



BRITISH ROWING
THAMES REGIONAL ROWING COUNCIL

Annual Report and Accounts

for the year ended 30 September 2011

The Thames Regional Rowing Council
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Compiled, edited and typeset by E LI Rees, Honorary Treasurer

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 British Rowing 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.

2. Officers of the Council

Stan Collingwood, President
Elizabeth Wray, Vice President (Immediate Past President)
Richard Goddard, Vice President (Past President 2008/9)
Chas Newens, Vice President (Past President 2007/8)
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 2010/11

Elected and Co-opted Officers

Martin Humphrys JP, Chairman
Paul Baldwin, Deputy Chairman (Downriver)
David Hancock, Deputy Chairman (Upriver)
Murray Litvak, Honorary Secretary
Edward Lloyd Rees, Honorary Treasurer (from 25 October)
Ali Elliot, Honorary Treasurer (from 13 to 25 October)
Jim Harlow, Projects' Officer
John Biddle, Chairman, Thames Regional Umpires' Commission
Richard Philips, Chairman, Coaching Commission
Laura Lion, Chairman, Junior Commission (Upriver)
Aron Crawford, Chairman, Junior Commission (Downriver)
Karen Phillips, Chairman, Masters' 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
Richard West, Environment Agency Liaison Officer
Bill Mitchell, Port of London Authority Liaison Officer
Julie Watson, Organiser, Tideway Code of Conduct Organiser for Events
Barbara Wilson, Communications Officer

British Rowing 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)

James Davey, Division 16 (Chiswick and Mortlake)
Siobhan Cassidy, Division 17 (University of London)
Neil Jackson, Division 18 (Barnes and Hammersmith)
Peter Simpson, Division 19 (Putney)

Representatives of British Rowing Appointed Members

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

British Rowing Coaching and Development Officers

Sarah Birch
Philip O'Keefe (until 22 July 2010)

Tideway Code Panel

(Code of Practice for Rowing on the Tidal Thames)

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

London RC
Vesta RC
Furnivall SC
Putney Town RC
Thames Tradesmen's RC
Imperial Medics' BC
St. Paul's School BC

Thames Regional Umpires' Commission

John Biddle (Chairman), Paul Baldwin (until 22 March 2011), David Biddulph, Andrew Crawford, John Duff, David Hancock, Jeremy Judson, Claire McIntosh, Rod Murray, Gary Painter, Maggie Phillips, John Robson and Barbara Wilson.

Financial

The bankers to the TRRC are:
HSBC Bank plc.

The Independent Honorary Examiner is:
John Chapman FCA

3. Chairman's Report

It was with some fear and trepidation that I agreed to stand again for the post of Chairman having relinquished it two years ago, on the completion of my four year term. I cannot pay too high a tribute to Ruth Hatton for her work during those two years and hope she is enjoying the life and relaxation now in Dubai.

It has been a very busy year for the Region. During this time we have continued to work well with the Port of London Authority (PLA) and the Environment Agency.

The Environment Agency has as you all know extended the coding system to the Upper River and I must remind everyone that it is an British Rowing Rule that boats are now coded and also when you sell a boat the onus is on **you** as a Club to remove **your** coding to ensure you do not receive problems later down the line, if by some chance your former vessel is involved in an incident.

I have been very concerned along with the PLA to see that some crews (especially young ones) are not being compliant with regard to the Tideway Code and that cannot continue: we will once again be ensuring that if necessary TRRC officials are out in launches before all of the major events either with or without the PLA to make sure the rules are being obeyed and to hopefully prevent accidents. All coaches **MUST** be aware of the rules of the Tideway otherwise we will lose the advantages we have and that will not be good for us or the sport of rowing.

The Region continues to be well represented in the medals at all national and international events. The strength of the Thames Regional volunteers never ceases to amaze me and I am grateful to everyone in all of our Clubs and Events who give so freely of their time to assist with the sport. I have not found it easy to determine the Regional winners for the Volunteer Awards this year, but was very disappointed that not one Junior was nominated within the Thames Region—that cannot be right—please **please** put in the nominations in the future.

Likewise with the Coaching Awards—very few are being put forward within the Thames Rand thus whilst we have some outstanding

figures, those elsewhere are gaining the recognition as we have no names being put forward by the Clubs.

During my two years absence we saw the development at Hammersmith for the proposed new Junior Rowing Centre for Hammersmith and Fulham go quiet as the land was sold between developers. I am very grateful to my Deputy Chairman Paul Baldwin and the team of Bill Mitchell and Jim Harlow who have continued to hold on in there with this development and I hope to be able once again to be able to report progress soon. Likewise if anyone knows of someone who will help us with the funding let me know!

There has been a complete review of the governance of the sport and we are to see a change in how the sport is governed at a national level with more power being placed in the hands of the regions. We will need to come to an Extraordinary General Meeting at some point to change our own Constitution to meet those changes and I will inform all Clubs and Events when that happens.

The coming year is not going to be easy as I have already indicated to all of the Clubs, and with the Olympic Regatta taking out some two weeks of normal racing days, we have some very busy weekends ahead of us and I would ask you all to give as much support to all of our Events as possible and please understand if the usual calm and tranquillity is somewhat missing as I know some Events will be hard pushed especially to man their usual levels when so many have been taken out to support the Olympic Regatta and indeed other Olympic events.

The call from British Rowing is Row for Gold and that must be our aim in the year ahead.

Good luck to everyone and many thanks again for a year well done.

Finally, I would also like to pay a very big tribute to all of the members of the Council who have worked very hard throughout the year—many seem to forget that this Council is all served by volunteers who give of their time freely and for that on behalf of everyone in the Region I thank them.

