

Reports

This document contains the following reports:

Report	Status	Member
Chairman		MH
Honorary Secretary		AR
Honorary Treasurer		PB
Upriver Representative	To discuss	JP
Downriver Representative		JH
Division 10 (Oxford University) Representative		MBB
Division 11 (Upper Thames) Representative	To note	AW
Division 12 (Reading) Representative		PM
Division 13 (Middle Thames) Representative	To note	AE
Division 14 (Staines & Molesey) Representative		JB
Division 15 (Kingston & Twickenham) Representative		RW
Division 16 (Chiswick & Mortlake) Representative		KW
Division 17 (University of London) Representative		-vacant-
Division 18 (Barnes & Hammersmith) Representative		NJ
Division 19 (Putney) Representative		PL
London Rowing Club Representative		MW
Thames Rowing Club Representative	To discuss	EJ
Leander Club Representative		MJ
ARA Coaching and Development Officers		PS & SB
Coaching Commissioner		RPh
Competitions Calendar ("Events") Coordinator	To note	AE
Environment Agency Representative		RW
Equipment Officer	To note	RPa
Junior Officials Coordinator (<i>combined in Upriver Rep's Report</i>)	To note	JP/BC
Juniors' Commissioner		RH
PR & Marketing Officer		EW
Recreational Representative	To note	PM
Regional Water Safety Adviser (RWSA)	To note	NJ
Regional Water Safety Development Adviser (RWSDA)		CG
Tideway Event Code of Conduct Coordinator		SC
Umpires' Commissioner		CS
Veterans' Commissioner		ML

Upriver and Junior Officials' Representative's Report

Author	Judith Packer (upriver) and Becky Chalk (JO)
For period	11 December 2006 to 9 January 2007
Date prepared	9 January 2007
Action required	To Discuss / To Decide items <u>underlined</u>

Upriver Rep

TRRC meetings

Burway confirmed for February 06 meeting.

Maidenhead can host either April or October meeting but as they have a paid bar officer, we would have to cover that if we wanted the bar open. Please advise date and bar request!

M B-B has offered to host AGM at Magdalen College – propose that we accept.

Child Protection Seminar

I have made contact with Annamarie Phelps and made some suggestions and dates for a possible seminar before Easter, targeting weekend afternoons (1 1/2 to 2 hrs). Looking at the regatta calendar - Sat 3rd Feb, Sun Feb 17th, or Sun Feb 25th seem best. Awaiting further feedback from her on date and other support she may need from us (admin / notices). She mentioned the following main issues for CWOs from her point of view:

- recruiting volunteers to work in the club;
- CRB who and why;
- recognising poor practice and making a referral;
- what happens when I make a referral
- Any new issues eg photography,
- Child Protection at competitions, taking children away for competitions & training camps, dealing with bullying.
- ARA website (what is up there/where to find it)

any others we would like her to address?

She is working on the revised Child Protection Policy which goes to Exec January. She queried whether two sessions were needed – I think that to get coverage, we should aim for one upriver, one downriver. **Maidenhead RC has been contacted and agreed as venue.** Only costs would be small – for refreshments. Downriver venues – possibly TSS / Vesta (Jim/Ruth may like to input here).

Junior Officials

Have emailed 'enquiry of interest' to 17 of the World Champs Juniors regarding ongoing interest and combining with DofE or other awards. Have 2 positive responses to date. Ongoing.

Judith Packer

9th Jan 06

Division 11 Representative's Report

Author	Andy Weekes
For period	To 10 January 2007
Date prepared	10 January 2007
Action required	To Note

Rowing Restrictions on Isis due to Heavy Rain

Due to the recent heavy rain falls, rowing in the Oxford area has been very restricted on the Isis with senior oarspersons at City of Oxford having to use Dorney Lake at the weekends for worthwhile on water training.

Oxford Brookes University

The proposal to consider that all the Wallingford stretch rowing clubs to be in one division and not split as at present (Divs 11 & 12) is a sensible view and should be progressed.

Andy Weekes

Div 11 Rep.

