



THE COUNCIL OF THE AMATEUR ROWING ASSOCIATION - MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL held on Tuesday 10th June, 2008 in the Princess Alexandra Hall, Royal Overseas League, St James's Street, London at 1.30 pm.

PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Mrs D.M. Ellis CBE, Chairman	Present
G. Harris, Deputy Chairman	Apologies
Mrs A. Phelps, Deputy Chairman	Present
R.M. Paterson, Hon. Treasurer	Present

APPOINTED MEMBERS

R. Phelps, CUCBC (Div 8)	Apologies
Mrs B Wilson COUR (Div 10) (Substitute for M. Blandford-Baker)	Present
H. Trotter, Leander Club	Not Present
M.D. Williams, London Rowing Club	Apologies
C. George, Thames Rowing Club	Present

ELECTED MEMBERS

B. Millns (1)	Northern	Present
T. Edwards (2)	Yorkshire	Present
S. Darnbrough (3A)	Lancashire & Greater Manchester	Present
J.C. Davies (3B)	Cheshire, Merseyside & N.Staffs	Present
P. Fenoulhet (4)	East Midlands	Present
C. Anton (5)	West Midlands	Present
B. Foster (7)	Bedford, Huntingdon, Peterborough	Present
A. Johnson (9)	East Anglia	Present
A. Weekes (11)	Upper Thames	Present
P. Moore (12)	Reading	Present
T. Evans (13)	Middle Thames	Present
J. Biddle (14)	Staines & Molesey	Present
R. West (15)	Kingston & Twickenham	Present
M. Carr (16)	Chiswick & Mortlake	Apologies
Mrs S Cassidy (17)	University of London	Present
Dr N. Jackson (18)	Barnes & Hammersmith	Present
P. Lorenzato (19)	Putney	Present
M. Stallard (20)	Lea Valley & Essex	Apologies
J. Clayton (21A)	Lower Thames & Medway (& Chairman SERRC)	Present
A. West (21B)	Kent & Sussex Coast	Present
M.E. Green (22)	Hampshire & Dorset	Present
Mrs P Sondheimer (23)	Wilts Avon Glos Somerset (WAGS)	Present
R. Mallett (24)	Devon & Cornwall	Present
Welsh Amateur Rowing Association – (2 representatives)		Not present
Scottish Amateur Rowing Association - (3 representatives)		Not present

MEMBERS APPOINTED BY COUNCIL

Miss K. O'Sullivan	Chairman National Coaching Committee	Present
R. Murray	Chairman National Championships	Apologies
M. Martin	Chairman Junior Rowing Commission	Apologies
C. Llewellyn	Chairman National Competition Committee	Present
S. Ward	Chairman Water Safety Sub Committee	Present
M. Humphrys	Chairman National Development Committee	Present



MEMBERS CO-OPTED BY COUNCIL

Miss A. Faiers	Present
B. Hawden	Present
W.C. Thomson	Present
J. Turnbull	Present
Mrs F. Dennis	Apologies

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Hon. Life Vice-Presidents -	
C.G.V. Davidge OBE	Apologies
J.A. Veats	Apologies
M. Brandon-Bravo OBE	Present

ARA STAFF

J.R. Allsop	Financial Controller	Present
Mrs R.E. Napp	National Manager	Present
D.W. Tanner OBE	International Manager	Present
Mrs P. Randolph	Minute Secretary	Present

REGIONAL CHAIRMEN

C.W. Eales	Chairman Wessex Region Rowing Council	Present
P. Clements	Chairman WAGS	Apologies
A. Bryant	Chairman Northern	Present

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman asked Council to stand to remember in silence the following members of the Association who had recently died. Harold Blogg of Maidenhead RC and past Chairman of Thames Regional Rowing Club, Elsie Stagg, contributor to women's rowing for 60 years, Tony Owen of Putney Town and London Rowing Clubs.

