

## Email trail re GBRT Beach Sprints Trials 10/11 June 2023 at Redcar

### Most recent first

On 5 Mar 2023, at 11:07, Tom Pattichis <tom.pattichis@britishrowing.org> wrote:

Hi Michael,

Thanks for your e-mail. I agree, it's not great timing. I apologise for the lack of consultation with you.

In terms of the selection process for Beach Sprints, this is the weekend we think will work best. We've had it planned in for some time, and were expecting it to be a South Coast location. However we decided to go further north to ease the issues for those travelling from other parts of the country and to start trying out other locations. When I discovered it clashed with Durham Regatta I looked at other alternative dates, but none work for a variety of reasons. So really we're left with a choice of not running it in the region, or sticking with it and making the best of the situation. I felt the latter was best, as while not optimal it's still a location we'd like to develop, and I'm confident we can run the event with minimal impact on Durham Regatta.

From a rower point of view, I don't anticipate any impact on Durham. That's the big established event in the region. Those coming to the Beach Sprints trial are likely a separate group, and I don't anticipate anyone entering who would otherwise have been racing Durham. I could be wrong, but I don't see it having a big impact entries wise. Volunteers and spectators I can see the issue, and that's disappointing for us as well as we'd like to have got the North East rowing community involved and seeing what it's all about. However, the bottom line is we can run the event with the volunteers we already have within the existing coastal/beach sprints community. So again it should have no impact on other events.

Ultimately it's a starting point, and in future years we can be more coordinated. But the option of changing dates for either event this year obviously isn't there. So the choice we were left with really was whether we run it in NE or don't run it in the NE. Personally I'd rather we get something started in the NE this year, accept it won't be optimal because of the clash, and work with you to keep any likely impact on your event minimal. Even not having a lot of the North East rowing community involved this year as they'll all be at Durham, with it being in the NE I think it raises the profile of Beach Sprints in the area and gives us a starting point to develop things further in the future.

Quite happy to discuss on the phone if you want to chat further.

Thanks, Tom.

Tom Pattichis  
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**From:** Michael Laing <[msdcplainingfamily@aol.com](mailto:msdcplainingfamily@aol.com)>  
**Sent:** 05 March 2023 08:22  
**To:** Tom Pattichis <[tom.pattichis@britishrowing.org](mailto:tom.pattichis@britishrowing.org)>  
**Cc:** Various  
**Subject:** Re: GBRT Beach Sprints Trials

Good morning

Hope that you are all well.

You are right Kate I am Chair of Durham Regatta. I am concerned that this event has been organised for 10/11 June without any consultation with the Regatta as far as I know.

If we want to support the development of coastal rowing and beach sprints this is just about the worst weekend to choose to hold it in the North East.

If we could have discussed the various reasons for choosing this date maybe we could have worked together to agree an alternative.

I already know that some athletes will have a difficult choice to make but many volunteers in the region will be at Durham Regatta and unable to help at the Beach Sprints. The same applies to spectators.

My mobile number is 07415737105 if anyone wants to contact me for a discussion.

Regards

Michael

Sent from my iPad

On 27 Feb 2023, at 20:41, Tom Pattichis <[tom.pattichis@britishrowing.org](mailto:tom.pattichis@britishrowing.org)> wrote:

Hi Kate,

Thanks very much for the introductions.

Very pleased to be running the GB Beach Sprints trial in the North East. My apologies about the clash with Durham Regatta. Really would have preferred to avoid this, as I know we would have had good support from the region and strong entries from local clubs. Unfortunately the trial had to be this weekend for various reasons, and I suspect we're dealing with a different audience at the moment, so I'm hoping neither event will be adversely affected.

I see this as an excellent opportunity to create a springboard for the development of the NE as a bit of a Beach Sprints mecca. As Kate has pointed out there are a number of clubs along the coastline that I'm sure could work together to create a community that will be able to get more people involved in the sport, and help us identify and develop potential future GB Beach Sprints team members. From a performance side there's definitely a bit of a gap in the market with Beach Sprints, and I see no reason why the North East couldn't be at the forefront of filling this gap.

We're shortly due to launch a scheme to identify some possible Coastal/Beach Sprints Academies to support the development of potential GB Beach Sprints rowers. So I'll make sure I send the details over to everyone once we've got them finalised. We'd welcome an application from a club or a collective of clubs from the region.

Thanks.

Tom.

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**From:** Kate O'Sullivan <[kate.o'sullivan@britishrowing.org](mailto:kate.o'sullivan@britishrowing.org)>  
**Sent:** 27 February 2023 20:15  
**To:** Tom Pattichis <[tom.pattichis@britishrowing.org](mailto:tom.pattichis@britishrowing.org)>; Helen McMillan <[chair@nerowing.com](mailto:chair@nerowing.com)>  
**Cc:** Various  
**Subject:** GBRT Beach Sprints Trials

Dear Tom and Helen,

I am just writing to introduce the two of you regarding the 2023 GBRT Beach Sprint Trials.

A sequence of events have resulted in the possibility of the first set of trials taking place at Tees and Redcar on the weekend of 10/11 June which I and the others copied in are aware of clashes with Durham Regatta and British Masters. Great for the area but I appreciate there may be some concerns about whether there is an impact on Durham. I know that Tom has looked at all the options and for there to be a selection event in the North this is the weekend.

Tom - Helen McMillan is the Chair of the Northern Region

Helen - Tom is the BR Olympic Pathway Manager

Mark Hyson from Tynemouth has loads to offer in educating clubs and coaches in the region and has been leading the way for us in helping a number already to achieve national selection.

I am also using this as an opportunity to ensure various people within the Northern and Yorkshire Region are linked up around the potential to build a new fisa coastal and beach sprint community along the coast from Tynemouth - Redcar - Whitby - Scarborough

Julie Morley is setting up a club in Whitby and will be able to link you to the contact in Scarborough

Celia Hickson in the message is the Chair of the Yorkshire Region

Kendra Quinn is a member of Tees Rowing Club who is Redcar born and bred and has been holding meetings with Redcar Council

Colin Percy is the Secretary for the Northern Rowing Council

Michael Laing is I believe the Chair of the Durham Regatta Committee.

Michele Holdsworth is the Secretary for Tees Rowing Club

Anything I can do to help please just ask.

Kate

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Kate O'Sullivan  
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**Deputy Chair - Board | British**

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