



**BRITISH**ROWING  
THAMES REGIONAL ROWING COUNCIL

# Annual Report and Accounts

for the year ended 30 September 2012  
the year of

**The Queen's Diamond Jubilee  
The Games of the XXX Olympiad, London**

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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 the Thames Region.

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

John Chapman, President

John Clayton, Vice President (*from 29 May 2012*)

Michael Kennedy, Vice President (*from 29 May 2012*)

Stan Collingwood, Vice President (Immediate Past President)

Elizabeth Wray, Vice President (Past President 2009/10)

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)

### Sport Committee 2011/12

Changes to the Constitution of British Rowing and the Constitution of the Council to incorporate Division 21A South East (River) and the division of the Region into three Sub-Regions revised the structure of the Sport Committee on 29 May 2012.

#### *Elected and Co-opted Officers to 28 May 2012*

Martin Humphrys JP, Chairman ‡

Paul Baldwin, Deputy Chairman (Downriver) ‡

David Hancock, Deputy Chairman (Upriver) ‡

James Lee, Honorary Secretary ‡

Edward Lloyd Rees, Honorary Treasurer ‡

Luke Dillon, Assistant Honorary Secretary

Jim Harlow, Projects' Officer

John Biddle, Chairman, Thames Regional Umpires' Commission

Richard Philips, Chairman, Coaching Commission

Laura Lion, Chairman, Junior Commission (Upriver)

Andy Crawford, Chairman, Junior Commission (Downriver)

Karon 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

Murray Litvak, Regional Facilities' Adviser

‡ Member of the Executive Board

*Elected and Co-opted Officers from 29 May 2012*

Martin Humphrys JP, Chairman ‡  
Martin Teale, Deputy Chairman (Lower) ‡  
Paul Baldwin, Deputy Chairman (Central) ‡  
David Hancock, Deputy Chairman (Upper) ‡  
James Lee, Honorary Secretary ‡  
Edward Lloyd Rees, Honorary Treasurer ‡  
Luke Dillon, Assistant Honorary Secretary  
Jim Harlow, Projects' Officer  
John Biddle, Chairman, Thames Regional Umpires' Committee  
Richard Philips, Chairman, Coaching Committee  
Laura Lion, Chairman, Junior Committee (Upper)  
Andy Crawford, Chairman, Junior Committee (Central)  
Angela Craig, Chairman, Junior Committee (Lower)  
Karon Phillips, Co-Chairman, Masters' Committee  
Rosemary Thom, Co-Chairman, Masters' Committee  
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  
Murray Litvak, Regional Facilities' Adviser

*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)  
Andy Crawford, 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)  
John Clayton, Division 21A (South East River) (*from 29 May 2012*)

## 2. Officers of the Council

### *Representatives of former British Rowing Appointed Members*

Dan Saoul, Leander Club

Mike Williams, London RC

Chris George, Thames RC

Mark Blandford-Baker, Council of Oxford University Rowing

### *British Rowing Participation Team*

Sarah Birch

Paul Lorenzato

Jacqui Beer

### **Thames Regional Umpires' Committee**

John Biddle (Chairman), David Hancock, Rod Murray, Andrew Crawford, Barbara Wilson, David Biddulph, Maggie Phillips, Gary Painter, Jeremy Hudson, John Duff, Jerry Mitchell, Claire McIntosh and John Robson (Secretary).

### **Financial**

The bankers to the TRRC are:

HSBC Bank plc.

The Independent Honorary Examiner is:

John Chapman FCA

### 3. Chairman's Report

The year 2012 has been a very busy one for the Thames Region and more importantly the River Thames itself.

We have seen the Region itself grow not only with an increase in numbers competing within the sport but also geographically with the addition of the former South East River Region to the Thames Region. Likewise we have seen within the Region, competition somewhat hampered because of the Diamond Jubilee, where events had to be cancelled on the river at Putney and Hammersmith because of the pontoons placed to assist with the event—this was one of the downsides, but as this event is unlikely to happen again in any of our lifetimes it was a small price to pay.

The Diamond Jubilee Pageant certainly started the celebrations for London 2012 on a high note at which the Thames played its role as the main artery of all events. The success of our crews both local and national produced some outstanding results and successes. Praise must go not only to those who have coached the participants most recently but all of those who started them on the road to success—primarily at both school and club. At times many forget that the backbone of this sport is the volunteer: without them, rowing would be nothing.

