted with Learn to Row course for adults at all the participant clubs and some are working with club coaches as mentors to raise the general coaching standards. The scheme is proving a success in the clubs with some inevitable difficulties in some venues.

### **Henley Stewards' Charitable Trust Coach**

The HSCT programme supports graduates who wish to continue with academic study whilst further developing their rowing coaching skills.

Each scholarship is awarded for two years. HSCT coaches study a sports related programme whilst coaching at British Rowing clubs for 20hrs/week. The Thames Region has one HSCT coach based in Surrey with Weybridge and Guildford RC.

Katy Knowles started coaching (and Uni) in Sept and is already proving a big asset to the two clubs.

### **Partnerships**

Our role as CDOs involves liaison with County Sports Partnerships, School Competition Managers (indoor rowing competitions), the Youth Sports Trust, Sport England, Local authorities, Skills Active, School Sports Partnerships and NGB forum representation. Clubs for Young People and Street Games initiatives to develop indoor rowing.

### **Explore Rowing**

The new British Rowing Scheme "Explore Rowing" has been launched with 8 upriver and 5 downriver clubs in the Region expressing an interest. The programme coordinator and the relevant team leader (PS or SB) are in the process of meeting the clubs and we are supporting them in the application process. As well as funding towards equipment clubs are able to accredit to the scheme and we are supporting clubs that wish to choose this route as well.

### **Coach Education**

As last year demand continues to outstrip the Region's ability to deliver Level 2 courses. However with the support of the coach education team SB and PS have been able to increase the percentage of candidates completing and passing the assessment stage of the course.

This year the Thames Region has run 5 Courses (April 09-Sept 09) and all have been oversubscribed barring the course held at Thames Tradesmen.

We have been trying a more formal format for organising the assessments for courses run since last year which is starting to show a positive effect in those completing assessments.

We have continued to chase candidates from 2007 and 2008 who have not been assessed with mixed success and a thank you must be made to those assessors that have helped with this.

The new system for administration of courses through CDO's and one fee for all courses seem to be working. There is a small amount of opposition to this in the coach ed team but most see the benefits to both candidates and course organisers.

### **Workshops and Seminars**

The first of the GB Coaching seminars was held in March and a second one in Oct. In March, over 80 people in the Thames Region attend at two venues (Marlow and Molesey). In Oct, 37 people attended at Molesey BC. A second venue for Oct was cancelled due to lack of numbers. The courses were a huge success with

many coaches feeding back how much they had learnt. This programme will continue into the coming year.

We have also planned a number of other seminars to run in the autumn including: Safeguarding and Protecting Children, first Aid, tideway navigation, and technique for University of London and Oxford College clubs.

We rely on the Div Reps assistance in helping to advertise these so please do circulate information when we send it to you. Thank you to all Div Reps for forwarding on the posters and information we've sent so far this year.

### **Club Development**

Clubmark reaccreditation is due for a number of clubs. Dorney Boat Club reaccredited, Oct 09.

Walton RC- application to British Rowing for Sport England funding for development of clubhouse.

Upper Thames RC- successful extension of clubhouse with support from British Rowing, Sport England and local funding sources.

Longridge Centre applying for rowing club affiliation to British Rowing.

### **Other**

Siemens rowing, 2012 road shows: We have both been involved in the Indoor rowing Event for Siemens employees. Siemens as sponsors of the GB Rowing Team hold an event at each office nationally then a finals day during September/ October 2009. Now in its third year, these events were again very successful.

## **4. Accounts**

### **Introduction**

This has been a year of increased activity, mainly owing to the financial administration of UKCC Level 2 courses now being undertaken within the Region rather than centrally at British Rowing.

### **Accounts**

The accounts in respect of the year ended 30 September 2009 and the Balance Sheet at the same date appear on the following pages.

#### *Balance Sheet*

Through careful use of its resources, Council has maintained net assets in excess of £35,000 despite the complete collapse of its interest income from funds on long term deposit.

The unusually high bank balances and corresponding provisions at the year-end are as a result of income preceding expenditure in relation to certain of the UKCC Level 2 courses run in the Region.

