



Northern Regional Rowing Council

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting (as approved on 20-06-22)

25 April 2022, held at Tyne ARC & via Zoom at 7.30pm

Present: Tim Morris (Chair), Charly Curtis (Vice Chair), Colin Percy (Secretary), Pauline Higgins (Junior Rowing), Pam Walton (Recreational Rowing), Catherine Bowman (Competitions), Gabrielle Moore (Masters Rowing & Regional Rep), Richard Mortimer (Umpiring), John Mulholland (Safety), David Squirrel (Student Rowing), Alan Cook (Conference), Mark Hyson.

		Action by
1	Apologies: Alan Granlund (Treasurer), Dan Lockey (LDS), Catherine Bowman (Competitions).	
2	<u>Minutes of last meeting – 31 January 2022</u> Agreed a correct record as circulated.	
3	<u>Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting</u> All dealt with later on.	
4	<u>Encouragement of informal reporting officers between meetings</u> Tim and Colin had met and amongst other issues had discussed how to keep momentum going between meetings. They decided to put to the meeting the suggestion of a semi-formal catch-up on actions mid-way between Executive Committee meetings. There was no opposition to this voiced and it was agreed that Colin as Secretary would ask at this mid-way point for a 'report' but just by simple email from each officer on progress made on outstanding (or new) issues.	CP
5	<u>Comms equipment update, including proposed expenditure</u> Dan was not present but had submitted a short written report. He said he was now storing all the equipment at home - radios, loudhailers and PA system. It was currently in working order and upkeep of equipment along with tracking was in hand. He was currently awaiting confirmation from Alan that payments had been received for two clubs. He said the equipment cost £900 and so far he had £815 worth of hire on the books across 4 competitions with 3 more requests to price up - so in a very short time, it will pay for itself and more and continue to provide a valuable service to the region.	

	<p>He requested a small budget for consumables to cover replacement batteries for loudhailers and possible an additional two radios and two loudhailers if required. This would be about £280 in all. This sum was agreed as an interim arrangement.</p> <p>In discussion, the meeting agreed that Dan be asked to clarify storage, as the initial proposal had been to keep it at DARC for easy access, to update the Exec on insurance and to come back with a best guess income and expenditure budget for the rest of the financial year so that the next meeting could agree some sort of pre-agreed but capped spending permission for routine items.</p>	CP/DL
6	<p><u>Club Development Conference – possible for date, format, and content</u></p> <p>Alan said he was working on the format and content of the conference. He would contact Exec members shortly to seek ideas but would welcome them now. There was mention of British Rowing (BR) people who seemed keen to come and see us, e.g. Rob Cree on para rowing. There was support for both more on club development in itself, but also on the more hands-on skill development we had introduced into the more recent conferences. Safety was a perennial favourite of course.</p> <p>Holly Young (now at DUBC) had been agreed as the organiser for the last conference planned but cancelled due to Covid. She was still around, at DUBC. A keynote speaker to start off was always good. Maybe Graeme Foreman again on performance psychology. The usual time and location for the conference had been late January and at DARC, but these needed to be confirmed.</p>	AC
7	<p><u>News from Junior Inter-Regional Regatta on 23-04-22</u></p> <p>Pauline said our team got to the venue to find poor conditions and a truncated race programme. Her written report gave details, but we had two golds and six bronze medals, so a good performance. As a result we won the Martin Humphrys JP Cup for best performance out of last time's lower six finishers. The team appreciated the NRC providing funding for sweatshirts.</p>	
8	<p><u>Social media, web site and email hosting update</u></p> <p>Richard gave an update on the recent migration of web site and email account hosting to Mythical Beasts from LCN – cheaper and more on offer for the money. Anyone wishing an @nerowing.com email account/address should contact him. equipment@ and sundayleague@ were in hand. Colin thanked Richard for all his work on the migration.</p> <p>Richard was also beginning to develop ideas for a web site revamp. Tim said it would be good for this to be complete by the time of the AGM. Colin said a meeting to look at this and also on making better</p>	CP/TM

	<p>use of social media would be good. He would discuss with Tim. David said he was still interested in helping.</p>	CP/TM
8	<p><u>Officer reports</u></p> <p>N.B. All written reports for this and previous meetings going a long way back can be downloaded at www.nerowing.com/nrcminutes.html.</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Tim reported on the situation at CLSARC. He had not been involved in the discussions between the club and British Rowing directly but had been told that progress had been made and the club was no longer under immediate threat of having its affiliation suspended; further progress would be monitored by BR. The recent CLS Regatta had run without major problems. He said he was aware of a July update of <i>RowSafe</i> and that the approach to being able to swim or not and thus swim tests was probably changing.</p> <p><i>Treasurer:</i> Alan had given his apologies for absence. <i>See also item on Junior Rowing below.</i></p> <p><i>Secretary:</i> Colin said activity on his front had been minimal. An application for affiliation of a new rowing club based at CLS Park View Academy was going through regional and national approval. The region was waiting for the full set documents to look at to be sent by BR. He was aware that the amended process for approval of new competitions now risked regions being side-lined and would query with BR.</p> <p><i>Regional Rep:</i> Gabrielle in her written report said that a number of grant applications were going through, but overall activity was down. At the meeting she agreed to discuss with Colin whether the web site page on the grant system was worded quite right. He would also post on Facebook a reminder to clubs to follow the process set out there fully. Colin queried if a cap on training grants expenditure was still in place. Gabrielle said she would look at likely spend this year.</p> <p><i>Masters rowing:</i> Again in her written report, Gabrielle had covered progress post-Covid in clubs, arrangements for the revived National Master Champs on 11/12 June. Some clubs were diversifying into other water sports as a lead in to rowing.</p> <p><i>Competitions:</i> Catherine has given her apologies for absence. In her written report she said the draft 2023-24 programme had been submitted to BR. There was pressure already from some clubs with potential booking clash issues to look at 2024-25 now. Some mistakes on the 2022-23 competition dates on the BR web site had been reported and corrected.</p> <p><i>LDS:</i> No report as planning not yet started for 2022</p> <p><i>Recreational rowing:</i> Pam in her written report had given dates for the 2022 Sunday League series (<i>though note a later change with Cambois RC doing 5 June and TARC 2 October</i>). The opening event at DARC on 3 April (exactly 10 years on from the first ever SL event at the same</p>	<p>CP</p> <p>CP</p> <p>GM</p>

