



Northern Regional Rowing Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15 Nov 2021 at 7.30pm - hybrid

For approval as a correct record at the 2022 AGM

Present: 43 representatives and 7 observers recorded (list at end).

There was a brief pause to remember those prominent in the rowing community who had passed away since the last AGM: Brian Dalkin, Mick Downworth, Phil Metcalfe and Bill Parker.

1. Apologies for absence

Liz Puddick, Peter Stavers, Steve Farrow, Pam Walton

2. Presentation of certificates of thanks to retiring umpires

2.1 Richard Mortimer as Chair of the Northern Region Umpiring Committee said that three volunteer umpires had retired at the end of 2020. There were certificates of thanks for them and these would be sent on as they were unable to attend and receive them in person.

3. Approval of minutes of virtual AGM on 16 November 2020

3.1 The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

4.1 None not otherwise covered.

5. Regional Chair's report for 2020-21

5.1 Michael Laing as retiring Chair welcomed all those present in the room and on Zoom. It was good to see so many, representing open clubs, universities, colleges and schools. It had been a difficult year. Zoom had helped meetings to carry on, but not for regattas. After a false start in mid 2020, which saw amongst other things the cancellation of the LDS series that year, 2021 did see a nearly normal return to competitions. Four regattas took place and the LDS series saw the largest entry ever - a good omen for other competitions. He thanked Dan Lockey and his team for all their work on the LDS.

5.2 Michael thanked all the other Executive Committee members for their support. He turned to his Vice Chair for many years, Charly Curtis, and said that he had actually run the NRRC. He complimented him on his 60 years in rowing in the region. After school and Bede College he came to Durham ARC as a cox. Since then he had been active in many areas, rising in recent years to be President of Durham Regatta. In late 2020 he was awarded the

regional Lifetime Award by British Rowing. Kate O'Sullivan, of Tees RC and Deputy Chairman of British Rowing came forward and presented Charly with his certificate in person, a bit late due to Covid she said.

- 5.3 Before being allowed to proceed to the next item, Michael was asked to come forward and Charly presented him with an inscribed salver in recognition of all his work for the NRRC and rowing in the region.

6. Officers' reports for 2020-21

N.B. Written reports had been at www.nerowing.com/NRRCminutes.html before the meeting and were generally taken as read. They remain available there. Some of the following is taken from the written reports.

6.1 Regional Representative (Gabrielle Moore, Durham ARC)

Gabrielle presented a short report on the NRRC training grant scheme, which the Regional Rep ran. There had been few applications but queries were coming in now. (*The Treasurer later confirmed in his statement that no training grants had been paid out in year ending 30 Sep 21*). She said the post-Covid back-rowing grants paid in 2020 in 2021 were still being utilised. In relation to British Rowing governance she said Kate O'Sullivan had been a great help in explaining procedures.

6.2 Secretary (Colin Percy, Tyne ARC)

Colin said that that the rowing community had still been coping with the effects of Covid but most clubs now knew what to do. As a result 2021 had been quieter than 2020 in many ways from an organisational point of view. Just the four regular NRRC Executive Committee meetings had been held, all on Zoom. He noted that this AGM was the first NRRC meeting since early 2020 with face-to-face contact.

He said that two issues had taken up some time. One was processing new clubs seeking affiliation. The 1877 Club (Durham University alumni) had gone through quickly, a proposed Durham college alumni club had still not moved to being accepted and he expected a new club, for the recently established South College at Durham University, to come through soon. An observer was present.

The last AGM had considered and agreed the winding up of Northumberland County Amateur Rowing Association (NCARA) and the distribution of its assets of £5190.34 to clubs in the former ARA area. This money had only recently been received by the NRRC and would be distributed soon.

6.3 Treasurer (Alan Granlund, Durham ARC)

In the accounts as circulated, Alan reported a surplus over the year of £4240.09, leaving £19814.02 in the bank at year end (30-09-21). However this was skewed by the receipt of the NCARA money (see above), which was only in the bank temporarily and would be disbursed in the 2021-22 financial year.

Leaving out the NCARA money this had been a very quiet year financially and the accounts in effect showed a deficit of £950.25. The only income had been the £979 British Rowing rebate with nothing from the cancelled 2020 LDS series. Expenditure had been limited to various routine expenses and a

larger sum of £1550.00 in post-Covid grants to Durham colleges.

Alan said he would welcome a new candidate for Treasurer coming forward in the next year. The Chair thanked him for all his work.

6.4 Coaching Education Coordinator (Eddie Bryant, Durham School BC)

Eddie reported a very quiet year with no face-to-face courses in the region; a Level 2 coaching course was due in January 2022, however. Delayed Level 2 Coaching assessments from previous courses were taking place. He reported on the Women's Development Programme and the GB Diploma in sporting excellence.

6.5 Junior Rowing Coordinator (Pauline Higgins, Queen Elizabeth HSBC)

Pauline said the year had ended on a good note with strong junior representation in the LDS series. She recommended people read her written report, which provided details of lots of discussions, the cancellation (JIRR) and the rowing beyond the region for juniors that did happen in various locations with some new formats being tried out.