#### *Expenditure*

Council continues to invest heavily in water safety, coach training and RYA2 certifications, as well as supporting the work of the umpires in the Region by maintaining the part-funding for purchasing waterproof jackets.

Once again the robust surplus on equipment hiring activities has helped alleviate the deficit otherwise left after receipt of the Regional Rebate. It is thanks to that surplus, and therefore the efforts of our Equipment Officer, that Council is able to undertake the extent of work it does.

The significant income and expenditure of £30,000 in relation to the Junior Rowing Centre represents a donation from Betfair which was granted to the project before the Hammersmith Junior Rowing Centre Trust was incorporated. As a result, when the donation was received, that was in the name of Council rather than the Trust so the funds were passed on to that body for it to hold until such time as the project proceeds.

The UKCC Level 2 courses run in the period have produced a modest surplus which will be reinvested in coach education and training in the Region.

#### **Five Year Summary**

My standing down from Council would seem an opportune time to present a fuller picture of its financial health. As such, a 5-year summary of income, expenditure and funds available is shown on the following pages, on which the following should be noted:

- ◆ Income has only kept pace with expenditure thanks to equipment hire surpluses
- ◆ The Junior Inter-Regional Regatta should remain at break-even if entries collections from the teams is robust
- ◆ The modest surpluses on running some courses within the Region may, in future, help offset investments made in other courses and training
- ◆ Water Safety remains a significant, and absolutely vital, call on Council's resources and if income tightens further, strong budgeting will be required to maintain this investment
- ◆ If interest income remains virtually non-existent, the longer term plans for Council's reserves should be considered

Finally, as I hand over to my successor, I should like to record my sincere thanks to John Chapman FCA who has been the Honorary Examiner during my three years in office. His patience, ready assistance, and thoroughness are greatly appreciated.

Paul Baldwin ACA  
Honorary Treasurer

Thames Regional Rowing Council

Accounts for the Year Ended 30 September 2009

Communications and Equipment Fund

2008		2009		2008		2009	
£		£		£		£	
3,891	Receipts from Hire	4,185		2,129	Purchase of Equipment	850	
0	Damaged Equipment Refund	0		0	Travel	0	
281	Net Bank Interest (Notional)	16		99	Repairs (incl. batteries)	306	
				1,944	Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	3,045	
<u>4,172</u>		<u>4,201</u>		<u>4,172</u>		<u>4,201</u>	

General Account

2008		2009		2008		2009	
£		£		£		£	
6,804	ARA Regional rebate	6,347		485	Courses and Workshops	(659)	
938	Bank interest (net)	51		825	Certifications	1,589	
				405	PR	0	
30	Junior Inter-regional Regatta	9		0	Website	847	
0	Junior Rowing Centre	30,000		1,936	Meetings	1,052	
2,766	(Surplus)/Deficit	2,422		500	Secretarial	182	
				929	Awards	2,125	
				4,566	Water Safety	3,693	
				892	Junior Rowing Centre	30,000	
				0	Miscellaneous	0	
<u>10,538</u>		<u>38,829</u>		<u>10,538</u>		<u>38,829</u>	

I have examined the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2009 and the attached notes together with the books and vouchers and find the same to be in accordance therewith

P Baldwin ACA, Hon Treasurer  
26 October 2009

J Chapman FCA, Independent Hon Examiner  
26 October 2009

3. Executive Committee Members' Reports

**Thames Regional Rowing Council**

**Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2009**

**Communications and Equipment Fund**

<b>2008</b>		<b>2009</b>		<b>2008</b>		<b>2009</b>	
£		£		£		£	
7,703	Opening Balance	9,647		9,697	Bank Balance	13,392	
1,944	Surplus/(Deficit)	3,045		(50)	Provisions (expenses)	(700)	
<u>9,647</u>		<u>12,692</u>		<u>9,647</u>		<u>12,692</u>	

**General Account**

<b>2008</b>		<b>2009</b>		<b>2008</b>		<b>2009</b>	
£		£		£		£	
28,150	Opening Balance	25,384		32,050	Bank Balance	40,906	
(2,766)	Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,422)		(265)	Creditors	(1,944)	
				(6,400)	Provisions (expenses / 5 year plan)	(16,000)	
<u>25,384</u>		<u>22,962</u>		<u>25,385</u>		<u>22,962</u>	