Mrs Ellis welcomed Jenny Brown, Chief Executive of BUSA, to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Noted and recorded above.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Non pecuniary

Mrs. D. M. Ellis : CCPR Director; BOA Director

Mrs. A. Phelps : British Paralympics

Pecuniary

C. George : Tutor and assessor

Miss K. O'Sullivan : Tutor and assessor

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Saturday 9th February, 2008 were agreed to be an accurate record and signed.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5.2 Draft Budget 2008/09 (Item 8:09/02/08): N. Jackson believed the proposal to employ a Chief Operating Officer, Item 12 of the Executive Report to Council, was not consistent with the plan to appoint a Chief Executive referred to in Agenda Item 8 of the minutes of the previous meeting. He asked to return to this matter later in the meeting.



6. UK COACHING CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION: FRAMEWORK AND COSTS

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Rosie Mayglothling, ARA Technical Co-ordinator and Celia Hetherington, ARA Coaching and Development Team Manager. Mrs Ellis said that the Association was aware that there were areas to be addressed in the new coaching framework, that the government had been slow to respond to funding implications and that there was a cost to clubs. It was recognised that there was strong feeling about this whole issue, particularly amongst those who were most passionate about the sport.

R. Mayglothling talked about the context of the changes. Government studies had shown that the standard of coaching made a significant difference to keeping people in sport. The recommendation was that all sports should set up a similar coach education scheme and bring standards into line. More coaches were needed but the quality of coaching, team working and an effective coach educator programme was important as was support for coaches, mentors and verifiers. There were five key elements that had come from consultation and the UKCC was promoting a competence based education process with accreditation for prior learning (APL), and fast tracking for able coaches. There also had to be a framework for recognising and promoting quality coaching, backed up by articles in Rowing and Regatta and the Coach of the Year Awards. Mentor schemes had been set up and R. Mayglothling said she recognised that these were most effective if administered locally. She referred to the old IA and Level 2 awards which were mapped to the same standards as the new awards, a main difference being in testing candidate's ability to apply their knowledge and much of the courses are very practical. Level 3 built on good practice, was competence based and required candidates to demonstrate their ability to coach. It incorporated all of the Bronze award and the majority of the Silver, together with the L2 Strength and Conditioning Award. The UKCC endorsement is a bi-annual process and the ARA had been re-accredited in January 2008. This qualification was now recognised as a quality assured product within the education, volunteer and employment sectors and aimed to build good coaching practice. R. Mayglothling went through the four levels of the coaching programmes. She recognised that the 2-year registration had been confusing and the current system of including the dates of assessment before the course started was an improvement. Grants were now linked to completion and increasingly there was good use of IT to support both coaches and coach educators. A new on-line system to track those going through the system had been put in place – this had an impact on completion rates and would keep people up to date.

R. Mayglothling said that excellent coaching would enable the sustainable growth of rowing. The sequential training model was very flexible and the aim was to give coaches a clear syllabus and help them reach their full potential, promoting the environment and culture that allowed all participants to feel valued, fulfilled and have fun.

C. Hetherington tabled a document that outlined current coach education costs and candidate grants. She said that the intention was to cover costs but not make a profit. She had put together a sample of costs for delivery of the courses. Fixed costs included candidate registration, tutor costs, travel and there was local variation which reflected venue costs. In the last few months there had been greater opportunity to obtain grants, and all opportunities were pursued although information changed almost daily. In Scotland grants were available up to 75%, in Wales 50% but the picture was less clear in England, where there was no standardised approach with levels varying considerably from county to county. She understood the concern about access to grants but believed that there was an improvement in this area. She pointed out that only ARA members in the Sport England areas were eligible for the ARA subsidy referred to in the table. Figures had been updated and P. Randolph was asked to forward the revised figures after the meeting. The nature of coach education had changed over the last few years with a move towards having a professional workforce. Our volunteers were now under much more pressure and this appeared to have had an impact on remuneration for coach educators. C. Hetherington said she was aware and understood the concerns about completion rates, particularly for Level 2.



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The programme of courses was now published in the British Rowing Almanack and on the ARA website and the introduction of publication of assessment dates had had a positive impact. Improved data collection and tracking of completion rates was a priority but she was able to inform Council that 624 people had registered for UKCC courses and of those 166 had received their certificate. That figure also included 148 people who had registered after January 2008 and who would not be expected to be ready to be assessed at this stage. Next year there would be the facility to track progress in more detail and fully research completion rates, and these figures would be submitted to Council on an annual basis.