Too often not enough credit is given to the coach who is out in all weathers to encourage their charges, young and old, to greater things, or to those parents, friends, spouses and partners who give their time freely to ensure that someone gets to an event on time or puts their boat together. They are there when needed at times of elation and disappointment. Even more importantly, too many think that events like Regattas and Head Races just take place: they do not stand back and think of all of the hours and hours an event, small or large, local or national, take up for those who organise them.

As a Region we owe much to those volunteers and coaches and I wish to pay tribute to them all for everything they have done for this sport over the last year. In the months ahead the person who has given most of their time to this sport over fifty years, Di Ellis CBE,

### 3. Chairman's Report

Chairman of British Rowing will stand down. As a sport and indeed Region, we cannot thank her enough. We also owe our gratitude to her husband, John, who has always been at her side. They have both done much to keep us in the forefront of sport within the UK. Di has led us through much change over the last few years and leaves the sport in good health, fresh from a strong showing in the London Olympiad.

We wish her well in her retirement and thank her not least for accepting the challenge four years ago when we altered the British Rowing Constitution to allow her to remain Chairman for a third term—it was without doubt the right decision for all concerned—those of us who proposed it had no doubt and I hope those “few” on the British Rowing Council who voted against the decision (in the minority as they clearly were) now accept that fact!

At the same time, with the new governance and National Council at the top of the sport, there are many who having served the Thames Region as Divisional Reps have also stood down. I will pay tribute to them in person at the Regional Dinner, but fortunately although they have stood down as Regional Representatives we have not lost them from the Regional Council and for that I am very grateful indeed.

As we move into 2013 it should be business as usual throughout the enlarged Thames Region and I wish everyone well for the coming year, wherever it may lead them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Humphrys', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Martin Humphrys JP

## 4. Sport Committee Members' Reports

This section follows the pre-29 May Committee format.

### **Deputy Chairman (Downriver)** *Paul Baldwin*

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

#### *Potential Developments*

Part of my work this year has been in relation to a possible watersports facility on the Tideway, being that at Fulham Reach.

Fulham Reach is an exciting opportunity presented by the development by St George of the site on the Middlesex bank, downriver of Hammersmith Bridge. I have met further with representatives of St George and had constructive discussions with them. I am pleased to announce that our Assistant Secretary, Luke Dillon, will be helping to lead this project going forward, and I know that he will bring a fresh outlook and ideas to this project.

#### *Thames Tunnel*

Working alongside the Regional Water Safety Adviser ("RWSA"), I've again acted as a point of contact for Thames Water and also assisted the RWSA when needed.

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

#### *Other Matters*

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

## **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 a difficult year for many Upriver events. Several regattas had to be cancelled because of fast stream conditions—Marlow Spring, Thames Ditton, Maidenhead Junior, Thames Valley Park and Molesey Junior all succumbed.

Of the heads, Marlow 4s & 2s in November did not have enough entries and Henley Fours' Head in February was cancelled for fear of damaging the grass.

Although as we approach the end of the Council year, the rain has returned, organisers have been more bullish: both Wallingford LDS and Reading SBH ran on yellow boards following suitable risk assessments. Thames Valley Park Head was cancelled, making it a double-whammy for that small club this year.

The exceptions to the gloom were the Olympic and Paralympic regattas hosted at Eton Dorney to great acclaim from spectators and the press, and with great success for GB crews. Many of the officials and volunteers at the two events were from the Thames Region—well done to all of them.

### *Safety at Events*

The “self-certification” approach to safety documentation mentioned in previous years continues to work well. The Regional Umpires' Committee checks the safety approach as part of their role at events.

### *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. It has been re-launched this year to focus on the new logo of British Rowing.

## Chairman of the Thames Regional Umpires' Committee *John Biddle*

The Region currently has 113 umpires on its books as follows:

FISA	15
Multi-Lane Endorsed	27
National	71

The numbers have dropped since last year due to a number of retirements.