4. Executive Committee Members' Reports

Deputy Chairman (Upriver) *David Hancock*

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 another good year for Upriver Regattas despite the traditional dull weather for most of the summer—for the third successive year, none of the summer Regattas was cancelled.

There were also less winter Events impacted by the weather than in recent years—only Burway Small Boats' Head in early December and Weybridge Winter Head in mid-January succumbed.

Dorney Lake continues to be used by many Regattas and Heads as either a permanent or a stand-by home. The expectation is that most of these will be able to continue to use Dorney in the run-up to the Olympics in 2012, although there may be limited access to some areas.

Safety at Events

The 'self-certification' approach to safety documentation mentioned in previous years continues to work well. The umpire commissioners check the safety approach as part of their role at Regattas.

Umpire Jacket Refund Scheme

This scheme was launched a few 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.

The jackets now feature the new logo of British Rowing.

Deputy Chairman (Downriver) *Paul Baldwin*

The work I have done this year splits into three main areas, as follows:

Potential Developments

A large part of my work this year has been in relation to two possible watersports facilities on the Tideway, being those at Fulham Reach and at Mortlake Brewery.

The Fulham Reach development (formerly referred to as the Hammersmith Junior Rowing Centre) is effectively the reincarnation of the project which was stalled at the time of the sale of the site by Goodmans to St George, and its change from a commercially led development to a residentially led one. On behalf of the Region, I submitted to the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBFH) a response to their planning consultation for the Fulham Reach site. I have subsequently met with representatives of St George and had constructive discussions with them. Those discussions resulted in St George taking onboard our comments about the unsuitable design of the facility in their original planning submission, and producing much improved revised plans. The facility would be very different from that previously contemplated with the former developer, as it would form part of a much larger building and therefore its construction would be part and parcel of the developers' main works. St George is keen to work with the TRRC to identify possible users of the site and to use our contacts at British Rowing and elsewhere to help build a business plan for them to prove the long term sustainability of the planned facility. Discussions with British Rowing and other stakeholders are ongoing.

At the request of the Chairman, I submitted an initial response to the Supplementary Planning Document issued by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames in relation to the Mortlake Brewery site (following consultation with the Downriver Div Reps). I have subsequently made contact with both the West London River Group and the Mortlake Brewery Community Group in order to keep them abreast of our response, and also to offer our help if they want rowing input at any stage of the consultation or planning process. Whilst a watersports facility on this site is obviously an exciting

4. Executive Committee Members' Reports

prospect, Mortlake Brewery will be a long time in development as the document we've responded to so far is effectively only a 'strategy'. We will continue to monitor developments.

Thames Tunnel

Working alongside the Regional Water Safety Adviser, I've acted as a point of contact for Thames Water and also helped draft the Region's response as part of the planning process for the project, as well as fielding queries from rowers within the Region.

This work will continue as the project moves to the second stage of consultation, and we will ensure that the needs of rowers, as well as other river users, are at the forefront of those consultations.

Other Matters

I attended the Port of London (PLA) public meeting in February as the representative of rowing for the Tideway and have otherwise acted as one of the Region's points of contact for the PLA, and its Harbour Masters.

Ongoing work with and support of the British Rowing Divisional Representatives for the Tideway area and consulted them on matters of Tideway-wide interest.

President *Stan Collingwood*

Events

I have represented the Region at the PLA Safety Prize Giving and the TRRC Annual Dinner.

I have promoted the TRRC at numerous rowing events in the Region, for example Head Races and Regattas, where I have attended to undertake Official duties.

Activities

I have attended TRRC Executive Meetings during the year. I have provided informal advice and guidance to other TRRC Officers.

I am organising a meeting and luncheon in January 2012 for safety crews and teams used at rowing events. I am liaising with the British Rowing safety advisers to ensure this work is complementary to theirs.

Chairman of the Thames Regional Umpires' Commission *John Biddle*

Umpires

The Region currently has 120 umpires on its books as follows:

FISA	14
Multi-Lane Endorsed	35
National	71

The Region had six umpire candidates in 2011, however, only three took the written exam and all passed. At the time of writing two had taken the practical exam one passed the other failed. The third candidate is due to take their exam in the next two weeks along with one other umpire who is retaking the practical after a period away from officiating. We still have a good number of umpires in the Region, but we need to maintain the level of new candidates coming forward as a large number of our umpires will be retiring over the next three to four years.

Three umpires will be sitting their Multi-lane exam in late September. Three others who had been nominated to train for Multi-lane decided that the commitment required was too much for them.

Seminars

Two seminars were held at City of Oxford and Thames in April. Topics covered were:

- ◆ Rules changes
- ◆ Masters Starts
- ◆ River directions and Landmarks
- ◆ Expectations of Safety Crews
- ◆ Control Commission Forms
- ◆ Adaptive Events
- ◆ License Renewals
- ◆ Umpire Badges
- ◆ Presentation of Certificates

Regional Umpires' Commission

The Commission Members continues to attend every event and give feedback to regattas/heads where appropriate.

One member of the Commission stood down earlier in the year and a replacement is being sought.

Chairman, Thames Regional Junior Commission
Upriver *Laura Lion*

Thames Upriver Juniors have had an extremely busy and successful 2010 / 2011 season. With five wins at the Schools Head, eight wins at the Junior Sculling Head, 20 events won at the National Schools Regatta, three wins at Women's Henley, a win at Henley Royal Regatta, ten wins at British Championships and, of course, an overall win at the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta (JIRR) we are lucky to have so many dedicated and talented athletes and coaches.

As usual the trials for the JIRR Team were well attended with 98 crews competing for the 24 places. The resulting team proved to be the most successful for years with an overall win at the Regatta. As Team Manager it was fantastic to see all of the juniors racing their hearts out for their clubs and their Region. It is a tribute to the organisers that this Regatta is viewed as one of the main events in the racing calendar.