K. O'Sullivan thanked R. Mayglothling and C. Hetherington for attending and for their helpful presentation. She said that managing the tension between costs and quality was inevitably a difficult task. She invited questions.

B. Hawden asked if the grant for L2 candidates was a grant of £330 for each person and asked for clarification of the Eastern region figures. C. Hetherington said that the percentage of grant to be awarded had not yet been confirmed for the Eastern region. Different sports partnerships funded different amounts as the table reflected. C. Anton asked why there was a case for providing payment for coach educators and not other volunteers, such as umpires. R. Mayglothling said that they were not paid a large amount, there was a significant amount of preparation time that was not reimbursed and they were being asked to make a significant commitment. K. O'Sullivan said that the volunteer base of rowing was a critical issue for the sport and the subject of a debate that might be addressed in another forum. C. George confirmed that there was an enormous amount of preparation time involved in being a Coach Educator, many did not claim but he felt it was entirely reasonable that some should.

J. Clayton said he would like a breakdown of the Level 3 fixed costs. K. O'Sullivan said she would look at the data to clarify.

Action: K. O'Sullivan

J. Davies believed the question of the volunteers role in the increasing professionalisation of the sport was fundamental, having an impact on the number of clubs and the future of rowing. He believed there should be a proper debate around this issue.

C. Hetherington explained that Thames was not included in the table because of the need to follow the Sport England divisions. She would issue a revised version and circulate.

P. Lorenzato expressed his concern that the figures presented indicated a 66% drop out rate from courses. K. O'Sullivan said there appeared to be a number of reasons why candidates did not complete and attempts were made to identify and address these. As discussed earlier, the inclusion of an assessment date was beginning to have an impact.

C. Hetherington said that in the past a number of those who had completed the IA had not continued coaching; the new system was producing more qualified, active coaches delivering high-quality coaching systems.

B. Millns referred to the Whole Sport Plan which had come with an amount of money attached to it. She asked why the Coach Education grant could not be made a part of the Plan rather than separate allocations made. The National Manager said it was an excellent idea, she was totally in agreement and governing bodies had made every effort get this point across to the funding bodies. As yet there was no detail about how funding would be handled in the future. The question had been posed and all governing bodies did continue to lobby as the current system was extremely time-consuming.

R. West asked if there were plans to extend the qualifications to certificates for Umpires. R. Napp asked if this would be Council's wish. The Chairman said that the NDC would be asked to follow this up as part of the development of the sport.

Action: NDC and NUC

K. O'Sullivan suggested it might be something for discussion by the Umpires Commission.

The UK Source Group would also be asked to look at; whatever was in place had to be sustainable for the sport. P. Sondheimer asked about the gap between L2 and L3. R.

Mayglothling said the level descriptors operated across all sports. J. Clayton believed the costs were prohibitive. C. Hetherington said that the ARA would to continue to draw in

external funding, there was 100% funding from some county sports partnerships while others



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provided very little. The course price had to be published at the full cost and funding sought to offset it. J. Clayton asked about coaching beginners, worried that newly trained coaches would not want to coach beginners. He was advised that the training expected coaches to be able to put together a course appropriate to the level of rower. In the old IA a lot of what was being taught was not pertinent to what coaches were going to do; the new award was more tailored to the level that candidates would be coaching.

C. Anton said that many parents liked to help out at clubs and asked why there was not a Level 1 to suit their needs. R. Mayglothling said that an assistant coach award had been offered but that it was rarely taken up. K. O'Sullivan said that there was an outline guide giving information about helping out on the land, aimed at parent volunteers. It was on the website though she recognised that it could be better communicated through the coaching commission. It was designed to provide a framework for clubs. She welcomed feedback on that and believed it would be a good idea to promote the guidance.

M. Brando-Bravo asked if the Coaching Committee had explored working with the Higher Education sector who offered adult qualifications in sport science. K. O'Sullivan said discussion had not taken place in relation to L2 courses, but it would be worth taking forward with the L4 qualification. J. Brown (BUSA) said that as a new organisation (British Universities and College Sport - BUCS) they would be looking at coaching and she thought further discussion with BUSA/BUCS would be useful and fruitful.