The Region had five umpire candidates in 2012 with two other candidates retaking the practical. However, only three took the written exam of which two passed. At the time of writing both are about to take their practical exam in the coming week. In addition the two candidates scheduled to re-sit the practical both dropped out. The number of candidates was disappointing and we need more people to come forward, especially with the large number of retirements in the next couple of years.

Three umpires took their Multi-lane exam in late September and all passed. Three others who had been planning to take the exam had to cancel due to other commitments and will now take the exam later in the year.

We have one new FISA umpire: Matthew Pinsent passed his exam in August.

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

- Start Procedure
- Launch positioning and the responsibilities of the Umpire, Launch Driver and Race Committee
- Welfare policies
- Update on British Rowing organisation
- Finish procedure
- Rule update

#### 4. Sport Committee Members' Reports

The Committee's members continue to attend every event and give feedback to regattas/heads where appropriate. A total of 80 events were covered during the year.

Jerry Mitchell joined the committee at the beginning of the year to fill a vacancy. Another member of the Committee is standing down at the beginning of 2013 and we will be looking for another umpire to join the committee. Over the next two/three years a number of the committee will be retiring and we will be looking for a number of new umpires to join the group.

### **Chairman, Thames Regional Junior Committee**

#### **Upriver** *Laura Lion*

2012 has seen another busy year in the Thames Upriver region. We are lucky enough to have some of the country's best juniors in our Region who have brought us successes at national and international events. Notably, wins at the Women's HERR, the Junior Sculling Head, Schools' Head, National Schools' Regatta, Women's Henley, Henley Royal Regatta and the British Championships.

Internationally, 23 Thames Upriver juniors represented their country at the GB v France Match, 37 were selected for the Coupe de Jeunesse in Banyoles and 10 formed part of the Junior World Championship Team competing in Plovidiv, Poland. Thank you to our Region's coaches for the hours of work they put in to help the juniors achieve such fantastic results.

A place in the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta Upriver Team was strongly contested with over 150 juniors trialling at Dorney in March. Unfortunately, the weather got the better of us at Nottingham with the Regatta being cut short for safety reasons. Our boys' team finished 2nd overall and the girls' team 3rd, giving us a 3rd place overall. Well done to all of the juniors for coping in such difficult conditions.

2012 saw the introduction of the new British Championships. This was a predominantly junior event introducing the following recommendations from the national Junior Rowing Committee:

- time-trials for as many events as possible that have greater than 12 entries.
- no crews will be eliminated after their first race
- all crews get a ranking based on side by side racing.
- all crews should have at least two races.

The Committee also stressed that it would prefer to see higher quality racing rather than a large number of events with relatively small entries. Focussing attention on fewer events should have the effect of raising the standard of competition.

We hope to see this event develop into a flagship event for juniors which they will aspire to compete in.

I have undertaken a review of junior competition nationally for the Junior Rowing Committee which will result in proposals to British Rowing for future competition models. Already the review has highlighted the need for more Beginner Regattas that can give a positive first experience of competition to our juniors and the need to develop junior events as highlighted in our recommendations to the British Championships above.

The Olympics, of course, has been the highlight of the rowing calendar. Dorney was transformed into a truly world-class venue and the medals that followed for Team GB have been an inspiration to our juniors. The club finder tool on the BR website received over 32,000 hits during the eight-day event. So we look forward to finding and developing our future Olympians as our waiting lists triple!

## **Regional Water Safety Adviser *Tony Reynolds***

### *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 time consuming process. This is a similar position to last year; however I am confident that the reporting system will have changed by next year.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of incidents reported in the Region</b>
Oct 2011–Oct 2012	509
Oct 2010–Oct 2011	417
Oct 2009–Oct 2010	581

### *Club Audit*

Changes to the date when clubs can start their audit were made last year. The new start date meant that most clubs completed well before Christmas. One main areas of concern is that only 54% of clubs require launch divers to hold the RYA Level 2 Powerboat qualification.

### *Tideway Safety Briefings*

Four separate briefings are to be held in the coming weeks. More work is to be done on steering certification and making sure that any professional coach holds the RYA Level 2 Powerboat qualification

### *Events*

I have had no issues with events submitting documentation for their events, most of which has also been of high quality.

### *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, Lynch Mason, Sahil Sina, Roy Prosser, Chris Davidson and Tony Evans.