Much of my time this year has been spent on the World Rowing Junior Championships (WRJC) which was hosted in the Upriver Region. From March onwards I attended every major event with my team of volunteers publicising the WRJC by handing out flyers and generally pestering people on the banks. During the Regatta my team manned the British Rowing Marquee encouraging people to try out rowing on the ergos and also on the water. The water taster sessions were especially popular with all participants being directed to their local rowing club for a Learn to Row course afterwards. Many thanks to Maidenhead Rowing Club for lending us their stable quads for this.

The Thames Upriver Juniors featured strongly in the GB teams for the WRJC, Coupe de la Jeunesse, GB v France Match and the Home International.

Through the year I attended the Junior Commission meetings putting forward the views and concerns of the Upriver coaches. The Commission, amongst many things, supported the change of rule for the Fawley Cup at HRR, put forward Junior views on the Committee, Commissions and Councils of British Rowing Review, and supported the Junior Coaching Conference which had proved so successful last year. The changes to the Rules of Racing were reviewed and we have started to put together ideas to improve attendance at the British Championships.

Thames Upriver continues to thrive as a Region and I am very proud to represent it.

Regional Water Safety Adviser *Tony Reynolds*

Introduction

Putting safety into different categories is dangerous after all safety is a mind-set. However below are some of the areas that I have to deal with in the year.

Incident Reports

Incident reporting amongst clubs is variable. A lot of clubs report extremely well, however some clubs in the Region would appear to have no incidents throughout the year. I would like to be able to produce statistics on incidents but the current incident reporting system makes this an extremely difficult process. The current incident database is being revaluated and changes will hopefully be made soon.

Club Audit

Changes to the date when clubs can start their audit have been made this year. The new start date was the beginning of October. The deadline is 31 December. Any club who fails to complete their audit on time will be unable to enter events using the British Rowing

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online system. The RWSA has to accept each audit before the audit is closed.

Tideway Safety Briefings

Four separate briefings have been held this autumn; one for schools two for clubs and one for the UL colleges. Attendance has been good, with a few apologies from clubs who were not able to attend. I will possibly hold one more briefing next month for those clubs who have not attended a briefing. The major topic at the briefings was to introduce material for clubs to produce their own steering accreditation. I intend to hold a couple of safety briefings for upriver clubs in a few months' time.

Events

I have had no issues with events submitting documentation for their events, most of which has also been of high quality. Although at the time of writing I do not foresee Tideway events having a problem, the PLA are going to require that safety cover, marshalling and the safety plan allow rowers, under normal circumstances not to have to wear a PFD during an event.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank the following who regularly receive copies of the incident reports and will when necessary do a work at a local level to make sure lessons are learnt;

Andy Crawford, Bill Mitchell, Laura Lion, Neil Jackson, Nick Watkins, Lynch Mason, Sahil Sina and Tony Evans.

If anyone else would be happy to receive copies of the incident reports please let me know.

Thames Region Masters' Commission

Representative *Karon Phillips*

Handicaps in Head Races especially, are causing concern. It seems the older we get, the fitter we are—at least compared to Veterans/Masters in the past, resulting in some tough handicaps. The National Masters' Commission will continue to monitor the situation.

National Masters' Championships was not generally well attended by Masters from our Region. I have suggested that consideration is given to alternating the event with other venues, including Dorney Lake.

Henley Masters' Regatta was over-subscribed, with good representation from our Region.

The 'Explore Rowing' website has been launched, with a number of 'groups' so people can have a Forum for their particular interest – e.g. Skiff Rowing, Adaptive – and Masters. The Masters' group has very few Members, and I would ask all Divisional Representatives to bring the website and Forums to their Clubs attention. There is also a 'Community' section, which can be used to try and find like-minded Masters intending to enter an event in a particular Boat Class and/or Age Group.

Learn to Row Courses, which tend to attract many people who fall into the 'Masters' age group, were finding the requirement for people to become a Member of British Rowing rather expensive, when the individuals may not continue beyond the Learn to Row stage. Whilst the 'Silver' level is £24, this amount on top of the cost of a Learn to Row Course makes the price rather high. British Rowing is now re-considering this requirement.

A number of Clubs from the Region were represented at the **World Masters' Rowing Championships** in Poznan, with a good medal haul—although it is becoming more difficult for true Club crews competing against the 'invitation' crews such as Occoquan and Masters International. The subject has been raised with the FISA Masters representative for UK, Gary Bain.

Calendar of Events' Co-ordinator *A.J. (Tony) Evans*

A final version of the Calendar covering the period 1 January 2011 to 31 March 2012 was posted to all Thames Region Event Secretaries in November 2010. This was approved at the November meeting of the British Rowing Council, and forms part of the National Calendar, which is being enacted.

A draft Calendar for the remainder of 2012 was also included in the November mailshot. This early draft was seen as being necessary due to the unusual nature of the way the Calendar falls in 2012, and the added complication caused by the change in Bank Holidays, to celebrate HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This is in addition to any complications caused by the Olympic Regatta at Dorney. This seems to have been met with approval, since I have received few adverse comments.

An updated version of the Calendar for the period 1 January 2012 to 31 March 2013 is due to be issued in November 2011.

The new Blenheim Palace Junior Regatta for the very young (J13 and below), was asked to re-submit an application for affiliation, since the original permission was only given for one year. Written agreement from all the other Regattas held in the country on that day was required by the National Competition Committee. After some last minute negotiation, this was obtained. Most Regattas would have objections to the event being extended to higher age groups, but this is not Blenheim's intention. They do however, wish to invite more Clubs.

