

The RoSPA

Winter 2017

LEISURE & EDUCATION Journal

RoSPA's quarterly journal for professionals
working in water, leisure and education safety

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drowning...**

2017 RoSPA National Water Safety Conference

April 5 - Hilton Brighton Metropole

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© Published quarterly by RoSPA Enterprises Limited - a wholly owned subsidiary of The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, RoSPA House, 28 Calthorpe Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 1RP. Tel 0121 248 2000
Web site www.rospa.com

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The RoSPA Leisure and Education Journal subscription rates:

RoSPA members £13.00 p.a.
Non-members £15.00 p.a.

Other RoSPA journals available on subscription or as part of a membership package are:

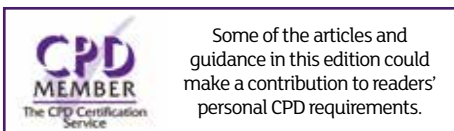
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Design/project management by
thecheeseroomltd
Tel: 01827 54478
www.thecheeseroom.com

ISSN 2057-2786

Front page photo courtesy of British Cycling.



Welcome

Welcome to the Winter 2017 edition of the RoSPA Leisure and Education Journal.

In this edition, we are pleased to announce that bookings are now open for this year's National Water Safety Conference, which takes place in Brighton in April. The conference will focus on the delivery of the UK's Drowning Prevention Strategy, and you can find full details on **page 05**.

There is a great sense of momentum building for the delivery of the strategy, and members of the National Water Safety Forum recently appeared in front of the Transport Select Committee to give evidence, particularly in the context of last summer's drownings at Camber Sands (see **page 10**).

Also in this journal, we start RoSPA's centenary year with a look back at our early days and details of how to get involved in this year's activities (**page 08**).

On **page 11**, we're pleased to report on the reopening of the Lifeskills safety education

centre in Bristol and, also on the subject of education, we have a useful article on the benefits and considerations of working with animals in schools, written by vet Mary Bennetts and former Ofsted inspector Jim Bennetts (**page 14**).

On **page 12**, Nigel Cowell-Clark from British Cycling gives an insight into the journey the organisation has been on to safeguard the sport in response to the challenges and opportunities provided by its growing popularity.

You'll also find the usual mix of safety-related news from across the water, leisure and education sectors.

We very much hope you find the journal interesting and helpful. As ever, please do send us your feedback or ideas for future editions.

David Walker
RoSPA leisure safety manager



Make lifejackets compulsory for commercial fisherman, says MAIB

Legislation making it compulsory for commercial fishermen to wear lifejackets should be introduced quickly to save lives, the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) has said.

The call follows the publication of three accident investigation reports where the MAIB found that fishermen who were killed might have survived had they been wearing personal flotation devices (PFDs) when they entered the water.

In October 2015, a crewman died after going overboard from the fishing vessel Annie T in the Sound of Mingulay, Scotland.

In April 2016, two fishermen were killed after the Harvester grounded on rocks in Abereiddy Bay, Pembrokeshire.

The same month, a crewman died after falling overboard from the stern of the fishing vessel Apollo while the nets were being hauled north-west of Orkney, Scotland.

The MAIB said 67 per cent of the commercial fishermen who drowned between 2000 and 2014 were not wearing a PFD at the time they entered the water and that a 2013 intensive education campaign aimed at encouraging fishermen to wear lifejackets proved unsuccessful in reducing fatalities.

Letter calls for statutory PSHE

The chairmen of five Parliamentary Select Committees have written to the Secretary of State for Education, Justine Greening MP, calling on the Government to act on proposals to make Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) a statutory subject in schools.

The letter was co-signed by Neil Carmichael MP (Education Committee), Rt Hon Maria Miller MP (Women and Equalities Committee), Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP (Home Affairs Committee), Dr Sarah Wollaston (Health Committee) and Iain Wright MP (Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee).

It is now calling on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) to make arrangements to prioritise the introduction of legislation requiring the compulsory wearing of constant-wear lifejackets or PFDs on the exposed decks of all commercial fishing vessels.

Steve Clinch, the chief inspector of marine accidents, said: "The MAIB rarely recommends the introduction of new legislation to solve safety problems, but the rate that commercial fishermen are losing their lives due to drowning shows no sign of reducing. Indeed, this has been a particularly bad year: the MAIB has investigated the deaths of nine commercial fishermen. All four [of the fishermen whose deaths were covered by the recent reports] might well have survived had they been wearing a lifejacket when they entered the water.

"In the cold waters around the UK, survival time

can be measured in minutes unless a lifejacket is being worn. However, this message is not getting home despite a three-year campaign that has seen almost every commercial fisherman in the UK receive a free lifejacket.

"Evidence from other countries shows that education campaigns alone have little effect on behaviour, but when backed by legislation the change is both significant and sustained. In order to prevent further unnecessary loss of commercial fishermen's lives, I am therefore recommending today that the Maritime and Coastguard Agency moves quickly to introduce legislation making it compulsory for fishermen to wear personal flotation devices on the working decks of commercial fishing vessels while they are at sea."

● **This article first appeared in the January/February 2017 edition of RoSPA's Safety Express journal.**

Council fined £75,000

A council was fined £75,000 after a four-year-old boy nearly drowned during a swimming lesson.

Evan Rhys Davies was taking part in a mixed age and ability play session at the end of his swimming lesson at Bro Ddyfi Leisure Centre in Powys when he got into difficulty. The lifeguard had left his station to put out lane ropes for the next lesson and instructors were engaged in paperwork or in conversation with each other or parents.

Swansea Crown Court heard how Evan's father discovered his son floating face down in the water when he came to pick him up from the lesson in November 2014. He was pulled from the water and revived at the side of the pool. Although deprived of oxygen, he later made a full recovery in hospital.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Powys County Council had failed to properly risk assess the swimming lessons and, in particular, the part of the lesson where mixed abilities and ages were allowed to

take part in free play. They did not define the position or roles of the staff to supervise free play, failed to deal with the distraction caused by parents coming on to the pool side and failed to give adequate time or resource between sessions to reconfigure the pool lane ropes with each session beginning and ending on the half hour.

