

Meeting Particulars

Date & Time	Monday 16 April 2007 19.30 hours
Venue	Maidenhead Rowing Club (www.maidenheadrc.org.uk) River Road, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 0AT Telephone: 01628 622664 (main)/01628 671671 (bar)

Executive Committee Members

Initials	Name	Role	Apologies Rec'd?
AE	Tony Evans	Div 13 Representative <i>and</i> Competitions Calendar	✓
AR	Andrew Russell	Honorary Secretary	Apologies
AW	Andy Weekes	Div 11 Representative	?
BM	Bill Mitchell	President <i>and</i> Chairman, Conduct Panel	✓
CG	Chris George	Regional Water Safety Development Adviser	Apologies
CS	Chris Sprague	Umpires' Commissioner <i>and</i> Vice-President	ABSENT
EJ	Emma James	TRC Representative	?
EW	Elizabeth Wray	PR / Marketing	✓
JB	John Biddle	Div 14 Representative	?
JH	Jim Harlow	Downriver Representative	Apologies
JP	Judith Packer	Upriver Representative	Apologies
LL	Laura Lion	Juniors' Commission (upriver)	?
MA	Margaret Adams	Vice-President	Apologies
MBB	Mark Blandford-Baker	Div 10 Representative	✓
MC	Martin Carr	Div 16 Representative	?
MH	Martin Humphrys	Chairman	✓
MJ	Michael Jones	Leander Club Representative	✓
ML	Murray Litvak	Veterans' Commission	?
MW	Mike Williams	LRC Representative	Apologies
NJ	Neil Jackson	Div 18 Representative <i>and</i> RWSA	✓
NW	Nick Watkins	Deputy RWSA	✓
PB	Paul Baldwin	Honorary Treasurer	✓
PL	Paul Lorenzato	Div 19 Representative	✓
PM	Peter Moore	Div 12 <i>and</i> Recreational Representative	✓
PS	Phil Simmons	ARA Coaching and Development Officer	✓
RH	Ruth Hatton	Juniors' Commission (downriver)	?
RPa	Richard Packer	Equipment Officer	APOLOGIES
RPh	Richard Philips	Coaching Commission	✓
RW	Richard West	Div 15 Representative <i>and</i> EA Representative	✓
SB	Sarah Birch	ARA Coaching and Development Officer	✓
SC	Siobhan Cassidy	Div 17 Representative	Apologies
SDC	Stan Collingwood	Tideway Event Code of Conduct Coordinator	Apologies
-n/a-	-vacant-	Junior Officials Coordinator	-vacant-

Meeting Agenda

No.	Agenda Item	Action Required	Member
1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Noted above.	Noted	MH
2	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING		
	Review and approval of March Meeting Minutes	[Agreed]	MH
3	MATTERS ARISING		MH
3.1	Kingston GSBC Incident 3.1.1 MH had written to the Headmaster expressing concern at the apparently low priority which KGS BC was giving to the wrecking on a JM4x at Hampton. The Head had replied and TRRC would assist the school in dealing with the incident.	Noted	
3.2	Safety requirements for events 3.2.1 RPa asked about information being made available on the ARA's requirements for safety at events. MH replied that the matter was in hand with Stuart Ward, the National Waters Safety Adviser in the context of redrafting the national Water Safety Code.	Noted	
4	ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, ACTION, OR DECISION The Executive Committee considered the following:		

No.	Agenda Item	Action Required	Member
4.1	<p>EA Warning Boards</p> <p>4.1.1 MBB explained the Oxford University “Flag Status System”. It is based on information from the Environment Agency (EA)’s Iffley lock-keeper (at the bottom of the reach) about the state of the weirs (the more open they are, the faster, in general, the river will be running through the reach. The wiers/flow relationship is not, however, exact, does not cover the specific problem of flow from the river Cherwell into the racing zone, and, of course, does not take into account other factors pertinent to the safety of rowing (such as wind strength and direction; the experience (or lack of it) of different classes of rowers and steerers, and relative vulnerability of different types of owing craft. Used by City of Oxford RC, too, the system interprets the EA information in terms of which, if any classes of crew may boat.</p> <p>4.1.2 RW confirmed that the EA Red and Yellow board system is based on the number of sluices drawn at the outlet weir(s) from a reach (NOT on actual flows) and generates advisory (NOT mandatory) warning messages to discourage river users. Clubs are then able to interpret the warning in respect of who, if anyone, may row, in what boat types, on which bits of the reach. It must be said, however, that, in the event of an insurance claim for an incident on a ‘Red-boarded’ reach, a club must have had a robust policy in place, which was not applied on the day <u>before</u> the outing in question but also formally and contemporaneously documented.</p> <p>4.1.3 MBB’s concern was that the EA was withdrawing its information service in conjunction with a change of lock-keeper. Moreover, Oxford had the special problem of the number and turn-over of college BC captains.</p> <p>4.1.4 In discussion, it was agreed that the EA should be generally encouraged to inform clubs on a reach-by-reach basis, but that we should not fall into the trap of giving it mandatory powers to decide who should row. Red or Yellow Boards are to remain information for club Captains or other officers to use in risk assessments. The EA must not become more prescriptive. To that end, clubs should keep good relations with their respective lock-keepers (e.g. give him a radio during regattas!) but ensure that their members were kept informed and under prudent control to avoid causing the EA undue anxiety. In that vein, we should support Oxford’s centralised approach (which took the burden off the less experienced club officers there).</p> <p>4.1.5 BM said that the issue would be brought into discussions with the EA in developing an Up-river equivalent of the PLA/TRRC Tideway Rowing Code of Conduct. That could meet MBB’s request for the preparation of a rowing-wide approach to interpreting and applying the EA’s advisory Board scheme.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Agreed</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MB, RW</p>

