

## Junior Report – Northern Rowing Council AGM 15 November 2021

It is pleasing to see that junior rowing in the region seems to be getting back to normal with high levels of representation in the LDS/SBH events. Although numbers at J16 and above seem to be lower than usual.

The recent British Rowing AGM made it clear the future of rowing is in growing and retaining the junior membership.

I would like to raise the questions:

- How can clubs grow their junior membership?
- What challenges would be faced by clubs if their junior ranks increased?
- Is there anything Junior Coordinators or Coaches would like to share?
- How can event organisers provide the type and variety of competitions which are value for money and likely to encourage today's teenagers to remain in the sport?
- What can be done to prevent the huge drop out from J14 to J18 and what challenges would be faced by clubs if the drop-out rate was to be reduced?

If you would like to respond please email: ghiggins20@aol.com

If you would like further information about the new BR Strategy follow the link:

[Have Your Say - British Rowing Strategy](#)

### JIRR

Just before Christmas 2020 I received an email from the secretary of the JIRR stating they were still planning for the event to go ahead on Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup> 2021. We were planning to hold trials on Saturday March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Then on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January I received an email from the JIRR Committee giving two dates for final decisions:

31<sup>st</sup> January: Review of current situation and decision of publication of Notice of Competition.

21<sup>st</sup> February: Go or No Go decision. Consideration of other options to significantly reduce costs and looking at possible alternative dates and venues.

I had emails from a few clubs expressing concern about selecting a team and withdrawing their support for this year because of the risks involved around Covid infections.

In March a questionnaire was sent out to junior reps about supporting a change of date to Oct. 2021.

There was even a suggestion that the event should take place on 27<sup>th</sup> June as that date had become available following the cancellation of the J16 GB v France Regatta.

However, following all the hard work by the JIRR Committee to try and hold the event in 2021, especially as it had to be cancelled in 2020, a final decision was made to wait until 2022 to hold a full event.

The event in 2022 will be **Saturday 23rd April at NWSC Nottingham.**

**I have consulted clubs on two dates for JIRR Trials at Cambois RC.:**

**Sat 19<sup>th</sup> February or Sat 5<sup>th</sup> March.**

Several clubs have commented on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb being during half term and there has been just one objection to 5<sup>th</sup> March. Therefore, the best day for the trials appears to be the 5<sup>th</sup> March.

## GB Junior Pathway 2021 and 2022

Attached is a document listing those northern region rowers who registered for the GB Junior Pathway in 2021 and 2022. Also, included is a list of former northern junior athletes who took part in the Nov 2021 Senior GB Trials. (apologies if I have missed anyone).

The GB 2021 Performance Pathway finished with GB Water Trials at Dorney on the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> June, as unfortunately no further selection was necessary following the cancellation of international events. Matty Cleugh (CLS), Isaac Hillicks-Tulip (J16) (TARC), Dan Jones (QEHS) were invited to these water trials. All performed well with Matty proceeding to the Matix Trials.

New for 2022 are google meetings for coaches and athletes before the start of the process and at various stages throughout. So far these have been received with many positive comments with large numbers attending.

## GB Junior Pathway 2021 and 2022 (Cont.)

To illustrate the dominance of the South of England in the GB Performance Pathways I give the following information.

	2021	2022
Number of junior male rowers registered for GB	273	209
Number of male rowers registered from the North of England	17	15
Number of male rowers registered from Scotland	11	11
Number of junior female rowers registered for GB	179	142
Number of female rowers registered from the North of England	14	18
Number of female rowers registered from Scotland	13	9

## Ex-Northern Region Juniors – GB Senior Trials

Attached is a List of Ex Northern Region Juniors who took part in the GB Senior Trials Nov 2021.

It is encouraging to see these Northern athletes competing at the highest level and they are a credit to their original clubs.

## J16 Event – Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June

To take advantage of a NWSC booking a special J16 event was organised by the GB junior Team Managers. This was a very well organised event enjoyed by all who attended. It was a pity that there was not more representation from clubs in the region. There is an intention to repeat for 2022.