Looking further ahead, dates for the all major Tideway Heads (Men's, Women's, Pairs', Fours', Scullers') have now been agreed up to the end of 2014. The autumn of 2013 has a particularly unhelpful set of tides. At present it has been agreed to hold the Pairs' Head on Sunday, 13 October 2013, Scullers' Head on Saturday, 16 November 2013 and the Fours' Head on Saturday, 30 November 2013. Note that this means that, for one year only, the latter two events are to swap their 'usual' sequential positions. These dates were agreed at a very constructive meeting of representatives (and me) of the three Autumn Head races. I thank them for their help in this matter.

Following a request from British Rowing HQ, the Chairman of TRRC and I met with Mr P. Jarrett, who is Chief Warden at Windsor Castle. He wished to establish a Regatta in celebration of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee on the River Thames, within the grounds of the Castle. Her Majesty had already given her approval. We persuaded Mr Jarrett that the likelihood of running a Regatta in 2012, at a time convenient to The Queen and also without disturbing the agreed Regatta Calendar, was most unlikely. The possibility of a Head Race in September 2012 was however, a possibility, and we await news from Mr Jarrett on a date suitable for the Royal Household. It would still be a problem to set up an organisation to run such an event, since most of the usual volunteer suspects will have 'enjoyed' a very busy year.

There is also a possibility Wallingford RC may start a new 'tinies' Regatta, early in September 2012.

As far as I can recall, the Weybridge Winter Head was the only event to be lost through high river flow. This was rescheduled a later date, with the agreement of Bedford RC who already had an event scheduled for the revised date.

Having had in general a very dry year, many river regattas could have advertised their events as being held on 'still water' as river flow was so low. Many new records were established at Henley Royal Regatta. However, events at Dorney Lake seemed to attract adverse conditions and strong, cold winds made for difficulties.

Chairman of the Tideway Code Panel

for managing the Code of Practice for Rowing on the Tidal Thames *Bill Mitchell*

The Code is well established and has helped to nurture the current excellent relationship with the PLA.

Having been in place for five years it is well established and accepted as the norm by the vast majority of rowers. There has, however, been a slight decline in adherence to the Code in the last year. I believe that this is probably due to the arrival of a new generation of coaches, many of whom have not attended the safety briefings given by the RWSA and whose knowledge of the Code leaves much to be desired. The TRRC Executive has agreed that, in future, any Club which does not attend a briefing will not have their Safety Audit passed. A Steer's Accreditation Programme has been written and distributed to Clubs so that they may use it to develop their own programmes. It will, again, be a condition of passing the Safety Audit that the Clubs demonstrate that they have a suitable programme in place so that all coxes, steers and scullers have been adequately trained and approved. It is hoped that visiting clubs will use the basic form of the Programme as a preparation for their crews before they visit the Tideway. The Programme and all associated documents are available on the TRRC website and from the RWSA.

The reporting system used is the British Rowing Incident Reporting System, which is not ideally suited to the needs of Tideway navigational reporting. It is hoped that the system will be improved. Clubs have been encouraged to use peer-to-peer reporting for minor infringements. The Code Panel continues to meet three or four times a year, and most clubs have now been represented.

The PLA continues to support the Region's efforts for enhancing safe navigation by making safety awards to the Clubs whose performance, shown by reports made, penalty points awarded and the results of a random observation programme, is best.

The Clubs that won by the PLA awards for the most successful Clubs in 2010 were:

First	Cygnets RC	an award of £1000
Runner-up	RUMS	an award of £500
Runner-up	Thames RC	an award of £500

The results for 2011 were not available at the time of writing.

Organiser, Tideway Code of Conduct for Events

Julie Watson

In the past year the Head and the Regatta codes have been ongoing.

Tideway Regatta Code

The use of the Tideway Regatta Code is ongoing, with all Regattas taking an active part and using the Code. This includes Richmond and Twickenham regattas. The Code is an ongoing document that has changes and additions made as needed, so 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 or the Safety Advisor attends); the Regional Water Safety Advisor; the Chairman of the TRUC; the Port of London Authority Assistant Harbour Master (Richmond); Her Majesty's Coastguard and the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI). All events were represented.

Tideway Head Code

This is also an ongoing Code with additions and amendments as required. There is usually an annual meeting, but in this last year two meetings were held due to discussion over some of the rules. Invitations went out to: all the Head Races (usually the Chief Umpire, the Safety Advisor and the Chief Marshal); the Regional Water Safety Advisor; the Chairman of the TRUC; the PLA AHM(R); HM Coastguard and the RNLI. All events were represented.

Discussions this year also included looking at safety launches (Stan Collingwood) and at a timing system all the events can use.

Equipment Officer *Richard Packer*

From September 2010 to August 2011 TRRC equipment has been used at 31 events in and outside the Region, raising a total of £6178.00 for TRRC funds. We have supported Regional, national and international events ranging from Egham Regatta to the GBR-FRA Match at the Royal Albert Dock, as well as an invitation adaptive event at Phyllis Court.

The equipment inventory currently stands at:

- 1 base station radio
- 24 handheld radios (with waterproof cases)
- 6 radio headsets
- 28 megaphones
- 8 pairs of red and white flags
- 1 finish flag
- 1 aligner's flag
- 33 pay as you go mobile phones

The 2011/12 hire rates are shown on the next page.



TRRC Equipment

Hire List and Rates

2011-12

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). NB the conditions of our OFCOM radio licence mean we can only hire the radios to British Rowing affiliated Clubs or Events.

