

Reports

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Downriver Representative's Report

Author	Jim Harlow
For period	To 18 December 2006
Date prepared	14 December 2006
Action required	To Discuss / To Decide

1) The point system.

I remember that the committee (I think it was Tony who brought it up) discussed the lack of upward movement from senior 3, and we had a discussion that we needed to look at the points system. It seems daft that a novice crew can race and win 4 or 5 times in one summer but collect no points because there were too few entries at each event.

I have had a number of conversations with rowers on this topic and a possible solution occurred to me.

How about if we said that 2 or 3 unpointed wins = one point?

To Discuss.

2) Launch driving

In the period February to March 2006 I observed a general downward spiral in the behaviour of coaches and launch drivers on the Tideway. It is my opinion that this is an annual event that coincides with the arrival of the Oxbridge coaches. I want to make it quite clear now that I am NOT saying it is their fault. I feel there are 2 parts to this.

Not all the Oxbridge coaches have a good enough understanding of the rules. They also do not take on constructive criticism at all. On a number of occasions I tried to discuss our rules with them (in as friendly and professional a manner as I could muster) only to be either ignored or sworn at. The other issue is that the coaches of the Tideway clubs would seem to think that because there is someone else using the water they can get away with things such as washing people down with gay abandon too.

I know we have the disciplinary code to deal with this type of thing now but I think we should be a little more pro-active than that. I would like to suggest that we write to the Tideway Captains and the Oxbridge team managers, raising our concerns and in particular drawing their attention to the new Code, in order that we do not have to start punishing people.

Decision required.

3) Bureaucracy clubs are facing

I have had a number of general moans on the increasing amount of bureaucracy clubs are having to deal with. I have seen at first hand at my club the hard work needed to tackle the latest licensing system and also the new fire and food regulations. It is clear that clubs are having to take more and more responsibility for themselves.

I do not particularly have a problem with that but I think we need to keep an eye on this matter as I fear that this weight of legislation is a real threat to the survival of our smaller clubs. This is because they do not have the number of volunteers to deal with all of this and are therefore at risk of being unable to cope.

To discuss.

4) Mobile Phones

The WRC bought 40 mobile phones. They no longer have a use but I think we could use them. I think they are particularly useful for events. Vesta trialled them recently, issuing them to all the officials at the Scullers Head. If the radio system or an individual radio fails they give us a foolproof way of communicating and also we can use the group text facility to send an immediate text message to all officials in the event that Race Control need to speak to everyone, race cancellation being a good example.

The WRC want £15 per phone for them. They cost £30 new, each with £10 to £15 of credit on them, so the phones themselves are worth £15 to £20. They all have some credit on them and I think the average charge is about £5 (PB has the spreadsheet with the exact figures).

The £15 I believe is negotiable but I think they are worth not far off that price and they would be a real asset to us.

To decide.

5) Tideway radio survey

At the WRC I spent a long time talking to the sound engineers. It occurred to me that their experience could be of use for Tideway and other regional events. At the moment most Tideway races use UHF radios. The RNLI, PLA etc all use VHF radios and they would prefer it if we did the same. There are a number of pros and cons for both frequency ranges.

The PLA have done VHF sound mapping along the Tideway and know where the black spots are.

What nobody has done (as far as I am aware) is do a study to see what is the best for the needs of our National events. What works best from Putney to Mortlake – UHF or VHF?

I have spoken to some of the Heads to ask which companies they use, whether they would recommend them and what they cost. I have also spoken to 2 radio companies to talk about how to go about doing this. The research would take about a day to complete.

What I want to ask the committee is do you think this is something that is needed?

To discuss.

6) Joint standardised Tideway Head race document store on our website.

All the Tideway events have their own website where they store all their documents.

They use the same bit of river, pretty much the same officials and generally operate in the same way but all the paperwork is presented differently, has different rules and all the maps have different keys and scales.

