

Reports

This document contains the following reports:

FOR DISCUSSION, ACTION, AND/OR DECISION:

STANDING ROLES / AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

- Upriver Representative (JP)
- Regional Safety Adviser (CG)

TO NOTE:

STANDING ROLES / AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

- Competitions' Calendar Co-ordinator (AE)
- Juniors' Commissioner (upriver) (NW)
- Division 13 (Middle Thames) Representative (AE)
- Division 16 (Chiswick & Mortlake) Representative (KW)

SUB COMMITTEES:

- New Coaching Scheme Sub-Committee (NW)

Upriver Representative's Report

Author	Judith Packer
For period	Jan 2006 to 5 May 2006
Date prepared	5 May 2006
Action required	To note and Decision / Follow up Action Required

- Apologies for lack of previous months' reports. Apart from normal umpiring duties, I have concentrated on progressing the Junior Officials Scheme focusing on the needs of the World Champs but recognising the longer term opportunities and challenges for the region to get benefit and some form of Legacy.
- I am now in a position to report some significant progress and request feedback and thoughts on the way forward. I really must thank the many regional umpires who have supported me in this initiative and continue to do so in supervising juniors as they help out in this summer's events. Thanks also to Terry and Nigel at Dorney Lake which I am anticipating will feel like a second home again to me this year!

Junior Officials 2006

- **World Champs Statistics:** 24 spaces available for junior participation on the Start for the World Champs. Of over 120 junior (under 18yr) volunteer applications for the World Champs, 34 were from the 50 Junior Officials from 2005 indicating a high 2nd year interest. All UK juniors who had not been part of last year's scheme were invited to attend the Junior Officials Training Day on Sunday 19th March 06. Approx 50 NEW juniors attended the training day, some travelling from other regions including Warrington, Exeter, Bradford, Lancashire, Chester and Bedford. 6 of last year's Juniors came to help. Administration to date was managed by Charlie Caroe from the World Championships office who has been invaluable in taking this time consuming task from me for this year.
- **Junior Officials Training Day 19th March 06:** (9:40am to 3:30pm) Dorney Lake: Lead by various Thames Region Umpires, CDO and Charlie Caroe. Equipment supplied by TRRC. Juniors were split into groups who rotated between four 40 min 'workshop' sessions on:
 - The Start, Boat Manoeuvring & Boat Safety Checks: Gary Painter, Maggie Phillips, Sarah Birch, Diane Graham.
 - Communication - Radios & Megaphone: Liz Wray & David Biddulph
 - Role of the Umpire & Flag Drill / Junior ML Version of the Umpire Table Top Exam—Richard Packer / John Biddle
 - Junior Officials Scheme and World Champs Selection Presentation (making sure the juniors had 'read and understood the info!'): Judith Packer

Rod Murray was a 'roving reporter' and took various photos of the juniors 'in action'.

In the afternoon, we tried to have a mini regatta in coxed quads and a double up at the start but it was too windy and only a couple of crews managed to get attached so it was abandoned. The point was made however, that there is skill in getting onto the start in difficult conditions and that it needed practice! We need to re-think this part in the event of any repeat JO Training Day.

Charges: Without the funding from the Volunteer Fund (Rory Semple arranged last year) Juniors were charged £6. They got a hot lunch from Dorney and each received a copy of the Junior Officials Handbook. Dorney charged £6.50 per head including umpires so I made about a £36 loss on this event; no room charge though per the deal last year. JO Handbooks had already been paid for by the Volunteer fund from the initial 300 print run from last year.

- **World Champs Selection Process:** A shortlist of 53 juniors was made mid April who were then invited to help at the start at Wallingford or Ball Cup. Meeting set with other start team members (Gary Painter and Sarah Birch) 9th May to make final selection of 24. Many very competent juniors will be disappointed and I am in liaison with World Champs Teams (Rod M etc) to see if a few of the older ones can be involved as runners etc. Selected juniors (& some others) will be helping at subsequent regional events as below.