The clubs which attended:

JM16 1x	Tyne Amateur Rowing Club
JM16 2x	Tees Rowing Club
JM16 4x-	Queen Elizabeth High School Boat Club
JW16 1x	Tyne Amateur Rowing Club
WJ16 4x-	Queen Elizabeth High School Boat Club

## National Schools Regatta 2021

There continues to be a low representation from the region at this event. The following are the results from those clubs/crews which competed.

ChB 1x Tees Rowing Club	21 <sup>st</sup> in TT
ChB 4x Tees Rowing Club	27 <sup>th</sup> in TT
ChB 8+ Durham School Boat Club	21 <sup>st</sup> in TT, Final C - 6 <sup>th</sup>
J16G 4x Durham Amateur Rowing Club	15 <sup>th</sup> in TT
ChG 2x Durham School Boat Club	14 <sup>th</sup> in TT

## British Rowing Championships July 2021

The British Rowing Junior Championships followed a revised format for 2021. The new format was organised to prevent mixing of age groups with J15 on Friday, J16 on Saturday and J18 on Sunday. There were many positive comments about the new format although there were significant issues around transportation of rowers and younger rowers not able to observe the J18 events.

Attached is a breakdown of the entries/results for the clubs in the region. Congratulations to **Harvey Burford** from Chester le Street who gained **Silver in the J15 1x**. Also, to **Isaac Hillicks-Tulip** from Tyne ARC, **Bronze in J16 1x** and **Matty Cleugh** from Chester le Street, **Bronze in J18 1x**.

## JRC Meetings (Next Meeting 17 Nov 2021)

Meeting 26 Aug Extract From minutes:

### Review of Regatta Season

- NSR A bit drawn out because of Covid protocols. Good quality rowing with a bigger spread of medals as a result of the non-doubling up format.
- HRR New events went really well.  
6 Days will happen in 2022.  
2023 is the focus for greater gender equality.
- NSR Youth Festival – 25/26 Sept. (Update: Cancelled because of lack of entries)  
Format of racing over 1000m and ladder system for promotions /demotions at every level
- HWR Well run event, very strict on >50% subs rule re Covid.
- BRJC New format worked well. Although there were advantages to have a day for each year group there was also some disadvantages. How to include J14 needs consideration.

### Subgroups:

- Competition: Discussion on how far should J14 be racing.  
Events to consider ensuring athletes get value for money. The possibility of formats creating more races.
- Education: Further information sought on Junior Rowing Leader qualification.
- State School: Next meeting end of Sept.  
Relaunch of Junior forum for rowers 14 – 18. Further information will appear on the website following board approval.
- Two Items discussed with further information following from BR
- Discussion A: BR Strategy 2020 – 2024 -
- Discussion B: GB Rowing team U19 International Programme

Next JRC Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> November. Anything anyone wants raised please email [ghiggins20@aol.com](mailto:ghiggins20@aol.com)

## State School Rowing Group Update

The State School Rowing Network met for the first time over Google Meet on the 7th of September 2020. There were 11 schools in attendance, across 5 different regions. The group was made up of teachers, coaches and parents who administer State School Rowing Clubs.

It was a positive first meeting, with a good collective energy that as a group they will be able to improve awareness of State School Rowing and engagement with the JRC. There was a key theme to the discussions that more support is needed for the sector. There was a consensus that understanding the junior rowing landscape as a new club can be a challenge, but the forum will be a good way to assist new schools and coaches.

## **State School Rowing Group Update (Cont.)**

The next step for the network was to invite a slightly broader group of schools and programmes. The initial invites went out to the State Schools which are affiliated to British Rowing.

The group met over google meet several times over the year and engages the Junior Rowing Committee, the Kitchin Society and the wider British Rowing network to ensure that state schools are considered across decision making.

The group has agreed that they will have an important role in supporting the delivery of Rowing: Everyones Sport and tackling issues highlighted by research; particularly lack of diversity, inclusion for people who attend state schools and those from low-income households. There has been discussion on the need for events to be more inclusive and champion diversity to tackle perceptions of the sport. It was highlighted that British Rowing needs to lead the way in this area.

The costs associated with the being a member of a rowing club and the rising costs of event entry fees are a particular barrier to D&I.

The group will meet next on the 29th of November 2021. If you have something to raise at the next meeting or know someone in a school who would benefit from joining the group, please get in touch.

Pauline Higgins (14 Nov 2021)