

The minutes of the Autumn Council Meeting of the Hants & Dorset ARA

Saturday 14th November 2020 – virtual meeting via Zoom

There were 31 delegates in attendance when the Chairman Peter Staddon opened the meeting at 10.30am. All affiliated clubs except Dolphin were represented as were all events issued with a permit.



Attending: Peter Staddon - Chairman H&D, Jeff Watling - President H&D, South Southcott – Treasurer H&D, Steve Bull – Joint Secretary H&D/Ryde Regatta, Penny Budd – Joint Secretary H&D, Steve Taylor – Itchen Imperial, Andy Parsons – Chairman H&D Officials, John Purkess – Chairman SCC2020, Wendy Hartland – Southampton ARC, Adam Ratcliffe – BTC ARC, Mark Viner – Life Member H&D, Paul Newman – Bournemouth ARC, Jane Bailey – Shanklin ARC, Gary Walters – Shanklin ARC, David Owen – Worthing ARC, Pete Jacobs – Poole ARC, Colin Eales – Chairman Wessex & SE Region, Hugo Mills – Lymington ARC, Ian Hutchings – Trustee H&D, Martin Bradbeer – Life Member H&D, Gary Joyce – Itchen Imperial ARC, Bryony Reeve – Southsea RC, Daryl Jenner – Newport ARC, Keith Warland – Life Member H&D, Matt Chalmers – Ryde School BC, Mike Weaver – BTC ARC, John Adams – Life Member H&D, Fiona Walbridge – Southampton ARC, Lucy Hart – Christchurch ARC, Martin Sturgess – Newport ARC, Gary Seward – Coalporters ARC

Pete Staddon reminded all delegates that as this was a virtual Zoom meeting, they had been notified in advance that the meeting would be recorded for minuting purposes and no delegates had expressed this not to go ahead, therefore, the meeting would be recorded and stored securely on the H&D cloud.

In memorial: Pete Staddon expressed his sadness that Mike Green, Trustee of the H&D and lifelong member of Christchurch ARC passed away on November 5th. The Chairman asked all delegates to partake in a minutes silence prior to the commencement of the meeting to remember Mike and his contribution to his club, the association and the whole rowing community through his participation, coaching and mentoring.

Item 1: Apologies

The following apologies were received prior to the meeting: John Bailey – Trustee H&D, Andrew Williams – Chairman South Coast Council, Denis Woodford – Life Member H&D

Item 2: Minutes of 2019 AGM of 30/03/19 and the Autumn Council Meeting of 12/10/19

Both sets of minutes had been circulated by Steve Bull prior to the meeting. There were no matters arising. Both sets of minutes were proposed as a true reflection of the meetings and agreed to be accepted.

Proposed by P Jacobs and seconded by P Newman.

Item 3: Correspondence & Hon Secretary Report – Steve Bull

- The only event to take place this year was the BTC River & Coastal Head which took place on Saturday, 14th March just over a week before the national Lockdown begun on 24th March.
- All other H& D ARA Head Races and Regattas – including the South Coast Championship Regatta were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic – and no events are planned for the remainder of this year!
- As a result there was almost no correspondence relating to 2020
- Clubs were asked to register their active members in the usual way – in part to secure the annual reclaim of fees from British Rowing in 2021. The Southcoast Handbook – the 31st Edition was produced – but delayed – with distribution not taking place to Executive Officers, Live Vice President affiliated Clubs and Events and Racing Officials until June & July. The handbook was produced by a new printer this year and was an improvement of previous versions.

- Racing Officials did submit their availability for the 2020 season although this became irrelevant – and the Associations Executive Officers agreed that the Association would continue to make a contribution to their BR membership for Insurance purposes if requested.
- We did manage to stage the Race Officials Meeting at BTC on the 11th January and the Hants & Dorset Safety Meeting – hosted by Lymington – on 15th February. A South Coast Championship Organising Committee was held on the 9th March at Itchen Imperial – but all other H&D Meetings including the AGM scheduled for the 21st March, 2020 were cancelled due to the pandemic.
- Since June your Associations Executive Officers have “met” monthly via Zoom to discuss and make suggestions regarding the situation and the notes from most of these meeting were circulated to all Life Vice Presidents, affiliated clubs and events.
- Following the cancellation of the 2020 South Coast Championships and the South Coast Council decision to allow the Hants & Dorset ARA to host the event in 2021 – SCC Organising Committee Meetings resumed in September via Zoom.

Item 4: Retention of the Executive Officers

- Peter Staddon explained that due to the AGM in March being cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Executive Officers of P Staddon, J Watling, S Southcott, S Bull & P Budd had met virtually each month and minutes of these meetings had been sent out to clubs along with the latest guidance and information. It was agreed that these Executive Officers will remain in place, conducting monthly virtual meetings until the March AGM in 2021.