- **Wallingford Regatta Sunday 30 April 06:** 28 juniors ran the start between 11am and 3pm. Where possible, some juniors were able to ride on an umpires launch and thus see a wider aspect of the regatta and better appreciate some of the JO Training. Juniors came from as far afield as Warrington, Bradford, Bedford and Exeter. The Warrington and Bradford boys gave me great feedback on how much they now appreciate how they should get onto the start etc and will put into practice in their 2- & 4- back home. Even though the Bradford boy had a 5 hour drive home, he just did not seem to want to go! I was particularly impressed by a few juniors that came to help and wanted to stay involved even though they know they had not been shortlisted for the World Champs, 'I'll do anything' one said, 'I just like helping out'.
- **Race Preparation Training Day @ Marlow RC: Thursday 13th April 06.** Following discussions with Sean Farrelley (Marlow Beginner Junior Coach) Tony Evans and Judith Packer ran a workshop type training day with 15 juniors who had 2 weeks to months rowing experience. Most had never raced in a regatta and all got a copy of the JO Handbook. Charge £5 to cover the handbook and CO2 gas cylinder for demo. This balanced loss made at JO Training Day. Aspects covered:
 - Boat Safety Checks and Buoyancy Aids/ Life Jackets: Juniors were split into 4 groups and given an aspect to review (with samples/access to boats): Bow Balls, Heel Restraints & Steering, Buoyancy Compartments, Buoyancy Aids & Life Jackets. Juniors had to discuss in their groups and then present back to the whole group (what is it, what is it supposed to do, how does it work, how could it fail, what could happen if it does not work effectively?). One of the juniors acted as a model to inflate a demo life jacket.
 - Safety Rules at Marlow RC: Discussion on the Marlow Reach – Juniors explained their Safety Plan and Risks of their reach and Sean Farralley and Tony Evans spent some time explaining their traffic light system and the risks at the Club Safety Board.
 - Boat Manoeuvring – Blade Passing Back - Since it was too windy for crews to go afloat, we put one coxed four on the water at the landing stage and juniors took it in turn to take catches at front stops and also the blade passing forward.
 - Flag Drill & ML Game: Roleplay of the ML event using the juniors as umpires and crews.

Was this effective?

Race Preparation: Some raced on 1st May at Marlow Spring, for others, their first race will on Sunday 7th May at the Ball Cup! Have not yet see Sean Farrelley to get any feedback. Thanks to Tony Evans for helping.

Volunteer Recruitment / Legacy: This is a possible lead in to getting the Marlow juniors to also help at the Marlow Int event on 17th June.

Forthcoming Events

7th May – Ball Cup - Mix of last 2005 and 2006 Juniors will be helping out at the start and a few other roles, many of whom will also be racing. Remaining printed JO Handbooks will be on sale at the Rock the Boat Stand: normal price £4, with reduction to £3 for any juniors racing at the event.

Provisional 21st May – Stakeboat Guidance Note Workshop & Photo Shoot at Dorney Lake Start:

Keen juniors not selected for World Champs to make a 2 page photo guide of operating the start pontoons. Still under consideration with NW/Dorney and a few umpires / juniors. Target to be completed by 3rd June for Met.

3rd/4th June – Met: Agreed with Nigel Smith for the World Champs Junior Start Team to have a 2 hour slot 11:30 to 1:30pm on Sat 3rd only.

17th June Marlow Regatta: In consultation with Peter Blaseby for the World Champs Junior Start Team to have a slot – time tba. In addition, Peter has invited juniors to be involved in timing, registration and a couple of other jobs for the duration of the Regatta (10 positions for the whole day). I have requested Peter to appoint a 'Junior Supervisor' to manage the juniors though the day so that I am released for umpiring duties except when on the start. This is key for a sustainable opportunity.