	<p>venue) had gone very well - thanks to everybody there for organising. The National Committee was continuing to meet, looking at tours, hire of the Charles Stanley stable quads and so on. Colin did a quick update on the Great Tyne Row, due on 21 August 2022. Mark said he would help from a Tynemouth perspective. Colin would be in touch.</p> <p><i>Coach education.</i> Eddie had given his apologies for absence. Colin said he would seek an update on courses in the region from him.</p> <p><i>Para rowing:</i> Post still vacant</p> <p><i>Junior rowing:</i> On top of JIRR news Pauline mentioned junior rowers from the region appearing at national U19 trials and an U16 sculling camp. The last Women's Development Programme event in the region was on 30 April.</p> <p>She then indicated that she was minded to stand down as Junior Rowing Coordinator for the NRC, in large part as she and Geoff were hoping to pass on the reins at QEHS BC too. She said she did not necessarily want stop helping at regional level. After some discussion she indicated that she might undertake the treasurer's role for the NRC, given Alan was keen to stand down from that role.</p> <p>The meeting agreed to accept her resignation as Junior Coordinator and coopt her as Treasurer for the remainder of the year, subject to her considering this further at home and confirming her interest and to Alan formally standing down (<i>both later confirmed, but exact date of handover still TBC at the time of writing</i>). Colin would inform the Exec and then members generally when all was in place.</p> <p>In addition, it was agreed to seek one or two volunteers from outside the current Exec Committee to be become Junior Rowing Coordinator/s with Pauline continuing in an advisory capacity to them. Colin would discuss how best to implement this with Tim and Pauline</p> <p><i>Safety:</i> Further to his written report John drew attention to increasing emphasis on use of crotch straps with lifejackets for coxes and launch users. Currently advice from BR was worded as people 'should' use them rather than something stronger, but this may change.</p> <p><i>Umpiring:</i> Richard said the Rules of Racing 2022 were in operation as of 1 April and should be published soon as a booklet as usual. They were online already. There are some changes, including simplifying the masters start procedure where handicaps apply. Training was back on track and it was hoped we would have five new umpires by year end.</p> <p><i>Student rowing:</i> David said he had not done a report yet as he wanted to include the BUCS Regatta, which was happening the next weekend. He would do one shortly and circulate. (<i>He did provide a written report on 03-05-22 after BUCS Regatta and it is on the web site, link as above. He mentions trailerage, the difficulties facing university and college clubs if men's and women's eights (for example) are both in the same division (ruling out boat boats) and issues over substitutions. He</i></p>	<p>CP</p> <p>CP/EB</p> <p>CP</p> <p>CP/TM/PH</p> <p>DS</p>
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	<i>also gives news on results, from BUCS Head to BUCS Regatta, and on local university rowers in GB trials and the Boat Race.)</i>	
9	<u>Correspondence</u> None other than as already discussed.	
10	<u>AOB</u> 1 Richard said he had spent £100 on a good microphone for use in hybrid meetings, i.e. both in-person and on Zoom, with Chair's approval. This was endorsed by the meeting. 2 David raised as an issue for future discussion the need for better training and assessment of those driving launches, especially but not only for those providing safety cover at formal competitions. 3 Concerns were voiced about: (a) late substitutions being made just before some competitions, including our JIRR trial, with rowers allegedly signing up to a new club in the day or two beforehand, in some cases to get round rules on not being allowed to create new composites after close of entries; and (b) the use of the rule that up to 50% substitutions were allowed between close of entries and a race did quite often lead to a large hike in the CRI, which could make a mockery of positions allocated in the start order at head races or placing in particular bands. It was agreed Tim should raise these issues at the next Regional Chairs meeting; Colin to do a note for this.	CP/TM
11	<u>Dates of future meetings in 2022</u> It was agreed to move the September meeting from 12 th to the 19 th because of its closeness to World Masters The Exec Committee would thus meet on Mondays at 7.30pm, format TBC, on the following dates: 20 June 2022 19 September 2022 The AGM was to be on 14 November 2022 at DARC.	

The meeting finished at 9.25pm.
Thanks to Richard for Zoom organisation.

Colin Percy
Secretary, Northern Rowing Council
Email: secretary@nerowing.com