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

## **Thames Region Masters' Committee**

### **Representative** *Karon Phillips*

Rosemary Thom (Tideway Scullers' School) has now joined me as joint Masters' Representative.

Following reports of incorrect application of Handicap Tables, the Masters' Committee looked into the problem, and came to the conclusion that instructions were not as clear as they might be. New guidelines will be in the next *British Rowing Almanack*. It would be most useful if everyone could be aware of this and encourage instances of wrong application to be reported to Rosemary or me. In the meantime, organisers of Head Races should please check that they are applying the handicaps correctly, as it seems that sometimes Regatta guidelines are being applied instead of Head Race guidelines.

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

A Final version of the Calendar covering the period 1 January 2012 to 31 March 2013 was issued via snail-mail to all Thames Region Event Secretaries in November 2011. This was approved at the November meeting of the British Rowing Council, and forms part of the National Calendar, which is being enacted.

2012 was a strange year for several reasons. For a start, Henley Royal Regatta was as early as it could ever be, and it may come as a surprise to realise that the last time it was this early was in 1984! In addition the celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, caused a change to the date of the late May Bank Holiday. The Olympic and Paralympic Regatta, whilst not affecting the Calendar, did affect the operations for those regattas held at Eton Dorney; the "clear up" operation will have an effect for quite a while after the Regatta.

A very dry winter meant that very few events were lost due to strong stream. However, some Tideway regattas were cancelled due to preparations for the Jubilee Boat Pageant. A very wet early summer caused the cancellation of several regattas due to strong stream, or adverse ground conditions. Some of those that ran in June/July, suffered difficult conditions.

Preparation of the 2013-14 Calendar has been delayed due to the possibility of a World Cup Regatta being held at Dorney in June 2013. Two versions of the Calendar were issued in July; with and without the World Cup Regatta. When confirmation was announced towards the end of August. A draft calendar was circulated immediately, giving a proposal to accommodate all Regattas at this time of the year. A final issue will be circulated in November.

Tides in the Autumn of 2013 are particularly awkward for the three major head races (Pairs, Fours, Scullers). Consequently the sequence of these has been changed. This has affected the dates of some other events. Discussions are still in progress at the time of this report.

## Chairman of the Tideway Code Panel

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

The recommended scheme for steers accreditation has now been available to clubs for a year. It is now expected that all clubs will have their procedures in place, and in use. Evidence that this is so will be taken into account for the approval of a club's safety audit.

There is concern that an increasing number of coaches seem to have a rather cavalier attitude to safe navigation. We hope to address this through the briefings, and monitoring navigation. Safety patrols have resumed, with the PLA kindly making a boat available midweek and the TRRC providing boats at selected weekends.

It is pleasing that there have been very few incidents of boating without lights at night, and the ruling that bow lights should be flashing is seen as beneficial.

There has been concern that some visiting clubs seem to have very little appreciation of the complexities of rowing on the Tideway. The PLA has made an excellent short video guide to navigation which is available on the TRRC and PLA websites. Viewing this should be a must for all visiting crews.

The PLA continues to support the Region's efforts for enhancing safe navigation by making safety awards to the clubs whose performance, shown by navigation and incident 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 2011 were:

First	Cygnets RC	an award of £1000
Runner-up	HSBC	an award of £500
Most improved	American School in London	an award of £500

The results for 2012 were not available at the time of writing.

## **Equipment Officer** *Richard Packer*

TRRC equipment was used at a total of 20 events this season. One event (Remenham Challenge) has paid for its equipment hire but was not held in 2012, so this will be held in credit for them for 2013. Four events were cancelled.

Our current equipment inventory now includes:

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| • 1 base station radio plus antenna      | £15.00 |
| • 24 handheld radios in waterproof cases | £10.00 |
| • 6 radio headsets                       | £ 2.50 |
| • 24 megaphones                          | £ 3.50 |
| • 10 bells                               | £ 2.00 |
| • 1 finish horn (incl. 12 V battery)     | £ 5.00 |
| • 10 red flags                           | £ 1.00 |
| • 10 white flags                         | £ 1.00 |
| • 1 aligner's flag                       | £ 1.00 |
| • 1 finish flag                          | £ 1.00 |
| • 2 TRRC feather banners (incl. stands)  | FOC    |

An updated booking form for the 2012/2013 season has been emailed to each of the events that hired TRRC equipment during the current season. A copy may be obtained by emailing: [equipment@thames-rrc.org](mailto:equipment@thames-rrc.org)

The Pay As You Go mobile phones are no longer available for hire as their SIM cards have all now expired.