Item	Number	Hire Rate (per item, per day)	Notes
VHF Radio Basestation	1	£ 15.00	12 volt battery required
Handheld VHF radio	24	£ 10.00	Includes (and please use!) waterproof case
Headset for radio	6	£ 2.50	
Megaphone	28	£ 3.50	Batteries included
Umpire's flag set (2 flags)	8	£ 2.00	One red, one white
Aligner's flag set (2 flags)	1	£ 2.00	One white with red diagonal cross, one red
Finish flag set (2 flags)	1	£ 2.00	One chequered yellow and black, one white
Bell	11	£ 2.00	
Finish horn	1	£ 5.00	12 volt battery supplied
Mobile phone	33	£ 2.50	Credit used is rounded down to the nearest £5

Bookings should be made by email to equipment@thames-rrc.org using the booking form available on the TRRC website (www.thames-rrc.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 10 *Oxford University Mark Blandford-Baker*

Now in our fifth year with a Sabbatical Officer for Rowing in post, the sport is well administered within the Collegiate University. The University clubs have their own administrative structures, including paid staff for OUBC, and there is good liaison where appropriate.

One issue which has been high on the past year's agenda has been the question of the timing of swim tests against when someone first takes to the water in a boat. In a University with several hundred novices beginning in October each year a commonsense approach is needed to self-certificate prior to swim testing in the pool. It is surprising how many fail the test. This matter is being kept under review by OURCs, COUR and the University's Sport Safety Officer.

Internal competition continued its usual pattern and whilst being largely under its own rules (bumping races in particular) there is good liaison within the Region and nationally to ensure compliance with best practice on such as water safety.

In a Division where officers of clubs change annually and have little or no experience, the Divisional Representative is kept busy explaining the structure of the sport nationally and how it fits in and why it matters. That said, we were one of the first divisions in the region to return a full set of water safety audits and pay affiliation fees for the current year.

Divisional Representative, Division 11

Upper Thames *Andrew Weekes*

The Division had a very good year with success across all sections.

Senior rowing for both women and men has been at a very good standard with clubs taking national honours and representing the country in the home countries events.

Juniors in the division have had another great year with both schools and clubs having success at both local and premier national events and also providing representation at international events.

Long waiting lists remain for those wishing to try the sport at both junior and adult levels in the area. As in previous years the lists remain high due to lack of coaches being available.

Adaptive rowing continues in Oxford with the assistance of local college volunteers.

Adaptive races were again held at the Oxford City Sprint Regatta.

All the local annual events in the area were well supported, successful and enjoyed by all.

The Blenheim Junior Regatta for young juniors has now been established as an annual event in super surroundings.

The requirement for an alternative training centre at a protected water facility within reasonable distance of the division remains a priority.

Divisional Representative, Division 13

Middle Thames *A.J. [Tony] Evans*

I have continued to communicate with the 'movers and shakers' within the Middle Thames via e-mail updates. There are currently 70 names on the list. I believe that it now covers all rowing organisations. Information conveyed includes river notices from the EA, brief summaries of British Rowing Council Meetings, items gleaned from River Users' Group meetings (including calendars of local events), alerting all to the issuing and content of British Rowing Club / Event mailshots. I ask for feedback on issues such as the proposal to change the structure of the BR Council, and format of the BR Championships, but responses are limited.

Langley Academy is now a BR-affiliated Club, under the leadership of Nigel Weare, boating at Dorney.

Most will be aware of the fire at Marlow RC on 3rd August 2011. The Club has received many offers of help from both within the rowing community, the town, and from elsewhere, and is most grateful.

Swimming events are increasingly being organised in the Middle Thames, partly because of the 'attractive' names such as Henley, Marlow, Windsor. Three swimming events have been staged in Marlow. Fortunately, these events were staged at a time of the year when rowing activity was lower. However, just before these events, there is an increase in uncontrolled swimming in the river, which is worrying, since one or two heads bobbing in the river are hard to spot. Mentioning this at River Users' Group meetings, it would seem that motor cruiser owners share the rowers' concerns. I have been instrumental in getting the commercial organisers of these events to attend River Users' Group meetings.

Sir William Borlase's Grammar School and Great Marlow School continue to boat from an 'encampment' at Longridge, but are seeking a long-term solution.

Divisional Representative, Division 15

Kingston and Twickenham *Richard West*

The problems created by oarsmen, canoeists, sailing clubs and other river users requiring access to and use of to a finite resource have diminished during the last year but closer relationships with canoe clubs need to be built. There remains a lack of understanding between individual members of some canoe clubs and the rowing fraternity as a whole. It can best be summarised by a canoe club member who stated

“You can't see where you are going and I would rather prefer to be able to see who is about to hit me, rather than be hit round the back of the head with an oar by a crew who can't see me. So I follow the reverse of the agreed circulation pattern in order that I can see crews and take avoiding action in sufficient time. When training for racing, rather than just fitness we have to replicate the starting system of boats lined up across the course—whenever we succeed in achieving this objective another four or eight appears round the bend and disrupts our start by wanting to row through the line!”

It's not all one sided, one or two rowing coaches do seem to believe that they have an inalienable right to absolute ownership of the river irrespective of other river users and their needs.

On a more positive note this last year has been the year of the junior in that Twickenham, Walbrook and Kingston have had successful seasons with all three clubs reporting increasing numbers of wins at regattas. The word has got round the neighbourhoods and the summer taster courses for clubs seeking new recruits have been oversubscribed and waiting lists to join the clubs have become the norm. There is a loss of juniors to schools that row but this is minimal. What has become an unfortunate aspect of this success is that clubs in neighbouring divisions are tending to “poach youngsters” – both absolute beginners and those who have shown some aptitude for the sport. The problem of overlapping catchment areas is an indicator of the success of the clubs within the region.

British Rowing has aided Kingston in its negotiations with the Borough Council. A significantly longer lease has agreed which has

4. Executive Committee Members' Reports

allowed the club to invest in a revamping of the off water training facilities, changing rooms and boat storage. The most important investment is in a new landing stage with a non-slip surface and most importantly stability—undreamt of by many members and visitors in the recent past.

All events in the division reported an increase in entrants, unfortunately at the lower end of the points scale rather than at the top, a common cry from many of the Competition Secretaries is:

“How can we correct this situation?”

