



Goring Gap Boat Club Goring & Streatley Regatta 2009 (Wet side)

Risk Assessment

Specific areas covered by the risk assessment:

Goring & Streatley Regatta Rowing and Sculling Races – Adult rowers of varying experience racing at the Goring & Streatley Regatta.

N.B. The children's dongola racing and land based activities will be subject to separate risk assessments.

Racing held at:

Thames reach - within an area between Cleeve lock and approximately 1000m upstream of Cleeve lock.

Prepared by: Richard Bowsher
Captain of Rowing
Goring Gap Boat Club

John Hyde
Safety Adviser
Goring Gap Boat Club

Additional risk assessments will be conducted by the Captain of Rowing/Safety Adviser on the day of the regatta.

Change History

Issue	Date	Updated by	Changes
1	14/5/08	J. Hyde	Issued
2	1/07/09	S. Cowen	Reviewed

Individuals who might be harmed

- 1 Participants; rowers, coxes and coaches
- 2 Other water users; canoeists, sailors, dragon boaters, motor boat users, water skiers, anglers and swimmers, and animals e.g. swans
- 3 The public; supporters, helpers, people on dry land, e.g. walking or cycling near where the activity is taking place

Harm that might occur

- 1 **Injury**; e.g. cuts and bleeding, bruises, concussion, broken bones
- 2 **Ill health**; e.g. poisoning, infection, mild hypothermia
- 3 **Death**; e.g. moderate/severe hypothermia, drowning, heart attack, severe head injury.

Level of risk - Tolerability; guidance on necessary action and timescale

1 **Very low risk**

These risks are considered acceptable. No further action is necessary other than to ensure that the controls are maintained.

2 **Low risk**

No additional controls are required unless they can be implemented at very low cost (in terms of time, money and effort). Actions to further reduce these risks are assigned low priority. Arrangements should be made to ensure that the controls are maintained.

3 **Medium risk**

Consideration should be given as to whether the risks can be lowered, where applicable, to a tolerable level, and preferably to an acceptable level, but the costs of additional risk reduction measures should be taken into account. The risk reduction measures should be implemented within a defined time period. Arrangements should be made to ensure that the controls are maintained, particularly if the risk levels are associated with harmful consequences.

4 **High risk**

Substantial efforts should be made to reduce the risk. Risk reduction measures should be implemented urgently within a defined time period and it might be necessary to consider suspending or restricting the activity, or to apply interim risk control measures, until this has been completed. Considerable resources might have to be allocated to additional control measures. Arrangements should be made to ensure that the controls are maintained, particularly if the risk levels are associated with extremely harmful consequences and very harmful consequences.

5 **Very high risk**

These risks are unacceptable. Substantial improvements in risk controls are necessary, so that the risk is reduced to a tolerable or acceptable level. The work activity should be halted until risk controls are implemented that reduces the risk so that it is no longer very high. If it is not possible to reduce risk the work should remain prohibited.