## **British Rowing Participation Team Leaders**

*Paul Lorenzato, Jacqui Beer, Sarah Ockendon*

### *Work Programme*

The main emphasis of our work has been to meet our Whole Sport Plan target (agreed with Sport England) to bring 10000 new people in to rowing. As part of this, we will be looking for 1560 new participants in the Thames region.

We have been working closely with clubs in key programmes (CinC, Explore and facilities funded), and others who are keen and willing to grow in order to help us to meet this target. Paul has been giving direct coaching support to club learn to row to aid this work.

### *Sport England Coaching in Clubs programme*

Up River: coached by Christy Job. Burway, Falcon, Marlow RC, Wallingford. Targets being met.

Down River: coached by Francesca Lucas (Jus Burke). Roehampton University, Walbrook RC, Walton RC and Parr's Priory.

South East: coached by Helen Taylor. Medway Towns, Maidstone Invicta and Bewl Bridge

Target new participants per club= 54 by March 2013. Most clubs on track to meet this target.

### *Henley Stewards' Charitable Trust Coach*

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

Lisa Taylor is in her second year of coaching in Surrey. Lisa is working with juniors at Walton RC, Weybridge RC and Guildford RC. From November, Lisa will also be working with new athletes to the Guildford RC adaptive group.

Connie Spoor is starting her first year of coaching for the programme. She will be based at Great Marlow School, City of Oxford Adaptive and with a group of schools outside this region.

#### 4. Sport Committee Members' Reports

Katie Laverick is starting her second year with Ashcroft academy in Putney and Hillingdon outdoor activity centre.

##### *Partnerships*

Our role as CDOs involves liaison with County Sports Partnerships, the Youth Sports Trust, Sport England, Local authorities, Skills Active, School Sports Partnerships and NGB forum representation.

##### *Explore Rowing*

A number of the regions clubs now have new boat packages through Explore Rowing: Barn Elms, Tyrian, London Youth Rowing (Serpentine), Twickenham, Walton RC, Reading RC, London RC and Medway Towns RC.

Clubs in the upriver and downriver areas that have accredited to Explore Rowing: Weyfarers RC, Putney Town RC, Burway RC, Falcon Rowing and Canoe Club, Furnivall Sculling Club, Gravesend, Molesey BC, Thames Tradesmen's, Walbrook and Maidenhead RC.

A number of other clubs are showing an interest in Explore Rowing packages.

##### *Coach Education*

For 2012 we will have run 6 UKCC Level 2 coaching courses for 72 candidates. Courses for 2013 are now being planned.

The course currently costs £420.

The Mayors Legacy fund supported 32 London based rowing from 2010 to March 2012. The MLF paid up to 75% of fees for coaches living and volunteer coaching in London.

A number of workshops have also been held including Safe and Strong Trunks (GB rowing presenting), SPC and First Aid.

#### **Club Facilities Development (with British Rowing funding)**

Henley RC completed work to improve changing facilities for women following development of their new gym.

Twickenham RC phased plan for improvements to facilities is ongoing.

Medway Towns fitting out of changing rooms is now complete and the fitting out of the training room will be complete shortly

All clubs in receipt of funding for facilities have agreed targets to increase and sustain membership.

## **Divisional Representative, Division 10**

Oxford University *Mark Blandford-Baker*

Now in our sixth 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.

Last year I raised the question of the timing of swim tests for novices when we have hundreds to get through at the start of the new academic year. A pragmatic approach is being taken to this and so many will have taster outings based on a signed declaration, with tests required to be completed within the term and before any competition.

The most notable change announced in the past year is the new title sponsorship arrangements for the Boat Race and particularly for the Women's Boat Race which will move to the Tideway in 2015.

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 another very good year with success across all sections.

Senior rowing for both women and men has been at a very good standard in the division.

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

Both Abingdon and Radley Schools had a great ongoing competition between them during the year ending in a joint crew for the Coupe de la Jeunesse regatta

The waiting list for clubs remains high for people wishing to try the sport at both junior and adult levels in the area. This problem has now vastly increased due to the heritage of the Olympics with clubs still struggling to recruit sufficient coaches to cater for demand.

