

## Chairman's Report

Author	Martin Humphrys
For period	20 March 2006 to present
Date prepared	22 April 2006
Action required	To note and <b>Decision Required</b>

- It has been a relatively quiet month as far as meetings are concerned.
- On Tideway Head day we had four launches on the water from 7am to 9.00 am with members of Council and "Watermen" to advise oarspeople of where they were going wrong. Following on from that I wrote a letter to the Chief Coach, Director of Sport and Vice-President Student Union at Imperial College to warn them of the clear lack of knowledge and understanding of their crews. The exercise worked well and I am hopeful it will not be the last and believe the cost was money well spent and thank Chas Newens and his team for doing it at a much reduced rate.
- The following day at Jim Harlow's request I accompanied the MP for Putney on her visit to the Tideway to see for herself the situation and to listen to various groups as to the problems we are seeing at the moment. She was excellent and stayed with us throughout the whole event and I believe went away with a far clearer picture of what we are doing as a Council and more importantly the issues facing the sport at this time. Because of this I was unable to attend the meeting of the National Competitions Committee.
- Regretfully I was unable to attend the last Executive Meeting of the ARA as I was in Budapest experiencing a River Danube which was moving at a speed which to say the least was disturbing – having seen pictures of Chas dragging cars out of the Thames because they had been left of the slip way for our spring tides – in Budapest the roads with the cars on them were completely underwater with the river at its highest for over 100 years!
- I have received representation from Henley Women's regarding what they believe to be a very misleading representation to the National Championships Committee for a two day Marlow Regatta by that Regatta's personnel. The NCC has deferred the decision for a two day regatta to the TRRC and thus we must consider it this evening. Henley Women's Regatta are totally opposed to such an event as they feel it will detract from both their event and Thames Valley Park and also that we do not in any way have enough good umpires to cover all three events. I have promised HWR that I will state their case and if necessary will call a meeting of all three regattas with Div reps and members of Council to see what can be done – if Council itself cannot reach a decision. **DECISION required.**

I will be meeting with the Chief Executive of the PLA in early May and have another meeting of the Exec on May 16<sup>th</sup>. I will also be chairing a meeting of the NDC at Holme Pierrepont on May 6<sup>th</sup> as well as undertaking Equity Training.

## Honorary Secretary's Report

Author	Andrew Russell
For period	15 March 2006 to present
Date prepared	22 April 2006
Action required	To note

- Issued February minutes (in draft), collected and issued March reports, attended and minuted March meeting, issued March minutes (in draft).
- Updates to website regarding meeting documentation, upcoming meetings, description of the types of meetings ("General" Full Council vs. Executive Committee), TRRC exec photos and bios.
- Constitutional Review: This was commissioned at December meeting. However, at February meeting TRRC exec felt that it was not necessary, and that the ARA had strict requirements on the constitution. HonSec to discuss with ARA and TRRC Chairman.
- Contacts Database: made some additional updates to the "database" of contact details for TRRC "members" (clubs and events). Plan to distribute the data out to DivReps to provide updates.
- The TRRC HonSec has been confirmed as a Member of the Board, for the Central London Sports and Physical Activity Partnership, which reports to Sport England.

## **Competitions' Calendar Co-ordinator's Report**

Author	A. J. Evans
For period	14 March 2006 to 23 April 2006
Date prepared	23 April 2006 2006
Action required	To note

- Draft Calendar for the period January 2007 to 1 April 2008 has been prepared and is in the post to all Thames Region Event Secretaries

## Regional Water Safety Adviser's Report

Author	Chris George
For period	16 March 2006 to 22 April 2006
Date prepared	22 April 2006
Action required	To note