Powys County Council pleaded guilty to breaching the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, section 3(1), and regulation 3 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999. It was fined £75,000 and ordered to pay costs of £16,000.

Gary Martin, HSE inspector, said: "Free play for children learning to swim is an important activity in building their confidence in the water. However, the risks of mixing swimmers of limited ability with children who may be older or stronger in the water must be managed correctly. The council could have taken simple steps that would not have led to a parent's worst nightmare of finding their child floating unconscious in a swimming pool. Evan is lucky his father turned up when he did."



National Water Safety Conference 2017 to look at delivery of strategy

RoSPA's National Water Safety Conference 2017 is now open for bookings.

The one-day event, taking place at the Hilton Brighton Metropole on April 5, will focus on how the UK's drowning prevention target of a 50 per cent reduction in fatalities by 2026 can best be delivered.

An essential event for professionals no matter what their connection to water safety and risk management, the conference will look at key challenges such as how to maintain heritage,

principles of access and ability to take risks – while improving water safety at the same time.

David Walker, RoSPA's leisure safety manager, said: "The National Water Safety Conference takes place around every 18 months, providing a valuable forum for professionals



to take stock of achievements in drowning prevention and look at how to move forward. This year's event is particularly notable because it will be the first since the launch of the UK's first Drowning Prevention Strategy and it will make a vital contribution

to ensuring that the strategy is delivered fully across the country. In particular, we will look at how communities can be best enabled to deliver the strategy, working with national partners."

As in previous years, the event will feature a mix of presentations and practical workshops, as pictured (left and above) at the last National Water Safety Conference in Salford.

For more information or to book places, visit www.rospace.com/events/water/, call 0121 248 2090 or email events@rospace.com

Death of Angela James

We are sad to report that Angela James, vice-chairman of RoSPA's National Safety in Education Committee (NSEC), passed away in January after a short battle with cancer.

Angela was the health and safety officer at the Association for Physical Education (afPE), as well as being chairman of the afPE's Heart of England region and co-author of Safe Practice in Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity.

As reported in the last edition of the RoSPA Leisure and Education Journal, Angela was elected to her role on NSEC in September, having been a long-time supporter of the committee,

as well as other coalitions and alliances highlighting the importance of practical safety education.

Errol Taylor, RoSPA's deputy chief executive, said: "Angela was well respected and very well liked. She was friendly, easy to talk to, always willing to help others and to share the wealth of knowledge and experience that she had. We will miss Angela's enthusiasm, support and guidance. Through her work, we are sure that she has left a legacy of improved sports activities for children and adults across the UK."

Mike Crichton, afPE's chairman, said: "Angela was a true professional and passionate about



the importance of PE, physical activity and the health and wellbeing of children, young people and adults. She was a perfectionist and carried out her work with precision, rigour, sensitivity, fairness and respect."



RoSPA

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First Water Safety Scotland conference

The first Water Safety Scotland conference will take place on March 21 in Edinburgh.

Being held at the Scottish Story Telling Centre and hosted by RoSPA, the conference will launch Water Safety Scotland's draft response to the National Water Safety Forum's UK Drowning Prevention Strategy.

On average over the past three years, there have been 50 accidental deaths and 29 suicides in Scottish waters each year, and the conference will promote the work of Water Safety Scotland in contributing to the UK target of reducing water-related deaths by 50 per cent by 2026.

Among the speakers will be Michael Avril, chairman of Water Safety Scotland, who will

respond to the strategy, and Professor Mike Tipton from the University of Portsmouth, who will talk about cold water shock. George Baggley, from Scottish Fire and Rescue, will outline the fire service's role in relation to water safety, John Powell, from RNLI International, will talk about the global picture of drowning and David Walker, from RoSPA, will speak about developments in inland water safety.

Gillian Barclay, whose son Cameron drowned in a disused quarry, will give delegates a moving insight into the impact that drowning has on a family.



The one-day conference is free to attend. The full programme and timings are available online. Please contact Carlene McAvoy on cmcavoy@rospa.com for more information or to book a place.

Members of the public can find out what is being done to prevent drowning in Scotland through Water Safety Scotland's new website (pictured above).

The group, set up by RoSPA in 2014, aims to understand the risks around water to tackle the issue through a number of channels. Made up of nearly 30 organisations, including local authorities, charities and the Scottish Government, it has relaunched its website - www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk - to make it more user-friendly and accessible for members of the public.

Michael Avril, chairman of Water Safety Scotland and community incident reduction manager at the RNLI, said: "We are working together to raise awareness and prevent water-related fatalities, as drowning is one of the leading causes of accidental death in Scotland and the rest of the UK."

Preventability is key metric

Preventability must be at the heart of efforts to ease the rising pressure on healthcare services, says Tom Mullarkey, chief executive of RoSPA, in the charity's most recent Annual Review.

"If your business is prevention, you can hardly avoid the metric of intervention that is preventability," he says in the RoSPA Annual Review 2015/16.

For children, Mr Mullarkey sets out that 65 per cent of preventable deaths, 75 per cent of preventable hospital admissions and more than 90 per cent of preventable A&E attendances are caused by accidents. And across the population as a whole, accidents cause 65 per cent of preventable A&E attendances - about 7.5 million.

Given the rising demands on healthcare services, he describes prioritisation as "the only way ahead", and outlines RoSPA's analytical tool, The Matrix, which enables local authority decision-makers to make an assessment of preventability across the full range of public health issues.

"The Matrix has now been tried by several local authorities leading to two incredible conclusions," he says. "The first is that we are not, as a nation,

spending our money optimally, to give our people the longest, healthiest lives. The second is that when we do the impact calculations more rationally, accident prevention becomes a major priority."