Adaptive rowing continues in Oxford with the much appreciated assistance of university college volunteers.

Once again adaptive races were held at the Oxford City Sprint Regatta and some also participated in the Isis Sculling Head.

Local annual events in the area again proved well supported and successful despite entries being reduced.

The Blenheim Junior Regatta for young juniors was not able to take place this year but is thankfully back in the calendar for 2013.

With the large amount of inclement weather this year the need for an alternative training centre at a protected water facility, within reasonable distance of the new regional division, must remain an urgent 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. 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.

GM Swans (associated with Great Marlow School) is now a BR affiliated Club

A highlight of the year was the Final of the Fawley Cup in which two Div 13 Clubs competed, with Sir Wm Borlase Grammar School beating Marlow RC. Henley RC won the Ladies equivalent event. Div 13 has a very strong Junior membership.

Swimming events are increasingly being organised in the Middle Thames. partly because of the “attractive” names such as Henley, Marlow, Windsor. Fortunately, these events are staged at a time of the year when rowing activity is lower. However, there is an increase in un-controlled swimming in the river, which is worrying, since one or two heads bobbing in the river are hard to spot. Motor cruiser owners are equally concerned, as are the organisers of the commercial swimming events, most of whom now attend River user Group meetings. RUG6 have produced a local code for swimmers, and arranged for coloured swim caps to be available at locks.

The wheels continue to grind rather slowly on projects such as the re-building of Marlow RC and a long term solution for Sir Wm Borlase's Grammar School and Great Marlow School, who continue to boat from an “encampment” at Longridge.

## **Divisional Representative, Division 16**

Chiswick and Mortlake *James Davey*

The area upstream of Chiswick Bridge continues to get busier, with increased activity from the main clubs based within Div 16 and from crews congregating in the area at the midpoint of outings up from Putney. Pleasing to see is the amount of activity on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, with lots of novice, student and junior rowing taking advantage of the relative quiet.

The major structural change in the Division this year was the building of Putney Town's new access ramp. This has meant that activity is now further upstream from Chiswick Bridge, and the old steps are not used. However it doesn't seem to have made much difference to traffic flows (other than at PTRC).

Events remain popular, with increased attendance more or less across the board. Quintin Head's new format was successful, with a larger entry, and the summer regattas are successfully resisting the pull of Dorney Lake on London based crews; a lot of junior and veteran events are the main stays of the three regattas based around Chiswick Bridge, but many categories filled up or were over-subscribed.

Steering and navigation is improving, albeit with the inevitable minor incidents and a few major incidents. Navigation at low water is getting more difficult, particularly at Spring tides, because the increasing sizes of sand banks / spits on the Surrey bank. Scarcely a weekend goes by without someone running aground on the major spit on the Surrey bank, upstream of the Chiswick Bridge and PTRC. This is certainly getting worse. Quite what can be done remains to be seen.

## **Divisional Representative, Division 18**

Barnes and Hammersmith *Neil Jackson*

### *Summary of the Year*

Whilst there have been no great on-the-water changes, the Division has seen a lot of physical activity on-shore, reflecting the general interest in the development potential of the Thames foreshore. The EA enforced on the clubs and BR which use rafts the wholesale replacement of their tide boards with a standard metal version, irrespective of the condition of the old ones. On Lower Mall: one private riparian owner has installed a new raft; another is proposed nearby; and the private moorings have been partially renovated. A much bigger private pier/raft has been built at the Riverside site. And Hounslow LBC is proposing a new footbridge under the Middlesex arch of Barnes bridge (to enhance the Thames Path footpath).

### *Clubs*

The principal clubs in the Division remained active. Dacre BC and Phoenix BC opted for non-rowing status while London Irish and Coldharbour clubs disaffiliated, apparently going out of existence. Roehampton University and London Oratory School clubs moved in.