If we really want all competitors to know what the rules are and what to do, then this has to change. I think we have to start to work towards standard safety documents for all the Heads that are stored on the TRRC website.

To discuss.

Division 13 Representative's Report

Author	A. J. Evans
For period	12 October 2006 – 11 December 2006
Date prepared	11 December 2006
Action required	For Discussion

1. Longridge is a site just downstream of Marlow Lock, owned by the Scout Association. They wish to divest themselves of it. A group of volunteers has been formed to try to maintain the site for the benefit of youngsters in the area. The Scout Association, recognising that their aims are similar to those of the Scouts, will sell the freehold to the new trustees for much less than the going rate. Fund raising has currently reached about half way towards this initial target. The problem seems to be that few funds will give money towards buying freehold. Many have offered to help once the freehold has been bought.

Historically, the main activities have been sailing, canoeing and rowing in whalers. For many years, the ARA Women's squad have based themselves on this site for all their long distance training (the reach is 3.5 miles long). Sarah Birch (CDO) and I are trying to raise some support, but would welcome help and advice. The Trustees are very keen to develop the rowing side, and encourage schools from the Slough / Berks area to come to the site; there is known to be a demand. Borlase would like to base themselves here permanently; they are currently boating from the site.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to keep a piece of the riverbank for the benefit of tomorrow's youth. It mustn't be allowed to slip through our hands.

2. I attended a River Thames Alliance presentation concerned with encouraging more visitors to the Thames and more healthy activities on and by, the River. I believe that all Clubs on the non-tidal Thames were invited; few attended!

The EA (who are the senior partner in the RTA) are about to re-vamp their web-site, which is seen as the major marketing tool to achieve the above objectives, would be willing to have information / links to other sites i.e. Clubs and events.

To save duplication of information and the consequent need to manage and update multiple sites, I would favour having a link to the ARA site for the Calendar of Events (for example).

3. Having been a Div Rep for just 2 years, I find that I still am unclear about my remit, and have problems in some areas, namely
 - a. Interaction with CDO's and other professionals within the ARA
 - b. Information on grants and grant-giving bodies.
 - c. Non productive Council meetings – hours of shadow boxing / word games.

I therefore wonder whether an information pack / some sort of induction training for new Div Reps could be provided. At present, we get little information above that which is provided to all Clubs on a general mailing, and yet we are supposed to be able to help and guide them! How are we supposed to gain this expertise and knowledge?

Discuss

Division 14 Representative's Report

Author	John Biddle
For period	To 12 December 2006
Date prepared	12 December 2006
Action required	To Note

Report Division 14

Several of the events in Division 14 have been cancelled over the last three weekends due to strong stream and severe weather warnings. These included Burway SBH, Hampton Head and Walton SBH.

I have been in discussions with two local clubs following the departure of several juniors from one to the other. This resulted in an article in the local newspaper and the ARA was copied on a letter from one of the junior parents, which I have replied to.

The issue of regatta dates for Walton & Weybridge and Weybridge Ladies has now been resolved for next year only. Walton & Weybridge will be held on Saturday 9th June and Weybridge Ladies on 2nd June. I understand that the dates will be reviewed for the 2008 season.

Regards

John

Division 18 Representative's Report

Author	Neil Jackson
For period	To 13 December 2006
Date prepared	13 October 2006
Action required	To Note

1. The three head races based in the Division - Pairs Head; Fullers Fours Head; Veteran Fours Head - all took place without major problems.
2. Host clubs in the division responded positively to the TRRC request for briefings for visiting crews for the Fours Head not acquainted with the Tideway.

