



## **Northern Regional Rowing Council**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

#### **Held on 14 Nov 2022 at Durham ARC**

#### **Draft v1 for comment as at 25-01-23**

**Present:** 41 representatives and 24 observers recorded (list at end).

*There was a brief pause to remember those in the rowing community who had passed away since the last AGM, including David Raine of Durham ARC.*

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Eddie Bryant, Alan Cook, Helen McMillan

#### **2. Guest Speaker – Alan Meegan of British Rowing**

Alan said he was a long-time employee at British Rowing (BR), for some time now as lead on Facilities. He was a northerner by residence, so understood issues in regions such as this. He recommended getting the new CEO up to talk on the future direction of BR. He was impressed with his approach.

He had started to improve the flow of information to the region, including most recently on changes at the centre, on coaching education and launch licensing changes, he said. He would continue this, though without duplicating other channels of communication as far as possible. On launches changes, the threat of the need to do annual inspections of open outboard driven boats and a requirement for Level 2 RYA launch driving certificates on Environment Agency waters had retreated for the time being.

He answered questions on swim tests, the very unlikely reappearance of regionally based BR officers and the need for regional plans. He was very supportive of the latter idea and urged the NRRC to start looking at this for the region.

#### **3. Approval of minutes of AGM on 15 November 2021**

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

#### **4. Matters arising from the minutes**

None not otherwise covered.

#### **5. Regional Chair's report for 2021-22**

Tim Morris as retiring Chair welcomed all those present in the room and on Zoom. It was good to see so many people present, especially in person. He said he had had difficult issues to deal with during the year and for a number of reasons he had

decided to stand down. He was glad a nominee to replace him had been found. He thanked Charly Curtis as Vice Chair and Colin Percy as Secretary for their support. He had been helping plan the club development conference in late January and was glad to say the British Rowing CEO was coming to speak at it.

## 6. Officers' reports for 2021-22

*N.B. Written reports were at [www.nerowing.com/nrcminutes.html](http://www.nerowing.com/nrcminutes.html) before the meeting and were generally taken as read. They remain available there and are recommended reading for a full picture. Some of the following include some points from the written reports, not just what was said in person.*

### 6.1 Regional Representative (Gabrielle Moore, Durham ARC)

Gabrielle reported on the grants scheme, saying there had been less interest compared with before lockdown. On the national level, she mentioned the changes in paid personnel at the top in BR, also noting that the Board members were mostly volunteers. She looked forward to greater involvement in NRC-club communication and liaison in 2023.

### 6.2 Secretary (Colin Percy, Tyne ARC)

In his written report Colin gave a summary of decisions and discussions at each of the five Executive committee meetings since the last AGM.

Highlights were purchase of comms equipment from Novocastrian, handover of the Treasurer's post from Alan Granlund to Pauline Higgins mid-year (with many thanks to Alan for his work), migration of the web site and email accounts to a new host, unhappiness with a draft proposal to reduce BR annual subs but put a levy on each seat in competitions and a move towards the NRRC taking more interest in welfare issues.

On clubs, one new club (South College BC, Durham) had become affiliated to BR after our inputs on their constitution. Discussions on affiliation of a new club in the Chester-le-Street area were ongoing at the time of this meeting. The Executive had become slightly more involved recently in the situation at Chester-le-Street ARC and was playing a small part in judging whether it was ready for its affiliation to be unsuspended by BR.

### 6.3 Treasurer (Pauline Higgins, Hadrian BC)

Pauline presented the accounts for the year to 31 September 2022. Income had been £12,178.48 and expenditure was £10,496.67, with surplus of £1681.00. Turnover was much greater than in 20-21, as the LDS had started again in autumn 21. Large one-off payments in 21-22 had reduced the surplus from a large figure in 20-21. The meeting was asked to note the accounts and this was **agreed**.

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

Eddie was not present but in his written report he outlined Level 2 coaching and S&C course held in 2022 and those planned so far in 2023. Assessments for the coaching courses were being chased up. He reported on the Women's Development and the GB Rowing Diploma in Sporting Excellence. He was standing down but would work with the new postholder to ensure continuity.

6.5 Junior Rowing Coordinator (Pauline Higgins, Hadrian BC)

Pauline had provided a comprehensive written report. She highlighted the good results at the JIRR despite difficult conditions. The JIRR trials for 2023 would be on 11 March at Cambois with the actual competition on 23 April. She reported on juniors trying for places in GB and home country teams including the World Beach Sprints Champs, plus the British Rowing Diploma in Sporting Excellence, the Northern Region Women's Development Training Days and the British Rowing Junior Championships 2022

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

John covered audits, incident reporting, collisions, lights, maintenance and trailer towing in his written report. At the meeting he reminded clubs that the safety audit had to be completed by 16 November, a few days away.

6.7 Para Rowing Coordinator

No report as the post had been vacant.