RoSPA's Annual Review 2015/16 was published at its Annual Meeting in November. Among the year's highlights were 3.6 million views of RoSPA's main website, plus an additional 2.2 million views of its dedicated child car seats website. Across England, the total number of families to benefit from a cleaning products safety campaign reached 250,000, while 15,000 Glasgow families received safety advice about liquid laundry capsules in 2015/16 alone.

Useful RoSPA resources for leisure and education safety professionals

Leisure safety: www.rospa.com/leisure-safety/

Safety in education: www.rospa.com/schoolandcollegesafety/

Play safety: www.rospa.com/play-safety/ (RoSPA's activities in the area of play safety are carried out under an exclusive licence arrangement by an independent and highly experienced specialist company, "Playsafety Ltd" which trades under such licence as "RoSPA Play Safety").

Celebrating 100 years of campaigning



By Jo Bullock, RoSPA's head of communications

At RoSPA, we're proud of our First World War beginnings and the fact that, 100 years later, we still exist to save lives and reduce injuries from accidents that don't have to happen.

Although we're now active in a variety of safety areas, not least leisure and education, and are interested in all ages and stages of life, our earliest roots are in road safety. For it was on December 1, 1916 that a public meeting was held at Caxton Hall, a short stroll from the Houses of Parliament, to discuss the "alarming increase in traffic accidents, and the direct connection therewith of the restricted street lighting which had been necessitated by the War conditions".



kept to the right. But this was ruled out for a variety of reasons, not least the associated costs and confusion that would be incurred.

Instead, it was decided that there would be less inconvenience and lower costs from requesting that pedestrians kept to the left-hand side of footpaths – meaning that those closest to the traffic walked facing oncoming vehicles.

As the practice was adopted, the results were seen quickly; indeed, fatal accidents in which a pedestrian was hit from behind fell by 70 per cent in 1917.



"The rule of the footpath"

First World War black-out conditions had caused concern about pedestrian deaths resulting from people stepping into the path of vehicles approaching them from behind. It was felt that something needed to be done and a decision was taken to elect the London "Safety First" Council.

At the time, it was customary for pedestrians to walk on the right-hand side of footpaths, which meant that those walking closest to the traffic had their backs to approaching vehicles.

Among various options, the London "Safety First" Council's first annual report reveals that consideration was given to changing the side of the road on which vehicles drove so that they



Posters, leaflets and online content from RoSPA's history. Clockwise from "Play in a play street": 1969, 1955, 2016, 1960, 1965, 1978, 1970.



And so began a century of safety campaigning, sometimes bold and public-facing and sometimes quiet and behind-the-scenes, to change attitudes and, where appropriate, legislation to save families from the anguish and heartache that serious accidents cause.

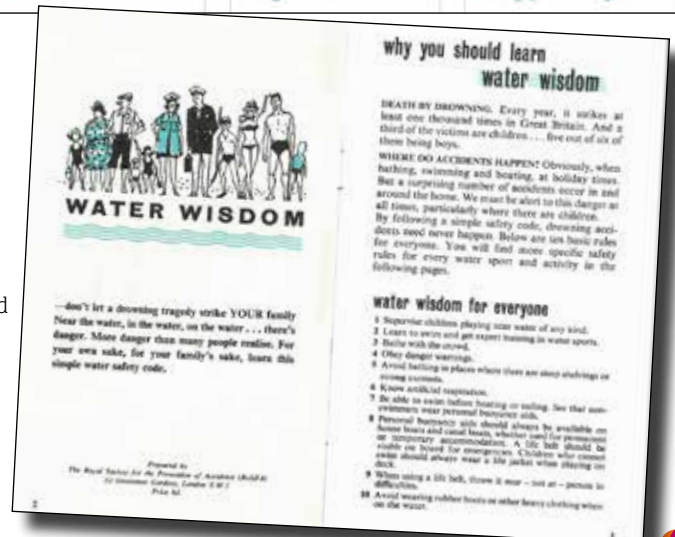


Looking back and looking forward

We will be marking our centenary throughout 2017, looking back at the successes achieved, especially on the roads and in workplaces where there have been big falls in the numbers of people killed or injured in accidents.

But we're also remembering those who have died, and their loved ones left behind, as well as those whose injuries have changed their lives irrevocably.

It's their **stories** coupled with the latest figures that show that accidental deaths and injuries are on the rise, due particularly to home and leisure accidents, which means our passion to make a difference remains as strong as ever.



Get involved

There will be plenty of ways to get involved in our centenary year, from attending our regular events like the **National Water Safety Conference** and **RoSPA Health and Safety Awards**, or by visiting a special RoSPA 100 years' exhibition running from May - July at the Library of Birmingham.

On social media, keep an eye on "RoSPA" on **Twitter** and **Facebook**, where we'll be asking people to share their memories of our charity and accident prevention over the years.

We've also launched the **Brighter Beginnings Appeal** to raise money for parent packs, which will be full of helpful tips and tools to help give children a safer start.

Information about all our activities during our centenary year can be found at www.rospa100.com

Drowning prevention strategy discussed at select committee



By David Walker,
RoSPA's leisure safety manager

Thanks to the excellent work of all members of the National Water Safety Forum (NWSF), good progress has been made in the first 12 months since the launch of the UK Drowning Prevention Strategy.

The strategy, its contents and its ethos are continuing to gain traction with local communities, the press and politicians.

Not surprisingly, the major and unusual occurrence at Camber Sands in the summer – when five men from London died in the same incident – brought the strategy to the attention of many more people, not least through the national mainstream media; notably, questions were being asked as to whether there ought to be statutory provision of lifeguards on popular beaches around the country.

The Transport Select Committee, which oversees the provision of lifeguards, called an oral evidence session on the strategy on December 5.

Despite the hard work that goes into developing systems such as the Water Incident Database (WAID) and creating and implementing projects such as the strategy, it can often be extremely difficult to raise awareness with those who have the ability to bring about real change. Therefore, to be given the opportunity to talk through all that the forum has been doing, and is planning on doing, was a welcome and important step.

