

## **NORTHERN ROWING COUNCIL AUTUMN SCULLING SERIES 2011.**

Following a review of the format of the series undertaken a few years ago, the series now comprises;

Berwick LDS & SBH  
Tees LDS & SBH  
Tyne LDS & TUSBH  
Wansbeck LDS & SBH [junior only]

with only the sculling results from the Small Boats Heads counting towards the series. The running order of the events changes from year to year due to tides etc, we try to maintain a clear fortnight between events.

We have been blessed with unusually good weather this year. I think this is the first time when we have not even had to consider whether or not to run an event. There were no major incidents during the series.

Entries were generally 20% down on the previous year [see attached]; probably due to the ever increasing cost of travelling. The entry for Berwick was particularly disappointing; we decided to run the event at a small loss. Those who did make the trip to Berwick will hopefully encourage others to enter next year.

A review of the detail of the entries during the series supports the decision to focus on V.L.s. Fewer crew combinations are remaining together for consecutive events; fewer single scullers are treating the series as a series. V.L.s are therefore the only meaningful reflection of performance over the series. However we do have some difficulty in highlighting the achievements of smaller clubs; any ideas on how to do this would be greatly appreciated. [full series results attached]

### THE FUTURE

For the last four years the series has been jointly co-ordinated by the NRC Chair and the NRC Secretary [Andrew Bryant & Chris Smith], in the absence of a volunteer to focus solely on the series. We have been greatly helped by Steve and Jane Vaslet with timing and Charly Curtis with Umpiring and awards.

Andrew has already left the region. Steve and Jane are moving shortly. I am likely to be out of the country for some or all of the series next year. There has been no response to several requests for volunteers.

Our sculling series is highly regarded nationally.

Income from the series supports;

- the regions entry in the JIRR
- a fleet of eleven single sculls allocated to clubs each year
- financial support for courses for; coaching, launch driving, trailer towing etc

It would be a great pity if the region failed to keep the series going due to the lack of volunteers.

Chris Smith

N.R.C. Secretary