Neil Jackson
Div 18 Rep

ARA Coaching and Development Officers' Report

Author	Sarah Birch and Phil Simmons
For period	To December 2006
Date prepared	December 2006
Action required	To Note

Sarah Birch

Partnership work

- ❖ First informal meeting with the newly formed Oxford Sports Partnership. The partnership is unfortunately not currently planning to make rowing a primary sport on its agenda. However, there is much support for rowing in the area particularly from the City council sports team so we intend to change this by showing what rowing can do.
- ❖ Meeting with Berkshire Sports Partnership to continue discussions on proposal for a water sports development officer in Berkshire. If this position is created it will be in partnership with the British Canoe Union and Royal Yachting Association.
- ❖ Sport England Investing and Delivering day. Sport England launched its funding plan for the next three years. Sport Engl SE has £21.8 mill to invest in Sport until 2009. This will be invested on a £1 for £2 basis so a min total of £65.4mill will be invested.

Any project seeking funding should meet the following criteria.

<u>5 key focus points for funding</u> Partnership; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ projects to be value for money ❖ increase participation by 1% ❖ work with other investing partners 	Sustainable and Deliverable. A project should have/be <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ have a robust business plan ❖ able continue beyond award or have an exit strategy ❖ sustainable sports development ❖ good project management ❖ be ready to go ❖ environmental sustainability
Inclusive and Safe for all <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ work with SE target groups ❖ work in deprived areas 	Creative and based on evidence and good practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ comply with NGB and other bodies strategies ❖ seek advice from Sprt Engl

- ❖ Meeting with Partnership Development Manager for Maidenhead School Sports Partnership to discuss rowing development within the schools.

Club Support

I have had meetings with several Thames clubs to help with funding applications and to support Project Oarsome, CCDP schemes and Clubmark accreditation work.

Community Sports Coach Scheme- Berkshire and Oxford

Continued support of Community Sports Coaches in these areas through attending coaching sessions, development work meetings, supporting indoor rowing taster days, annual staff reviews and meetings with partner clubs.

Phil Simmons

Community Sports Coaches

I have continued to support the Community Sports Coaches at Kingston/ Walbrook and Putney Town/ Twickenham. The CSC continue to improve club school links and have worked together on a competition between all four clubs as well as running a 100,000m ergo competition between PTRC & TWRC.

Also a new CSC with London Youth Rowing was appointed in November. I have been working closely with LYR to assist them in achieving their aims in London and I am working with them on an indoor rowing competition in Hammersmith on Boat Race day for juniors from the region and around London

Coaching courses and London Partnership training

There is currently one Level 2 coaching course planned for 2007. I am also working with Henley college to deliver them a level 2 course. I also have enquires from three tideway clubs about Level 2 courses and will be looking to run at least one other course by the end of April 2007

Women's Sports Foundation grant

I have been working with the Womens Sports Foundation towards grants for women living and working in London. There are still places available, details on the TRRC website. Please advertise this to anyone who may be interested. More details can from, phil.simmons@ara-rowing.org

Kew Bridge

During November I have attended two public planning meetings about the development site next to Kew Bridge. (The old Horseferry site). The planners seem frustrated by rowings continued presence but I have contact with two local councillors who so far seem to be on side.

Hammersmith

I have been working alongside the team led by Jim Harlow towards making this proposal a reality. The TRRC Chairman, myself, other ARA representatives, and Fulham Council all met with Sport England and the response was positive. Still more work to be done to gain the funds necessary but the work of Jim Harlow and others is giving the Thames Region the best chance at pulling this off.

Competition Calendar (“Events”) Coordinator’s Report

Author	A. J. Evans
For period	12 October 2006 – 11 December 2006
Date prepared	11 December 2006
Action required	For Discussion and To Decide