For Decision / Discussion

1. **JO Handbook:** 300 copies printed Oct 2005 following World Cup and funded by Volunteer Fund (Rory Semple) (£738 print run cost. One-off set up costs additional). Distributed to various umpires (50). 100 to juniors (50 last year, 50 this year). Rory requested 50 to be set for his distribution. The rest ~100 will be available for sale at Rock the Boat as above. Once the initial supply is gone, do we want any more? Is it worth it or do we want to leave it at that or revise after World Champs? Do we sell or give away as a regional contribution to Junior Rowing? Is there any Legacy funding?
2. **Junior Officials Program** – This Year & Future Years: Without the carrot of the World Champs or other international event next year, will there be interest to continue? If so, we need to start thinking now and set up a sustainable and manageable plan and crystallise aims and objectives for the longer term as my direct goal is to deliver the start team for the World Champs so after Aug 06, do we stop?

A few personal observations:

- a. I believe this needs to be run at a regional level and really the TRRC is in an ideal position to lead this but relies on Junior friendly Umpires. Although I have been doing the 'front line' work, this must not be seen as my personal 'junior team'.
- b. Great enthusiasm from juniors to get involved and help/volunteer; even those not selected for World Champs have been chasing me to find out what is next; I cannot keep up!
- c. Juniors are using their volunteering (time and knowledge gained towards higher awards such as GCSE or DofE awards or for the older ones, to add to their CV.
- d. Immediate benefit in that those having attended the courses are better prepared for their races.
- e. General personal development: I have also seen a number of the juniors really develop in other areas that will stand them in good stead for other roles and future jobs / college.
- f. Parents have been really supportive and several have gone out of their way to let me know that their child has been really enthused and cannot wait until the next regatta to help at. They also like the intrinsic nature of the scheme in that it promotes responsibility, communication, leadership and teamwork.
- g. 9 Juniors out of region travelled miles to attend the Training Day with the lure of the World Champs. It will be interesting to see their feedback and subsequent involvement in their local region.
- h. Post season certificate award in end Sept/Oct 06 to be planned for ALL juniors participating this year, not just the ones shortlisted for WRC.

Judith Packer
5 May 06

Regional Water Safety Adviser's Report

Author	Chris George
For period	23 April 2006 to 11 May 2006
Date prepared	11 May 2006
Action required	To note, action required, and decisions required

To note

Club Audits

- Just over 50 of 2004 clubs had sent me the audit in accordance with the ARA instructions by the end of April. A few had tried and failed to follow the instructions but had managed to send in hard copy or make other arrangements through the ARA. As the whole object of the exercise was to get these data electronically – paper copies were of very limited use as to get regional statistics they would have to be converted to electronic format. For those who (wrongly) sent paper copies (wrongly) to the ARA, it was transferred to electronic copy by Pippa Randolph of the ARA, to whom thanks are due.
- A list of the order in which the dates were submitted by the end of April can be found on the Safety section of the TRRC website in the 'Information' section.
- Council will recall my last report on the unsatisfactory situation with which we were faced and that I was given authority to try to find an alternative quote to that of the IT consultant who had previously quoted but was no longer available.
- After some research I was able to locate a suitable firm called 'ThoughtSpace' by the Thursday after the April Council meeting had negotiated and arranged a price for the necessary work for the audits (and the end of year recordable forms can use a similar system). Time was of the essence and so we persuaded them to work over the Bank Holiday so as to get the system up and running before too many more of the clubs had audited by the Excel method.
- They produced a draft online audit on the Tuesday which we had perfected by the Thursday. There were a few changes which reflected the new developments agreed at the Tuesday (2nd May) WSAG meeting (see later).
- I then sought the consent of the National WSA to **substitute** the Regional audit *in place of* the Excel spread sheet that had been Plan B of the ARA on line audit and, after trying out and approving the on line trial, the NWSA gave his consent for the switch, for which I am most grateful and I call on the region to write a letter of thanks and appreciation for this. **Action required.**
- Concurrently with these works I collated all the audits on excel spread sheets that *had* been sent to me, either directly or via the ARA, together with the date of receipt and put this on the safety section of the website together with instructions as to how to do the new audit on line.
- After agreeing draft texts with the Chairman I was helped enormously by the Marketing Officer not to mention the Slug (thanks here to 'both'), David Biddulph and Rachel Quarrell (again thanks) who put up suitably worded requests on their respective organs to get audited before the meeting to which this report appertains.
- Because our own new on line audit is also an information collation system and produces CSV data for the 204 clubs and 100 events for which we are responsible and so I also requested, but with no element of compulsion, the "good" 60 clubs to **re**-send their data by completing the on line audit. I or someone else will have to do this for those clubs that do not elect to resend in order to get the regional data.
- I have now got the first CSV file from the on line audit and about 50 clubs have now done this on line and I expect that this will rise considerably by Saturday when I return from Mull. There are as I speak about 80 odd clubs unaudited. On past evidence this is likely to reduce to about 30 but that is a guess. The CSV sheet is most encouraging.