“What do we have to do?”

One regatta sought sponsorship for a Junior Victor Ludorum and was promised a significant sum unfortunately the sponsor had to be reminded on several occasions that cheque had not appeared. On the day he explained that times were hard and then only produced half of the previously agreed sum several weeks after the event thus causing the regatta fund the difference. Not a good way of securing the future of the event and threatening the long term viability of the Regatta. *Caveat emptor!*

In summary the division is healthy and fighting but lacks weight because it is so small.

Divisional Representative, Division 16

Chiswick and Mortlake *James Davey*

A fairly quiet year for Division 16, which has seen increased activity from all the Clubs, with rowing observable morning and afternoon all weekend. The afternoons appear to be a safe haven for novice and junior crews, away from the carnage that exists above Chiswick Bridge when crews are starting practice pieces ahead of all the major Tideway Heads.

The usual Events all took place this year, with a continuing trend of over subscription in the head races (Quintin Head has just extended its scope) but reduced attendance at the summer sprint regattas, beyond junior and veteran crews.

Steering and navigation is improving, and few major incidents have occurred, none that needed involvement from me.

The two main issues discussed has been the impact of the boat licensing scheme, and the difficulties of actually navigating the system, if not the cost of a license for boats that only leave the tideway once per year. This will be discussed elsewhere.

The second is the impact on clubs in the division of the new PLA rules on progressing through Kew Road Bridge at low tide. In practice it means that most clubs cannot continue past Kew Rail Bridge at low tide, because spinning below the road bridge is more dangerous than going through the centre arch. Constructive conversations have been had with TTRC safety adviser(s) but it remains an issue.

Divisional Representative, Division 18

Barnes and Hammersmith *Neil Jackson*

Dove Pier Warning Buoy

This year saw a big development in Division 18—indeed, when seen from a single scull, it is *a very big and very yellow addition to the Tideway!* In recent years, a number of rowing and motorised craft have hit or narrowly missed Dove pier and *MV Amethyst Atoll*, which is permanently moored to the outer face of the pier pontoon. In May 2011, following two months of consultations, the PLA put in place a buoy down-river from the pier to warn traffic approaching the pier along the fairway from Hammersmith bridge.

The buoy is about one meter in diameter and, with its mast, some two metres high. Most rowers are affected by it only on a flood tide. But those boating to or from Furnivall Sculling Club (FSC), Auriol Kensington RC (AKN), or the Priory boathouse (currently occupied by British Rowing HQ) have to factor it into all manoeuvres, especially when a fast ebb or flood tide causes substantial leeway movement while turning across the stream. Crews visiting Hammersmith for the main heads may find this a particularly difficult steering challenge.

The emplacement of the buoy was—and remains—controversial, both in principle and in detail. Many consider that the buoy merely adds a hazard to the Hammersmith transit. But, in the five months from May to September 2011, only one collision has been reported through the BR On-line reporting system and one near-miss. Observers of ordinary rowing traffic through the area or using the AKN and FSC rafts suggest that, if there must be a buoy of that size and design, it could be better placed to minimize the risk and inconvenience. The PLA has promised a review in the near future when these points will be put forward.

Divisional Representative, Division 19

Putney Peter Simpson

I was appointed in during the year and have made contact with the 12 Clubs, three Universities, six Schools and five Events in the Division in order to fulfil the primary responsibility of communicating information from and to the British Rowing Council.

The main issue in the Division is the currently the proposed plans for the construction of the Tideway Tunnel and in particular the use of Barn Elms as a construction site including the erection of a temporary wharf.

There was a second consultation during the year and Tony Reynolds co-ordinated a response from the TRRC to Thames Water which was published on the TRRC website on 26 January.

Although there is widespread local opposition to the development of Barn Elms and Putney Foreshore, the TRRC generally supports plans for improved water quality and has restricted its comments to our ability to continue rowing, both in regular training and for the 12 events rowed on the reach, if construction at Barn Elms goes ahead.

At the time of going to press we are waiting for the results of the latest phase of consultation to be published including feedback on whether Barn Elms is still the preferred site or whether an alternative in Fulham Riverside or further downstream can be used. When this is known the TRRC will continue to work with other stakeholders to ensure safe navigation can be maintained.

Some local Clubs and individuals in the sport have campaigned against the plans for Barn Elms but this is not the general policy of TRRC; our objective is to ensure rowing can continue safely whatever the decision.

5. Accounts

Accounts

The accounts in respect of the year ended 30 September 2011 and the Balance Sheet at 30 September 2011 appear on the following pages.

Balance Sheet

The Council continues to enjoy a healthy position with net assets of in excess of £60,000.

The Council continues to hold £32,514 surplus funds on deposit. Whilst these funds provide financial security for the Council's continued operation, the HSBC deposit account currently pays 0% interest, so during the forthcoming year, the Hon Treasurer should explore options for ensuring a higher rate of interest.