1. The problem referred to in the previous report concerning the date of the Metropolitan Regatta (Dorney) caused great consternation for the regattas involved as a consequence. However, I am much relieved to say, that a compromise solution, which will be tested for 2007 has now been reached. I am grateful to all the regatta secretaries involved for the additional trouble and work and that this has made. I hope (and believe) that the solution we have now reached may in fact prove to be a good sequence of events. Only time will tell.
2. Taking advice from the Umpire’s Commission, Wallingford Regatta has decided to remain on just one day for 2007.
3. I have written to the Di Ellis (Chairman of ARA), John Hedger (UK representative on FISA) and Ivor Lloyd (Dorney Lake), pointing out the complexity of the bookings at Dorney Lake, and the havoc that would be caused if a World Cup Regatta were to be staged at Dorney in June.
4. A further reworked Calendar for the period 1st Jan 2008 to 1st April 2008 was circulated to all events on 22nd November. Unfortunately this did not include the latest date for Twickenham Regatta, but this now has been communicated to both the National co-ordinator and ARA HQ. I applaud Twickenham’s decision to try running their Regatta on the late May Bank Holiday, and would like to encourage all members of the TRRC EXEC to support this move.
5. I still await dates the Boat Race and the Henley Boat Races for 2008.
6. Since publishing the Calendar, Weybridge Silver Sculls (Sat) have asked to bring their event forward by one week. This would mean two events taking place on the 41st wk-end and none on the 42nd. Reading Small Boats Head (Sun), whose week-end Weybridge wish to share, are against this change. There is already there is the Bedford Small boats Head on their date, and they do not wish for any more “competition”. I am minded to turn down this request for a change. **DECISION**
7. Tideway Small Boats Head have cancelled their event in 2004, 2005, 2006. They have always paid the affiliation fee, but is it right that they should continue to be allocated a date in the Calendar? **DECISION**

Equipment Officer's Report

Author	Richard Packer
For period	7 – 18 December 2006
Date prepared	10 December 2006
Action required	To Note

- Transferred equipment etc. from Richard West on 07 Dec 2006
- Two bookings in hand at present – 04 Feb 2007 Thames Valley Trial Head (Dorney) and 10 Feb 2007 Hampton Head (river permitting!)

Junior Officials Coordinator's Report

Author	Judith Packer on behalf of Becky Chalk
For period	To 10 December 2006
Date prepared	11 December 2006
Action required	For Discussion and Decision

Junior Officials – strategy for 2007

Met with Becky Chalk (new Junior Officials Coordinator), Terry Hunter (Dorney Lake) and one of the 2005 juniors to brainstorm ideas for how to keep momentum but adapt any scheme. Based on requests from a number of juniors from both the 2005 and 2006 schemes of '...what is the next step?' the conclusion was to focus on developing these juniors further rather than repeating the last couple of years. Age range is now 14 to 19 and without exception, have all proved themselves to be capable of more. What is more promising and I admit to being totally biased, is that the number of girls exceed the boys. With synergies in the Duke of Edinburgh awards that require learning of new skills, leadership, volunteering etc over a continued period of time between 3, 6 or 9 months, there seems a natural fit with mutual benefits to both the juniors and the region and with a further eye on building towards 2012 and intervening events.

The target is for the Junior Officials to be involved wherever possible in all areas of the **Ball Cup South**, of course with suitable supervision from experienced and qualified umpires and officials. Being a non-ARA event, and very much focused on Junior rowing, it seems the ideal event and most of the existing JOs will be too old/experienced to compete at it. Becky's role will be to coordinate the Juniors for this with guidance.

If Wallingford Regatta is open again to including the JO's, as well as helping a bit on the stakeboats, the idea would be for the Juniors to also shadow officials at Wallingford in all other umpiring/marshalling areas.

The juniors would then be encouraged to approach suitable national and regional events to help out so that they gain experience in a number of areas. They will have a log card so they can record what they have done and learned. We could supplement this with any 'ad-hoc' mini projects that might arise or that they are interested in.

Henley Womens' Regatta and some other national and regional events have also noted that we must retain the enthusiasm and interest.

Proposal: To invite discussion and request Council's agreement to proceed with the above strategy. **FOR DECISION**

JO Handbook On-Line

Officials Handbook 2005 'Attention Go!' is available as a pdf download from the ARA website (under Racing)! Will propose an advertising link to be from the TRRC together with the forward plan. Note that anyone not registered with the ARA can still download the book but they have to register for free – this is so that the ARA can monitor hits and interest.