To note

### Club Audits

- This is one monumental mess-up of a technical nature! We were promised this on a trial basis last year in November and the date has slipped back every month since, until a couple of weeks ago when the whole on-line setup was aborted. This is particularly irksome to the region, as you will recall last July 2005 we were to set up our own system of audit reporting for a modest £300 to £600, but that we put it into abeyance pending the promised ARA alternative. That offer of IT development is now not on the table (he is taking medical finals) and I will have to go elsewhere (I have located a suitable person) and hope to be able to report to the meeting on Monday the new cost for setting up our own information collation system on the TRRC website using TYPO3 which will result in an excel spreadsheet style or CSV data that can be readily collated in the 204 clubs and 100 events for which we are responsible.
- In the meantime club WSA are pointed [THIS PAGE ON THE WEBSITE](#) and this in turn will direct the reader to [THIS PAGE](#) where one can download [this NEW form](#) and sent to me electronically, whereupon Neil, will be commenting on each form and giving feed back to the clubs as well as collating the data to take the load off me with respect to Clubs as agreed at the last Council meeting .
- Have received only 12 /204 audits to date. A list of dates submitted and clubs done and not done will be posted on the Safety website at about weekly intervals with the hope of praising an reminding. The cut off date for affiliation confirmation is 30<sup>th</sup> April after which Affiliation may be suspended.

### Above Tideway

- Redirected advice sought on "getting to the start" to TRUC
- Liaised with a canoe representative on his proposed marathon race on the Upper reaches of the Thames from Pangbourne to Egham and recommended he contact all clubs in that reach
- Replied to correspondence from Gail Bradstock of the EA concerning red board warnings by email. The gist of this is that I get an automatic warning [and this can be passed onto all relevant CWSAs]
- Viewed comments on throw line training with Richard Packer

## ***Tideway***

- I have received the usual reportable accident reports and, in some cases of accidents known to have occurred, NOT received any from, for example,
  - a Putney based club concerning an octuple,
  - a large Putney club who had a 4- accident at Barnes
  - another large Putney Club coach whose sculler had an accident with a fixed hazard and has not reported HIS version of the event
  - a large Chiswick-based club with a single sculler hitting a buoy head on
  - the same club in 2x collision head on with a 1x at the Pink Lodge
  - UL college that hit the (probably same) buoy and had to have the bowman taken to hospital
  - The same college, today 22<sup>nd</sup> April, who was observed hitting the same buoy also in a pair
- Put one particular accident the way of Neil Jackson as independent arbitrator as the cause was alleged to be advice given by me!
- Entered into a discussion with several parties on the merits and practicality of retrospective buoyancy
- Liaised with Bill Mitchell and the RRAIG on the proposed disciplinary procedure
- Liaised with Wandsworth Council over the application of Barn Elms Boat Club for the Club mark and provided the necessary copy audit
- Received complaints that the HM's launch was out of place (too far to port) in the Fairway when proceeding upstream at low tide above Kew on the 19<sup>th</sup> March
- Liaised with Barnes-based club and PLA on dangerous overhanging trees
- Liaised with Una Hodgkins [Manager of the Chiswick Pier Trust] on the rowing rules
- Was invited to a "steerers' meeting" to be held by MAABC as part of their CWSA's safety programme. Council may note that she is the main author of the WHORR article linked on the regional safety website
- Liaised with HAR and PLA on this event
- Agreed with the PLA not to have to attend the RUCF which coincided with the HRR Wednesday!
- Entered into discussions on the new NTMU6 2006 on the reduced depths of water at Kew to Olivers Ait with various parties and received comment on odd navigation by Kingwood
- Liaised with a large Putney club concerning the proposed programme for this club to teach its launch drivers a modified course for Tideway launch driving

## ***Tideway Events***

- Liaised with the HOR and the Veterans HOR with respect to getting the HOR advice on the TRRC website (safety section) linked to the event websites prior to the various HORs
- Liaised with the HOR concerning labelling of foreign boats and instructions for foreign crews on navigation
- Revised the sections on HOR advice in the light of the new ARA and regional requirement for Boat ID
- Liaised on the Hospital bumps with particular relevance to the new buoys and overtaking limitations between Kew Road and Rail bridges
- Discussed with proposed participants the Tideway Education Day set up with respect to location and objectives

- Attended as observer with Paul Lorenzato the Hammersmith section and prepared and sent a written report of all observations made
- Provided advice to Oxford and Cambridge re Plating of boats and buoyancy
- Had productive discussions with Wayne Bellamy of the RNLI who has offered me educative trips with the Chiswick lifeboat

### ***ARA matters***

- Liaised with Sophie and Stuart Ward to ask to get the correct up-to-date safety information put on the new ARA website
- Commented on WAGS review
- Initiated enquiries as to the legal status and consequential liability of under age rowers when master of a vessel but actually when under the “control” of coaches and the requirement that such masters of vessels need to know the law themselves.

