

NORTHERN REGIONAL UMPIRING COMMITTEE

Chair: Dr. R. Mortimer Vice-Chair: Mr. C. Curtis Secretary: Dr. D. Jones
Members: Mr. M. Bell, Ms. L. Forster, Dr. P. Hoare, Mr. J. Mulholland,
Dr. A. Oakenfull, Mrs. L. Pain



Report to the Northern Regional Rowing Council AGM 2022.

MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE

The committee met on 17th January and on 10th August 2022.

The committee membership remains unchanged from 2021. Much of the meetings was taken discussing plans for umpire training and umpire seminar preparations.

UMPIRE COHORT

As things stand we expect to have 27 licenced umpires registered to the Northern Region as at 1st January 2023. This is an increase of one over the year with three new umpires qualifying early in the year; one transferring out of the region and one retiring. Congratulations to Hilary Cairns (Berwick ARC), Duncan Ferguson (Tyne United RC) and Christopher Pratt (Lakeland RC) our newly qualified umpires.

Renewals are in progress for those with licences expiring at the end of 2022. Dilwyn Jones is coordinating this for the Northern Region. We expect most to renew for a three year term although a couple will likely be only a one year renewal due to lack of activity during the Covid years.

All umpires have renewed their British Rowing membership due 30th September and hence none are currently suspended from the National Umpiring Register.

MULTI LANE ENDORSEMENT

Richard Mortimer completed the multi-lane umpiring endorsement training and passed both theory and practical exams in September. The region now has five multi-lane endorsed umpires.

TRAINING AND NEW LICENCES

Umpire numbers are still low and we often struggle to staff regional competitions. We continue to focus on training new umpires and are looking at ways of mitigating the shortness of the regatta season that limits opportunities for training under supervision. In particular we are looking into whether we can utilise Durham University Collegiate competitions, Sunday League, in-club racing and extended classroom based practicals.

Of the 2022 trainees two are ready for exams with the remainder, around five, being rolled over to the 2023 season.

Planning for a new round of training is underway and we hope to start theory training before Christmas. A good number of candidates have signalled an intent to train (more always welcome!) and this will go some way to helping to alleviate our umpire numbers problem however retaining candidates through the long training process is an issue.

COMPLAINTS

A formal complaint was received regarding umpire conduct at one competition. The Regional Umpiring Committee appointed a Standards Panel to review the complaint. The panel recommended additional training regarding how to interact with competitors. This training was delivered at a seminar and is being offered to all Northern Region umpires.

SEMINARS

Our spring and autumn seminars were held in a hybrid manner in person and online via video conferencing and both were well attended.

COMPETITIONS

The competition calendar has mostly returned to normal although in many cases entry numbers seem slightly down on pre-Covid numbers. We often have difficulty fully staffing all umpiring posts and must ask clubs to help us identify potential trainees.

A number of competitions have failed to provide the minimum level of required equipment and assistants. In particular the start was often under staffed/resourced. The Regional Umpiring Committee is planning to engage with Organising Committees via the regional development conference in January to help address this issue.

NATIONAL ISSUES

The National Umpiring Committee met via phone/video conference a number of times during the year with Richard representing the region. In addition to this Richard is a member of the Rules of Racing Panel along with exams and CPD/training working groups.