Regional Water Safety Advisor's Report

Author	Neil Jackson
For period	To 13 December 2006
Date prepared	13 December 2006
Action required	For Discussion and Decision

1. Nick Watkins took up post as my Deputy and shadowed me or participated in my activities. I hope he will concentrate on Tideway matters and be complemented by an up-river Deputy.
2. I attended meetings of the National Water Safety Committee (NWSC), and, with Bill Mitchell and Chris George, the Rowing Risk Assessment Implementation Group (RRAIG).
3. NWSC considered making a swimming test for every member a mandatory requirement on clubs. Sentiment was in favour of this, but I expressed reservations about the problems of (a) enforcing such a requirement and (b) implementing it in London. NWSC will pursue the idea. **TRRC TO NOTE.**
4. NWSC invited members to cascade reminders to clubs about the deadlines for Safety Audits (31 December) and annual incident returns. **TRRC TO NOTE** that I intend to do this by way of an e-mail to Div Reps for them to forward to clubs. In discussion at RRAIG, I agreed to let Bill Mitchell know which Tideway clubs were quick to send in valid Safety Audits as one of a number of positive factors for consideration in making recommendations to the PLA for awards to clubs with the best or most improved safety records.
5. At the request of Bill Mitchell, I communicated with Imperial College Boat Club (ICBC) about a worrying number of lighting offences by their crews. (Note that this reference was informal not generated by a Panel review of the club's performance across the board or in comparison with other clubs, and did not include other misdemeanours.) The resulting correspondence is with the TRRC Secretary. It showed a welcome response by ICBC to remedying the reported offences and preventing their recurrence. In achieving that, I adopted a procedure which I consider should also apply to a formal reference from Bill's disciplinary Panel to a Divisional Representative (Action Level One) or to the RWSA (Action Level Two). **TRRC IS ASKED TO ENDORSE THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE FOR THE EXERCISE OF THE POWER TO EXAMINE A CLUB'S SAFETY PERFORMANCE:**
 - (1) Reference to Div Rep or RWSA, as appropriate (by Bill Mitchell on behalf of his Panel, accompanied by details of the relevant misdemeanours).
 - (2) Verification (by the Panel and the Div Rep or RWSA of the alleged misdemeanours in the light of representations by the club).
 - (3) Acceptance (by the club that it has a problem of problems requiring it to take action).
 - (4) Remediation (by the club to educate, train or punish as appropriate the individuals who gave rise to the reported misdemeanours).
 - (5) Prevention (Measures put in place and made to work by club to prevent any of its members repeating the problem in future).
 - (6) Monitoring and Review (by the club and the Div Rep or RWSA of the effectiveness of the measures in (4)).

5. Chris George and I approved the holding of the following events: UL's Allom Cup regatta; the United Hospitals regatta; Scullers' head. I have in hand approval of the 2007 Quintin Head. In preparing the latter, and in consultation with Stan Collingwood as guardian of umpires' interests and of the TRRC Tideway events code, I have adopted the following **GENERAL CRITERIA FOR EXERCISING MY POWER TO APPROVE EVENTS WHICH I INVITE TRRC TO APPROVE:**

"A I see my task regarding event documentation as a package as to judge whether the package is "adequate" on safety grounds plus meets current relevant best practice. I can't intrude on Stan Collingwood's patch, as both the TRUC umpires' rep and TRRC events controller who has to co-ordinate racing methods between different events over the same waters. (But he and I do try to work together to avoid duplication, omission, delay, double-communicating or conflict.)

"B My criteria for the Rule 2-2-3 Map or diagram are that it, including any supplementary part(s) e.g. for the start or finish zones, and its supporting text are sufficient:

(1) To tell a racing coxswain, sculler or steersman ("steerer") visiting the course and the relevant waters above and below it for the first time in sufficient detail:

* where the Committee want him or her to travel ("the circulation pattern") before during and after the race;

* what landmarks he or she has to look out for in order to comply; and

* what hazards ("special points of danger") he or she will want to avoid in doing so.