Decision required

I propose that failure of the club to submit an audit **not only** within the April deadline set by the ARA (which was generous and timed to allow schools and universities to return) **but also** by our Regional Deadline (which differs from that of the ARA) of the 14th May shall be given one week's notice by letter dated Tuesday 16th May that from Tuesday the 23rd May NO THAMES REGIONAL EVENT WILL ALLOW THEM TO RACE OR ALLOW AN ENTRY AND THAT FROM Tuesday 23RD May, absent any audit disaffiliation proceedings will start.

To note

Tideway

- I have received the usual reportable accident reports and, in some cases of accidents known to have occurred, NOT received any.

Decision required

I propose that failure of the club and or the individual to prepare an accident report within the requisite ARA period and to ensure it reaches me within 7 days shall constitute a legitimate reason to take action under the new Regional disciplinary procedure against either club or individual (via the club).

Tideway Events

- Two events had taken place and it has been reported to me that the new Tideway Regatta code had had a beneficial effect particularly the issue of three lane racing being reduced to two and apparently these events are at least 'not unhappy'.
- I have worked on several events with a view to agreeing their safety plans and cooperated with the Acting RWSA in my absence on helping a Tideway event get its paperwork sorted. In this respect the new sub-committee chaired by Stan was most helpful.

Non-Tideway Events

- I dealt with the usual list of events with respect to paperwork

National Water Safety and Working Group and related matters

- I attended the WSWG meeting all day on Tuesday 1st May and discussed the 'Club Audit', the 'Juniors and Adult Beginners Guide' and the new 'Capsize and Immersion Drill' with respect to the numerous comments received. This is making progress and I am pleased that we are now getting comments from near and far and that such opinions are being considered carefully by all the committee and most are likely to be incorporated into the next draft documents for further consideration.

National Water Safety Committee

- It is interesting to note that, despite asking some 20 persons - and I made a particular point of including many of those who had publicly criticised my work following my 'photographic record of bad navigation on the Tidal Thames' - I found not one single person willing (or free) to take my place and represent the TRR Council at this meeting. All had prior engagements. I, therefore, ask that such persons should, in future, unless they become "doers" rather than "sayers" keep their counsel.

Chris George RWSA
Mull
11th May 2006

Competitions' Calendar Co-ordinator's Report

Author	A. J. Evans
For period	23 April 2006 – 11 May 2006
Date prepared	11 May 2006
Action required	To note

- Responses now being received to the Draft Calendar for the Period Jan 2007 to 1st April 2008.