Item 5: Treasurers Report – Sue Southcott

- The accounts for the year ending 2019 had been submitted for the delegates review prior to the meeting.
- The accounts had been audited by Keith Warland.
- There were some anomalies in the accounts as some annual payments had missed the previous year’s accounts and been paid into the 2019 accounts.
- Where permits for 2020 events had been paid, Sue will transfer these over to 2021 events rather than reimburse.
- Sue has recently left her job which kept her very busy over the lockdown period and throughout the summer, as such, she is due to start catching up on any BR membership reimbursements for officials. If officials who wish to claim their BR membership back have yet to do so, please contact Sue directly.
- If there are any other payments which clubs/delegates believe they are still owed, please contact Sue directly.
- Sue’s old email is no longer in use, please amend your contact details for Sue to:
Sue.Sothcott@googlemail.com
- Gary Joyce noted that Christchurch and Coalporters still have to submit their membership figures for 2020 and this will impact on their BR affiliation rebate.

Delegates agreed that the account for 2019 were accurate and to be accepted.

Proposed by J Purkess. Seconded M Bradbeer.

Item 6: Confirmation of Regatta Dates 2021

- Steve Bull noted that the regatta dates schedule had been sent out prior to the meeting but Poole had come back to him the night before noting that their regatta date of the 14/08 was submitted in error and the tides would not be right to hold the regatta.
- Discussion was taken over the two new proposed date submitted by Poole which would be 12/06 or 10/07 which are currently held provisionally as reserve dates for Swanage.

- Sue Southcott told the meeting that Swanage Council are yet to approve the dates for Swanage in 2021, the preferred date being 03/07. They are meeting in December so Sue believes we should have confirmation of a date then.
- With this in mind, Poole proposed to have their first choice of the 12th June, but if this has to be the date for Swanage, then they will host their regatta at their second choice date of the 10th July. **Poole Regatta provisionally booked for Sat 12th June 2021.**
- Steve Bull noted that Bournemouth will not be hosting a regatta this year due to a lack of resources and manpower. Whilst generous offers by Poole and BTC were offered, it was not viable to host Bournemouth Regatta in 2021 but will hopefully do so in 2022.
- Steve Bull also noted that the Championship Selection meeting was going to be held at Poole Regatta on the August date, however, as this has moved it will no longer be held there. It was agreed that due to the length of day at Newport with crews having to catch ferry's back, the Championship Selection meeting won't take place there (being the last race of the season). Steve will discuss with Executive Officers about when/how this meeting will take place in 2021, it may be that delegates have a virtual Zoom meeting to agree championship crew selection – a date and method will be confirmed at the March AGM.
- Pete Staddon wished to express his thanks to Steve for again putting together the timetable for racing next year, a logistical headache at times!

Item 7: South Coast Handbook 2021

- Steve Bull wishes to continue producing the handbook for 2021 even though there will be no racing results, so a scaled down booklet. However, a very useful booklet for contact details, especially as it is H&D SCC next year.
- The Executive Officers felt that it was a useful handbook for all clubs to have and as this is reimbursed by British Rowing, there is no cost to the association.

The meeting agreed to go ahead with the publication of the handbook for 2021.

Item 8: South Coast Council Report & Election of Delegates to South Coast Council

- Colin Eales as Secretary of the South Coast Council reported that due to the restrictions, no council meetings had occurred but they were hoping to have a virtual meeting in January 2021, prior to the site visit to Netley SCC2020 course in March.
- The main issues outstanding are the bans imposed on the rowers from Poole and Herne Bay after the Dartmouth Championships. Colin Eales and Andrew Williams felt that the bans should roll over as the 2020 championships did not go ahead. They asked the delegates for comments.
- Peter Jacobs wanted to clarify the bans for the crews. The rower from Poole was banned by Poole Rowing club for two years and this was undertaken voluntarily and not imposed by the South Coast Council, who accepted Poole ARC disciplinary ban. Herne Bay did not volunteer a ban for their athletes and so the South Coast Council imposed a one year ban from South Coast Championship competition. Therefore, Peter Jacobs felt that by rolling both of the bans over, the Poole athlete would in effect, have a three year ban. He felt that as a club, they had voluntarily imposed this ban and should not be penalised any further. However, he did feel that Herne Bay athletes should not have no consequences for their actions just because the championship had to be cancelled.
- Penny Budd felt that the two bans should be taken as two separate cases, both should miss the 2021 championship as they would have done in 2020, but the Poole athlete should not have a further year added on, especially as this was not an imposed ban an accepted ban based on the clubs disciplinary action.