Dawn Whittaker, lead officer for drowning prevention and water safety at the Chief Fire Officers Association, Sir Alan Massey, chief executive of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), George Rawlinson, chairman of the NWSF, Peter Dawes, lifesaving services manager from the RNLI, and myself were called to give evidence.

Although only four out of 11 members of the committee attended the session, it offered an excellent chance to raise the profile of the strategy, highlight the scale of accidental drowning, stress the importance of a continued collaborative approach and demonstrate a need for Government support.

Perhaps inevitably, the first question addressed the “spate” of drowning accidents over the summer and its coverage in the media, and asked whether this demonstrated a rise from previous years. Coming so soon after the incidents, we were unable to report the total number of summer drownings compared to previous years, but highlighted that generally there was a spike in July and August.

The question also provided a good opportunity to explore WAID in detail – the way the data was collected and its limitations, shining a spotlight on its importance in understanding drowning numbers and trends. We also highlighted that, although we were able to publish fatality figures, the figures for those affected by non-fatal drownings, for example through life-changing injuries, might be in the order of around eight times higher, and that we would be looking to enhance and refine data collection to reflect this. We were also pleased to be given a chance to expand upon the statistic that around 40 per cent of all of those killed in drowning did not intentionally enter the water.

The discussion also encompassed the way in which we hoped the strategy would be adopted and implemented at local levels, and it is worth quoting George's evidence here:

“I use a recent example of collaborative working, good communication and awareness. The team here was fortunate enough to meet

representatives of the Local Government Association last week to raise the profile and importance of local authorities that have a border with water and the sea carrying out a risk assessment of that area and deciding, taking account of advice and the components of that risk assessment, what they need to do to mitigate the risk.

“As a forum we are not putting responsibility on local authorities...it is about advice and guidance and raising awareness. To answer the question, ‘How do I do a risk assessment for my area?’ we have a whole network of organisations experienced in that to give advice and guidance on how it is undertaken.’

As anticipated, a large portion of the discussion focussed on the relationship between the RNLI, MCA, and volunteer lifeguards – how operations were run, who decided where facilities and assets would be placed, who made decisions on what assets to deploy – before moving on to questions about the lifeguarding and flagging systems for beaches in the UK, and the way in which local authorities made decisions on whether to provide lifeguards.

In direct reference to the work of the strategy, Clive Efford MP asked whether there should be a statutory responsibility on local authorities to respond to the expert advice provided by members of the NWSF.

George said: “On behalf of the forum, we have not researched in depth the current statutory responsibilities on a local authority, or taken a policy position on that. However, in connection with, say, an integrated risk management plan, or their existing obligations to conduct risk assessments, we wholeheartedly advise them to put the water element of that as high as anything else on their profile, and carry it out and act on it, but we do not have a position on it in terms of the law.”

We are now awaiting a published response from the Transport Committee. The full transcript of the oral evidence session is available [online](#).



Lifeskills reopens after £400k project

Lifeskills – an interactive safety education centre in Bristol – has reopened after a six-month redevelopment.

The £400,000 project has expanded capacity at the centre, which provides safety education programmes in theatrical scenarios for Year 6 children, parents of pre-schoolers, children with special needs, adults with learning difficulties and older people – targeting those most at risk of unintentional injury.

Previously, the facility, which is based at the city's Create Centre, could accommodate 10,000 Year 6 pupils each year. Additional capacity was required because local population data showed that there would be 14,500 pupils in each year group in the catchment area from 2017.

Through the addition of new scenarios and other layout changes, the centre can now accommodate 15,000 Year 6 pupils a year, as well as offering other user groups greater flexibility.

Andy Townsend, general manager of Lifeskills, said: "The ethos behind Lifeskills' education will remain the same – retaining small group size, using carefully written scripts to enable high-quality learning and ensuring that all scenarios are relevant and accessible."

The project was made possible thanks to the generous support of a wide range of partners, many of whom



were represented at the official reopening on January 12.

Errol Taylor, RoSPA's deputy chief executive, spoke at the event, outlining the importance of safety education in the context of the causes of accidents and A&E attendance figures. "Today, most accidents are behaviour-related," he said. "Their root causes are fatigue, distraction or risk behaviour, such as taking drugs or alcohol. Because of this, our focus needs to be on raising awareness and understanding, giving the people the knowledge, through education, to be risk aware and make the right decisions."

He continued: "Academic research suggests that high-quality safety education, such as what is on offer at Lifeskills, delivers great results. I'm convinced that generations of people of all ages will benefit enormously from their visit, or visits, to Lifeskills."

For more information on Lifeskills, visit www.lifeskills-bristol.org.uk, or contact Andy on 0117 9224511 or manager@lifeskills-bristol.org.uk.





Cycling rises to the challenges of growing popularity

The success of British cyclists at the last three Olympic and Paralympic Games, as well as the success of Chris Froome and Sir Bradley Wiggins on the road over the last few years, has led to an unprecedented rise in the popularity of cycle sport, with more people riding their bikes, both competitively and recreationally, than ever before.

The numbers tell an exciting story. More than 25,000 riders are competing regularly across 4,000 events, while British Cycling now has more than 2,000 registered cycling clubs.

While this rise in popularity is incredibly encouraging and good for the health and wellbeing of the nation, it also provides some challenges. As the sport's governing body, British Cycling took the decision to significantly invest in improving risk management, ensuring that the procedures and systems needed to assess events and facilities were as robust as possible. Work was also carried out to ensure that the education programmes delivered to riders, volunteers and event organisers were fit for the new challenges presented by increased participation in the sport.