P. Sondheimer said that while it was good on one hand to have funding sources she believed it was important to ensure that the ARA was providing the right product at the right cost. We did need to demonstrate that the money is being used in the most efficient way.

The Chairman asked M. Humphrys, Chairman of the National Development Committee, to follow up the question of professionalisation in relation the future development of our support.

7. FISA

World Coastal Championships 2009: D. Ellis and R. Mallett had attended a meeting in Plymouth and he reported that good progress had been made and plans were well advanced. He thanked the Association for its support in advancing funds to allow the purchase of boats and FISA had also been very accommodating in agreeing to lend a number of singles and doubles. The fours purchased for the event would be sold on afterwards and six of the fifteen were already sold. The development of the World Coastal Championships had been very pleasing and all signs indicated a successful and well-attended event. This year's championships would be held in October in Sanremo, Italy.

Multi-Sport Event: The Chairman advised that the ARA had been asked to support a multi-sport event based in Sheffield with the international rowing taking place at the National Water Sports Centre in Holme Pierrepont. This was still at the bidding stage. The ARA had given support in principle and Council noted that this did not involve financial support.

Anti-Doping: WADA had made a number of revisions to the Anti-Doping Rules in November and the Association would have to revise its rules to bring them into line. When UK Sport and FISA had finalised their rules the ARA version would be looked at and brought into line.

A. Phelps said the intention was to bring any revisions to the November meeting.

Action: A Phelps

FISA Congress: Council agreed that Mrs Ellis, D. Tanner and Mrs Phelps should represent the ARA as delegates at the Congress in Linz.

Olympic Test Event – 2011 World Junior Rowing Championships: Council was advised that the Olympic Regatta course would be modified prior to this event; the bridge would be widened at the finish of the course to accommodate both rowing boats and canoes. The ARA awaited the Memorandum of Understanding between the sport and LOCOG. This would detail the respective responsibilities of the ARA with FISA and the Olympic Games. The Chairman reported on the funding to date: UK Sport – up to £500,000, LOCOG – up to £450,000 with some of that being in kind, SEEDA – she was hopeful of up to £80,000. Mrs Ellis had also



been advised of a further £100,000 and had asked if this could go towards the test event. This was yet to be confirmed and she would update Council at the next meeting.

Action: D M Ellis

There were no questions.

7. INTERNATIONAL REPORT

Council received the report of the International Manager. Further to the report:

World Cup: D. Tanner gave a brief update on the Munich and Lucerne World Cup Regattas. He advised that three development boats would be entered for the Olympic qualifying regatta in Poznan and said that he was extremely pleased for GB rowing that 11 boats were already qualified to go to Beijing. The administration of the trip and organisation of the hotel accommodation outside the Olympic village continued to present challenges but he was confident that these would be overcome.

Coaching: D. Tanner wished to record his thanks to C. Hetherington and R. Mayglothling for their update and acknowledge the hard work of the coaching team. Rowing was a trail-blazer in terms of UKCC, despite the discrepancy in resources the work being done was comparable with football and rugby. He believed the quality of what was being delivered was extremely high in rowing.

University Rowing: The International Manager would also wish to welcome J. Brown (BUSA) to the meeting and had been delighted with the level of cooperation enjoyed by the two associations. This could only benefit student rowing and was a fantastic opportunity for our sport to work more closely with the university sector. He was pleased to report that the joint work on FISU, the World University Rowing Championships had worked extremely well.

European Rowing Championships 2008: Last year this competition had been used to provide opportunity for rowers new to the Olympic pathway. The policy circulated to Council was very comparable to last year's; the selectors would only consider Olympic rowers after the development rowers. D. Tanner asked for Council's approval for the GB Rowing Strategy and Policy for Selection.

Approved

There were no questions.

Council joined the Chairman in congratulating the GB rowing squads on their performance at the World Cup. They wished the Junior and non-Olympic class boats every success in Linz and good luck and best wishes to the Olympic and Paralympic teams.

