

# AMATEUR ROWING ASSOCIATION



## Report of the Water Safety Sub-Committee To Executive 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005 & Council 12<sup>th</sup> February 2005

### A Meeting & Attendance

1. Since the last report of the sub-committee there has been one meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2004. Present: S. Ward, C. Brown, T Page, M. Groom, T. Hooper, C. George, A. Clarke, J. Mulholland, G. Kinsella, S. Bull, P Bancroft, P Sondheimer,

### B. Matters Arising from the Last Report

2. **Annual Club Safety Audit** – The returns procedure together with that for linked clubs, the non-return procedure and ARA Grievance procedure was discussed. These procedures were also presented in flow diagram form and these files together with the Excel spreadsheet from S.Bull, to help RWSAs monitor their clubs, to be placed on COMmunicate.

3. **Incident Logbook Summary 2004** – A returns summary sheet, prepared by the Water Safety Working Group, was presented together with worked examples for completing the sheet. It was emphasised that the rationale behind the summary sheet was to encourage clubs to take a good look at their safety management, using the evidence of their incidents. These summary sheets would not be required until the end of February 2005 and their collection and use would be discussed at the next committee meeting. The worked example summary sheet to be placed on COMmunicate for comment and development ideas.

4. **Water Safety Flyer and Launch Safety Posters** –Final draft examples of the water safety flyer were considered and technical adjustments to the wording suggested. The flyer is to be provided for every member on renewal or joining the ARA. It will also be available as a download from the ARA's Website. Any further comments to be made through COMmunicate before the end of the year.

5. **Product assessment** – A new product from New Wave Shoes had been presented to the Water Safety Working Party and Peter Shakespear by Karon Philips. In essence it is a new method of fixing a shoe to a footplate allowing rotational adjustment to suit the athlete. Heel restraints are fixed and there were no objections to the system on safety grounds. Confirmation of the certification of the bespoke Lifejacket should be with us soon.

6. **Launches & Launch Driving** – No further report on the formulation of a syllabus. A meeting is to be arranged with "professionals" as soon as all the parties can get together.

### C. New Business

7. **Boat Identification** – Many clubs and their crews need to consider the importance of their conduct and observation of navigation rules if the sport is not to be brought into disrepute. It is preferable for the ARA nationally, regionally and at club level to show that it has the ability and desire not only to educate and train its members, but also to call to account those who bring the sport into disrepute. This has been highlighted by the recent risk assessment commissioned by the Port of London Authority.

The identification of boats is critical to the process of dealing with reported incidents from clubs, members of the public and navigation and port authorities. As clubs are responsible for their members' safety and conduct, then boats should be identifiable by club, including those privately owned and boating from a club.

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Methods of identification were discussed from full name to the use of the three-letter code plus fleet number. Agreement was not reached on this issue, but the Water Safety Committee fully endorse the principle of boat identification on a national basis and recommend that Council accept this principle to enable further progress to be made in bringing forward a specific method, application and exemptions etc.

**8. First Aid Cover & Ambulances at Events** – There is ever increasing difficulty in getting adequate first aid cover and there have been instances of events being let down by St John Ambulance at the last minute. Various experiences and views were put forward and it was noted that an event does not have to use St John Ambulance or British Red Cross as long as it can provide suitably trained First Aiders and a First Aid Post. The need for a standby ambulance was also discussed and it was noted that events need resources on site to transfer casualties to hospital or have made arrangements with a voluntary ambulance or the local ambulance station for an emergency response. The whole situation needs further investigation and the committee were asked to find out more, debate the issue on COMmunicate and bring an informed view to the next meeting.

**9. Water Safety Code – Modification** – P. Bancroft had prepared a modification of the Code section of the WSC, putting the rules under headings and in some cases rewording. This document to be placed on COMmunicate for comment and reviewed at the next meeting.

**10. Waiting Times at the Start of Head Races** – Concern was expressed at the length of time some competitors are having to wait, often in freezing conditions, for the start of a head race. Particular concern was that Juniors were often the ones in this situation and noticeably the ones who are not adequately dressed for the conditions. Guidance for events needs to be produced with possible solutions. This issue to be debated on COMmunicate and brought to the next meeting.

### D. Recommendations

**11. Boat Identification** – Many clubs and their crews need to consider the importance of their conduct and observation of navigation rules if the sport is not to be brought into disrepute. It is preferable for the ARA nationally, regionally and at club level to show that it has the ability and desire not only to educate and train its members, but also to call to account those who bring the sport into disrepute. This has been highlighted by the recent risk assessment commissioned by the Port of London Authority.

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# AMATEUR ROWING ASSOCIATION



## National Rowing Championships



Report to ARA Council

Council Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> February 2005

### A Meetings and Attendance

The committee met on 29<sup>th</sup> January

The following members were present

Fiona Dennis, Chairman, Laurie Shindler, Deputy Chairman, Jane Beckett, Secretary, Philippa Sondheimer, Entries Secretary, Colin Biggs Financial Controller, Gary Painter, Chair of the Race Committee, Paddy Ibbotson, Safety Advisor, Joyce Hooper, Dave Jillings, John Burnett, Ed Rees and Rod Murray

Apologies were received from David Thomson and John Jenkins

### B Matters Arising from Last Report

#### 1. Competition Review

Council agreed the structure for National and Primary events as stated in the Competition Review in September 2004. This clearly outlined the range of events these regattas would offer. Therefore, my last report outlined how the National Championships were planning to implement the new structure through a phased approach. The recommendations indicated how we planned to move towards the agreed range of events to be offered at National regattas.