The key aims of the project were to:

- Give more support to those delivering and competing in cycling

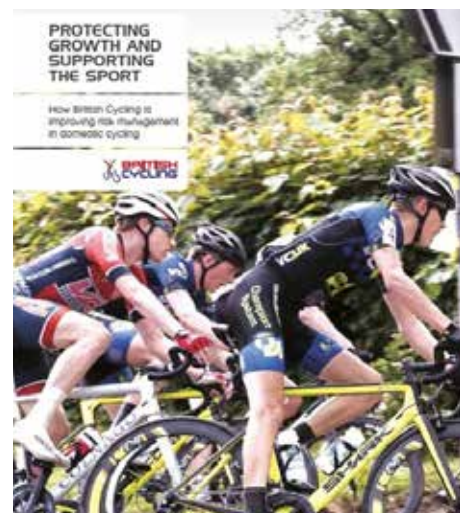
- Manage risk appropriately and, in doing so, to strive to make cycling as safe as possible for all involved
- Secure the future of cycle racing on the highway in the UK.

As an integral part of the strategy to protect growth and support the sport, British Cycling established a risk advisory group. Led by British Cycling board member, Marian Lauder MBE, the group's remit is to consider, offer advice on and challenge any activity that poses risk to the achievement of British Cycling's objectives.

The group implemented a number of changes



Last year, British Cycling launched a report aiming to safeguard the future of domestic cycle racing. Here, **Nigel Cowell-Clark**, the organisation's cycle sport risk manager, outlines the project to protect growth and support the sport.





following their initial review of British Cycling's processes. These included:

- A complete re-design and implementation of the incident report form. This document is now standard across British Cycling
- The creation of a "risk aware culture" throughout British Cycling
- The development of a centralised management plan for serious incidents
- Development of defined roles and responsibilities across documentation used by British Cycling's volunteer base
- Work on ensuring cross-departmental consensus to ensure standardised delivery of the risk process.

Having identified areas for improvement, British Cycling's report details progress in a number of key areas:

- Rider education – videos for Racesmart, British Cycling's awareness campaign, have been viewed on YouTube more than 1.5million times

- Supporting officials – British Cycling has worked with RoSPA to produce several online courses

- Supporting event organisers – New risk assessment forms have been produced for road racing events and are now used as standard

- Facilities and courses – A comprehensive review of all tracks across England, Wales and Scotland has been completed. The majority of circuits and open-road courses have also been assessed.

The development of a new digital platform on British Cycling's website has been integral, ensuring that processes have become easier and simpler to manage for riders, volunteers, event organisers and officials.

As British Cycling's cycle sport and membership director, Jonny Clay, says: "Cycle sport in this country is truly in its best shape ever. However, an increase in popularity brings with it a need to ensure that the safety and quality of events is at a suitable standard. Risk can never be eliminated completely but if we want our sport to continue to grow, then we need to continue



to strengthen the support given to everyone involved.

"It isn't purely a case of ensuring that there are frameworks, rules and regulations in place – it is about balancing the benefits and risks so that the sport remains engaging, exciting and competitive. The next decade presents the sport with even more opportunities to flourish and we are in a good place to ensure that we are making the most of its continuing popularity."

British Cycling will continue to work hard to support and grow the sport to ensure that its members have access to high-quality competitive and non-competitive events that remain exciting, accessible and – most of all – safe.

The measures the governing body has put in place will allow the sport to flourish and British Cycling will continue to focus on the key aim of this project: protecting growth while supporting cycling.



Good practice in working with animals



Caring for animals can benefit the personal development of children and young people, but risks should be managed carefully. Former Ofsted inspector **Jim Bennetts and vet **Mary Bennetts** outline some of the issues to consider.**



Jim Bennetts

Hospital admissions for dog bites have risen by 75 per cent - from 4,110 in 2004-5 to 7,227 in 2014-15. Appropriately, there may be increasing readiness to seek medical attention.

While The Dangerous Dogs Act, introduced 25 years ago, bans pit bull terriers and some others (unless owners have an exemption), it's important to remember that any dog can bite.

The bacteria in dogs' and cats' mouths make their bites particularly dangerous. Cats may carry bartonella, causing Cat Scratch Disease. Consequences of bites and scratches from animals range from minor injuries to serious wounds and sepsis. In rare cases, where an individual's immune system is compromised, injuries may be life threatening.

If a person is injured by an animal, especially a cat or dog, the area should be washed with antiseptic fluid and medical advice sought immediately. This should be established in the policy documentation of schools and other organisations working with children and young people, and parents should be informed of the policy. Older primary children should

understand the seriousness of injuries from animals and how to respond.

Animals: an enriching experience

While you may find discussion of potential animal-related injuries alarming, it's important to state that the benefits of interacting with animals far outweigh the risks. For many children, keeping a pet is a wonderful part of growing up. They relish the responsibility of looking after an animal, often developing an empathy that lays the foundations for caring human relationships.

At the outstanding Springwell Dene Special School in Sunderland (now New Bridge Academy), which caters for secondary pupils with behavioural difficulties, a pupil took some responsibility for a husky dog (pictured above). (A husky bitch was selected because they bark little and do not shed much hair, which could cause an allergy problem.) Upon looking after the dog, he matured rapidly, becoming very considerate of others. When an inspector admonished a pupil making "silly noises", he discretely explained that the pupil had Tourette's.

The benefits of interacting with animals far outweigh the risks.

With the same intentions, at a Lancashire grammar school, two senior staff brought in dogs (a poodle and a Labrador). Selected pupils fed and exercised the dogs, ensuring that they were kept away from the general run of pupils.

Ofsted inspections have found good practice with animals. In Workington, a trainee teacher brought her snake to a Year 2 classroom; pupils were fascinated and there was exceptional learning in observation and use of vocabulary. In Darwen, guinea pigs were looked after enthusiastically by Year 4 pupils who gleefully explained what their names meant. There was skilful incubation of eggs and observation of chick development at a primary school near Redcar; an excellent curricular feature, illustrating life-cycles. A primary headteacher near Wigan kindly allowed a traveller pupil to continue to tether his horse on the verge beside the school, keeping its head away from the fence and being present when children were about - shrewd management of safeguarding. Masterly treatment of foot-rot in sheep was seen on a school farm near Hadrian's Wall, providing excellent hands-on vocational education relevant to the local community.

