



Northern Regional Rowing Council

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting – for comment as at 20-01-22

6 December 2021, held online via Zoom at 7.30pm

Present: Tim Morris (Chair), Charly Curtis (Vice Chair), Pauline Higgins (Junior Rowing), Eddie Bryant (Coach Education), Pam Walton (Recreational Rowing), Gabrielle Moore (Masters Rowing & Regional Rep), Richard Mortimer (Umpiring), John Mulholland (Safety), David Squirrell (Student Rep), Dan Lockey (LDS), Colin Percy (Secretary), Pauline Higgins (Junior Rowing), Alan Cook, Mark Hyson.

		Action by
1	Apologies: Alan Granlund (Treasurer), Catherine Bowman (Competitions)	
2	<u>Minutes of last meeting of Executive – 13 September 2021</u> Agreed a correct record as circulated.	
3	<u>Introduction of new Chair</u> Tim Morris introduced himself as the new Chair and welcomed all to the meeting, especially new members Alan and Mark. He said that he had wide experience of managing and leading organisations at work and in rowing. On the rowing side he had just become a Level 4 coach. He was based in the north west but hoping to move to the north east in 2022. He said he did not want to interfere with the work of officers and committee members where things were going well, though he had some thoughts on the way forward. He was keen to see more diversity on the Committee with a greater proportion of younger people for starters. He thought we needed to work harder on engaging with clubs and one means of doing this would be to restart the club development conference. One priority on the wider rowing front might be to promote recreational rowing more. On committee meetings he thought the use of Zoom should continue for the time being.	
4	<u>Discussion on way forward</u> Comments/suggestions were made, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Exec was perhaps more diverse than indicated and contact with clubs was quite good as most Committee members attended events. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was important for us to be seen at competitions and other events. Perhaps we could make a deliberate effort to contact home clubs beforehand and arrange an informal discussion. Meetings OK in Zoom but conference should be in person. • Yes, we should agree in advance who from the Exec is to attend an event and talk to the club. We need to restart the Sunday League and then think about other 'recreational' type events too. Formal competitions so far had had a mixed response in terms of entries. • In discussions with some in British Rowing it was clear that they had very little personal regional presence now with contact from BR as such depending on emails, the BR web site and social media; should we fill this gap? • Our web site and Facebook and other social media needed a thorough revamp. • Umpires were an ongoing presence at competitions and quite a few were Exec members and maintaining contact regarding the racing side. Supportive of less formal events such as private matches as well as properly run. Thought the number of entries at competitions that had been run had been quite impressive. • Needed to think through role of web site, Facebook and other media. Not all doing the same job. Needed a web site system whereby a number of people could upload content. Wondered about reps from every club (as far as possible) on the Exec. • This might need a change to the constitution, as once on the Exec Committee at the moment, people were expected to put the region first; but better communication always good. • We (the NRC collectively) needed to have a clearer voice on issues and publicise what we stand for better. • In-person meetings and conferences good, but wouldn't rule out large scale video/online conferencing if we could cope with the technology. • On the conference, is there time to set it up at the usual date of late January?. What has it involved in the past? • Too late for January. Need to find a lead person well in advance. Difficult to slot in later in the year, though. • The details of the last one in 2020 are still on the web site at DevCon 2020 (nerowing.com). • Maybe we should be ambitious and find a larger building than DARC's clubhouse for the conference. <p>Specific proposals could be brought back to the next meeting.</p>	
5	<p><u>Format and dates for Executive meetings in 2022</u></p> <p>There was discussion on number and format of Executive Committee meetings. There was a suggestion of meeting monthly, but some thought this would not be viable. Less formal meetings on specific issues could of course be held. Colin Percy as Secretary said that dates from 2021 rolled forward into 2022 would be:</p> <p>All Mondays - 31 January, 18 April (but this was Easter Monday), 20 June and 12 September, with the AGM on 14 November.</p>	

	<p>It was agreed to run with these dates for the time being, but with the second meeting moving to Monday 25 April. The first would be Zoom only but the rest were up for review, with hybrid meetings a possibility.</p>	CP
6	<p><u>Offer of sale of regatta equipment (radios, loudhailers and PA)</u></p> <p>Ken Hastie had been in touch by email. He said he planned give up the supply of PA system, radio and loudhailer activities from the end of 2021. He had deliberately run down the activity with local authorities and country fayres etc., and in the main it was really only rowing that still used the equipment.</p> <p>He had asked if the Northern Rowing Council might wish to purchase the equipment. If not, it would be put on open sale. He said he would give the NRC a significant discount on open market value, maybe a figure of £900 to us. The NRC could decide whether to hire out the equipment for a charge or offer it free of charge.</p> <p>The equipment comprised:</p> <p>120 watt mixer/amplifier & 120 watt slave amplifier 7 x large speakers, 4 x smaller speakers and 7 speaker stands 1 x hard wired & 1 x wireless microphones & 1 x microphone stand All cables and junction boxes to connect the above, incl mains cable 20 plus two-way UHF radios with chargers and spare batteries 12 approx loudhailers Various radio waterproof bags and cases.</p> <p>The wide extent to which competitions in the region made use of Ken's equipment was discussed, not least the NRC's own LDS series. It was agreed in principle to buy the equipment, but that we should get more information on potential income and costs, storage requirements and how much work it would take to book out, distribute and maintain the equipment (noting some clubs were more familiar with it than others, especially the PA system). Dan Lockey would contact Ken to get information on these aspects and report back in January (or by email if speed was needed).</p>	DL
7	<p><u>Any other urgent business from the floor</u></p> <p>(i) John Mulholland as Safety Coordinator raised an issue which crossed over between safety and safe-guarding, i.e. the intensity or amount of training or the targets being set that were appropriate for junior rowers, the younger ones especially. He thought some clubs were perhaps pushing a bit hard. It was agreed that John issue a reminder round the region about British Rowing's advice on this matter.</p> <p>(ii) Pauline Higgins said that JIRR regional trials would be on 5 March 2022.</p>	JM

Dates of future meetings

Executive Committee	7.30pm, Monday 31 January 2022	Zoom
Executive Committee	7.30pm, Monday 25 April 2022	Format TBC
Executive Committee	7.30pm, Monday 20 June 2022	Format TBC
Executive Committee	7.30pm, Monday 12 September 2022	Format TBC
Annual General Meeting	7.00 for 7.30pm, Monday 14 November 2022	Format TBC

Colin Percy

Secretary, Northern Rowing Council

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