(2) To cover the items specified in Rule 2-2-3 itself and the first two questions in section 9.1 of the ARA Safety Audit for events."

Neil Jackson
RWSA
13 December 2006

Regional Water Safety Development Adviser's Report

Author	Chris George
For period	To 13 December 2006
Date prepared	13 December 2006
Action required	To note

To note

I have nearly finished the first phase of the on-line reporting system for Bad-Navigation and General Non-reportable Incident reports Near Miss / for the Thames region. This has been under the aegis of the National Water Safety Committee chaired by Stuart Ward at the instigation of the Water Safety Working Group a sub-committee on which I have been invited to continue to serve.

The plan it for the WSWG to "pilot" this with the Thames Region and I have been pressing for it to be put into practice at an early stage with respect to reports for the Tideway.

Description of the works

The purpose of this project is to a pilot incident reporting system that can be done easily on line with the use of drop down boxes and auto-fill to make the process as easy as possible.

The idea is to produce a one-location catch-all facility to report all incidents and to have the data collected and collated automatically by the computer software and sent to all the relevant authorities or, if not sent, an email sent informing them of where they can find the data.

Ideally, each of the 5 or so categories of incident report will be collated.

For the time being we are mainly interested in reporting of navigation and bad behaviour etc incidents and on this I have concentrated as we need to try to get this up and running soon

The phasing of this is likely to be in three stages;

- Phase 1) the setting up of the system verbally [literally the written word] (i.e. no maps or charts) to report bad navigation etc with emails, reporting printing and data collation to the Region. Additionally, I have set up the Regional Non-reportable incident form.
- Phase 2) the provision of a facility to mark on charts and plans the position of boats for every part of the river Thames both tidal and EA together with all other water on which Thames regional boats row - e.g. Dorney, Reading and Caversham, etc.
- Phase 3) the incorporation of all ARA and PLA reporting systems both recordable and reportable into the ARA system.

I envisage the system to work as follows;

- Go to the ARA TRRC and all Club sites to find a url for incident reporting
- This takes you to the Vorboss website (or Vorboss software on the ARA website)
- Click on the opening button to go through the various decision trees laid out therein
- At all stages you can save the report and come back to it or go backwards
- There are plenty of text boxes for other comments
- Only certain parts are 'essential' data that **must** be filled to be able to proceed
- The whole is printable by the users at front or back end
- The print out is condensed {and in phase 2 to include diagrams}
- [and in phase 2] Diagrams and charts are simple and as small as possible in term of bytes of size but as large as possible in terms of vision and marking
- [and in phase 2] They need to be scalable where practicable i.e. you can zoom in to a bit of river say 200 m long and get some detail as in Google Earth and the like

Phase 1 is nearly up and running and can be tried out on <http://demo.vorboss.net> . (It is still being worked on so ignore the computer stuff at the bottom of the page). Any suggestions as to how it can be improved to be passed onto me.

The advantages of this system, apart from ease of use and hence hopefully more data, are that

- 1) There is a table of results at the end which can be printed or saved electronically*
- 2) an email is sent to the RWSA and CWSA at each entry*
- 3) all data are stored in unambiguous fields and are accessible to the RWSA and his selected colleagues and are presented in spreadsheet format for instant analysis*
- 4) data are collated into the ARA incident categories automatically*

It should be borne in mind that what APPEARS complex actually is very easy once you have got used to the layout and that for the money we have to keep it simple to present.

Chris George

Veterans' Commissioner's Report

Author	Murray Litvak
For period	to 12 October 2006
Date prepared	12 October 2006
Action required	To note

The Veterans Commission has finally met, after some absence. A new Chairman has been elected- Arnold Cooke. I have been appointed Secretary.

Discussion is already taking place on revision of the veteran handicap, and greater support for Umpires to ensure correct implementation.

A further meeting is planned for January 2007