

9. PROMULGATION

9.1 Better promulgation of the Rowing Rules and Byelaws, including the fact that Rowers may not be navigating fully in compliance with the COLREGS, was a recurrent theme amongst some submissions and many of those interviewed. Review of the present methods shows that promulgation can be improved and that benefit should be gained.

9.2 Recommended methods are:

- Revision of the PLA website to become more user friendly and less impenetrable:
 - Greater visibility of any navigational rules.
 - Improved search facility or drop down indexing for leisure users – drawing attention to navigational rules.
 - Reproduction in screen viewing format and printable format of any Code decided upon.
 - Production and greater visibility of a summarised version of the navigation rules for leisure use; i.e. more “glossy” than bland Byelaw reproduction
 - Linking the web site with other sites including main user bodies (ARA / TRRC etc) and official bodies particularly from adjacent regions e.g. the Environment Agency
- Streamlining all regulations for navigation into one publication: ideally one set of rules consecutively numbered including COLREGS, BYLAWS requirements all combined and addressed under each topic.
- Streamlining of the actual legislation may be considered to address fragmented presentation and ease maintenance and update as well as promulgation.
- Publication of a joint River Thames User Guide with Environmental Agency or
- Publish a PLA Tideway User Guide or “Water Safety Code” including description of any rowing special rules
- Whichever option incorporate a schematic / map of the river highlighting risks, special requirements such as at pinch points and other points of note.

THE SALVAGE ASSOCIATION

- A series of introductory presentations and meetings at main Clubs. Work alongside the ARA / TRRC in presenting a joint front in respect of agreed rowing procedures.
- Use the Tourist Information network and associated leisure interests to gain wider publication; link to their web sites.
- Work with TRRC / ARA to widely publicise the requirements. Link selected sections of websites. Ensure they pick up the changes as a theme and use internally.
- Similarly tie in with other user groups and raise awareness.
- Re-invigorate and re-focus the River User Amenity Group to raise awareness of rowing procedures
- Provide leaflets at Thames Tideway entry points e.g. Limehouse, Teddington, Brentford Locks, etc. Use of map / schematic diagrams alongside written advice
- Signs at entry points to the river system; simple clear examples using schematics and/or plain language.
- Signs at intervals (diagrammatic) showing that rowers may be following a track different from right hand rule.
- Signs along the bank highlighting the position of the channel (if so designated); e.g. passing through centre arches of bridges, clear of sewage outfalls etc.
- Warning signs indicating approach to crossing area. Actual crossing points to be marked.
- Increased informal contact with user groups including TRRC. Periodic (3 or 4 monthly) meetings with TRRC safety advisor.