Division 13 Representative's Report

Author	A. J. Evans
For period	11 December 2006 – 8 January 2007
Date prepared	8 January 2007
Action required	To Note

1. Longridge Update (for background see previous report).

I have arranged for Alan Meegan and me to meet with the Longridge Trustees on Saturday 20th January to see what arrangements can be made to the our mutual benefit.

TRC Representative's Report

Author	Emma James
For period	To 15 January 2007
Date prepared	5 January 2007
Action required	To Discuss

Coaching Courses.

As the representative of a large downriver club and one that probably experiences all the same kind of problems as other clubs on the Tideway, I wish to highlight a problem I am having.

I currently have in the region of 5-6 coaches who are keen to take the Level 2 coaching qualification. I believe that there are similar numbers of people at both Vesta and LRC who are also keen to take their Level 2.

I realise that the solution to my problem, on paper is very simple. I simply find someone willing to organise and run a course to which all these people can be invited. However in practice this is proving difficult if not impossible. As Club Captain it is a constant struggle to get people to become volunteer coaches or to do any other voluntary work around the club. To find someone willing to set up a Level 2 course and all the administrative work this involves is proving impossible.

I plan to discuss this further with colleagues at Vesta and LRC to see if we can set up an organising group/committee to run a course, but even if we manage this, we are still left with the issue of finding sufficient tutors and assessors.

I have asked my regional CDO to help me with this, but to date have had no response.

If a large club like Thames is struggling to find the resource to set up a course, what chance do smaller clubs have? Combined with the fact that there do not appear to be sufficient tutors or assessors, is the current arrangement really sustainable or appropriate?

To Discuss.

Competition Calendar (“Events”) Coordinator’s Report

Author	A. J. Evans
For period	11 December 2006 – 8 January 2007
Date prepared	8 January 2007
Action required	To Note

A very late request for a change of date was received from Poplar Regatta. By consulting with representatives of Ball Cup (South) and Borne at Chiswick Bridge, neither of whom raised any objection, I have agreed that Poplar be rescheduled from Sunday 20th May to Sunday 13th May, as requested.

The National Calendar has now “gone to press”.

Work will now start in earnest on 2008....!

Equipment Officer's Report

Author	Richard Packer
For period	19 December 2006 – 15 January 2007
Date prepared	8 January 2007
Action required	To Note

- Bookings to date:
 - 04 Feb 2007 - Thames Valley Trial Head (Dorney)
 - 10 Feb 2007 - Hampton Head
 - 17 Feb 2007 - Henley Fours and Eights Head
 - 14 Mar 2007 - National Junior Sculls Head (Henley)
- Updated equipment section on the TRRC website.

Recreational Representative's Report

Author	Peter Moore
For period	To 11 January 2007
Date prepared	11 January 2007
Action required	To Note

- Unable to attend last meeting held in Bradford on 28th October, which however was not quorate. Thus minutes of previous meeting held in June (which I did attend!) will be discussed at next meeting scheduled for 10th March at Henley RC
- Tourers Dinner will be held at Leander on 10th March
- 31 people participated in the 2006 tour on the Bedfordshire Ouse in July
- The 2007 Tour planned for the Medway is likely to be abandoned in favour of a return visit to the Upper Thames from 13th - 15th July as the only two weekends with suitable tides on the Medway in July clash with Henley Royal and the FISA Tour in USA
- Oarsome Extra. Four clubs have signed up for the pilot scheme (Ely, FALCON, Upton and WEYFARERS). The Whole Sport Plan targets 20 by 2009 and expressions of interest for the next tranche are required by the end of the year
- ARA Learn2Row manual now available

Regional Water Safety Advisor's Report

Author	Neil Jackson
For period	To 9 January 2007
Date prepared	9 January 2007
Action required	To Note

1. Safety Audits

1.1 By 09 January, only 100 clubs (most of them successfully) had submitted their 2006 annual safety audits on-line through the Verboss mailer system set up by Chris George. Only one has used the hard copy arrangements abandoned by Council last year. Nick Watkins, assisted by Chris and me, is managing the results, building in a Divisional component.

