



BRITISHROWING

HRSA Monthly Report

February 2021

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TEAMWORK | OPEN TO ALL | COMMITMENT

Incidents in February

There have been no incidents reported in the Incident Reporting System in February. However, a friend did write to tell me about an incident involving two single scullers and a two metre long venomous snake.

The snake was swimming in the river where the rowers were sculling. One sculler rowed past swimming snake about a blade's length away. The snake continued to swim across wake of that sculler and into the path of the following sculler.

The first sculler rowed on to distance herself from the snake, called to the second sculler to stop her boat, and change direction by backing immediately. The second sculler did so. The first sculler continued to watch the snake and when it changed direction, away from both rowers, they rowed on away from snake and down the river.

This happened on the Collie River between Alexander Island and Eaton Foreshore, in Western Australia. We are lucky that incidents like these are rare in the UK.

Article for the Membership Newsletter

An short article describing things to check before resuming rowing (once we are allowed back in boathouses) has been prepared for the Membership Newsletter. A summary will be published in the newsletter soon and there will be a fuller version on the website. Nests are not mentioned in the article but if experience at my club is typical then it would be worth checking the inside of rowing shoes for mice and bird nests. Please be aware that it is an offence under section 1(1)(b) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built.

Learn to Row (L2R) handbook

The Learn to Row Handbook is being revised. The safety content has been reviewed and revised to reflect current safety guidance.

Adaptive Rowing Guidance

Guidance is being prepared on Adaptive Rowing. The safety content has been reviewed and extensive comments and suggestions have been made. These have been incorporated into the text.

Advanced Risk Assessment

The Advanced training on Risk Assessment is being revised. It will contain “videos” with commentary demonstrating, step by step, how the assessment is completed. Extensive guidance has been provided on the content of these videos.

Incident Analysis Safety Alert

A Safety Alert summarising the results of the 2020 Incident Analysis has been produced and published on the British Rowing website [here](#).

Capsize training for pupils at a school

There was a request for advice on the Swim Test and Capsize Drill for a school that expects to be returning to rowing return on 8 March, and to have new pupils wanting to participate in rowing. They asked whether it would be acceptable to get parents' confirmation that their son or daughter can swim 50m in clothing and tread water for 2 minutes, then do the capsize test as soon as pools are back open.

The response was that this would be acceptable. In addition it was explained that we normally regard these distances and times as minima and expect clubs to specify greater distances and times if the venue where they row justifies it. For example, if a club rows on a large river or lake, where a rower can be 100 metres from the nearest bank, then it is reasonable to expect rowers to be able to swim further. We do not want people to have to swim, we teach them to stay with the boat, but we do want them to be able to swim and to have the confidence to know that they can swim. That way they will not panic if they are a long way from the bank.

As it is not yet possible to complete the capsize drill in a pool, the students could be asked to complete the Capsize Training for Rowers e-learning module available [here](#). If they are members of British Rowing then they can log into RowHow to see it. They can each download and print a certificate when they have finished. If they are not members then a coach could present it in a class session. There are lots of videos. There are several other courses that they could be asked to complete.

There is also an e-learning course on Capsize Training for Coaches and Club Officials. This is, as you would expect, an extended version of the training for rowers with extra information for coaches, etc.

Lifejackets for Juniors

There was a request relating to the non-availability of the Ge-Tek rowing lifejacket. The company that distributed it ceased trading in some years ago.

The response was that I addressed this issue in both my January and February 2018 monthly reports (both were attached). Some clubs use the Spinlock Deckvest LITE for adults and the Spinlock Deckvest CENTO for juniors. There is more information [here](#).

It should also be remembered that lifejackets do not last forever and should be checked at least annually. There is more information in the Safety Alert [here](#).

The lifejacket that looks most like the Getek one is the Kru Sport Pro I70N ADV Lifejacket but this is intended for use on oceans and offshore, there is more information [here](#).

There is more advice on lifejackets in my Monthly reports for October 2020, May 2020, May 2019, and September 2018. These can be found in the Monthly Report archive [here](#). There is also another Safety Alert on Lifejackets, [here](#).