### *Events*

Hammersmith regatta was cancelled; the temporary moorings laid by the PLA for the Queen's Jubilee Pageant prevented water-borne access by Putney clubs, and interfered with the flood tide regatta course below the bridge,

### *Safety*

Silting-up of the river has caused growing hazards close to low water, especially on the Surrey shore opposite Chiswick church, and on the Middlesex approach to Barnes bridge. The former forces crews using the Inshore-Zone out into the Fairway in conflict with starboard station for descending vessels. The latter occasionally makes the Middlesex arch impassable. There is an under-current of discontent with the PLA's large yellow warning buoy for Dove pier.

On the bright side, however, Cygnet RC won the PLA award for safety for the second year in succession

### *Rowing and the public*

The Oxford and Cambridge Boat race is a private match, not a BR/TRRC matter. But its televised disruption by a member of the public took place at Chiswick pier and emphasized the vulnerability of the sport to such external interference. On another occasion, the Police and RNLI investigated a reported suicide from Hammersmith bridge. The Division's three bridges and pier mean it is especially exposed to this unpredictable kind of hazard.

## **Divisional Representative, Division 19**

### *Putney Peter Simpson*

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant dominated the year in Putney. Mooring buoys were laid after the Boat Race and initially there was no rowing towards Hammersmith until the temporary navigation rules were relaxed by the Harbourmaster a month later. Unfortunately the buoys also resulted in the cancellation of Putney Town Regatta.

The Pageant itself was a great success and brought as many people to the Putney Hard as the Boat Race does. The ten-strong fleet of British Rowing Explore Rowing crews all boated from Putney and included local crews from Barn Elms who were joined by skiffs from Vesta and Thames and a gondola from Westminster School. London Rowing Club joined Barn Elms by launching an Explore Rowing programme during the year and it is great to see the increased participation in these clubs.

The refurbishment to Thames Rowing Club's club house was completed and the splendid building was re-opened by HRH Prince Michael of Kent in November.

Plans for the Thames Tunnel were monitored throughout the year; it appears that a main drive site is now planned for downstream of Putney Bridge rather than at Barn Elms which reduces any threat to

safe navigation. The TRRC and local clubs also commented on a planning proposal for a new stand at Craven Cottage.

Putney crews had a successful year on the water including the local Tideway Heads. The Women's Eights Head of the River race which was won by Thames followed by IC in 2nd place and Vesta in 4th; split by the Italians the top three domestic crews were all from next door clubs in Putney. The overall winner of the Vesta Scullers' Head was Adam Freeman-Pask from IC with Henry Pelly from London in second place. Crabtree won the Vesta Veterans' Head with Thames second.

I stood down from Council in September and am succeeded by Chris George who will be the Regional Representative of the renamed Division

## 5. Accounts

### *Accounts*

The accounts in respect of the year ended 30 September 2012 and the Balance Sheet at 30 September 2012 appear on the following pages.

Readers will note the healthy surplus on Courses and Workshops for this year. This should be contrasted with the loss of £4,152 last year. This is in part due to income from previous years that we were not expecting to be able to collect and partly due to a special course we ran on behalf of another organisation. Level 2 courses accounted for £17,850 of expenditure and £18,671 income: a significant level of turnover but not without difficulty in administering the finances. In April 2012 British Rowing took back the responsibility for administering the payments for these courses which the Region runs on its behalf.

The difference between this years and last year's expenditure on Meetings is owing to the extra two meetings held this year: the EGM and Div Reps' meeting, both of which were in response to the changes to British Rowing's constitution—the most significant change to the governance of the sport in some time. Going forward, we will be reassessing the clubs we use to hold meetings to ensure we do not pay over the odds for meeting rooms in order to minimise future spending in this area.

The additional expenditure on Secretarial was again related to the British Rowing constitution changes. The TRRC has no access to email addresses for the Clubs and Events within the Region so must send paperwork by post. In the case of the EGM, the documents regarding the constitutional changes were lengthy and therefore expensive to print.

The 2011 Annual Dinner (Miscellaneous line) saw a greater number of official guests attending. These included winners of various volunteer awards and key stakeholders such as the PLA, Environment Agency and British Rowing. The Dinner remains the pinnacle of the vast amount of stakeholder engagement the Region undertakes and most importantly is the sport's opportunity to thank

those volunteers who freely and tirelessly give their time. Members of the Executive Board and Sport Committee, and their personal guests, attending the Annual Dinner continue to do so at their own expense.