### ***Rowing Risk Assessment Implementation Group (RRAIG)***

- With Bill Mitchell, I attended eighth meeting of the working group with Rear Admiral Richardson on the Tues 11th April 2006.
- Liaised with Alex Brown over the website showing the “light-vest” an illuminated rowing vest that increases visibility at night
- Liaised over the new leisure map
- Liaised with Bill Mitchell on his proposals to move many of the buoys at UL and above to more suitable locations

### ***Events worked on in part or in full***

- Marlow Spring, Marlow Town, Hammersmith Amateur, Twickenham Regatta, Abingdon Head, Chiswick Amateur Regatta, Kingston Amateur and Borough, Reading Amateur, Maidenhead Junior Regatta, United Hospital Bumps, Putney Town
- To note that the Tideway meeting of Tideway Regattas was most beneficial in improving documentation and risk awareness as the paperwork was much, much better. Congratulations to all the events sent in to date.

### ***National Water Safety and Working Group and related matters***

- Discussed the new Coxes level 1 course
- Liaised with Dr and Mr Blockley on the new Level 2 UK coaching certificate Capsize and Immersion drill and produced combined comments to suggest to the committee for incorporation into the new document.

Chris George RWSA  
22<sup>nd</sup> April 2006

## Juniors' Commissioner's Report

Author	Nigel Weare (upriver) and Ruth Hatton (downriver)
For period	To present
Date prepared	22 April 2006
Action required	To note

### ***Nigel Weare (upriver):***

- Thames Upriver junior group:
  - No meetings held.
- Responses to questionnaire on TRRC website:
  - allowing WJ15 sweep: 9 for, 4 against, 1 undecided
  - remove sch/ jun as a category: 4 for, 7 against, 3 undecided
  - representing 1709 juniors.

Nigel Weare

### ***Ruth Hatton (downriver):***

- Full Downriver team organised and selected for JIRR
- In capacity as chair of JRC held a meeting at Leander to gather ideas on the way forward for the Junior regatta calendar, paper arising from the meeting attached (*to be handed out at meeting, e-mailed to Exec and posted on TRRC website*).
- Pam Davis has said that she wants to step down as organiser of the JIRR. I need to put together an organising committee for this and would like to use TRRC members to do this plus whoever is willing from the JRC.

Ruth Hatton

## **Division 11 Representative's Report**

Author	Andy Weekes
For period	To present
Date prepared	15 March 2006
Action required	To note

1. The towpath for 1k on the Isis stretch has been closed for the past 6 weeks and has not by today, 20th April, had completion of the repairs to the towpath. This will still seriously impede both the CORC "Town Bumps" event and general coaching.
2. The Oxford City Council and the Oxfordshire County Council have proposed that a water festival be held in 2007 called "Go with the flow". This will cover all waterways in Oxfordshire and events will be held throughout the year. Local Oxford based rowing clubs are supporting this event and are considering various ways to hold beneficial events.

Andy Weekes,  
Div 11 Rep.

## Division 17 Representative's Report

Author	Jill Cobbett
For period	To present
Date prepared	19 April 2006
Action required	To note

- The Allom cup has been cancelled now for this academic year due to not being able to attract entries for it now the exam period is just about to start. ULBC envisage running the event on its original date in December 2006, all of the good work done this year will need revision and checking with TRRC WSO but I feel that the event can now be run in a safe manner and includes insurance cover.
- ULBC is planning a development day for the summer term to which the colleges will be invited to join in, and receive coaching from the ULBC team along with other high profile coaches. Depending on how well this day is received, there may another day organized for the Autumn Term. I may well look to include coxes training on this day due to the large amount of novices starting in the new term. If any of the council would like input on these days please drop me a line.
- I have supplied a copy of the PoLA Chart to my ULU marketing colleagues for them to look at getting the finished product printed up. The finished chart should be available in June which gives me a couple of months to have several copies made up by ULU so I can put them round the boathouse for the new term starting. I would like to have permission to do this, but I'm not sure if there is copyright attached to it and if there is, who owns it to give permission. Could this be clarified? . PoLA wasn't sure if clubs would receive one copy as a matter of course either paid by PoLA or TRRC.

Jill Cobbett  
Div 17 Representative