Spotting the warning signs

Dogs almost never bite without warning. When scared or threatened by a situation, a dog will initially display appeasing behaviour, escalating to offensive or defensive behaviour if ignored. A dog will bite when it feels it has no other option to remove itself from the situation. Appeasing and defensive behaviours often go unnoticed. The body language of dogs and cats is well worth exploring with primary pupils to focus observation of their own pets and their use of language; photos would help greatly. An **Adopt a Pet blog** gives an excellent analysis of when a dog says "I'm happy" or "I'm stressed and might bite".

Appeasing behaviours include a tucked-in tail, avoidance of eye contact, ears back, lip licking and yawning. Defensive behaviours include raising the upper lip, raised hackles (hair on the neck) and growling. A relaxed and comfortable

dog will be happy to approach people, make eye contact and wag its tail.

We suggest that, while dogs in schools can be helpful to certain pupils, it is unwise to put dogs in a situation where, surrounded by children, they might become anxious. In 2013, a teacher in Ballymena brought her friendly dog into school as a treat for the children. The dog was carefully controlled as it was being patted by the children, but flicked his head to the side and bit a five-year-old child on the face. The child was hospitalised and the dog was put to sleep. This was obviously a very sad outcome for the child, teacher and dog and should serve as a precautionary tale for those considering taking their dog into schools. It is almost certain that the dog displayed behaviours prior to biting that would indicate that a bite was imminent but these were unrecognised.

As it is more difficult to control cats and infection is a greater hazard, cats should not be brought into schools. Nonetheless, cats will find their way into playgrounds. Acquaint pupils with indications of cat body language. For example, a wagging tail suggests anxiety and a vertical tail suggests happiness. Advise them not to approach unknown cats.

Besides prudence in schools, there should be consideration of animals around school gates and when children are out and about. It would be helpful for pupils to gain understanding of dogs' and cats' body language and be wary unless they are well acquainted with particular animals.

A note on smaller animals

Few schools now have an animal room with pets. However, keeping rabbits and guinea pigs can be a positive educational experience for children. These animals rarely bite, and it is less serious as they have few harmful bacteria. Hamsters and gerbils bite a lot and are inappropriate in schools as they are nocturnal. It is essential that animals are in the charge of staff who are competent to deal with them.



Mary Bennetts

Rabbits and guinea pigs are sociable and should not be kept singly (but do not keep rabbits and guinea pigs together). They need ample cage size and suitable diets. Rabbits enjoy human company but hate being held and often scratch if lifted. If held incorrectly they can kick and break their spine. If kicking, a towel should be laid on the floor and the rabbit wrapped in it, which makes lifting and handling safer for both rabbit and handlers.

- **Jim Bennetts was an Ofsted inspector. Mary Bennetts is a veterinary surgeon, and works at Bishopton Veterinary Group in North Yorkshire.**

Useful resources

4 Paws for Ability is an organisation that can provide trained dogs for autistic children and young people.

<https://positively.com/dog-training/understanding-dogs/canine-body-language/>

www.pet-owners.co.uk/Pet-Guides/Dogs/Dog-Care/Keeping-Children-Safe-around-Dogs-by-Jez-Rose.aspx

Fairground fined after worker killed by manoeuvring HGV

A fairground company was fined more than £47,000 after an employee was run over and killed while setting up a ride.

Michael O'Brien, 45, was killed in April 2011, during the setting up of a funfair run by Stevens Amusements Ltd at Bassetts Park, West Villa Road, Wellingborough.

Northampton Crown Court heard that the Twister ride, which was being carried on an HGV driven by company director John Guest, was being manoeuvred into position when Mr O'Brien was run over.

He suffered crush injuries to the head and upper body and was pronounced dead at the scene.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that although there was a banksman guiding the HGV, he was on the passenger side of the vehicle. Mr O'Brien was found on the driver's side. Inadequate arrangements were in place to

segregate people from moving vehicles.

Stevens Amusements Ltd, of Station Road, London, was fined £47,475 and ordered to pay costs of £82,946.11 after being found guilty of breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

Speaking after the hearing, Sally Harris, HSE inspector, said: "Travelling fairs visit a large number of sites during the year. A specific assessment of the risks must be made at each site before beginning hazardous activities such as this."

Jim Barrow

It is with sadness that we report that Jim Barrow, former editorial consultant to RoSPA's Safety Education journal, has passed away.

Following a career as a sports journalist, Jim worked for RoSPA on a freelance basis from 1989-2013, bringing his editorial expertise, creativity and eye for detail to RoSPA's public safety journals. In addition to Safety Education, he worked on RoSPA's Staying Alive and Care on the Road journals.

Jim was married to Janice Cave MBE, RoSPA's former director of public affairs.

Errol Taylor, RoSPA's deputy chief executive, said: "Jim was an important member of our small public safety journals team for nearly 25 years, working quietly behind the scenes to produce top quality publications for our safety education, leisure, home and road safety members.

"Our thoughts are with Janice at this sad time."



Vancouver conference

Registration is open for the next World Conference on Drowning Prevention, which takes place in Canada in October.

The bi-annual event, organised by the International Life Saving Federation, brings together the world's foremost experts, research, systems and information on drowning prevention, rescue, life saving and water safety.

Taking place in Vancouver from October 17-

19, the conference will have seven themes: prevention; data; rescue; disaster and impacts of climate change; medical; swimming and water safety education; and partnerships.

It will provide an opportunity to report on the progress made on the 10 actions to prevent drowning, as outlined in the 2014 World Health Organization's Global Report on Drowning.

More information can be found at www.wcdp2017.org

Guardian Angel Awards

Nominations for the RoSPA Guardian Angel Awards will soon close for the London and Birmingham ceremonies.