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The year-end accounts had been finalised and would be presented to Council at the AGM. As requested at the last meeting (9/2/08: 5.1 Regional Rebates) J. Allsop had prepared a breakdown of the Regional rebate figure which was available on request. There were no questions.

9. NATIONAL REPORT

Council received the report of the National Manager. Further to the report:

R. Napp said that membership figures had been circulated and were ahead of target.

Sport England Strategy 2008 – 2011: The new Strategy had been launched today and well received by the National Governing Bodies (NGBs). The Executive Summary had been published on the ARA website. The timetable for producing the Plan was very tight with the first draft required by the end of August and the final due in September. Sport England is focussing on the delivery of community sport. It had been recognised that sport in England relies on its volunteer force and reflected how clubs, facilities, coaches and volunteers were supported. It had also been recognised that the NGBs were the prime and most important partner for Sport England. The NGBs had been told that there would be a 'one-stop pot' for funding for the next four years. In the past governing bodies had not been able to be as strategic as they would have liked. The Association would now have to put forward a plan that covered every area of our activity and the National Manager felt optimistic that there would be less bureaucracy in future. There were a number of measurable achievements and these included 1 million people doing more sport by 2012 and a reduction in post-16 drop-off. R. Napp said this was an issue to be addressed in rowing. A good deal of work would be



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done in looking at activities for that group. In addition Sport England would be looking for a quantifiable increase in satisfaction across everybody in the sport; this included rowers, volunteers, officials, coaches (how this was to be measured was not yet determined).

Improved talent development systems, this was again a very attractive proposition for rowing and the National Manager felt that rowing fitted well with that aspiration. Finally, a major contribution to the delivery of the '5-Hour Sport Offer', which was to deliver another three additional hours of PE each week, and she believed that rowing could achieve this.

The NGBs would be commissioned to deliver these outcomes. One of the major changes was that the various programmes would not be delivered through the Regions. The County Sports Partnerships would provide the bridge between the NGBs and the Local Authorities. B. Hawden asked if the Club and Coach Programme would go forward to a second stage. R. Napp said the programme would be incorporated into the Whole Sport Plan. She was pleased to report that Sports Match would continue, there would be a small grants programme for clubs and a targeted programme for facilities and project funding for cluster organisations clubbing together to deliver a particular programme. Apart from those funding avenues, everything else would come through the single pot so it was very important to get that right.

Club and Coach Programme: R. Napp thanked all who had been involved with the recruitment and interview panels for their hard work and significant contribution.

BUSA Sprint Regatta: R. Napp thanked Fiona Rennie, BUSA and Chairman of the Sports Management Group, for the tremendous amount of hard work she had put in to this event, and also P. Attwell and P. Sondheimer from WAGS for the Region's input.

ARA Website: the new version of the website had been launched in April and both the national and international offices had worked hard together to produce an excellent result.

Equity Action Plan: The plan had been updated to show the work being done in the current year. D. Tanner had pointed out that the Olympic pathway was not well represented so that would be looked at, and in particular the achievement of GB women on the international side would be celebrated.

Questions were invited on the report. B. Millns asked about developing links with external partnership agencies and highlighting the work that was being done as a governing body to engage with young people who might lack opportunities. She felt that the university community programme, using rowing and related sports, could be highlighted. A. Phelps thanked B. Millns for her input and felt this should be fed in. She hoped the information would help divisional representatives, clubs and teams, to look at projects and funding and use this a tool for moving forward at a local level. It would be very useful if the Divisional Representatives could encourage clubs to look at the Year 3 Plan and feedback to her. She would be happy to include additional programmes for next year. A. Phelps confirmed that the plan had been circulated initially two years ago for consultation and this was a mid-term review and update of the plan.

10. REPORTS

10.1 National Development Committee

Council received the report of the National Development Committee. Arising from the report:

Boat ID: This had been extended successfully to the upper Thames region.

Junior Rowing: With regret the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta had been cancelled due to poor conditions. The committee chairman had received three complaints, which had focused on the costs incurred by teams. This would be discussed by the JIRR organising committee and event sponsorship explored.

