



Northern Regional Rowing Council

Draft V2 Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting - for approval on 19-06-23

24 April 2023, held at 7.30pm – mainly in person but with Zoom

Present: Helen McMillan (Chair), Dan Lockey (LDS & Equipment), 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 Squirrel (member), Mark Hyson (member), Eddie Bryant (member).

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| 1 | <p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Charly Curtis (Vice Chair), Ryan Cooper (Student Rowing), Paul Nicholson (Para Rowing), John Carter (Recreational Rowing).</p> | |
| 2 | <p><u>Address by Alastair Marks, CEO of British Rowing</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Alastair to the north of England and to the meeting. She said he had visited various clubs and rowing locations during the day and had seen some of the great variety of rowing in the region.</p> <p>Alastair spoke to a presentation on a draft outline national and regional strategy for British Rowing that had been sent to the region but unfortunately not circulated to Exec members. This would be done after the meeting. It envisaged each region developing its own strategy under the national umbrella, with the concept of regional hubs being set out.</p> <p>These would vary from region to region, building on existing strengths as well as developing new ideas. Some regions were ahead of others. The were five leading the way and he pointed in particular to Yorkshire in the Leeds Bradford area as an example of where a regional hub was already emerging. BR does undertake surveys of clubs on their needs and aspirations, but would like some input as to the level of detail requested next time. Regions might wish to do their own surveys tailored to their own needs, of course.</p> <p>Before opening for questions, Alastair said that one thing that could not happen was a return to dedicated regional staff with a broad rowing development remit. There was not the funding at the centre from Sport England for this. However, there was a wide range of opportunities to attract funding for more specific posts, some of which might be channelled from the centre and others found locally. Regional strategies would have to look at this.</p> <p>Topics covered during questions and answers included:</p> | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - whether the northern region was suitable for a focussed hub or might need a more virtual approach - diversity in rowing - keeping rowers in rowing, especially after university or college - having a more varied offering for older rowers - more variety in the 'offer' being provided for rowers, including those not so competitive in outlook (day and longer tours, Sunday League, etc) - more inter club private matches or similar - whether to make competitions more specific (but limit on trailers mentioned as an issue if many on the same day) - nature of jobs being created in current five regions ahead of the game and funding for them. <p>Alastair rounded off by encouraging the region to prioritise its own strategy and to keep talking to him and British Rowing at the centre.</p> | |
| 3 | <p><u>Minutes of previous meetings on 30 January 23 and 6 March 23</u></p> <p>These were agreed a correct record as circulated, except to correct the section numbering in the minutes of 6 March.</p> | |
| 4 | <p>Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere</p> <p>Alastair said there was an ongoing discussion at Board level on transgender issues (discussed here at the January meeting). A survey of members on some of the related aspects was about to be launched in anticipation of a discussion at the May Board meeting. An Exec member said it was obviously not just about performance but also such things as changing facilities.</p> | |
| 5 | <p>Update on Lambton Rowing Club</p> <p>The Chair reminded the meeting that British Rowing had deferred a decision on affiliation of LRC pending further discussions with the region. She and the Secretary and Regional Rep had discussed the situation with Alastair that afternoon. There seemed a consensus in those discussions that the BR Board at its next meeting should move to agreeing affiliation. This was noted by the meeting.</p> | |
| 6 | <p><u>Update on Regional Welfare Lead role</u></p> <p>No progress was reported but Eddie said he would have further discussions with British Rowing.</p> | |
| 7 | <p><u>Applications for training grants</u></p> <p>Gabrielle there were no major issues to discuss; her written report as Regional Rep contained details of grants awarded since the last meeting.</p> | |

8 Officer reports

Umpiring (Richard Mortimer) The written report covered umpire training, umpires' role in serious incident management (covered at a recent NRUC seminar), work with Louise on competition documentation and monitoring, foul language and related suspensions at competitions, the serious incident pre-BUCS Head on the Tyne in February and (non) disqualifications at BUCS Head with umpires overruled and the updates to the Rules of Racing. He asked that he be allowed to investigate and purchase new high-vis jackets for umpires, with the Chair and Treasurer to be consulted on the cost. **This was agreed.**

Tech etc (Richard Mortimer) The webcam used for Zoom meetings had been replaced under warranty. He said the backups to his system of NRC emails and the web site was now being done as previously agreed. He was liaising with Dan on competition LDS related equipment and looking at the need to replace or add to race timing equipment. He said the newspaper archive subscription had run out (used in historical research into rowing) and asked that it could be renewed for about £90. **This was agreed.**

Competitions (Louise Forster) She was looking at role development with Richard. Her written report set out proposals to add three or four main areas:

- collating feedback from Chairs of Race Committees
- highlighting common themes for feedback to organising committees
- engaging organising committees in respect of best practice
- developing a competition checklist.