February 6 marks the nomination deadline for awards to be presented at ExCeL London in June or the Hilton Birmingham Metropole, at the NEC, in July.

Guardian Angel Awards are presented annually as part of the RoSPA Health and Safety Awards. They are for individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty to save lives and protect others from harm.

Among the previous winners are Beckie Ramsay, who has campaigned tirelessly on water safety

since her 13-year-old son Dylan drowned in a quarry lake, and Andy Townsend, the general manager of the LifeSkills safety education centre in Bristol.

Julia Small, RoSPA's head of awards and events, said: "Since the Guardian Angel Awards began, we have heard so many stories of exceptional people who care about and make every effort to protect the lives of others from harm."

Nominations for awards to be presented at the Hilton Glasgow in September will close on May 30.

For more information and nomination forms, see www.rospace.com/awards/categories/guardian-angel-awards

Your questions answered



Former Ofsted inspector **Jim Bennetts** answers your school and education questions.

Q. Should schools prepare pupils for bereavement and loss?

A. At all stages in life, when folk are distressed, traumatised or at a low emotional ebb they “cannot think straight”. There can be carelessness or unwise things might be done. Bereavement – the loss of a loved-one – is one of life’s most stressful experiences. Those good times shared together have gone forever; nor will the pain of loss go away.

While the death of someone close is devastating, life has other losses and irretrievable disappointments. For a young person, family break-up can leave deep wounds, sometimes tinged with anger. On hearing that his dog had died, a distressed boarding school pupil in the North East put his fist through a window. Immediately following expulsion for weak academic performance, a Lancashire sixth former crashed his speeding car.

Some schools are highly effective in teasing out the emotions of loss and developing pupils’ capacity to talk through their feelings. For example, Ashton-on-Ribble St Andrew’s CofE Primary is an outstanding school and Ofsted reports: “In Year 6, pupils are able to use sensitive language with exceptional depth and emotion. For instance, their response to a short

video portraying human loss was memorable. It easily surpassed the emotional maturity to be expected in pupils of their age.”

W H Auden’s poem *Funeral Blues (Stop All the Clocks)* is sometimes used as stimulus material for older primary classes: *He was... My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song; I thought that love would last for ever: I was wrong.* More challenging linguistically and emotionally, but possibly suitable for Key Stage 3, would be Dylan Thomas’s *Do not go gentle into that good night...Rage, rage against the dying of the light* – addressed to his dying father.

Besides bracing pupils for coping with the emotional stress of bereavement in general, schools on occasion have to support individual pupils who have lost a parent or sibling. Occasionally, a pupil dies. One in 20 children in England suffers the death of a parent or sibling by the age of 16.

Forty years ago, in a boarding school, a phone call informed us of the death of a boy’s parents in a road accident in Nigeria. Initially, a colleague broke the news to the boy while I kept the other pupils in his dormitory. Schools should have outline plans for such contingencies, with understanding of who-does-what, and the line to take with those affected and the wider school community.



At the time of the first Iraq war (1991), as HMI in the Department for Education, I was required to visit schools serving RAF families to distribute a pamphlet called Good Grief and check contingency arrangements. Generally, it is best to avoid platitudes with a bereaved pupil, guide low-key peer support and ensure that a particular staff member is watching over the affected pupil to address emotional and practical issues as they arise in the short and longer term. Some hospitals offer sensitive bereavement counselling for families and children.

The following websites give useful advice:

- www.nhs.uk/Livewell/bereavement/Pages/children-bereavement.aspx
- www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk
- www.cruse.org.uk
- www.tcf.org.uk

Got a question?

Email it to Editor Jo Bullock, jbullock@rospa.com. Or write to Leisure & Education Journal, RoSPA, 28 Calthorpe Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 1RP.



Year 6 teacher Mrs Thorley with pupils at St Andrew’s CE Primary School, Ashton-on-Ribble, Preston, where Ofsted reported that pupils were able to use “sensitive language with exceptional depth and emotion.”

Teachers at risk of burnout

Long hours, low starting pay and limited access to professional development are creating a risk of teacher “burnout”, according to a new report.

The report, **Teacher workload and professional development in England’s secondary schools: insights from TALIS**, conducted by the Education Policy Institute (EPI), examines teachers’ working hours, pay and experience in secondary schools using the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) latest Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS).

It found that teachers in England are working longer hours than in most other countries, with full time teachers working an average of 48.2 hours per week, 19 per cent longer than the average elsewhere. Around a fifth of teachers in England reported that they worked 60 hours or more in the latest week, mostly due to time spent marking pupils’ work and administration.

The combination of long hours, high workloads and low starting pay is hindering teachers’ access to continuing professional development and putting them at risk of burnout, raising concerns over the wellbeing of staff, the EPI says.

It is calling on the Department for Education to continue to work to reduce the burden of marking and administration and said that improving the effectiveness of lesson planning should be prioritised over reducing the amount of time spent.

Chris Keates, General Secretary of the teachers’ union NASUWT, said: “This is another report to add to the already overwhelming mountain of evidence that teachers’ professional lives are blighted by an excessive workload.

“Year-on-year increasing numbers of teachers leave the profession and potential recruits are deterred from joining it because of the toxic combination of increasing workload and decreasing pay.

“The excessive freedoms and flexibilities the Government has given to schools have enabled poor management practices, which overburden

and underpay teachers, to flourish.

“Yet Ministers continue to fiddle while teachers burn out and the children and young people they teach lose out.”

From Safety Express, November/December 2016

Fatal man overboard investigation

A fisherman who was lost at sea after being struck and “violently catapulted” overboard by a steel wire trawl warp, was not wearing a lifejacket and was working aboard “a poorly run vessel” at the time of the accident, a report reveals.

The Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) report details the events surrounding the fatality of Ghanaian-born fisherman, Annang Nuerty, a deck crew aboard the Aquarius, a 20.8-metre twin rig squid trawler. It cites: a total lack of protective safety management; a poor level of onboard safety culture; and the crew suffering from tiredness and fatigue as the underlying causes of the accident.