Future Governance of the ARA: M. Humphrys said that following lengthy consultation with the Regional Chairmen the unanimous view of the committee going forward to 2012 was that Mrs Ellis should continue in her role as Chairman of the Association, on the basis that a successor would be identified by 2010 and appointed to work as Vice-Chairman. However, M. Humphrys said that the committee's recommendation had not been supported by Executive because of constitutional issues and so it was brought to Council as the NDC's recommendation, as it stood in the report. The recommendation was discussed by Council in the following debate. C. George put forward the view that Clause 11f of the Articles of



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Association would allow Mrs Ellis to be appointed for a further term of office, conditional upon there being no other applicants.

M. Brandon-Bravo supported this view, when drawn up the Articles had not taken into account the exceptional circumstances of hosting an Olympic Games. T. Thomson said there was clearly agreement that the Association did not want to lose the immense value and benefit brought to rowing by the current chairman because of an inconvenient clause in the Constitution. However, he was concerned that this would give Mrs Ellis another four years of extremely hard work at a time when the workload of the Association is increasing. He felt that pushing forward the date would not resolve the situation as that would also be at a very busy and critical time, when the government's support of sport might wane. He believed that the governing body should look at its structure to see how the governance could be strengthened between Beijing and 2012. Whilst retaining Mrs Ellis' experience they could bring in other expertise to support and for this reason he would not support the NDC proposal. R. Paterson said he felt there was little conflict and common ground in the two stances. However, the Executive was concerned on a couple of levels, one of those being that in four years from now there would be a greater transitional problem looming. There was likely to be a considerable amount of change among the more senior members of the team at that time. R. Paterson believed that there should be progression and rotation in the top posts and while he agreed it would be vital to retain the experience and expertise of the Chairman, he would like to find her a new post and a less demanding one. A. Faiers endorsed the view that there was no disagreement about Mrs Ellis's tremendous input to the sport. She said that as a volunteer the Chairman carried out a huge role, and the ARA needed to increase the professional staffing to support the volunteers. She felt it was unfair to ask the Chairman to continue for a further term. C. George said he had asked if Mrs Ellis would be willing to stand again and she had replied that she would if it was Council's wish. All agreed that Mrs Ellis was the right person, and that at whatever stage she stepped down there would be a continuity issue. B. Millns said it was absolutely crucial that the people who held key positions in the Council knew about the sport of rowing. She believed there was no problem with the structure but that there should be an accountable officer to lead the paid staff. Many other governing bodies had appointed a lead officer who worked very closely with the Chairman, but that post was accountable, with a clear management structure and the ultimate decisions about the sport resting with Council. She also raised the issue of appointing a Chief Executive Officer rather than a Chief Operating Officer but would like to come back to this under the Executive Report.

N. Jackson said that the minutes of 09/02/08 Item 8.2 had referred to the appointment of a Chief Executive Officer and did not support Executive's proposal to appoint a Chief Operations Officer.

Recommendations:

D1: James Lee to become BUSA representative on the National Development Committee.

Agreed

D2: Edward Rees to become National Championships Representative on the National Development Committee.

Agreed

D3: Due to the forthcoming Olympic Games in London 2012, the NDC proposes that Mrs Di Ellis, CBE should remain as Chairman of the ARA up to and including those Games and that a Vice-Chairman be appointed and in place by 2010 to be the future Chairman following the Olympic Games. The Articles of Association to be amended accordingly in time for the AGM (if necessary).

M. Humphrys said that following the discussion the Committee would still wish to put forward Recommendation D3. He did not see this as binding but that it would enable Council to move forward. He asked that the vote be carried out by secret ballot. R. Paterson asked for clarification of what the proposition was. M. Humphrys said it meant effectively we have to look at the Articles of Association as quickly as possible before the AGM. It did not bind the Association but allowed it to go forward. R. Paterson asked if this would mean there would be no election. M. Humphrys said there would still be an election in February. B. Hawden said that in order to allow an election to take place for a Chairman to have more than a 2-



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term period Council really needed to have a resolution to waive the operation of that, and the waiver is permissive because it simply says that the Chairman may not stand for a third term. So Council could agree to waive and that would be the route to take. T. Thomson asked what happened to the recommendation from the Executive if the NDC recommendation was agreed. It was confirmed that this in fact was for noting only and not a recommendation. T. Thomson felt two points were being covered in D3: one being that the Chairman should remain, another being that a vice-chairman was appointed in 2010. He asked if that was going beyond what the Association would want to do at this stage. M. Humphrys said NDC was putting forward the best structure for going forward. He said that the vote was whether D3 was accepted as a recommendation – yes for agreed, no for disagreed. Council voted on the recommendation: 27 for | 6 against | 1 abstention.

