



**Northern Regional Rowing Council**

**Draft Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting – *for approval on 24-04-23***

**6 March 2023, held online via Zoom at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Helen McMillan (Chair), Charly Curtis (Vice Chair), Eddie Bryant (member), Pam Walton (Coach Education), Gabrielle Moore (Masters Rowing & Regional Rep), Richard Mortimer (Umpiring), John Mulholland (Safety), Colin Percy (Secretary), Pauline Higgins (Junior Rowing & Treasurer), John Carter (Recreational Rowing), David Squirrel (member), Mark Hyson (member).

		Action by
1	<p><b><u>Apologies</u></b></p> <p>Dan Lockey (LDS &amp; Equipment), Ryan Cooper (Student Rowing), Paul Nicholson (Para Rowing), Louise Forster (Competitions).</p>	
2	<p><b><u>Progress with affiliation application from Lambton Rowing Club</u></b></p> <p>Colin had circulated a detailed a detailed report written that morning. It described the current situation, notably as seen after a second site visit by him and Helen to the club in operation at Lambton Estate the previous Saturday, 4 March 23.</p> <p>With reference to an email received from a third party suggesting otherwise, the river was in their view an acceptable width for boats to pass safely, except at the landing location. Measures were in hand through signs, spotters and coaches on shore to reduce the risk of collision or grounding there and at turning points. An open sided gazebo and a small tent toilet were in place. Launches were not now proposed on the river, the lack of depth in places making this (but not rowing) difficult. Other measures were in place to ensure safe rowing.</p> <p>John suggested that the increased risk from high river height and fast flow after rain upstream (as could happen at any river-based club) was an issue that was to be addressed by the club in terms of stopping rowing if necessary. He suggested that a water depth marker on site might useful. The online data from the EA river height monitoring stations at Chester-le-Street and upstream would be used, he was sure.</p> <p>The distance of the rowing site from the Lambton Estate buildings (site entrance off the public highway, indoor club space, toilets and changing rooms) remained a potential concern, but procedures including transport by minibus (to the bank side if necessary) seemed to be in place.</p> <p>Colin said that although the affiliation and safety documents were very close to being acceptable some final adjustments were being worked on</p>	

	<p>by the club. There was a target of all being complete in line with NRRC suggestions by the end of the week.</p> <p>Members of the Exec seemed generally supportive of allowing the application to be approved at the regional level, but agreeing that the Board of British Rowing should be informed of concerns outside the NRRC's direct remit. For example, there was a wish that there would be very clear governance procedures in the club and that all sections of the membership would have a say, with decision making not limited to too tight a group of people.</p> <p>Strong and to a degree independent welfare and safety functions were also important. Colin said he would ask the club some questions about all these issues and pass the replies on to British Rowing.</p> <p>After further discussion round the table, <b>it was agreed</b> that subject to the revised documents to come shortly were acceptable that the NRRC's approval could be agreed by a sub group comprising Helen, Charly, Richard, John and Colin. John could give his separate approval to the safety audit outside this process as RSSA. Colin would inform British Rowing of any decision.</p> <p>In parallel to this <b>it was agreed</b> that Helen would send an email to British Rowing asking them to consider carefully the wider issues not necessarily within the NRRC's remit and also to consider a period of monitoring as with CLSARC after final affiliation approval, if given.</p>	<p>CP</p> <p>HMCM</p>
<p>3</p>	<p><b><u>GBRT Beach Sprints Trials – lack of advance consultation</u></b></p> <p>Colin had circulated an exchange of emails which related to the holding of Great Britain Rowing Team Beach Sprint trials at Redcar on 10/11 June 23. The first email dated 27 February 23 was from Kate O'Sullivan seeking to introduce Tom Pattichis, Olympic Pathway Manager, British Rowing, to the region via Helen. She acknowledged that the date of the trials clashed with Durham Regatta.</p> <p>He replied the same day, saying that the trial had to be this weekend "for various reasons". It set out the benefits to the region from hosting such an event and looked forward to developing this new format for racing in the north east. A few days later the chair of Durham Regatta wrote to Tom concerned about lack of consultation on the date of the coastal rowing trials.</p> <p>Mark who assists with coastal rowing at Tynemouth RC confirmed there had not been any significant contact made with him prior to him learning about the trials through these emails. Nobody else on the NRRC Exec had been contacted about the event until 27 February as far the meeting could tell, although some rowers and club officials in the region had been. There might have been a suggestion, for example, that Tynemouth could have been a venue, but the opportunity to consider do this seemed to have been missed.</p>	

	<p><b>The meeting agreed</b> that the attraction of the trial to the region was undoubtedly a good thing, but that some advance notification from British Rowing that things were afoot would have been good practice and that these comments should be relayed to British Rowing.</p>	
4	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Gabrielle indicated that Alistair Marks, CEO of British Rowing, might be able to attend the next ordinary meeting of the NRRC Executive Committee on 24 April. He might also be able to visit some clubs that day. <b>It was agreed</b> that members of the committee should be encouraged to attend in person for this reason, but that Zoom would be available.</li> <li>2 John said that there had been an accident on 19 February 23 on the Tyne between a local club launch and a university boat due to race later that morning in the BUCS 4s &amp; 8s Head. It had highlighted the need for any club or organisation running a competition on the water to be clear in the local rules for the day about when and in what circumstances visiting crews probably unfamiliar with the river could undertake an outing outside the actual race parameters (getting to the start, racing, returning to the host clubs).</li> <li>3 <b>The meeting agreed</b> to congratulate Lakeland RC for running a very successful first Derwentwater Head the previous Saturday.</li> <li>4 Gabrielle asked the meeting if they thought the NRRC's training grant aid system should fund travel to and from training venues. She thought not. <b>The meeting agreed not to fund expenditure on travel to training from this budget.</b></li> <li>5 Pauline said that the JIRR trials on 11 March 23 at Cambois were going ahead with three divisions at about 9.30, 11.00 and 14.00.</li> </ol>	<p>CP</p> <p>CP</p> <p>GM</p>
13	<p><b><u>Dates of meetings in rest of 2023</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that meeting dates for the rest of this year would be on Mondays 24 April 23, 19 June 23 and 25 September 23 with the AGM on 20 November 23. Gabrielle said she had booked DARC for the AGM on this date.</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.00pm  
Thanks to Richard for arranging the Zoom.

**Colin Percy**

Secretary

Northern Regional Rowing Council

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

Web page for NRC meetings: [www.nerowing.com/nrcminutes.html](http://www.nerowing.com/nrcminutes.html)