



Northern Regional Rowing Council

Draft Minutes V2 of Executive Committee Meeting – *for approval on 25-09-23*

19 June 2023, held at 7.30pm – mainly in person but with Zoom

Present: Helen McMillan (Chair), Charly Curtis (Vice Chair), Pam Walton (Coach Education), Gabrielle Moore (Masters Rowing & Regional Rep), Richard Mortimer (Umpiring), Louise Forster (Competitions), John Mulholland (Safety), Colin Percy (Secretary), Pauline Higgins (Junior Rowing & Treasurer), David Squirrell (member), Mark Hyson (member), Eddie Bryant (member). Paul Nicholson (Para Rowing), Jasper Bird (appointed Student Rowing representative at the meeting).

		Action by
1	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>John Carter (Recreational Rowing), Dan Lockey (LDS & Equipment), Eddie Bryant (member).</p>	
2	<p><u>Minutes of previous meeting 24 April 2023</u></p> <p>These were agreed a correct record as circulated, but that actions were missing and should be inserted, and the minutes recirculated.</p>	CP
3	<p><u>Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
4	<p><u>Update on CLSARC and Lambton Rowing Club</u></p> <p>Colin said he had just had feedback from Jacqui Traynor at British Rowing on the extent of monitoring of the clubs after their affiliation decisions. The answer had been that the monitoring of both would be on the basis of a watching brief. However, Jacqui said she would take further advice internally on Lambton as it was recent and she might have missed something.</p> <p>Helen said she would check with the CEO of BR at Henley if possible (she and Gabrielle had been invited). In the meantime it was agreed that Colin should email the two clubs and say the NRC would be keen to maintain contact with them and maybe meet once or twice to see how things were going and to discuss any support needed.</p>	CP

	In relation to affiliations, Colin said he had received email about a proposal to set up of a performance college-level boat club at Durham university, to be called Senate BC. He would find out how that was progressing.	CP
5	<p><u>Discussion with Alan Meegan of British Rowing</u> [<i>arrived online</i>]</p> <p>He said he was at the meeting to gather issues to take back, if necessary, for comment by BR at the centre. Helen first asked if he could take back the issue of the degree of monitoring of CLSARC and LRC that was in hand, which had just been discussed. He said that both clubs had been in touch with him about facilities quite recently. He would be back to them and would support them on facilities and any other matter that was mentioned to him. He said he would feedback from anything he found out with BR colleagues to the NRC.</p> <p>He said he would be supportive on the Regional Strategy discussions. He asked if broad headings had been set out yet. Helen said no, but that was the first step, hopefully to be taken up at a small meeting of Executive Committee members in maybe July. Alan said that for him supporting and developing coaching should be a key part of any strategy. He suggested making good use of virtual events to cut down on travel and cost.</p>	AM
6	<p><u>Officer reports</u></p> <p><i>N.B. Reference should also be made to written reports, as at www.nerowing.com/nrcminutes.html.</i></p> <p><i>LDS (Dan Lockey)</i> Helen noted there were proposals in the offing on purchasing equipment but in Dan’s absence said these should be carried over and he should present them next time.</p> <p><i>Finance (Pauline Higgins)</i> She said the accounts look healthy. The biggest unknown is on training grants. There were a lot of approved applications which had not yet been claimed. Some were Coaching Level 2 such as David Squirrel’s. He said he was waiting on his assessment. She would liaise with Gabrielle on outstanding offers.</p> <p>Helen asked how much was outstanding on grants. Pauline said about £5000, so still manageable. Colin mentioned that the guidance on the NRC web site said there was a £6000 cap per annum unless agreed otherwise. He suggested an annual review and agreement of the cap each January after the AGM.</p> <p><i>Junior Rowing (Pauline Higgins)</i> Pauline had submitted a detailed written report. Not in that report but raised by her at the meeting was the high cost of junior rowers attending performance level competitive events (and the lead up to such events from trials onwards), especially abroad. Paul Nicholson agreed from very recent experience. Pauline said that some clubs had suggested that J16 rowers, in particular, should get some support from the region.</p>	DL CP/GM PH