- Paul Newman felt that Herne Bay needed to have the ban rolled over to 2021 as he has seen on social media that individuals believe that they will be able to compete in the 2021 championships as their ban had been spent.
- Steve Taylor felt that rowers this year have had no racing and to roll over the bans to next year was not in the best interest of the sport and athletes and felt that the bans should stand for the periods they were set – whether they had been used or not.
- Steve Bull felt that the bans should roll over to 2021 otherwise there are no consequences for actions. John Adams echoed these comments as he had also been one of the officials who had directly been verbally abused by some of the athletes in question.
- Peter Staddon asked the delegates to vote on the following in order for the H&D delegates to take to their next South Coast Council meeting their views. The views of the H&D delegates would be:

i) Poole Rowing Club athlete will maintain their two year ban from 2020 and 2021 as this was taken voluntarily by Poole ARC and accepted by the South Coast Council. The Poole athlete will not be able to compete at the SCC2021 Championships.

ii) Herne Bay athletes did not serve their one year ban from the South Coast Championships as imposed by the South Coast Council due to the 2020 championships being cancelled due to Covid-19. Therefore, Herne Bay athletes should have their ban rolled over to the next staged championships in 2021.

Delegates voting: In favour - 30 Opposed – 1 Motion carried.

- There was also discussion by delegates on the medals for the J14, J16 and Open events. It was the H&D wish to remain to have different medals for the Junior and Open medals and maintain the same antique bronze medals remain for just championship meetings. However, the two other associations voted in favour of having the same medals for Junior and Open (in antique bronze) and championship medals in gold but the same design for all medals and this has been taken into the South Coast Rules (Rule 62).
- Andrew Williams discussed this with Steve Bull about proposing that this rule should not be adhered to and associations who are hosting the championship's should decide what medals to award the Junior / Open events as this was the H&D wish.
- Many delegates expressed how the Championship medals would be diminished if the same medals were awarded to Junior and Open classes.
- Colin Eales said that he believed CARA had placed an order for a new set of medals of 350 gold and 150 antique bronze which is a cost of around £4,000. Keith Warland said that he holds approximately 130 medals for use in the championships.
- Jeff Watling felt that we cannot go against the SCC rules, even if, as an association, we do not agree with it. The rule had been voted on and the H&D opinion had been outvoted, we cannot choose not to adhere to it. Gary Joyce echoed this and believed that we cannot make a proposal which we have been voted against and is now a rule.
- Adam Ratcliffe noted that Championship medals means a lot to athletes and the Junior/Open medals often have a lot of thought in the design using the respective championship logo, he felt that using the same design for all medals was an easy way out.
- Gary Seward proposed that we look more at the ribbon colour than the actual medal. He went onto to say that when winning a Championship medal, rowers refer to it as a 'blue medal' due to the blue ribbon. You can only really see the medal on closer inspection. Therefore, to adhere to the ruling but to differentiate between Championship events and other events, he proposed to have only the

championship medals be awarded on a blue ribbon and other events have a different colour – possibly chosen by the host association as Deal had purple ribbons, H&D could have green?

- Lucy Hart agreed that the Championship medals were possibly diminished by having the same as other events.
- Paul Newman agreed with Gary Seward that winning a 'blue medal' was something special and the proposal to use different colour ribbons could overcome this problem.

Pete Staddon asked if delegates could vote for the proposal to the South Coast Council that the Junior/Open events have a different colour ribbon and maintain the blue ribbon for all Championships.

All in favour for the proposal to go to South Coast Council.

- John Purkess wanted to raise a point from Denis Woodford who sent his apologies for this meeting. Denis has organised all of the medals and individual engraving for the championships for many years and now would like to relinquish this role and John Purkess has agreed to step forward initially for a handover as a meeting with Trophyman needs to be undertaken shortly. John is willing to do so for the time being. Peter Staddon wished to convey the associations thanks to Denis for all of his work over the years organising the championship medals.
- Sue Southcott asked John Purkess to let Denis Woodford know that she would be happy to arrange the Swanage Regatta medals as Denis had done this previously. If he still wants to do it, he is more than welcome to but Sue is happy to take it on if Denis would like her to.
- Keith Warland asked who has the die for the medals and who will be keeping hold of it for future use? John Purkess confirmed that once the next batch of medals has been completed, the South Coast Council will be in charge of holding onto the die for future use.

South Coast Council H&D Delegates

The following nominations for H&D delegates were voted on at the meeting to be delegates for 2021 on the South Coast Council*

Andrew Williams (Chairman of South Coast Council), Sue Southcott, Peter Staddon

Nominations were submitted prior to the meeting.