P Baldwin ACA, Hon Treasurer  
26 October 2009

J Chapman FCA, Independent Hon Examiner  
26 October 2009

**Thames Regional Rowing Council**
**5 Year Summary as at 30 September 2009**

Year Ended 30 September	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Income / (Expense)					
Regional Rebate	4,542	4,743	4,200	6,804	6,347
Bank Interest	867	894	1,177	938	51
Junior Inter-Regional Regatta	(1,072)	396	(412)	30	9
Other (Note)					
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4,337</b>	<b>6,033</b>	<b>4,965</b>	<b>7,772</b>	<b>6,407</b>
Courses	(1,109)	(1,000)	(60)	(486)	659
Certifications	(2,279)	(2,218)	(598)	(826)	(1,589)
Awards	(631)	(2,271)		(929)	(2,125)
Water Safety		(4,704)	(2,999)	(4,566)	(3,693)
Other	(4,985)	(2,773)	(1,315)	(3,731)	(2,081)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>(9,004)</b>	<b>(12,966)</b>	<b>(4,972)</b>	<b>(10,538)</b>	<b>(8,829)</b>
Deficit before Equipment Hire	(4,667)	(6,933)	(7)	(2,766)	(2,422)
Surplus on Equipment Hire	2,271	1,660	983	1,944	3,045
<b>Result after Equipment Hire</b>	<b>(2,396)</b>	<b>(5,273)</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>(822)</b>	<b>623</b>
Bank Balance	43,297	39,587	39,179	41,747	54,298
Debtors	28				
Provisions	(3,175)	(4,710)	(3,325)	(6,715)	(18,644)
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>40,150</b>	<b>34,877</b>	<b>35,854</b>	<b>35,032</b>	<b>35,654</b>

Note: Ignoring the £30,000 income/expense on HJRC in 2009

## 5. Contacting the Regional Council

### E-mail

The Council's Officers may be contacted using the following 'permanent' email addresses which will remain the same when personnel change. Each should be followed by @thames-rrc.org

<b>Role</b>	<b>@thames-rrc.org</b>
Chairman	chairman
Honorary Secretary	secretary
Honorary Treasurer	treasurer
Upriver Representative	upriver
Downriver Representative	downriver
Coaching	coaching
Chairman, Thames Regional Umpires' Commission	umpires
Chairman, Junior Commission (Upriver)	upriverjuniors
Chairman, Juniors Commission (Downriver)	downriverjuniors
Chairman, Veterans' Commission	veterans
Events' Co-ordinator (Calendar)	calendar
Regional Water Safety Adviser	safetyadviser
Regional Water Safety Development Adviser	safetydevelopment
Regional Water Safety (Downriver)	safetydownriver
Regional Water Safety (Upriver)	safetyupriver
Equipment Officer	equipment
Recreational Representative	recreational
Environment Agency Liaison	ea
Marketing and PR Officer	marketing
Projects' Officer	projects
Div Rep, Div 10	div10
Div Rep, Div 11	div11
Div Rep, Div 12	div12
Div Rep, Div 13	div13
Div Rep, Div 14	div14
Div Rep, Div 15	div15
Div Rep, Div 16	div16
Div Rep, Div 17	div17
Div Rep, Div 18	div18
Div Rep, Div 19	div19
Leander Club Representative	leander-rc
London RC Representative	london-rc
Thames RC Representative	trc
Code of Conduct Organiser for Tideway Events	tidewayevents

Conduct Panel Chairman	conductpanel
President	president
Vice Presidents:	
Margaret Adams	margaret
Bill Mitchell	bill
Chas Newens	chas

### **Mail**

Officers may be contacted using the current postal address displayed on the website or the following address:

The Thames Regional Rowing Council  
c/o British Rowing  
6 Lower Mall  
London W6 9DJ

### **Website**

As well as contact details, the TRRC website contains a wide range of useful information. Visit the site at:

[www.thames-rrc.org](http://www.thames-rrc.org)

The Thames Regional Rowing Council  
c/o British Rowing  
6 Lower Mall  
London W6 9DJ

[www.thames-rrc.org](http://www.thames-rrc.org)