In the early hours of the morning on August 17, 2015, the vessel had cleared the port of Aberdeen and its six-man crew were attempting to re-mark the trawl warps. In an attempt to mark the steel wire warp, the crew had streamed it over the stern, using a rope stopper to take the strain of the trailing warp.

The investigation establishes:

- The stopper parted under tension because a man-made fibre rope had been used instead of a chain. The way it had been applied deviated from well-established good practice.
- The casualty was thrown overboard because he had positioned himself within the bight of the slackened trawl warp.
- The crew were unable to get their

colleague back on board because neither they, nor their vessel, had been adequately prepared to deal with such an emergency.

- Mr Nuerty’s body was not recovered because he was not wearing a lifejacket or other type of personal flotation device while working on the open deck.

By the time of the incident, the Aquarius had been the subject of numerous MAIB surveys and investigations over a nine-year period, identifying it as a poorly-run vessel and issuing it with 137 deficiencies, many repetitive and related to safety management, the report states.

The report identifies that: “The skipper and owners of Aquarius consistently prioritised the catching of fish over the safety of the vessel and its crew. This resulted in the promotion of a poor safety culture.” An inspection of the Aquarius after the fatal accident found “so many safety-critical deficiencies” the MCA surveyor suspended the inspection and detained the trawler.

The MAIB recommends the vessel’s owners, MB Aquarius Ltd, and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) make improvements including to: the levels of safety management and emergency preparedness on board Aquarius; the working conditions and hours of rest for non-UK nationals on board UK-flagged fishing vessels; and the capability of the electronic systems used by the MCA to manage and monitor deficiencies and poor-performing fishing vessels.

From the RoSPA OS&H Bulletin, December 2016

Sports grounds

The Sports Grounds Safety Authority is the UK Government’s expert body on safety at sports grounds, issuing advice and regulating local authorities in their oversight of safety at football clubs in the Premier League and the Football League.

The authority’s website - www.safetysports



grounds.org.uk - has a huge amount of information on its history and work, including a selection of frequently-asked questions.

There is also content divided into four areas: regulation; education; innovation; and safety, with a range of guidance on licensing, safety certification, event planning and training.

The site has a publications section where guidance documents can be downloaded for free and users can subscribe to receive newsletters and alerts via email.

From The RoSPA OS&H Journal, November 2016

Royal Navy sub “put trawler crew’s lives at risk”

The lives of the crew of a fishing trawler were endangered by the actions of the command team of a Royal Navy submarine, a Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) report has found.

In April 2015, the submarine snagged the fishing gear of the UK-registered trawler Karen, 15 miles south-east of Ardglass, Northern Ireland.

The report found that the Karen had been trawling for prawns at 2.8 knots when its fishing gear was snagged and it was dragged backwards at about 7 knots. The crew managed to release both winch brakes, freeing the trawl warps; the starboard warp ran out completely but the port warp became fouled on the winch drum, causing the Karen to heel heavily to port and its stern to be pulled underwater. It broke

free from the submarine when the port warp parted and there was structural damage to the vessel but it returned to Ardglass safely under its own power.

The MAIB said that evidence of the collision on board the submarine was either not observed or misinterpreted and the command team was unaware of the collision until about three hours later.

The report concluded that the collision occurred because the submarine’s command team assessed that the Karen (as well as a majority of other shipping contacts in the area) was a merchant vessel, so the submarine could pass safely underneath. However, most of the vessels were actually trawlers. The MAIB said that this “was predictable and should have been identified as a significant risk to the safety of the submarine and other vessels when preparing the submarine’s passage plan”.

Had the submarine’s command team appreciated the high density of fishing vessels and then followed Royal Navy guidance on fishing vessel avoidance, the accident would not have occurred, the report found.

According to the MAIB, its investigation was conducted without the full co-operation of the Royal Navy, with the involvement of a submarine not revealed until nearly five months after the accident and the Royal Navy not submitting evidence to the investigation team for 10 months. The delays “impeded the progress of the independent investigation, and the evidence submitted was insufficient to determine all the causal factors”, the MAIB said.

In September 2015, in a written statement to the House of Commons, then Minister for the Armed Forces Penny Mordaunt, said: “On the information available at the time, the Royal

Navy was confident that no UK submarine was involved in the incident... I now wish to inform the House that, on the basis of new information that has become available, the Royal Navy has now confirmed that a UK submarine was, in fact, responsible for snagging the Karen’s nets. The incident, the delay in identifying and addressing the events on that day, and their consequences, are deeply regretted.”

The MAIB is now calling on the Royal Navy to review the procedures and training necessary to ensure that submarine operations in the vicinity of vessels engaged in fishing are conducted safely and to provide assurance that actions have been taken to prevent recurrence.

The chief inspector of marine accidents, Steve Clinch, said: “Eighteen months ago, the actions of the command team of a Royal Navy submarine placed the lives of the crew of the trawler Karen in danger. Regrettably, the reluctance of the Royal Navy to fully engage in the subsequent investigation resulted in this report taking significantly longer to deliver than would normally be the case.

“The accident happened because of insufficient passage planning by the submarine’s command team and their failure to follow guidance on fishing vessel avoidance. Had its trawl warps not parted, it is almost inevitable that Karen would have capsized and sunk; the collision also presented a very significant risk to the submarine.

“The Royal Navy’s Code of Practice for Fishing Vessel Avoidance was created after the loss of the trawler Antares and its crew in 1990; however, it is apparent that lessons learnt after the Antares accident have been lost. As a result, it is now important that the Royal Navy reviews its procedures and training for the safe conduct of dived submarine operations in the same vicinity as vessels engaged in fishing. By its actions, the Royal Navy also needs to rebuild trust with the fishing industry.”

From Safety Express, November/December 2016

See **page 03** for a full list of RoSPA’s journals and information about how to subscribe.



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