2. Incident reporting

2.1 Chris George has consulted, amongst others Nick, Bill Mitchell and me on developing the on-line reporting system.

2.2 Bill's Tideway Conduct Panel has compiled and circulated the first two months of 'theoretical' points awards for reported misdemeanours. Without prejudice to Bill's ability to make formal referrals to me under our Disciplinary Procedure or with respect to specific misdemeanour(s), I have studied the theoretical results with a view to setting priorities for action on clubs' apparent poor safety records. I have not yet taken such action or asked Divisional Representatives to do so – but it is a very helpful guide to likely performance

3. Fog on the Thames

3.1 During the week beginning 18 December there was unusually dense and persistent fog in the Thames valley. Crews were reported to be boating when visibility was so poor that it was not possible to see across the river.

3.2 The RNLI submitted a photograph taken from Chiswick pier on the morning of 19 December of a lit coaching launch accompanying an unlit quad when the Surrey shore and the vessels' ID were not visible. I circulated the photograph widely. I followed it up with enquiries of, and visits to, specific clubs. Whilst the offender remains unidentified, I am pleased to report that:

- (a) clubs in general DO have relevant policies in place, and
- (b) where crews did boat, they turned back very early on finding conditions worse than they had thought on launching.

3.3 I considered, in consultation with Bill and others, the case for a general policy statement from me to the Region's clubs. Bear in mind that:

- (a) I found no evidence that clubs were systematically ignorant of the safety and navigational implications of poor visibility; and
- (b) fog can be patchy from place to place and from time to time so:
 - (i) a decision to boat may have been within the bounds of acceptability when it was made; and
 - (ii) a report of an offence like that helpfully made by RNLI may apply to a crew making a 'correct' early return to base.

Against that background, and with the fog being blown away sooner than forecast, I took no action. **TRRC is invited to note that decision.**

4. Reporting incidents

4.1 In the same vein, and taking into account my action on ICBC lighting offences which I reported to Council in December, I was invited by Division 18 colleague Chris to consider the case for a TRRC enforcement initiative on lighting, perhaps by way of on-water patrols. The fall-off in reported offences, the results of my trawl of Tideway clubs' fog policies and practices, and my general reluctance to take the implementation and enforcement initiatives away from clubs (AKA "nannying them") led me to do nothing yet.

4.2 In the discussions, however, I said how much this illustrated how very dependent we are on an effective commitment by clubs to the reporting phase of the system. Bill suggested: "I think that when the website is ready, and it looks like being soon, we should hit every club with feedback on how the system is working to date and highlight benefits to be gained from embracing the web reporting system."

I agree. and will bring this forward at the right moment. **TRRC is invited to note that decision.**

4.3 I have established with the help of Emma James contacts for gathering evidence on the wrecking of the TRC W8+.

4.4 Through the good offices of Richard West as Divisional Representative, I followed up reports of crews boating on an up-river reach subject to Environment Agency 'red-boarding'. I was satisfied that there were club policies in place with respect to such fast stream conditions and that they had been implemented (by way of both prohibiting classes of crews from boating, and making each crew that did boat undertake a risk assessment beforehand). I am not minded, therefore, to issue a general reminder to clubs about what they do under red-boarded stream conditions. **TRRC is invited to note that decision.**

5. Events

5.1 I have reviewed, in consultation with Stan Collingwood on behalf of TRUC and Nick, the safety documentation for:

- Quintin head 2007.
- Hampton 4s & 8s head 2007
- United Hospitals regatta 2007
- Thames Valley head (Dorney) 2007

5.2 I was party to discussions between clubs and the PLA about racing during informal club events ("Plum pudding races") through the restricted zones (RZs). Some went ahead. At least one was cancelled as just too much hassle. I have logged up the general issue of side-by-side racing in RZs as one of the general issues under the new Code which will need to be reviewed later this year.

5.3 In the same category of 'for review' are:

- baulking of a rowing vessel by another much slower one in a particularly narrow in-shore zone;
- the interaction between rowers obeying the Code and other vessels, especially sailing craft and canoes, obeying ColRegs if anything!

I would welcome suggestions for other items of similar significance.

Neil Jackson
Thames RWSA