Proposed by Ryde RC Secoded by Southsea RC. All in favour.

**John Purkess has expressed an interest to be more involved in the South Coast Council but is currently Chairman of the Netley South Coast 2021 Committee. Therefore, he may step forward to be nominated next year once the championships have been held.*

Item 9: South Coast Championship 2021 at Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley – John Purkess

- John Purkess told the meeting that organisation for the 2021 championships are well underway and the venue, including the Chapel for the Friday night reception, has been booked with Royal Victoria Country Park. John said that the organising committee have a very good relationship with the country park management team and they have been accommodating in increasing the space booked for Covid-19 provisions.
- The committee have held two Zoom meetings and the next meeting is on Monday 23rd November and anyone wishing to help with the organisation are welcome to join, please contact Steve Bull for the Zoom meeting link.

- The country park cannot provide overnight security so this is something the organising committee will be looking into as all other plans are almost the same as they would have been for 2020. They are also currently working on the catering for the Friday night reception.
- Peter Staddon thanked John Purkess and the organising team for their ongoing commitment and work into the championships and expressed everyone's hopes that a full racing season will culminate at Netley next September.

Item 10: Review of amendments and additions to Association Rules.

- The amendments and additions to the association rules were circulated to delegates prior to the meeting. These were actually discussed at the previous October meeting but as they were not adopted at the AGM in March, they are to be voted on now and to be taken to the AGM in March in order to be adopted into the association rules for the 2021 season.

The amendments and additions as set out prior to the meeting in the amendments and additions document were agreed by the meeting to go to the AGM in March to be adopted into the rules. All in favour.

Item 11: Wessex & South East Coastal Rowing Council – Colin Eales

- Colin Eales let the meeting know that the only meeting held by the Wessex & SE region was back in January but they are looking to host a virtual Zoom AGM by the end of the year.
- Colin Eales has been Chairman for many years now but; as per Sport England rules; he has come to the end of his tenure and cannot continue in the role next year. So the region is looking for someone to take his place. The role is the link between British Rowing and the region, attending Chairman's forums and four regional meetings each year – which may all be done via Zoom from now on. The Wessex and SE Coastal region includes all of H&D, CARA and all schools and University boat clubs within the region. So geographically, a very large region. The main purpose of the region is to not only be a link between British Rowing and clubs but to provide coach education and Wessex also looks after the Junior Inter regional Championship team and selection. Colin Eales wanted to thank Gary Walters and Chris Foad for their many years of managing the junior section.
- Penny Budd also resigned her position as Wessex & SE Secretary last year as she would be taking over from Steve Bull for the H&D. However, she stayed on to help out whilst someone came forward. Again, there are only four meetings a year to take minutes from and also circulate news and information from British Rowing. Jeff Watling said that if going forward, the Wessex & SE Regional meetings were conducted via Zoom (which would help attendance), he would be willing to be Secretary?
- If anyone would like to put themselves forward as Chairman, Secretary or simply attend the regional meetings four times a year, please let Penny Budd know pennyrowing@gmail.com

Item 12: Covid-19 update

- Peter Staddon said that it seemed all clubs within the association had adhered to British Rowing guidelines during the first lockdown and now, in the second lockdown and thanked all clubs for their continued support and compliance in this matter. It is very hard for rowers to not be able to get out on the water yet still see private users/sailing clubs still on the water, but Peter believes that this is the right approach to keep our members safe not just through possible transmission but through water safety with less craft on the water.
- Colin Eales said that some of the inland river clubs have felt that British Rowing have been 'draconian' in their interpretation of the rules as they have seen kayak clubs on the same stretch of water still going out.

- Peter Staddon said that the next Executive Officers Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 10th December where we should have a clearer idea on any easing of restrictions for clubs. As soon as information is available, we will share this out with clubs.

Item 13: Any other business

- Gary Seward asked if there was any movement in the Ladies Masters Championship status? Peter Staddon replied that as an association, we repeatedly bring this up at South Coast Council, however, we get voted against this becoming a Championship event as the other two associations do not have Ladies Masters as an event. Lucy Hart thanks the association with continued support on this proposal and echoed Coalporters views that Christchurch have a large Ladies Masters section who don't just train hard but, like most clubs who have Ladies Masters squads, they are integral to the running of the club and it seems outdated that this is not a Championship[event. Jeff Watling said that if we could convince CARA of the merits of the event, they would support us in it. Pete Jacobs said we should be more diplomatic in negotiating with the other association's – if there is something they wish to get through council, we would support if they would support us!

Meeting ended at 12:30. Peter Staddon thanked everyone for their attendance.