She said the competition programme for 2024-25 was now in place with one or two loose ends to be resolved. Chester-le-Street Regatta on 22 April had been cancelled. **The meeting agreed the competition dates for 2024-25.**

Safety (John Mulholland) He was preparing a report with a set of recommendations on a range of safety issues following the incident before BUCS Head on 19 February. He would circulate a draft around the Committee for comment; it would cover both club rowing and competitions.

Finance (Pauline Higgins) She had circulated a full income and expenditure account from the start of the financial year (1 October) to date. Income from all sources had been £14048 and expenditure £14927, with LDS a significant player in both. There was £20616 in the bank. She said that some changes in how JIRR worked financially might be needed in future years, covering was both funding the trials and team kit. She would report back in the future. **The accounts were noted.**

Junior Rowing (Pauline Higgins) The very recent JIRR in Nottingham, had seen good results for the region's team – 3 silver and 5 bronze medals. The overall points score was a little disappointing at 139 and 8th place, though. In her written report she had also covered very fully British Rowing's Junior Rowing Committee discussions (lots of interesting ideas including junior coaches' conferences), GB U19 trials

(3 attendees from the region), J16 Crew Sculling camp, GB J16 Virtual Camp and the Women's Development Scheme for 2022-23. An issue she had found at trials in particular was that those attending with athletes had to help run the events and direct support for athletes suffered.

Coach education (Pam Walton) Courses were in hand, notably a summer Level 2 Club Coach course at Tyne ARC following the one at Durham in February. Assessments for the latter would be due in May or June. There was a shortage of Level 2 assessors in the region, though they could be brought in from other regions if needed; she was looking at recruitment for both assessors and tutors. Her written report reminded existing Level 2 coaches that they needed to keep first aid and safeguarding training up to date. She was considering organising one or two regional virtual get togethers for coaches.

Secretary including recreational rowing (Colin Percy) The Lambton Rowing Club affiliation process had already been covered. He said Richard Mortimer had been looking at the new setup for insurance at British Rowing. For competitions much would remain the same, but the reintroduction of day-tickets was now in hand and details were awaited.

There had been no progress on improving our social media and other online presence – we still needed to consider a dedicated person in post.

On recreational rowing he said he would take forward the Sunday League with the host clubs and the first event was imminent at Tyne ARC on 20 April. The format would remain much the same as before. The date of 26 August 2023 had been fixed for the next Great Tyne Row.

Masters rowing (Gabrielle Moore) The National Master Committee was still reviewing handicaps, especially at the older end of the spectrum. There some suggestions that A/B age groups be removed. The Committee had been very upset about the lack of consultation by the organisers on reducing British Rowing Masters Championships to one day and were instrumental in getting it put back to two days. The issues around transgender rowers had been discussed again.

Regional Rep (Gabrielle Moore) The survey of clubs by British Rowing mentioned earlier would be useful for us looking at a regional strategy. She and Helen as Chair would report back in future on meetings of the Regional Chairs and Reps Forum.

LDS (Dan Lockey) There was not a lot to report at the moment, but he was looking at the need to renew or add to the equipment held and used for the LDS and hired out. He would report back at a future meeting. The cost of these would in effect be met out of LDS and hire income and he would liaise with Chair and Treasurer on costs between meetings if necessary. Storage of the equipment, especially the bulky PA equipment was an ongoing issue.

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| 9 | <p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>It was suggested that training for those involved in safety boat provision at competitions at Durham (and otherwise maybe) should be looked at, given that each year there were new people involved to a certain extent. This was noted for future discussion in time for the autumn.</p> | |
| 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 on 19 June 23 and 25 September 23 with 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

Email: secretary@nerowing.com

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