Edward Lloyd Rees
Honorary Treasurer

5. Accounts

Thames Regional Rowing Council

Accounts for the Year Ended 30 September 2011

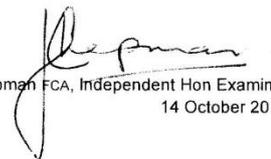
		Communications and Equipment Fund			
Income		Expenditure			
2010		2011	2010		2011
£		£	£		£
6,119	Receipts from Hire	5,698	713	Purchase of Equipment	454
0	Damaged Equipment Refund	70	0	Travel	0
(50)	Net Bank Interest (Notional)	0	0	Repairs (incl. batteries)	0
83	Reversal of Provision		5,438	Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	5,314
<u>6,151</u>		<u>5,768</u>	<u>6,151</u>		<u>5,768</u>

		General Account			
Income		Expenditure			
2010		2011	2010		2011
£		£	£		£
6,343	British Rowing Regional rebate	6,447	(1,953)	Courses and Workshops	4,152
(85)	Bank interest (net)	(131)	0	Certifications	0
			484	PR	0
92	Junior Inter-Regional Regatta	(640)	0	Website	0
	Junior Rowing Centre	0	619	Meetings	533
8,552	Reversal of Provision		0	Secretarial	674
			0	Awards	70
(15,752)	(Surplus)/Deficit	117	0	Water Safety	100
			0	Junior Rowing Centre	30
			0	Miscellaneous	130
			0	TRUC	104
<u>(850)</u>		<u>5,793</u>	<u>(850)</u>		<u>5,793</u>

I have examined the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2011 and the attached notes together with the books and vouchers and find the same to be in accordance therewith



Edward Lloyd Rees, Hon Treasurer
8 October 2011



John Chapman FCA, Independent Hon Examiner
14 October 2011

5. Accounts

Thames Regional Rowing Council

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2011

Communications and Equipment Fund

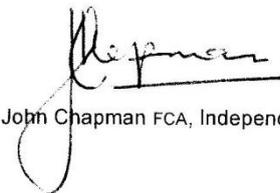
2010		2011		2010		2011	
£		£		£		£	
12,692	Opening Balance	18,130		17,853	Bank Balance	23,444	
5,438	Surplus/(Deficit)	5,314		278	Debtors/Pre payments	0	
				0	Provisions (expenses)	0	
<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>	
18,130		23,444		18,130		23,444	

General Account

2010		2011		2010		2011	
£		£		£		£	
22,962	Opening Balance	38,714		34,628	Bank Balance	42,356	
15,752	Surplus/(Deficit)	(117)		6,235	Debtors/Pre payments	0	
				(679)	Creditors	(1,989)	
				(1,470)	Provisions (expenses / 5 year plan)	(1,770)	
<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>	
38,714		38,597		38,714		38,597	



Edward Lloyd Rees, Hon Treasurer
8 October 2011



John Chapman FCA, Independent Hon Examiner
14 October 2011

6. Register of the Year

Affiliations and Resignations

- ◆ The Langley Academy (Div 13) affiliated to British Rowing.
- ◆ Blenheim Palace Junior Regatta re-affiliated to British Rowing.
- ◆ London Irish RC (Div 18) ceased its British Rowing affiliation.
- ◆ Horseferry RC (Div 16) now has dormant status.

Awards

British Rowing Medal of Honour: John Burnett and John Broadway

British Rowing Medal of Merit: John Boothroyd

Obituary

It is with regret that the Council records the name of those who passed away this year.

- ◆ Keith Ticehurst of London RC († September 2011)
- ◆ David Lunn-Rockliffe, former Executive Secretary of the ARA, founder of the River & Rowing Museum and of the Rowing Foundation) († August)
- ◆ Doug “Chippy” Carpenter, latterly of London RC (and formerly Quintin BC, Kingston RC, Thames Tradesmen’s RC) († July)
- ◆ David King of Thames RC († June)
- ◆ Gordon Dear of Thames RC and The Skiff Club († February)
- ◆ Hart Perry, Steward of Henley Royal Regatta and executive director of the US National Rowing Foundation († February)
- ◆ Michael Jones of Henley RC, TRRC and British Rowing Leander Club representative († January)
- ◆ Alan Hawes of Thames RC († November 2010)
- ◆ The Very Rev Colin Slee OBE, Dean of Southwark Cathedral, latterly of Tyrian BC († November)
- ◆ Andy Holmes MBE, latterly of Furnivall SC (and formerly Latymer Upper School, Leander Club, Kingston RC) († October)

Other Noteworthy Information

Putney Town Regatta (Div 19) celebrated its Centenary Year.

British Champions

The following are the Thames Region winners of the British Rowing Championships 2011 (non-Thames Region crews in composites shown in *italic type*):

Open Eight—Leander Club

Women's Eight—Henley RC / Reading University BC

Women's Junior Eight—Henley RC

Open Coxed Four—Molesey BC

Women's Coxed Four—City of Oxford RC

Women's Junior Coxed Four—Lady Eleanor Holles School BC

Women's Junior 16 Coxed Four—Sir Wm Borlase's Grammar School BC

Open Junior Coxless Four—Henley RC / Hampton School BC / *Maidstone Invicta RC / Thames RC*

Women's Coxless Four—Sir William Borlase's Grammar School BC / St Pauls Girls' School BC / Lady Eleanor Holles BC