	<p>Pauline said there was no easy answer. Helen said this should be taken up with British Rowing. <i>[Alan Meegan was absent for this item, but later returned to the meeting and on hearing of the debate asked for examples of costs for him to take back to BR, and Pauline agreed to provide some.]</i></p> <p>Helen noted that Pam had suggested initiatives on getting coaches together regionally. Pam said this was not exclusively for juniors. Pauline said there were workshops and events arranged, sometimes by British Rowing, but often under-publicised. Helen asked Pauline and Pam to get together on this. John suggested seeking sponsorship for performance athletes. Helen said to bring this up as part of the Regional Strategy discussions.</p> <p><i>[Charly left the meeting]</i></p> <p><i>Masters rowing (Gabrielle Moore)</i> Nothing to add to written report.</p> <p><i>Regional Rep (Gabrielle Moore)</i> On grants, Gabrielle clarified that applicants for grants just needed to email her with proof of attendance to claim the money. She said that Tyne ARC had submitted quite a number of applications for Level 2 Coaching and RYA Level 2 powerboat courses. She asked for advice on such a large number of applications. In answer to a question she said the prices for the RYA powerboat training was very reasonable, so the grant figure requested per person for them was not very high in comparison to some others in the recent past. The meeting agreed that the applications should be agreed, subject to details.</p> <p><i>Umpiring (Richard Mortimer)</i> He mentioned the excessive number of boat failures at Control Commission checks at regattas over the summer. He suggested some form of outreach to clubs later in the year about this. Helen asked if there was systematic feedback to the RUC and to clubs about failure forms. John said he now gets CC failure forms more consistently. Helen said it could go on to the Regional Strategy list of issues to address.</p> <p><i>Safety (John Mulholland)</i> He had nothing to add to the report and the list of actions following the 'BUCS incident' as circulated. Colin asked if the BUCS related report, topped and tailed as needed, would now be going out to clubs. John said he would do so, but again needed advice on communication to clubs. Colin said he would update his list of rowing club secretaries, as they were his 'official' channel for communication.</p> <p><i>Coach education (Pam Walton)</i> She was keen to look at workshops in the region for coaches and rowers, but would talk to Pauline about the junior end of things. Pam said she would be following up the idea of the Regional Coach Café suggested by British Rowing for 17 September as part of BR Coaching Week.</p> <p><i>Competitions (Louise Forster)</i> There was a comprehensive written report. Helen mentioned the low entry for Wansbeck Regatta. Louise said there were several issues around competitions, notably low</p>	<p>PH/AM</p> <p>PH/PW</p> <p>RM/JM</p> <p>CP</p> <p>PW/PH</p>
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	<p>numbers at some. Pauline said entry costs were becoming a problem for many, especially juniors.</p> <p>Louise said it would be worth a discussion between the NRC and region's clubs on the timing, format and cost of competitions. This was supported and it was also agreed that this should also get a spot at the proposed Regional Strategy day. It was noted that CLS Autumn Regatta might become a head race, but that the issues impacting the regatta format might also cause problems for a head race; more information and documents were awaited.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Appointment of Student Representative</u></p> <p>Helen introduced Jasper Bird. She said that Jasper had been nominated as student rep. Jasper introduced himself. He was in his second year, at Collingwood College. He was very active in his college boat club and had good contacts elsewhere in the university. Richard said that the post would be open for other nominations at the AGM, but he did not envisage much competition. The meeting agreed to appoint Jasper as the Student Representative and welcomed him aboard.</p>	
8	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>Pauline asked all members to see if somebody could be found to help or take over the online and social media aspects of the Northern Rowing Council's work. Alan suggested Paul Jackson in the North West Region as a good contact on online workings.</p>	All
10	<p><u>Dates of meetings in rest of 2023</u></p> <p>It was noted that meeting dates for the rest of this year would be the Executive Committee on (definitely) 25 September 23 and the AGM on 20 November 23.</p>	

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

Colin Percy

Secretary

Northern Regional Rowing Council

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Web page for NRC meetings: www.nerowing.com/nrcminutes.html