No.	Agenda Item	Action Required	Member
4.2	Competitions		
4.2.1	<p><u>Competitions Committee review</u></p> <p>4.2.1.1 TE reported orally on the (rather slow) progress of the long-running review of competitions, especially the failure of the points system to generate consistently worthwhile entries and races at the S1, S2 and S3 levels. TE had been dragging statistics out of OARA to show the gross imbalance between S3/S4 and the higher categories.</p> <p>4.2.1.2 Some radical ideas were being bandied about (Points for HRR winners? Minimum crew points for HRR competitions? Combining sculling and sweep points?) Some seemed more practicable, notably reducing the number of entries for a qualifying event. But one constraint would be any need to re-programme OARA.</p> <p>4.2.1.3 Veteran rowing might be split into Novice, Full and International categories.</p>	Noted	
4.2.2	<p><u>Tideway HRR 2007</u></p> <p>4.2.2.1 MH reported that TRRC had taken action immediately after the problems of the abandonment of the THORR 07. He had ordered a TRRC review. It had been hard to find members who were not actively engaged in the event on or before the day!</p> <p>4.2.2.2 He had been soliciting input from all concerned about the HRR. The review team would begin by receiving the Organizers' wash-up report in late April, and take receipt of individual reports from crews or clubs. NJ was collating reports sent to him or to TRRC via the on-line system and would forward them without comment to the team.</p> <p>4.2.2.3 BM had already to those involved in all Head races on the Tideway sent out a draft of a proposed standard abandonment protocol. By 5 April he had already received some positive replies and comments.</p> <p>4.2.2.4 It would have been premature to discuss the substance of the issues. Moreover, the known harm to individuals and losses of equipment were mercifully limited. So Council took note with approval of the steps taken to date.</p>	Noted	

No.	Agenda Item	Action Required	Member
4.2.3	<p><u>Regatta Code of Conduct</u></p> <p>4.2.3.1 MH presented on behalf of SDC the Regatta Code of Conduct and Notes prepared by SDC and circulated with the Agenda. In 2006 SDC had prepared a TRRC Regatta Code to get some coherence in the approaches taken by Tideway organizing Committees to managing their regattas, and some consistency between them where they were using the same reach. It had also assisted in keeping the PLA happy pending the development of the Tideway Rowing Code of Conduct. It was complementary to, and did not affect the RWSA's consent function for the safety plans for events.</p> <p>4.2.3.2 SDC had now extended and annotated the 2006 Code with a view to extending it to other Thames Region waters in time for the forthcoming regatta season. He would turn his hand to an equivalent in time for the 2007/08 heads season.</p> <p>4.2.3.3 Executive expressed general satisfaction with the document (and gratitude to SDC for his efforts). It agreed that the Code would apply forthwith to Thames Region regattas and that the Hon Sec should get on with promulgating it to organizers and on the web-site. Executive looked forward with some enthusiasm to seeing the heads Code in due course.</p>	Agreed	AR
4.2.4	<p><u>Marine band VHF radios for Tideway events</u></p> <p>4.2.4.1 RPa introduced his report circulated with the Agenda proposing the purchase of Marine band radio sets by TRRC to be made available to regatta organizers. There was, however, a practical constraint (beyond the simple cost) in the need to have a licensed operator who had to undergo a day's training (itself costing about £50)</p> <p>4.2.4.2 In discussion, this was recognized as good idea. The sets gave access not only to PLA channels but also to Class V cruisers, Ro-safe launches and Chas Newens launch drivers. They were in use at most if not all Tideway events and at some above Teddington lock</p> <p>4.2.4.3 Executive agreed to purchase six hand sets.</p>	Agreed	RPa
4.3	<p>Sport England "Club and Coach Project Funding</p> <p>4.3.1 SB reminded Executive of the Sport England (Sp Eng) arrangements for funding coach development aired at the march meeting. Sp Eng had just announced the funding for rowing under the Club and Coach project. The funds were not simple to access and would require coaches to work in "centres". The money was not as we had thought for coach education. There was a lump sum for London (including areas not in our Region), and another pot for the other parts of our Region, again shared with other regions. There had to be a plan for 3 years with a target of 4 funded coaches</p> <p>4.3.2 MH acknowledged the difficulties. But the money was there. SB was keeping him informed of progress and, as needed, he was making delegated decisions for TRRC. RPh, PB and JP were appointed to get together with SB and make what use we could of the funds, warts'n'all.</p> <p>4.3.3 RPh undertook to scan and circulate a letter of 10 April about the scheme.</p>	Agreed Agreed	RPh PB JP SB