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

Dan reported on a very successful LDS series in autumn 2022, with 585 crews and 1403 competitors racing and a good income. There was a strong regional team which worked through the planning phase (including setting dates) right up to the actual races. A washup meeting/review was planned shortly.

He was able to announce the results of the LDS club Victor Ludorum, as follows: Overall - Durham ARC; Senior - Tyne ARC; Masters - Durham ARC; Junior - Queen Elizabeth HS BC. Full details would be on the NRC web site at [www.nerowing.com/lds2022.html](http://www.nerowing.com/lds2022.html). He was also able to report on the success of the equipment hire service taken on from Novocastrian.

6.9 Competitions Coordinator (Catherine Bowman, Hexham RC)

As retiring coordinator Catherine reported on a very full competitions calendar since the last AGM in late 2022. There had been no cancellations in the 2023 regatta season despite quite rough weather on some days. In autumn 2023 the LDS series had run on all 6 planned days. The dates for the programme of competitions in the region April 23 to March 24 were fixed and the 24-25 ones under discussion. She thanked all involved at whatever level in organising competitions for their hard work.

6.10 Chairman of Regional Umpiring Committee (Richard Mortimer, Durham Regatta)

Richard first thanked the current 26 umpires for their assistance, notably Charly Curtis for attending possibly every competition. As always, he pleaded for more people to come forward to qualify as umpires - unpaid but very satisfying. A new round of training was imminent and people interested, young or old, should get in touch.

There had not been any major problems at competitions in 2022, though there had been a few issues around rowers (and one umpire) during races. There was some concern that not all competitions provided the expected minimum level of assistance and resources (such as weather shelters). This would be looked at with clubs early in 2023.

#### 6.11 Masters Rowing Coordinator (Gabrielle Moore, Durham ARC)

Gabrielle reported on the format and regional successes at National Masters, Henley Masters and World Masters Regattas. The paperwork now involved in getting boats to Worlds (if held in Europe) was a concern. The National Committee had met regularly and had looked a range of issues including masters competitions, handicaps and how to tailor coaching and training for the older rower.

#### 6.12 Recreational Rowing Coordinator (Pam Walton, QEHS BC)

Pam was standing down from this post. She reported on the Sunday League series, organisation of which was the NRC's main contribution to recreational rowing. This was the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first series here in 2012 - setting a trend followed by other regions. There had been a warm welcome to Cambois RC for hosting one of the events this year for the first time. The winners were *S-quads on Fire* (Tyne United RC) in the women's category *Berwick's Best* in the open. Full information was at [www.nerowing.com/sundays2022.html](http://www.nerowing.com/sundays2022.html).

The Great Tyne Row, also organised by the NRC, had run on 21 August and had been a great success if a bit smaller than in its heyday - see [www.greattynerow.com](http://www.greattynerow.com). She had also attended the national committee online and tours in 2023 as listed at [www.recrowing.org.uk/index.html](http://www.recrowing.org.uk/index.html) were recommended.

#### 6.13 Student representative (David Squirrell, Durham Regatta)

David was stepping down as student rep. He reported a busy year, in part assisting student clubs in recovering from the sometimes severe impacts of Covid. He had helped clubs, particularly those under the DCR banner at Durham, to strengthen documentation and other aspects of continuity. Cross college briefing sessions, S&C training, better use of the university rowing tank and encouragement for Level 2 coach training were some of the initiatives.

On the wider front university and college crews entered many regional and national open competitions as well as the student-only ones organised by BUCS. NUBC and DUBC were prominent of course, but other universities and colleges produced good results too. He said there was lots more detail in his written report.

### 7. Election of officers and committee for 2022-23

Charly Curtis as Vice Chair took the chair for the first election. He said that as there had only been one nomination, Helen McMillan of Durham ARC was elected as Chair of the NRRC without a vote. Tim took the Chair again as Helen was not present.

Tim referred to the nominations for other officer posts and for ordinary members of the Executive Committee in the pre-circulated list. The Secretary read them out. The Chair said there were only single nominations for all posts and nominees were therefore elected without a vote. Richard Mortimer as Chair of the Regional Umpiring Committee would continue on the Executive Committee ex-officio.

Following these elections, 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 - Helen McMillan (Durham ARC)

Vice Chair - Charly Curtis (Durham ARC)

Regional Representative - Gabrielle Moore (Durham ARC)  
 Secretary - Colin Percy (Tyne ARC)  
 Treasurer - Pauline Higgins (Durham ARC)  
 Coaching Coordinator – Pam Walton (Durham School BC)  
 Junior Rowing Coordinator - Pauline Higgins (Queen Elizabeth HSBC)  
 Regional Rowing Safety Adviser - John Mulholland (Tyne ARC)  
 Para Rowing Coordinator - Paul Nicholson (Hexham RC)  
 Long Distance Sculling Series Coordinator - Dan Lockey (Durham ARC)  
 Competitions Coordinator - *No nomination, next Exec Committee to consider*  
 Masters Rowing Coordinator - Gabrielle Moore (Durham ARC)  
 Recreational Rowing Coordinator - *No nomination, next Exec Committee to consider*  
 Student Representative - Ryan Cooper (Collingwood College BC)  
 Member of the Executive Committee - Mark Hyson (Tynemouth RC)  
 Member of the Executive Committee - David Squirrell (Durham Regatta)  
 Member of the Executive Committee - Eddie Bryant (Durham School BC)  
 Ex-officio as Chair of the Regional Umpiring Committee - Richard Mortimer (Durham Regatta).