Looking forward to 2022, the date for JIRR was to be 23 April and this region's trials would very probably be on 5 March. She was keen to follow up on British Rowing's emphasis on junior rowing in its forward plan and was consulting in this region on the way forward, seeking answers to five key questions. She asked anyone with an interest in junior rowing to respond.

6.6 Regional Rowing Safety Adviser (John Mulholland, Tyne ARC)

John said club safety audits were needed very imminently and lots were still to come. He asked club reps to go back and make sure that their British Rowing *ClubHub* admins had the names of the Safety Adviser recorded correctly on the system, as this had clearly been out of date in some cases.

Incidents were well down and half the clubs had not reported any, possibly due to Covid. He asked clubs to report all incidents. In his report he mentioned the need for a good lookout, lights and boat maintenance and recommended *what3words* as an aid when summoning emergency services

6.7 Long Distance Sculling Series Coordinator (Dan Lockey, Durham ARC)

Dan had taken over from Richard Mortimer for the 2021 series. He reported that 5 of the 6 days of racing had run with just Berwick cancelled. The number entering had been 717 crews and 1386 individuals, a huge number. Tyne and Durham had been especially popular, but ran within safety limits after withdrawals. His written report detailed the organisation behind the series and named key people at the centre and in the host clubs. He thanked them all, but especially those in the clubs, for helping. Comments for the wash-up meeting were welcome, he said.

6.8 Competitions Coordinator (Catherine Bowman, Hexham RC)

Catherine said early optimism about competitions in 2021 was knocked back by Covid, but the programme got going again in May with Wansbeck Regatta, although on a time trial format. Three more regattas managed to run; Hexham, Durham and Tyne. As already covered, the LDS series had been a great success and she hoped the main head race season maintained this momentum, Covid and the weather allowing.

She had been consulting clubs on dates in the rowing year April 22 to March 23 and these were pretty well in place. They were unlikely to change and were shown as current on the website at www.nerowing.com/calendar.html. The past year has highlighted how important sport and socialising is for our wellbeing, she said. As a region we had a wonderful range of events for all to take part in, not just competing but also helping or spectating.

6.9 Chairman of Regional Umpiring Committee (Richard Mortimer, Durham)

Richard said the overriding priority was to bring through more umpires. His report indicated there would be 26 umpires on 1 January next. This was too low and risked some competitions not being able to run. There had been good numbers doing the theory training in 2020 and 2021 but with Covid and cancellation of regattas, doing the practical training had been almost impossible.

In response to a question he outlined the content of the training. He confirmed that umpires once qualified could choose those competitions they officiated at. He was keen to see people coming in as umpires at a younger age, which did mean a chance of going on to help at national and international levels.

6.10 Masters Rowing Coordinator (Gabrielle Moore, Durham ARC)

Gabrielle reported on various discussions at the national committee. She understood masters were possibly returning to rowing more slowly than others, due presumably to concerns over Covid. National Masters had gone ahead, but just on one day and without any stalls and food. It was hoped this could return to normal in 2022. Discussions on age handicaps had continued, plus also on whether novice and non-novice categories could be introduced to create better racing for all masters, experienced or not.

6.11 Student Representative (David Squirrell, Tyne ARC)

David said it had been a slow process to get student rowing back up and running, especially at the Durham colleges, but with the help of local clubs and the NRRC's grants things have gone well and numbers were strong. He gave particular mention to help from Durham ARC. He hoped this interaction continued. There was a move underway to have at least one Level 2 session coach in each DCR club and safety was also being promoted through DCR.

In the limited competitive rowing that had happened there had been good results. University of Tees got silver at the BUCS Regatta and Newcastle University came 3rd overall there. There were good wins for colleges at Durham Regatta, and Newcastle University dominated the championship events. Durham University had a strong Henley Royal. And a number of the region's alumni rowed and some medalled at the Tokyo Olympics.

David said in his report that for 2022 he aimed to promote and help improve communication between the student clubs in the region and also between them and the local clubs. Finally he thanked Wade Hall-Craggs for his contribution to rowing at all levels with Durham University and in the region as a whole and welcomed new Head Coach there, Rob Dauncey.

6.12 Recreational Rowing (Pam Walton, RC)

Pam had given her apologies but her written report summarised the rather limited activities that took place in 2021 due to Covid. In March a webinar entitled Recreational Rowing for Fun, Fitness and Friendship (see www.recrowing.org.uk to view) was promoted and well supported.

Unfortunately, the Sunday League did not happen again this last year, she said, but planning was in hand to make it happen next year. She would be seeking host clubs shortly. The 27th British Rowing Tour took place from Henley to Weybridge on 4-5 September, with rowers from the Northern Region attending (and enjoying the locks). For 2022 the Sunday League was a priority, plus publicising tours in the UK and beyond to rowers here.