Glossary of abbreviated terms

WSC – ARA water safety code

GGBC – Goring Gap Boat Club

Hazards/Risk factors What hazards are there?	Precautions and control measures taken to manage risk; e.g. to reduce the likelihood of an incident occurring and to reduce the consequences	Who may be harmed – 1-3 (see above)	Harm that might occur 1-3 (see above)	Level of risk 1-5 (see above)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
The water environment						
Water; Rivers, lakes, the sea	Non-tidal river. Navigation and circulation plans are displayed with area of caution clearly labelled.	1	1,2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Depth of water	Water depth is varying. All participants and helpers are made aware of boat capsize procedures – stay with the boat.	1	1,2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Cold water	Coxes are trained in recognising these effects and how to deal with them. A risk assessment is made before each outing.	1	2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Course; Straight/bendy	Navigation and circulation plans are displayed on site with area of caution clearly labelled.	1,2	1,2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Waves, Stream, Tides	A risk assessment is made before each outing. Weather forecasts and environment agency warning boards consulted. Captain of Rowing/Safety Adviser and coxes assess condition and experience of crew before and during an outing.	1	2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Weirs, sluices, locks	Danger areas are marked on the navigation plan which is displayed on site.	1,2	1,2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Wash from other boats	Participants are instructed on the safe rowing position in the event of excessive wash.	1,2	1,2	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
The Weather						
Wind	Windy conditions are assessed by the Captain of Rowing/Safety Adviser and if deemed unsafe the outing is cancelled. Weather forecast consulted before the outing.	1	1,2	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Cold, heat, fog, ice, snow, storms, lightning	Weather conditions are assessed by the Captain of Rowing/Safety Adviser and if deemed unsafe the outing is cancelled. Weather forecast consulted before the outing. ARA WSC advice on thunder and lightning is followed.	1	1, 2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
The time of year	Extra care needed in summer months when the number of pleasure cruisers increase.	1	1,2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Visibility; rowing in poor visibility/dark	Poor visibility is assessed by the Captain of Rowing/Safety Adviser and if deemed unsafe the outing is cancelled. No rowing after dark. Weather forecast consulted before the outing.	1,2	1,2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Physical hazards						
Other water users	Other water users are: private and hired powered boats. Instruction of navigation rules, instruction of safety position, experienced coxswains. Navigation and circulation plans on display on site. Fishermen and other river side users along with the wildlife are to be treated in a considerate manner.	1,2,3	1,2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Submerged objects	No specific areas of danger are indicated. Observations of river conditions and floating debris particularly after storms and heavy rain may cause the cancellation of boating.	1	1,2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
The bank	In general the bank is relatively low (<0.6m) and the bank side water depth shallow.	1	1,2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Moored boats	Areas in which moored boats are present are indicated on the navigation plan which is displayed on site.	1,2	1,2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
High walls	No high walls are present on the reach. Entrances to locks have extended shuttering on banks. Boats are instructed to turn well before these areas – see navigation plan.	1	1,2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Pontoons	Pontoons are only present at the landing stage. These are kept clean to avoid slip and health hazards. In wet conditions a slip hazard may occur. Precautions are taken to elevate this and participants warned of dangers.	1,3	1,2	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Launches and propellers	Launches are only driven by RYA level II power boat handling certificate holders. Launch drivers must follow the safety precautions detailed in the WSC and GGBC membership handbook.	1,2	1,2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Water borne hazards						
From pollution e.g. animal waste	No cattle are present on meadows adjoining reach. All participants are given advice on washing hands etc to reduce infection particularly after immersion.	1,2	2	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Blue green algae (cyanobacteria)	Not considered a hazard on the reach. WSC details appropriate precautions	1,2	2	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Weill's disease (leptospirosis)	WSC details appropriate precautions and symptoms. All participants / members are given advice on washing hands etc to reduce infection particularly after immersion. Pontoon regularly cleaned.	1,2,3	2	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Hazards on the land						
Tripping / slipping	Pontoons and adjoining areas are to be kept clear of trip hazards. Pontoons are kept clean to avoid slip and health hazards. In wet	1,3	1	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No

	conditions a slip hazard may occur. Precautions are taken to elevate this and participants warned of dangers.					
Falling	Boats, blades and other equipment is correctly stored and secured.	1,3	1,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Lifting and carrying	Instruction on how to lift and carry boats and related equipment is given as part of the regatta training.	1,3	1	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Cycling whilst coaching	N/A				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Car parking arrangements	Car parking to be supervised by volunteers under direction of GGBC.	1,3	1	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Towing boats	N/A				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Fire; storage of petrol for launches	GGBC launch petrol tank is held within a separate storage compartment within the launch.	1	1,2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Participants with a low level of fitness or health problems	Participants are asked to declare any health problems that may affect them during the regatta training. Fitness levels are assessed by the coxes during the training exercises. The participants are monitored to ensure that posture is maintained during sessions.	1	1	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Equipment hazards						
Unsuitable / inappropriate equipment	Boats and equipment to be stable and easy to row as appropriate for training beginners. Safety audit to be carried out on each boat prior to an outing.	1	1,2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Lack of safety and rescue equipment, e.g. lack of clearly available throw line / throw bag, first aid kit, launch safety kit etc.	Safety equipment in line with recommendations in WSC. Coaches / launch drivers to be trained in rescue procedures.	1,2	1,2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Poorly maintained equipment	Equipment checked prior to start of regatta and at regular intervals during the day. Mobile phones and tool kit to be carried by coxes and coaches. Equipment cleaned and checked after each outing and any damage recorded in the incident book.	1	1	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Cracked or damaged hull	See above	1	1	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Bow ball inadequate or not fixed properly	See above	1	1	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No