The retiring Chair thanked outgoing officers and members for their work and welcomed new faces, Helen McMillan as his replacement, Paul Nicholson in the long vacant Para Rowing Coordinator post, and Ryan Cooper as Student Representative.

## 8. Appointment of auditor

The meeting agreed to appoint Jess Harrington as auditor. The meeting noted that she knew the Treasurer personally but it was agreed that as a senior professional accountant she could be trusted in this position.

## 9. Any other business

- (a) Kate O’Sullivan said she was taking the opportunity of having so many young people in the room to encourage them to contribute their ideas or concerns on any rowing issues through their club, the NRC or British Rowing. Rowing was evolving, as the recent beach sprint competitions showed.
- (b) Paul Nicholson (just elected as Para Rowing Coordinator) said he was keen to get moving on promoting para rowing and with it inclusivity in the region. One route might through the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta which now had para rowing events. He asked people to get in touch.

*The meeting closed at 8.40pm with thanks to Richard Mortimer for being Zoom admin.*

**Colin Percy, Secretary to NRRC**

Email: [secretary@nerowing.com](mailto:secretary@nerowing.com)

## Attendance list:

Forename	Surname	Club	Delegate or Observer
Ian	Black	Berwick ARC	D
Catherine	Bowman	Hexham RC	D

Charlie	Brown	John Snow BC	D
Leith	Brown	Infinity BC	O
Polly	Cameron	Trevelyan College BC	D
Sasha	Castel-Branco	Hatfield College BC	D
Ryan	Cooper	Collingwood College BC	O
Charly	Curtis	Durham ARC	D
Ray	Dominy	Durham ARC	O
Molly	Dowson	Northumbria UBC	D
Paul	Eldridge	Lakeland RC	D
Duncan	Ferguson	Tyne United RC	D
Louise	Forster	<i>Not stated</i>	O
Jon	Foster	Collingwood College BC	D
Amelia	Foy	Northumbria UBC	O
Izzy	Friedlander	Tyne ARC	D
Paul	Gaines	QEHS BC	O
Hebe	Garbutt	Hatfield College BC	O
Jack	Goldsack	St Aidan's College BC	O
Ollie	Gordon-Brown	Durham University BC	D
Rebecca	Graham	Tees RC	D
Tom	Gray	Stephenson College BC	O
Chris	Hamilton	St Hild & St Bede College BC	D
Ben	Haywood Smith	Hexham RC	O
Steve	Heath	Tees RC	D
Geoff	Higgins	Hadrian BC	O
Pauline	Higgins	Hadrian BC	D
Thomas	Hurrell	St Cuthbert's Society BC	D
Mark	Hyson	Tynemouth RC	D
Dilwyn	Jones	Tees RC	O
Natasha	Judson-Richardson	Butler College BC	O
Chloe	Kelly	Butler College BC	O
Michael	Laing	St Leonard's School BC	D
Daniel	Lockey	Durham ARC	D
Harry	Longbottom	Butler College BC	D
Rory	Mainland	Newcastle University BC	O
Nicola	Mckeague	Ebchester BC	D
Alan	Meegan	British Rowing (speaker)	O
Henry	Miller	University College BC	D
Gabrielle	Moore	Durham ARC	D
Tim	Morris	Durham ARC	D
Richard	Mortimer	Durham ARC	D
Sriram	Naresh	Durham College Rowing	O
Paul	Nicholson	Hexham RC	D
Kate	O'Sullivan	British Rowing	O
Colin	Percy	Tyne ARC	D
John	Richards	St Johns Coll BC	D
Vanya	Robertson	John Snow BC	O
Paul	Rutter	Durham ARC	O
Ruth	Scott	Cambois RC	D
Alex	Shiel	Tyne United RC	D

Sam	Shuster	Newcastle University BC	D
Darren	Smith	St Leonard's School BC	O
Rob	Smith	Van Mildert College BC	D
Ben	Spanoudakis	St Aidan's College BC	D
David	Squirrell	Durham Regatta	D
Nigel	van Zwanenberg	Durham Regatta	D
Matt	Waller	Stephenson College BC	O
Pamela	Walton	QEHS BC	D
Brian	Webb	Chester-le-St Spring Regatta	D
Chris	Webb	Sunderland City of RC	D
Oliver	Wilcockson	Grey College BC	D
Mick	Williams	Grey College BC	O
Sam	Yates	St Chad's College BC	D
		Delegates	41
		Observers/speaker	24
		Total	65