

## **Northern Regional Rowing Council**

**AGM – 20 November 2023**

**Secretary's report - Colin Percy**

### ***Meetings of the Executive Committee in 2023***

Four regular meetings were held in 2023, in January, April, June and September, plus an extra short one in March. The following paras cover issues generally not covered in individual officer reports to this AGM, available at [www.nerowing.com/agm2023.html](http://www.nerowing.com/agm2023.html). Minutes and officer reports papers for all Exec meetings in the year are at [www.nerowing.com/nrcminutes.html](http://www.nerowing.com/nrcminutes.html).

The January meeting noted that Chester-le-Street RC had now had its affiliation to British Rowing restored, with a degree of monitoring/support over a 12 month period. I reported on a new application for affiliation by the newly formed Lambton Rowing Club. Helen, John and I reported back after a site visit to the new location on the Wear just downstream of the A1 and said our reactions were generally positive. Discussion on their documentation for the application were ongoing. We looked at posts still vacant after the AGM. Louise Forster was confirmed as the Competitions Coordinator. I told the meeting that we had seen a statement on Sport England's grant to British Rowing and resulting changes in priorities.

The extra March meeting looked primarily at the Lambton Rowing Club application for affiliation again and heard that after a second site visit and improvements in the documentation that the committee was being recommended to agree it in principle. The final decision was delegated to a small sub group under the Chair once they had checked the imminent fine-tuned documents. This regional approval was given shortly after the meeting.

The June meeting noted that BR had approved the affiliation for Lambton Rowing Club. The proposed Regional Strategy for the region was discussed briefly, with a view to holding a planning meeting for Exec members outside the formal structure in the summer; there was a possibility of having discussions with clubs on the strategy at the annual conference to be held in January (probably). The high cost to juniors and their parents of attending national trials and even more so for international events was raised with Alan Meegan, our BR liaison person, who said he would take it up with HQ.

Grants were discussed and it was agreed that there was not the need to cap the number given to any one club at the moment, but this would be kept under review. John as RRSA said he was to send safety advice to clubs on issues raised by the incident just before the BUCS Head in February. Richard as Chair of the Regional Umpiring Committee said action was being taken on the high level of Control Commission (boat safety check) failures at competitions.

The last Exec meeting of the year in September heard feedback on the issue of cost of international events from Alan Meegan – work in progress nationally, but the setting up of 'regional hubs' under our regional strategy might generate funding for athlete support. He also mentioned a partnership that BR had with Clubforce which amongst other things organises fundraising lotteries that clubs can buy in to. I reported on two further applications for affiliation to BR, one from Infinity BC at Stockton and the other from Senate BC at Durham. The former is focussing on bringing the sport of rowing to underserved communities of school children in Teesside. The latter, working under DCR, aims to provide an enhanced level of rowing mid-way between college rowing and DUBC

Virtual meetings on Zoom continued to work well in 2023, though we had one hybrid. Dates for 2024 Exec meetings based on the 2023 ones will be circulated shortly for comment.

CP