Women's Lightweight Coxless Four—Mortlake Anglian & Alpha BC

Open Junior 16 Coxless Four—Walton RC

Open Quad Sculls—Leander Club

Open Lightweight Quad Sculls—Tideway Scullers' School

Women's Lightweight Quad Sculls—Mortlake Anglian & Alpha BC

Women's Junior Quad Sculls—Henley RC

Open Junior 16 Quad Sculls—Marlow RC

Women's Junior 16 Quad Sculls—Henley RC

Open Junior 15 Coxed Quad Sculls—The Windsor Boys' School BC

Women's Junior 15 Coxed Quad Sculls—Excelsior RC

Open Junior 14 Coxed Quad Sculls—Sir Wm Borlase's Grammar Sch BC

Women's Junior 14 Coxed Quad Sculls—Marlow RC

Open Coxless Pair—Oxford Brookes University BC

Women's Coxless Pair—City of Oxford RC

Open Double Sculls—Molesey BC/*Agecroft RC*

Open Lightweight Double Sculls—London RC/Isis BC

Women's Lightweight Double Sculls—Mortlake Anglian & Alpha BC

Open Junior Double Sculls—Walton RC

Women's Junior Double Sculls—Sir Wm Borlase's Grammar School

Open Junior 16 Double Sculls—Walton RC

Women's Junior 14 Double Sculls—Tideway Scullers' School

Women's Single Scull—Mortlake Anglian & Alpha BC

Women's Lightweight Single Scull—Molesey BC

Open Junior Single Scull—Tideway Scullers' School

Open Junior 17 Single Scull—Poplar District & Blackwall RC

Women's Junior 16 Single Scull—Eton Excelsior RC

Open Junior 15 Single Scull—Wallingford RC

Head Races

Head of the River Race 2011

Page Trophy—Leander Club I
Lightweight Pennant—Leander Club II
Vernon Trophy—London RC I
Senior Pennant—Leander Club III
Intermediate 1 Pennant—Imperial College BC I
Bernard Churcher Trophy—Imperial College BC I
Intermediate 3 Pennant—Imperial College BC III
Intermediate 2 Pennant—Reading University BC I
Fastest Services Crew—Army RC
Novice Pennant—Oxford Brookes University BC IV

Women's Eights Head of the River Race 2011

Head—Leander Club
Intermediate 1—Reading University BC A (new record time)
University—Oxford Brookes University BC
Masters—Barnes Bridge Ladies RC A (new record time)
School/Junior—Lady Eleanor Holles BC (new record time)
Novice Club—Thames RC D
HM Forces—Royal Air Force RC

Fours' Head of the River Race 2010

Elite Lightweight Quad Sculls—Leander Club III
Elite Quad Sculls—Leander Club I
Junior Quad Sculls—Westminster School BC I
Elite Coxless Four—Isis BC I
Elite Coxed Four—Molesey BC II
Intermediate 1 Coxless Four—Tideway Scullers' School IV
Intermediate 2 Coxed Four (Academic)—University of London BC VI
Intermediate 1 Coxed Four—Isis BC IV
Junior Coxed Four—Eton College BC I
Intermediate 2 Coxed Four (Club)—Molesey BC VII
Women's Elite Lightweight Quad Sculls—Mortlake Anglian & Alpha BC /
Strathclyde Park RC
Women's Intermediate 1 Quad Sculls—Molesey BC VI
Women's Junior Quad Sculls—Latymer Upper School II
Women's Intermediate 1 Coxless Four—Barnes Bridge Ladies' RC
Women's Elite Coxless Four—Oxford Brookes University BC III
Women's Intermediate 1 Coxed Four—Upper Thames RC VIII
Women's Intermediate 2 Coxed Four (Club)—Henley RC V
Women's Junior Coxed Four—Lady Eleanor Holles BC I

Masters' Fours' Head of the River Race 2010

Masters C Quad Sculls—Auriol Kensington RC/Thames RC/Furnivall SC
Intermediate 3 Quad Sculls—Tideway Scullers' School
Masters C Coxless Four—Molesey BC
Masters B Quad Sculls—Mortlake Anglian & Alpha BC
Masters D Coxless Four—Quintin BC
Masters E Quad Sculls—Quintin BC
Masters F Quad Sculls—Tideway Scullers' School
Masters D Coxed Four—Crabtree BC
Masters B Coxless Four—Upper Thames RC
Masters E Coxless Four—Walbrook RC / Molesey BC
IM3 Coxed Four—Quintin BC(Russell)
Women's Masters A Coxed Four—Barnes Bridge Ladies' RC (Byrne)
Masters E Coxed Four—Crabtree BC
Women's Masters C Quad Sculls—Wallingford RC
Masters Novice Coxed Quad Sculls—Putney Town RC
Women's Masters D Quad Sculls—Sons of the Thames/Barnes Bridge
Ladies' RC/Tideway Scullers' School
Masters F Coxed Four—Tideway Scullers' School
Mixed Masters C Quad Sculls—Weybridge RC
Masters A Coxed Four—HSBC RC
Masters G Quad Sculls—London RC
Women's Masters B Quad Sculls—Furnivall SC / Auriol Kensington RC
Masters Novice Coxed Four—Walton RC
Women's Masters E Quad Sculls—Thames RC / Barnes Bridge Ladies' RC
/ *Fredensborg RK*
Women's Masters Novice Coxed Quad Sculls—Abingdon RC
Women's Masters D Coxed Four—Tideway Scullers' School / Weybridge
RC / Walbrook RC

N.B. Results are given in time order. It has only been possible to include a selection of Head Races from this season. It is hoped that in the future a fuller record will be included in this Report.

Junior Inter-Regional Regatta 2011

Victor Ludorum: Thames Upriver (236 points)
Overall 3rd: Thames Downriver (211 points)
Boys 1st: Thames Upriver (110 points) & Thames Downriver (110 points)
Girls 2nd: Thames Upriver (126 points)
Girls 3rd: Thames Downriver (101 points)

7. Contacting the Regional Council

Website and E-mail

The Council's website (www.thames-rrc.org) and email addresses are in the process of being updated.

Mail

Officers may be contacted using the following address:

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

Meetings of Council

Council Meetings are planned for the following dates for the 2011/12 year:

Monday, 5 December 2011—Executive and Sports Committees

Friday, 3 February 2012—Executive and Sports Committees

Monday, 12 March 2012—Executive and Sports Committees

Monday, 14 May 2012—Executive and Sports Committees

Monday, 17 September 2012—Executive and Sports Committees

Monday, 19 November 2012—Annual General Meeting

The Executive Committee at work (left to right facing camera) Chairman, Martin Humphrys, animatedly controls the unruly masses of the TRRC Executive



Committee as Acting Secretary, Paul Baldwin, faithfully documents the proceedings, closely monitored by Treasurer, Edward Lloyd Rees, and Upriver Juniors Representative, Andy Crawford, when Auriol Kensington RC played host to the Council for its September meeting.

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

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