Juniors Commissioner (Upriver) Report

Author	Nigel Weare
For period	to 11 May 2006
Date prepared	11 May 2006
Action required	To note

- Judith Packer continues to do OUTSTANDING work for the benefit of juniors.
- There have been no meetings of the group since the last Executive meeting.
- Based on the responses through the TRRC website, I have voted for the following:
 - FOR the reintroduction of WJ15 sweep events. All the clubs who voted against this were Project Oarsome clubs. All the schools who voted were in favour.
 - FOR the retention of the school / junior rule. All those wanting the removal of the school / junior rule were clubs, all the schools voting want to retain the rule.
 - There is a clear club / school divide in the views in the Thames Upriver region
- I was unable to attend the ARA JRC meeting on Saturday 13th May in Nottingham due to other commitments.
- 51 groups have now signed up for the Adopt-a-Nation project for the 2006 World Champs. The aim is to have 600 children attending each day on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the champs.
- A full team will compete at the Junior Inter-regionals on Sunday 14th May 2006. Apart from Windsor Boys Sch and Claires Court School, all the athletes selected are from clubs.

Type	Club	Crew	Elapsed
J16 4-	Walton RC		05:34.1 Selected
J16 4-	Windsor Boys		05:36.1 Selected as J16 4+
WJ16 4x	Henley RC		05:51.4 Selected
J14 4x+	Clares Court BC		06:05.7 Selected
WJ15 4x+	Maidenhead RC		06:16.3 Selected
WJ14 4x+	Marlow RC		06:33.6 Selected
J16 4x+	Windsor Boys		No Race Selected
J15 4x+	Windsor Boys		No Race Selected
WJ16 4-	Henley RC		No Race Selected
J16 2x	Windsor Boys		05:52.2 Doubling in Quad
J16 2x	Henley RC		05:54.2 Selected as J16 2x
J15 2x	Maidenhead RC		05:58.9 Selected
J14 2x	City of Oxford		06:38.5 Selected
J16 2-	Walton RC		06:19.5 Selected
WJ16 2x	Marlow RC		06:29.1 Selected
WJ15 2x	Maidenhead RC		06:42.7 Selected
WJ14 2x	City of Oxford		06:45.9 Selected
WJ16 2-	Henley RC	"A"	No Race Selected
J16 1x	Maidenhead RC	P Clapp	06:06.3 Selected
J15 1x	Walton RC	Tatlock	06:35.1 Selected
J14 1x	Maidenhead RC	R Ashburner	06:37.6 Selected
WJ16 1x	Maidenhead RC	A Brooks	06:52.5 Selected
WJ15 1x	Maidenhead RC	A Ancora	07:01.6 Selected
WJ14 1x	Marlow RC	A Denyer	07:30.6 Selected

Division 13 Representative's Report

Author	A. J. Evans
For period	23 April 2006 – 11 May 2006
Date prepared	11 May 2006
Action required	To note

Nothing to report, above the "normal" activities of a Div Rep!

Division 16 (Chiswick & Mortlake) Representative's Report

Author	Ken Williams
For period	To present
Date prepared	8 May 2006
Action required	To note

- Chiswick and Borne at Chiswick Bridge Regattas were held successfully on 29th April and 6th May respectively. Regattas were run according to the provisional Tideway Regatta Code: having to keep crews in a racing channel to one side of the navigation channel did demand that Umpires had to use their discretion on 'steering crews'.
- Attended first meeting of the Disciplinary Group and submitted list of points to modify the initial proposition. Was not able to attend the second meeting but intend going to the next meeting.

New Coaching Scheme Sub-Committee Report

Author	Nigel Weare
For period	to 11 May 2006
Date prepared	11 May 2006
Action required	To note

The following people have agreed to form this working party / sub-committee:

Richard Phillips	London RC	Thames region coaching commission chairman
Simon Blackburn	Black Prince RC	ARA CDO with responsibility for coach education
Pat Lockley	Wallingford RC	former tutor, assessor, verifier, and former ARA CDO
Mike Schofield	Army RC	former course organiser
Caroline Turnbull	Weyfarers RC	current course organiser and tutor
Nigel Weare	Staines BC	former UKCC adviser, former tutor, assessor, internal verifier, external verifier, author of coach education materials

- No meetings have yet been arranged.