Heel restraints; missing, not independent for each foot, allow the heel to rise above the fixed part of the shoe	See above	1	1	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Hatch covers of buoyancy compartments loose or missing	See above	1	1	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Steering mechanism loose or not working	See above	1	1	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Equipment failure	See above	1	1	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Swivels worn or damaged	See above	1	1	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Loose top nuts	See above	1	1	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Loose Buttons and handles on oars/sculls	See above	1	1	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Rigger nuts not securely tightened	See above	1	1	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Seats damaged	See above	1	1	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Unsuitable / inappropriate clothing	Participants, coaches, coxes and volunteers given advice on appropriate clothing. Coxes to assess suitability of clothing prior to an outing.	1	3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Poorly maintained launches and engines	Engine and launch regularly serviced. Drivers controlled.	1	1,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
The activity itself						
Performing tasks not suitable for the individual needs of those participating; e.g. inappropriate, type of activity, intensity, or volume	Regatta intended for inexperienced rowers and scullers. Progression will be assessed during training and recorded after each session and the speed and intensity tailored to an appropriate level. Feed back sought from participants at all times.	1	1	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Poor posture/movement patterns	Instruction given during training on posture and technique. Poor posture indicates tired participants – coxes instructed to finish session when this occurs.	1	1	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No

Hazards of behaviour; e.g. Poor coaching practice						
Not educating others of hazards, risks and health and safety requirements Lack of awareness of hazards by participants. Not educating participants to recognise risks	Hazards, and health and safety are a key area of the regatta training.	1	1,2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Lack of awareness of hazards by coach	All coxes to be experienced. Captain of Rowing/Safety Adviser and coxes to perform risk assessment prior to each session.	1	1,2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Potentially harmful situations						
Collision	All boats controlled by experienced coxes. Safety launch. Navigation and circulation plans displayed on site.	1	1,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Swamping	Boats to be checked for adequate buoyancy. Conditions to be assessed before an outing commences. Safety launch on the water to rescue crew. Crew to be instructed in safe position.	1	1,2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Capsizing	Reducing possibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only stable boats suitable for beginners used. • Safety position and emergency stop procedures taught to participants. • Boats controlled by experienced coxes. • Equipment safety checks performed. In the event of a capsized: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety launch on the water with two people on board – driver RYAII certified. • Participants given instruction on what to do in the event of a capsized. 	1	1,2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Being trapped in boat	Equipment safety checks performed before each outing (foot straps). Participants given instruction on what to do in the event of a capsized.	1	1,2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Immersion in water	Get people out of water as soon as possible. Safety launch on the water with two people on board – driver RYAII certified.	1,2	1,2,3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No

Hypothermia / heat stroke	WSC, GGBC handbook. Coxes have knowledge of symptoms and treatment of both hyperthermia and hypothermia.	1,2,3	3	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Additional safety precautions to be taken						
Course markings	Course to be clearly marked by use of buoys and markers laid in the river (Berkshire side of the river).	-	-	-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Notice of hazard to navigation	Flyers to be prepared with a map showing the regatta course and navigation instructions. These will be given to lock keepers at Benson and Cleeve to be passed on to boats as they enter the Benson to Cleeve reach.	-	-	-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Safety launches	Thames Rescue to provide an additional safety launch to assist in the event of capsize, etc.	-	-	-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Adverse conditions	The Captain of Rowing/Safety Adviser will assess conditions on an ongoing basis and will signal all crews off the water by use of an air horn if necessary.	-	-	-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No

Launch Safety Equipment

The Water Safety Code specifies that launches must carry the following equipment.	Available
1. Fully stocked first aid kit	Yes
2. A bailer	N/A
3. An inflation pump and spare valve (for inflatable)	N/A
4. A sound signalling device (can attract attention over a distance of 200m)	Megaphone / air horn
5. Handholds on launch	Yes
6. A sharp knife with sheath	Yes
7. A paddle	Yes
8. An anchor and line (appropriate to local conditions)	Yes
9. Kill Cord (engine cut out lanyard device)	Yes
10. A throw line minimum 15m	Yes
11. Life rings and approved jackets or buoyancy aids	Yes
12. Thermal blankets for crews	Space Blankets