

Northern Regional Rowing Council

Meeting of Executive Committee – 17 June 2024

Report of Secretary (including Sunday League) - Colin Percy

I have had a relatively quiet two months since the last meeting as Secretary, though there has been activity on beach sprints and an application for affiliation for a new club. But I have also been busy on the Sunday League and umpiring, not to mention club affairs!

Minutes from last meeting - errors

Gabrielle has pointed out two errors:

- (i) Should be *through* not *thought* in Item 6;
- (ii) And *Humphreys Cup* not *Humphrys Cup* in Item 6.

Beach Sprints

Since the last Exec Committee meeting when Tom Pattichis spoke to us, he and Nathaniel Reilly-O'Donnell, both of British Rowing, came to speak to an open meeting at Tyne ARC on 5 Jun 24 and met interested Durham students at Tynemouth RC the next day. Members of the Exec Committee were sent links to Tom's presentation to the meeting and the Zoom recording on 7 June and I am assuming you have read these. 18 people attended and there were others on Zoom.

As I said on 7 June in my email, the meeting was positive, but with some good questions seeking clarity on a range of issues. My preliminary view at the end of the meeting and it remains the same is that there are still quite a lot of unanswered questions, but probably the only way of getting answers to most of these is to run with the project! Whilst we as a region might have spent the money differently if offered it without strings attached (not sure how much), it is ringfenced to encouraging participation linked to a performance pathway, for beach sprints.

The day after the meeting Tom went to Tynemouth RC for a taster for DU students and also visited South Shields Sailing Club to look at their facilities and the beach. There has been talk of Recar perhaps being a twin venue with Shields but have heard no more about that. I am aware of quite a lot of interest in beach rowing from clubs, especially from junior squads. This may pose difficulties in the short term in relation to providing tasters over this summer before the project can start in earnest, as the ability of Tynemouth RC to host such sessions is limited and not possible at all for juniors right now. Clubs with seniors interested should contact Tynemouth RC direct.

At the meeting tonight we need to agree or not to support the overall project proposal and, if so, to encourage clubs to get involved. We could give Tom a view on venues, though I think he is probably well ahead of us in assessing them.

Affiliation to British Rowing of new clubs – Dame Allan's Boat Club

Dame Allan's School in Newcastle has a new boat club, already up and running in conjunction with Tyne United RC in Gateshead. They have applied for affiliation, as reported at the last meeting. There was originally some to-ing and fro-ing about who should be their Club Safety Adviser, i.e. could it be someone from the host club or should

it be a person from the club/school. This has now been resolved with the club/school providing someone in-house.

As I said last time, the constitution is based very closely on the (short) British Rowing model, but does need some deletions (of British Rowing's logo, address, etc) and some clarifications on post holder titles, etc. Comments on these have been provided to the club via British Rowing and a response from them is awaited. Sarah at BR is also chasing up the necessary visuals of blade and racing kit designs and colours. I think we are close to resolution, but not quite there yet.

Last time the meeting agreed to delegate the final decision to approve this application at regional level to the Chair with the involvement of the Vice Chair, Secretary, Richard Mortimer and John Mulholland. I am assuming that the meeting is happy to carry over this delegation. Please say if not!

Regional Strategy

I have done no more work on this, though in some ways the work done on the beach sprints project may have helped us get a better grasp of what other things a regional strategy might lead to.

Sunday League

Round 1 at Berwick on 7 April had to be cancelled due to high winds and flooding, as reported last time. Tynemouth and Tyne have now run successfully. Hexham is up next on 7 July. At Tyne we had 10 open entries and 4 women's entries, so interest is healthy. Thanks to the host clubs for all their work

07-Apr-24	Berwick	Splash 'n' Dash - sculling	Cancelled
05-May-24	Tynemouth	Splash 'n' Dash - sculling	Run
02-Jun-24	Tyne ARC	Splash 'n' Dash - sculling	Run
07-Jul-24	Hexham	Splash 'n' Dash - sculling	
04-Aug-24	Cambois	Splash 'n' Dash - sweep	
01-Sep-24	Talkin Tarn	TBC - skills ??	
06-Oct-24	Durham	Splash 'n' Dash - sculling	

CP