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4.4	<p>TRRC Administration</p> <p>4.4.1 The Honorary Secretary had apologised for the delays in producing minutes, agenda and reports over the past several months.</p> <p>4.4.2 The HonSec maintains the page of the TRRC website that presents the Exec's photos and rowing bios, to help keep TRRC approachable to the rowing community. However, some photos and bios were missing. PB, NW, MC and SC had yet provide digital headshot photos and rowing bios.</p> <p>4.4.3 The HonSec also maintains, solely for the use of the Executive Committee, a list of private contact details, however some details are missing. BM, NW and SC had yet to provide missing details.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Action to be pursued as indicated</p> <p>Action to be pursued as indicated</p>	<p></p> <p>PB, NW, MC, SC</p> <p>BM, NW, SC</p>
5	<p>REPORTS TO NOTE</p> <p>In addition to reports explicitly referenced above, the Executive Committee is asked to note all the reports submitted as listed below.</p>	<p>Noted</p>	
6	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>6.1 Parliamentary Ergo event 6.1.1 PS exhorted members to circulate the note promoting an Ergo event at the Houses of Parliament. He disowned the drafting errors in the text provided!</p> <p>6.2 Tiffin school 6.2.1 RW reported on the approach to Tiffin School about their proposal to cease rowing. The headmaster had deferred (but not turned down) the proposed meeting with RW and JH.</p> <p>6.3 EA proposed Code for Up-river Rowing 6.3.1 RW and BM were to form a committee to provide the TRRC input to the proposed EA Code for Rowing the non-tidal Thames (to draw on the PLA/TRRC Code).</p>		<p>MH</p>
7	<p>UPCOMING MEETINGS</p> <p>Monday 21 May at 19.30 at Thames Rowing Club. Monday 18 June at 19.30 at Weybridge RC / Weyfarers no July meeting no August meeting Monday 17 September at 19.30 at Downriver Club - TBD Monday 15 October at 19.30 at Kingston Rowing Club</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>All</p>
	<p>MEETING ADJOURNMENT At 21:30 hours.</p>		

Reports

The following reports have been submitted:

	Report	Status	Member
	Chairman	Nothing to report	MH
	Honorary Secretary	Nothing to report	AR
	Honorary Treasurer	Nothing to report	PB
✓	Upriver Representative	To Note	JP
	Downriver Representative	Nothing to report	JH
	Division 10 (Oxford University) Representative	Nothing to report	MBB
	Division 11 (Upper Thames) Representative	Nothing to report	AW
	Division 12 (Reading) Representative	Nothing to report	PM
✓	Division 13 (Middle Thames) Representative	To Note	AE
	Division 14 (Staines & Molesey) Representative	NO REPORT	JB
	Division 15 (Kingston & Twickenham) Representative	NO REPORT	RW
	Division 16 (Chiswick & Mortlake) Representative	Nothing to report	MC
	Division 17 (University of London) Representative	Nothing to report	SC
	Division 18 (Barnes & Hammersmith) Representative	NO REPORT	NJ
	Division 19 (Putney) Representative	NO REPORT	PL
	London Rowing Club Representative	Nothing to report	MW
	Thames Rowing Club Representative	NO REPORT	EJ
	Leander Club Representative	NO REPORT	MJ
	ARA Coaching and Development Officers	Nothing to report	PS & SB
	Coaching Commissioner	NO REPORT	RPh
✓	Competitions Calendar (“Events”) Coordinator	To Note	AE
	Environment Agency Representative	NO REPORT	RW
✓	Equipment Officer	To Discuss	RPa
✓	Junior Officials Coordinator (*combined in Upriver Rep’s Report)	To Note	JP
	Juniors’ Commissioner (upriver)	Nothing to report	LL
	Juniors’ Commissioner (downriver)	NO REPORT	RH
	PR & Marketing Officer	NO REPORT	EW
✓	Recreational Representative	To Note	PM
	Regional Water Safety Adviser (RWSA)	NO REPORT	NJ
	Regional Water Safety Development Adviser (RWSDA)	NO REPORT	CG
	Tideway Code of Conduct Panel Chairman	NO REPORT	BM
✓	Tideway Event Code of Conduct Coordinator	To Discuss	SDC
	Umpires’ Commissioner	NO REPORT	CS
	Veterans’ Commissioner	NO REPORT	ML