Agreed

10.2 National Coaching Committee

Council received the report of the National Coaching Committee. Arising from the report:

Recommendations:

D1: Each Regional Council to organize an award ceremony to recognize the winners of their region's Coach of the Year Award winners. **Agreed**

D2: Support the continued subsidy of the delivery of the Level 2 and Level 3 courses to a maximum value of £20,260 per year. **Agreed**

B. Millns asked the Coaching Committee to work with the senior officers, exerting maximum pressure to get further support and to lobby officers to ensure all funding available was pursued.

- 10.2.1 **Junior Rowing Commission:** Arising from the Report: B. Hawden said he had noted that following the cancellation of the National Schools Regatta some events had been re-arranged. He asked why this had not been possible for the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta. M. Humphrys clarified that the re-arranged events had not been organised by the NSR. There were more logistical difficulties in pulling together a regional team than there were for a school team. T. Evans said it had been made clear to the organisers of events that they should not affect the take up at other local regattas being held on that day.

Recommendation:

D1: Mike Martin to become Chairman of the Junior Rowing Commission

Agreed

10.3 National Competition Committee

Council received the report and appendices of the National Competition Committee.

C. Llewellyn said that there were two main issues for discussion.

Racing Calendar 2009: Council was asked to look at the latest version of the calendar, tabled at the meeting, and to let C. Llewellyn know immediately if there were any changes.

Event dates for CARA, SARA, WARA, WEARA and Hants & Dorset would be added later.

Competition Review: A new set of proposals had been circulated with the agenda. T. Evans gave a brief presentation on 'balancing the system'. He explained that the committee had been asked to come back to Council with further recommendations and wished to thank Alistair Groves, the ARA's Online Project Manager, for his input. He presented a series of graphs which outlined the points distribution for the 13,000 adult racing members. He said the data demonstrated that the existing system did not utilise the full scale of points between 0 –12. The proposal was to rebalance the graph and to encourage progression by making every win a qualifying win. This was a relatively simple remedy for a significant problem in competitive racing and would improve the quality of competition. Novice status would also be removed. He went through the timetable for consultation and asked for comments to be returned by the end of July to give sufficient time to ensure implementation in April 2009.

Action: Council

A summary handout had been prepared and was circulated to Council, this would also be available to download from the website as part of the consultation. J. Clayton said that the group had used a computer model to analyse the data and this demonstrated that more wins were needed at the lower end of competition. T. Evans said that regression would not be



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altered at this stage as this was complex, but it had been notable that there were more people progressing down the points scale than progressing up it. B. Hawden said that the Eastern Region would have difficulty in responding before September. C. Llewellyn advised that the National Competition Meeting was due to meet in early September and he could take comments up until then, however it would be helpful if they came in earlier. The Rules of Racing sub-committee would need to work on the proposed changes prior to them coming back to Council in September. C. Anton asked how the proposals would affect primary regattas. T. Evans said that there would be no change to those events. J. Davies asked if Henley Women's Regatta planned to subscribe to the changes. T. Evans said there was a view that the criteria for entry to HWR had an adverse effect on the development of women's rowing, giving the impression that there was a standard to keep below and seeming to encourage women not to race. J. Davies said this was borne out in his area where women's crews at local clubs had stopped rowing competitively in order to meet the entry criteria for HWR; this also had an impact on local competition and the quality of racing. R. West said that the points for HWR entry were calculated at the beginning of the season and should not affect the rest of the season.

