

Regional Water Safety Advisors – Wessex & Hants & Dorset Region - Report to the Wessex Regional Rowing Council AGM of Sunday, 27th November, 2022.

I have “attended” all of the monthly National Safety Committee Meetings, held by Zoom, since the last Wessex Meeting. Items discussed included Incidents and the Incident Reporting System, the Club Audit, Adaptive Rowing, Insurance, Competitions and Row Safe. Concern was expressed that Safety had disappeared from the home page of the BR Web Site. The incident reporting button at the top of the website screen has been replaced with “Reporting a concern”. Clicking the button does not have a drop down list – it takes the user to another page and “Safety Incidents” appears on this screen but requires the user to scroll down. The NSC has complained to BR but they seem unlikely to change this.

The Hants & Dorset ARA Safety Committee undertook Boat Inspections at four H&D Regatta’s this season – Swanage, Coalporters, Woolston and Poole. Eighty-one boats were inspected with twenty-four faults found. They also undertook two full heel restraint checks of all boats at two event – Swanage and Woolston and a Life-Jacket check at one event – Swanage. Twenty-nine Life Jackets were checked with six faults found. The results of all Boat Inspections were recorded in the BR Incident reporting system – see as good practice by the National Safety Committee.

Three Hants & Dorset Clubs - ITCHEN IMPERIAL, POOLE and SOUTHAMPTON received an Award at the Hants & Dorset ARA Presentation Dinner on the 12th November for “No Faults Found” at any of the Boats Inspections during the 2022 season.

Between the beginning of this year and the 13th November, 2022 there have been 109 Safety Incidents reported in the region. 48 of these were from Simple Capsizes. Of the 109 - four of these related to Hants & Dorset ARA Boat Inspections, 12 came from CARA Clubs and 16 were from Wessex Region Schools or Universities leaving 77 incidents recorded by Hants & Dorset ARA Clubs.

Regarding the British Rowing Club Audit – the Audit opened on the 3rd October, 2022 and was scheduled and be completed by the 16th November with suspensions for non-completion from BR events taking place on the 5th December, 2022. At the time of writing this report all Wessex & Hants & Dorset Club Audits have been completed and accepted by me as RRSA except one – Winchester School where I still await their submission. Clive Pendry – the Chairman of the National Safety Committee - has been checking the CARA/South East Coast BR Affiliated Clubs – and I am not aware of how this has gone. Brittany Eames is expected to take over from Jo Johnston as CARA/South East Coast RRSA after the current round of BR safety audits.

The Hants & Dorset ARA Safety Meeting is expected to take place on 11th February 2023 and is scheduled to take place, in person, at Christchurch Rowing Club.

Steve Bull. Regional Rowing Safety Advisor. Wessex & Hants & Dorset.