

AMATEUR ROWING ASSOCIATION



Report of the Water Safety Sub-Committee To Executive 9th November 2004 & Council 27th November 2004

A Meeting & Attendance

1. Since the last report of the sub-committee there has been one meeting held on 12th September 2004. Present: S. Ward, M. Groom, T. Hooper, C. George, A. Clarke, J. Mulholland, G. Kinsella, P. Smith, Dr. T. Jenkins, C. Eales, S. Howie.

B. Matters Arising from the Last Report

2. **Annual Club Safety Audit** – The last audit had shown a problem where some clubs are linked to a host club and generally share boats and equipment. It was decided that in this case the two clubs will need to establish who will be responsible for safety. The clubs may agree a common safety code and appoint a joint Club Water Safety Adviser or they may wish to act separately. Where the two clubs operate together then only one Safety Audit Form is required as long as both clubs endorse the form. Where the clubs operate individually then each must submit their own Safety Audit. The Safety Audit form to be amended to accommodate this and a notification placed in the next club mailing.

3. **Incident Logbook Summary 2004** – This will be the first request for clubs to submit copies of their logbook summary sheet. These would not be required until February 2005 and the next meeting will look at formulating a common approach to collection, data handling and using the sheets on a national, regional and club basis to highlight trends.

4. **Water Safety Flyer and Launch Safety Posters** – The Water Safety Working Group in response to suggestions from the committee had reached a second draft stage with the Water Safety Flyer, following work done by graphic designers. This was well received and positive suggestions were made for incorporation in the next draft. This will be considered for final approval at the next meeting. Draft launch safety posters were also considered and suggestions for their next draft stage were noted for the Water Safety Working Group to consider.

5. **Product assessment** – Remploy had provided three sample lifejackets for the ARA stand at the National Championships. There had been a reasonable amount of interest and they received positive comments. We are still waiting for further contact for confirmation of certification and a launch date.

6. **Regional Education Programme** – Regional Water Safety Advisers were reminded that if they wished to run a safety seminar etc. in their region then support material was available from the ARA and the Chairman was very willing to support their event.

7. **Events Wash-up & the Role of the Region** – Regions have a responsibility to be satisfied with an event's Safety Plan, besides the organisers' implementation capacity, before putting the event forward for inclusion in the Regional or National Competitions Calendar. Previous event wash-up reports, incident reports, Inspecting Commissioner's report, navigation & emergency services reports, besides competitors written comments should be made available to the Region to support its deliberations. Flow diagrams were made available to illustrate the process and relationships for Regional Water Safety Advisers to use in their report to their Region.

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8. Guidance on Training Camps Abroad – Following the education session and discussions at the June meeting the Water safety Working Group has produced and distributed to clubs the suggested checklist. This is aimed at highlighting the many areas training camp organisers need to take into account if they are to run a safe camp. It was also noted that this checklist equally applied to camps run in this country and clubs hosting such camps could also ask to see the visitors' checklist.

C New Business

9 Launches & Launch Driving - Following a presentation by Colin Eales (Chairman, Wessex Region and RYA launch Driving Tutor & Assessor) which looked at the development of launch driving, particularly in relation to safety at events, the committee considered the findings of the special meeting on launch driving. It suggested a three-tier system starting with club level delivery (familiarisation), RYA delivery with certification (boat handling), and a rowing specific safety launch course organised by ARA/RYA. Various suggestions were discussed as to the content of each course and ways in which cost could be kept at a reasonable level.

The suitability of various launch types for safety cover was discussed and the value in Regions pooling club resources. The purchasing of safety launches could be achieved through individual clubs applying for an Awards for All grant (max. £5,000)

The Water Safety Working Group is to take all the recommendations and develop a syllabus for each stage for further consideration. The RYA Level 2 Powerboat syllabus is defined, but can be adjusted to accommodate rowing specific requirements.

10. Thames Risk Assessment -The Chairman reported that the Port of London Authority have commissioned an independent risk assessment into rowing on the tidal Thames between Putney and Teddington, with particular reference to the special rowing navigation rules and their impact on other recreational and commercial river users. The ARA is supporting the Region in presenting its case.

D Recommendations - None