C. Llewellyn drew attention to the email address for feedback competitionreview@ara-rowing.org. P. Randolph would send the Divisional Representatives the summary information and the Committee report by email so that they could consult with members. There would also be a news item on the website and coverage in the June edition of Rowing & Regatta.

Recommendation:

D6: That the proposals set out in Appendix A be communicated to members according to a strategy being developed by the Committee (via its sub-group). **Agreed**

The Chairman thanked T. Evans and the working group for their helpful briefing and their hard work.

- 10.4 National Championships Committee:** Council received the report. It was noted that the Championships took place on 18th – 20th July and it was hoped that members of Council would be able to attend the event. Entries were now being accepted electronically thanks to OARA.

10.5 Executive Committee

Council received the report of the Executive Committee. Arising from the report:

Rowing & Regatta: The Chairman was pleased to welcome Wendy Kewley, the new editor of the membership magazine, to the meeting.

Multi-Lane Commission: It was noted that John Friend had been appointed as Chairman during the absence of John Hedger.

Equity: The ARA's Equity Action Plan had been updated and approved by the Executive Committee at the meeting held on 13th May, 2008. A summary and Appendix 2 had been circulated to Council with the agenda and this was noted.

Constitution: The AGM circulation would include information about proxy voting.

ARA Structure: N. Jackson refused to take note of, indeed rejected, the proposal, agreed by Executive, that a Chief Operating Officer should be employed. He believed that this decision was not consistent with the information given to Council at the previous meeting. He believed that a Chief Executive Officer should be appointed, responsible for the day-to-day management of the business of the ARA and the Chairmanship should be devoted to leadership. He asked Executive to get on with preparations for the appointment of a CEO.

Action: Executive

- 10.6 Water Safety Sub-Committee** Council received the report of the Executive Committee. Arising from the report:

Row Safe: the revised guidance would be circulated to the next meeting.

RoSPA Review: S. Ward said that the ARA had not yet been given permission to publish the review and would do so as soon as the information was available. P. Lorenzato said it would be helpful if the ARA could make a statement to that effect. Mrs Ellis said that a brief news item clarifying the ARA's position would be placed on the website and in Rowing & Regatta.



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Launch kits and safety knives: Clubs had been given advice on this but there would be additional coverage in the next issue of the magazine.

Corporate Manslaughter Act: There was no change with regard to a Club's duty of care. The only thing that the new act did was make it easier to prosecute.

Incident on Tideway: N. Jackson said he would send details about a recent incident on Tideway and the rowers involved in the rescue to the Chairman. **Action: N Jackson**

Control Commission: S. Ward confirmed that the data collected only related to the failures.

National Schools Regatta: C. Anton asked if the safety arrangements at the Regatta could be covered on a future Water Safety Committee agenda and in particular boat buoyancy. S. Ward said he was aware that a number of clubs were not following safety guidance. He would follow this up and would talk to the manufacturers. R. West said that there had also been boats bought from overseas where the bowball collar did not fit. **Action: S Ward**

10.7 **Medical Sub-Committee** - the report was noted.

10.8 **National Olympic Committee** - the report was noted.

10.9 **National Paralympic Association** - the report was noted.

11. AFFILIATIONS AND RESIGNATIONS

In addition to the affiliations and changes to status approved by Executive, Council approved the following:

Nemesis Boat Club (Division 03a)

Alumni of The Manchester University Boat Club

Bacon Boat Club (Division 4) (BAC)

Re-affiliation – alumni club for Nottingham University Boat Club

London Irish Rowing Club (Division 18) (LIR)

For Irish rowers living in London to race together as London Irish RC

Cabbages Boat Club (Division 19) (CBG)

Alumni of King's College School Boat Club

It was noted that Imperial College Boat Club was constitutionally independent of the University of London and had moved from Division 17 to Division 19.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Veteran Commission: In response to B. Millns request, the Chairman agreed to talk to the Veteran Commission about the current inconsistency in FISA criteria and those for national events. **Action: D Ellis**

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting takes place on Saturday 27th September 2008, following the Annual General Meeting at the Royal College of Physicians, Regents Park, London NW1. Substitutes would be welcomed.

The meeting ended at 5.20 pm