However, following the request of JRC the recommendations to council were amended pending the outcome of their meeting in January. The committee has considered the three options put forward, either to race J14 over 1000m, J15 over 1500m J14 & J15 over 1500

The above were questioned in terms of safety, for those competitors in the J14 events plus other competitors using the course. In addition there is insufficient time to put the

intermediate start pontoons in place within the current programme of events, we would have to withdraw another event to create the time necessary to accommodate a 1000m or 1500m start.

#### **J14 & J15 over 2000**

The Head Junior coach has recommended that no younger than J16 race over 2000m.

The rationale for the decision made by the National Championships Committee remains unaltered, i.e. we are implementing Councils decision of September 2004. We have considered the options considered by JRC; however for safety reasons the committee feels that we are unable to implement any of the proposals.

2.

#### **NWSC facilities**

A meeting was held in December with representatives from all events held at the NWSC with the centre manager and relevant IT staff. A number of improvements were agreed which our IT manager and the Regatta Controller will follow up to ensure these are implemented.

C

### **New Business**

1.

#### **2006 regatta venue**

An initial meeting was held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2004 to discuss holding the 2006 event at Strathclyde Park. Both SARA and North Lanarkshire Council wish to support the regatta however there are a number of major events planned, all of which require financial assistance. Therefore it is unclear at present what level of support will be available.

A request for grant aid will be made shortly which will be essential as there is a significant reduction in income (£29,000 at Strathclyde in 2003, £41,000 in 2004) and increased expenditure (£39,700 in 2003, £35,000 in 2004). More detailed planning for 2006 will continue once we have received assurance that the necessary financial support will be available.

D.

#### **Recommendations**

##### **Events to be offered for 2005**

To extend the range of U23 events as agreed at the November 2004 Council meeting and to withdraw J14 events as stated in the Competition Review.

Fiona Dennis  
Chairman

# AMATEUR ROWING ASSOCIATION



## National Competition Committee Report to Executive 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005 and Council 12<sup>th</sup> February 2005

### A. MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE

1. The committee has met once since the last report to Council, on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2005 at Leander Club. The following attended :

M Davies, Mrs F Dennis, A J Evans, I A Fisher, M H Groom, C H Llewellyn, N Mayglothling, P Moore, Mrs A Phelps, F S Potter, W C Thomson, M J Walker.

### B. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

#### 2. Competition Review

Following acceptance by Council of the proposal to offer to regatta organisers the option to run their event to a specification for a Primary Regatta, several requests have yet been received. The Committee agreed that these should be considered on a case-by-case basis, with some flexibility as to the specification.

The second proposal, to create a series of multi-lane events with a core of events to as common a specification as possible, on a set of agreed dates, is still under discussion with the regatta organisers concerned. The main concerns are the ability to fit B Finals into a busy racing programme, the reduction of the status events, particularly at those events with greater S1 and S2 entries, the lack of potential entries in some of the newer events (e.g. lightweight and U23), and the consequences on the financial viability of their events.

Following the withdrawal of the recommendation to withdraw J14 events (November 2004 Council minute 11.4.1), the National Championships Committee reported to the Committee that they had considered a request from the Junior Rowing Commission to retain J14 events. Having taken the aims of the competition review, as agreed by Council, and the practicalities of running the Championships into account, they concluded that withdrawal of the J14 events was the correct solution. This decision was endorsed by the Committee.

#### 3. Rules of Racing

The amendments to the rules of racing as approved by November 2004 Council (minute 11.3) have been checked for publication in the Almanack and Rules Books.

#### 4. Regatta Calendar 2005-6

The 2005-6 calendar as approved by Council (with a few amendments) has been published on the ARA website.

Unfortunately, despite attempts to find a better solution, the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta and Leicester Regatta take place in the East Midlands Region on the same day. Measures are being discussed with the regattas to limit any detrimental effects.

The Committee discussed improvements to the process for producing the regatta calendar, and concluded that it should be agreed earlier. The calendar for 2006-7 will be compiled for approval at Council in September 2005 and that for 2007-8 will aimed for Council in April 2006.



## C. NEW BUSINESS

### 5. National Umpires Commission

The National Umpires Commission met on 16<sup>th</sup> January at the National Water Sports Centre.

There were no recommendations requiring presentation to Council.

The Umpire training pilot scheme continues in WM/WAGS and Western Regions.

Regional reports highlighted the need for Regional Councils to take action regarding competitions deemed to be operating in an unsafe manner.

It was noted that any competitor holding a WARA or SARA card, and competing for an ARA club, will require an ARA card.

### 6. Rules of Racing

The Committee considered that the Rules of Racing had become more complex since the new format was introduced in 1997, and recommended that they are reviewed for clarity. The Rules of Racing Sub-committee will undertake this task, and welcome any input.

## D. RECOMMENDATIONS

7. That the regatta calendar for 2006-7 is approved at the September 2005 Council meeting.

C H Llewellyn.

31<sup>st</sup> January 2005.