Teams representing the Region at the JIRR are now fully subsidised. This decision was taken both to invest in grass roots junior participation in the sport and to remove the burden of the extensive work previously undertaken by the Junior Committee representatives in administering the collection of entry fees from the teams.

The Region has also invested significantly in the website. This is a vital tool in communications with the sport within the Region and in ensuring that the important safety and navigational messages are distributed in a timely manner. The website also provides the essential repository of information needed by our Clubs and Events.

Finally, the Region invested in PR this year. Flags were bought for display at regattas, head races and other events within the Region. Events are encouraged to hire these free of charge from the Equipment Officer to assist in raising the Region's profile. The Region bought name badges for the Sport Committee which were updated with the revised British Rowing logo. To assist in recognising the identity of the Region and to thank those volunteers on the Council, none of whom claim the travelling expenses to which they are entitled, the Region commissioned a Regional tie.

### *Balance Sheet*

The Council continues to enjoy a healthy position with net assets of in excess of £65,000.



Edward Lloyd Rees  
Honorary Treasurer

## Thames Regional Rowing Council

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2012

## Communications and Equipment Fund

2011		2012		2011		2012
£		£		£		£
18,130	Opening Balance	23,444		23,444	Bank Balance	27,894
5,314	Surplus/(Deficit)	4,450		0	Debtors/Pre payments	0
					Provisions (expenses)	
<u>23,444</u>		<u>27,894</u>		<u>23,444</u>		<u>27,894</u>

## General Account

2011		2012		2011		2012
£		£		£		£
38,714	Opening Balance	38,597		42,356	Bank Balance	37,438
(117)	Surplus/(Deficit)	(559)		0	Debtors/Pre payments	600
				(1,989)	Creditors	0
				(1,770)	Provisions (expenses / 5 year plan)	0
<u>38,597</u>		<u>38,038</u>		<u>38,597</u>		<u>38,038</u>



Edward Lloyd Rees, Hon Treasurer  
7 October 2012



John Chapman FCA, Independent Hon Examiner  
8 November 2012

## Thames Regional Rowing Council

## Accounts for the Year Ended 30 September 2012

Income		Communications and Equipment Fund			
2011		2012	2011	Expenditure	2012
£		£	£		£
5,698	Receipts from Hire	4,710	454	Purchase of Equipment	328
70	Damaged Equipment Refund	131	0	Travel	0
0	Net Bank Interest (Notional)	0	0	Repairs (incl. batteries)	63
	Reversal of Provision		5,314	Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	4,450
<u>5,768</u>		<u>4,841</u>	<u>5,768</u>		<u>4,841</u>

Income		General Account			
2011		2012	2011	Expenditure	2012
£		£	£		£
6,447	British Rowing Regional rebate	6,790	4,152	Courses and Workshops	(1,896)
(131)	Bank interest (net)	(129)	0	Certifications	0
			0	PR	2,534
(640)	Junior Inter-Regional Regatta	(1,600)	0	Website	974
0	Junior Rowing Centre	0	533	Meetings	1,339
	Reversal of Provision	1,770	674	Secretarial	1,528
			70	Awards	118
117	(Surplus)/Deficit	559	100	Water Safety	460
			30	Junior Rowing Centre	14
			130	Miscellaneous	2,259
			104	TRUC	60
<u>5,793</u>		<u>7,390</u>	<u>5,793</u>		<u>7,390</u>

I have examined the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2012 and the attached notes together with the books and vouchers and find the same to be in accordance therewith

  
Edward Lloyd Rees, Hon Treasurer  
7 October 2012

  
John Chapman FCA, Independent Hon Examiner  
8 November 2012

## 7. Contacting the Regional Council

### *Website and E-mail*

The Council's website ([www.thames-rrc.org](http://www.thames-rrc.org)) contains a variety of information about the Council and its activities. Officers' email addresses may be found under the Council Information section.

### *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 2012/13 year:

Monday, 3 December 2012—Executive Board and Sport Committee  
Friday, 1 February 2013—Executive Board and Sport Committee  
Monday, 11 March 2013—Executive Board and Sport Committee  
Monday, 13 May 2013—Executive Board and Sport Committee  
Monday, 16 Sept. 2013—Executive Board and Sport Committee  
Monday, 18 November 2013—Annual General Meeting

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

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