7. Election of officers and committee for 2020-21

7.1 Michael remained in the chair as he was not up for re-election. Other than the nomination of Tim Morris as the new Chair, he said all officers were willing to carry on and had been nominated as required. A list showing names, posts and the nominating clubs had been circulated in advance of the meeting. In addition Alan Cook was nominated as a member of the Executive Committee from the floor. There was no nomination again for the Para Rowing Coordinator.

7.2 He said there were only single nominations for all posts and could be taken as elected. The meeting agreed that it was content with the following list of officers and others to make up the Executive Committee of the NRRC:

- Chair - Tim Morris (Talkin Tarn ARC)
- Vice Chair - Charly Curtis (Durham ARC)
- Regional Representative - Gabrielle Moore (Durham ARC) *
- Secretary - Colin Percy (Tyne ARC)
- Treasurer - Alan Granlund (Durham ARC)
- Coaching Coordinator - Eddie Bryant (Durham School BC)
- Junior Rowing Coordinator - Pauline Higgins (Queen Elizabeth HSBC)
- Regional Rowing Safety Adviser - John Mulholland (Tyne ARC)
- Para Rowing Coordinator - No nomination, remains vacant
- Long Distance Sculling Series Coordinator - Dan Lockey (Durham ARC)
- Competitions Coordinator - Catherine Bowman (Hexham RC)
- Masters Rowing Coordinator - Gabrielle Moore (Durham ARC)
- Recreational Rowing Coordinator - Pam Walton (Hadrian BC)
- Student Representative - David Squirrell (Tyne RC)
- Member of the Executive Committee - Mark Hyson (Tynemouth RC)
- Member of the Executive Committee - Alan Cook (Talking Tarn ARC)
- Chair of the Regional Umpiring Committee - Richard Mortimer (Durham Regatta, Durham ARC) **

* 2021-22 is last of three years tenure

** Ex-officio, as appointed by British Rowing

7.3 Tim as the new Chair addressed the meeting briefly. He looked forward to working with Committee members and clubs around the region. He was

keen to improve communication between the NRRC and clubs and foster learning from each other. A priority for the first meeting of the Committee would be to look at the possibility of re-starting the annual club development conference.

8. Appointment of auditor

- 8.1 Alan as Treasurer recommended the meeting re-appoint Ian Thompson as the Auditor. This was agreed

9. Any other business

- 9.1 A member from the floor asked about the online presence of and use of social media by the NRRC. Colin as Secretary said that the NRRC did lag behind some other regions in this and it had been recognised by the Committee but not enough done. Michael as the outgoing Chair said that there should be people in the room, especially the younger ones, who must be knowledgeable about such matters. He asked for volunteers.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Thanks to Richard Mortimer for being Zoom admin.

Colin Percy, Secretary to NRRC

Email: secretary@nerowing.com

Name	Club Name	Online
Hilary Cairns	Berwick ARC	*
Ian Black (observer)	Berwick ARC	*
Ruth Scott	Cambois RC	
Mark Bell	Durham ARC	
Charly Curtis	Durham ARC	
Gabrielle Moore	Durham ARC	
Alan Granlund	Durham ARC	*
Dan Lockey	Durham ARC	
Beth Holmes	Durham ARC	
Catherine Bowman	Hexham RC	*
Tim Morris	Talkin Tarn ARC	*
Alan Cook	Talkin Tarn ARC	*
Angela Warburton	Tees RC	*
Becky Graham	Tees RC	*
Tim Hillier	Tees RC	*
John Mulholland	Tyne ARC	
Colin Percy	Tyne ARC	
Izzy Friedlander	Tyne ARC	
David Squirrell	Tyne ARC	
Alex Shiel	Tyne United RC	
Mark Hyson	Tynemouth RC	
Richard Mortimer	Durham Regatta	

Charlotte Carter (observer)	DCR President	
Dominic Furey	Butler Coll BC	
Becca Sandercock	Collingwood Coll BC	
Patrick Chorley	Grey Coll BC	
Jacob Soupe	Hatfield Coll BC	
Olivia Bothamley-Dakin	John Snow Coll BC	
Jamie Finfar	St Aidan's Coll BC	
David Wright	St Chad's Coll BC	
Tom Hurrell	St Cuthbert's Coll BC	*
Callum Bowler	St Hild & St Bede Coll BC	*
Chloe Fellows	St Mary's Coll BC	*
Sriram Naresh (observer)	South College	
B Mercer	Stephenson Coll BC	
Philip Evans	Trevelyan Coll BC	
Phoebe Curtin	University Coll (Dham) BC	
Rob Smith	Van Mildert BC	*
Jasper den Dulk	Durham University BC	
Molly Dowson	Northumbria Univ BC	
Freddie Saunders (observer)	Northumbria Univ BC	
Geoff Higgins (observer)	Queen Elizabeth HS BC	
Pauline Higgins	Queen Elizabeth HS BC	
Darren Smith	St Leonards School BC	
Michael Laing	St Leonard's School BC	
Kate O'Sullivan (observer)	British Rowing	
Tom Hurrell	TBC	*

End