



Northern Regional Rowing Council

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting – approved 30-01-23

8 December 2022, held online via Zoom at 7.30pm

Present: Helen McMillan (Chair), Charly Curtis (Vice Chair), Eddie Bryant (member), Pam Walton (Coach Education), Gabrielle Moore (Masters Rowing & Regional Rep), Richard Mortimer (Umpiring), John Mulholland (Safety), David Squirrell (member), Colin Percy (Secretary), Pauline Higgins (Junior Rowing & Treasurer), Dan Lockey (LDS & Equipment).

		Action by
1	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Catherine Bowman (ex-Competitions), Mark Hyson (member), Paul Nicholson (Para Rowing).</p>	
2	<p><u>Minutes of last meeting of Executive – 26 September 2022</u></p> <p>Agreed a correct record as circulated.</p>	
3	<p><u>Matters arising from minutes not otherwise covered</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
4	<p><u>Short presentation from each person on role and 2023 priorities</u></p> <p><i>Helen McMillan (Chair)</i> welcomed those present to the meeting. She was a long-standing member and rower at DARC. She had fairly recently retired from the police service and now had a bit more time to work behind the scenes in rowing regionally. She said she was looking forward to working with everybody.</p> <p><i>Gabrielle Moore (as Masters Coordinator)</i> mentioned representing the regions masters at the national committee. Handicaps was a recurring topic there, amongst other things. She acted as a link back to clubs.</p> <p><i>Gabrielle Moore (as Regional Representative)</i> said she had had the brief for the NRC training grant aid scheme for the last three years (see item later). Recently as encouraged by Kate O’Sullivan she had been getting more into the central role of being link between the region and its clubs and British Rowing.</p> <p><i>John Mulholland (Regional Rowing Safety Adviser)</i> said the focus in the last month or two had been assessing every club’s safety audit and separately those of new clubs such as Lambton RC. During the year he</p>	

said he oversaw the responses to incidents reported and the safety procedures of competition.

Charly Curtis (Vice Chairman) said he was the back-up to the Chair. Not as VC, but had been very involved in the LDS series for a long time and was still active in it.

David Squirrell (member) did not now have a specific role, but was carrying on with some aspects of student rowing such as setting up workshops and training for student clubs, especially but not only at Durham.

Colin Percy (Secretary) said he covered routine admin for meetings and a certain amount of liaison with clubs, especially at AGM time. He had become quite heavily involved this year in bringing new club's affiliation applications forward. He ran the web site and to an extent the Facebook page, but was keen to see these revamped and more people involved in social and other online media.

Pauline Higgins (as Treasurer) said she had taken this role over in early 2022. She was still coping with a very poor bank service in terms of getting online (not yet achieved) and getting signatories recognised (done). Finances were on an even keel. Autumn was a busy time with the LDS in particular, but otherwise not too onerous.

Pauline Higgins (as Junior Rowing Coordinator) said she had been in this post for some time. She was no longer directly involved in club junior rowing having retired as coach at QEHS BC, but was keen to maintain this role. She was on the national juniors committee and also the state schools group. [See discussion on current junior rowing coordination and JIRR below]

Pam Walton (Coaching Education) had taken over from Eddie Bryant and thanked him for setting up the two Level 2 club coaching courses now on the books. She said they took 12 max each and the February had 8 places booked now but others coming through she thought.

She wanted to go out to clubs to assess coaching training requirements and would work with Gabrielle on the grants aspect. She was looking at the need for coach assessors (a bit short at the moment) and educators (one or two new ones are coming forward).

Richard Mortimer (Chair of Northern Region Umpiring Committee). He said the make-up of the NRUC and the election of its Chair were a bit outside the normal regional rowing council process (that might change sometime soon). He was ex-officio on the NRC Executive Committee.

The NRUC oversaw umpiring at competitions, training and assessment of new umpires, checking competition paperwork re local rules and suchlike and educating clubs and rowers on the rules of racing. The priority as always is getting more umpires – badly needed.

	<p>Outside of the NRUC remit he worked on event timing, disseminating results and the associated tech, and helped the Secretary on the website and email hosting. He would assist in the web site revamp.</p> <p><i>Eddie Bryant (member)</i> was formerly coaching education coordinator, but was now willing to take on the pilot regional welfare role - see next item in these minutes.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>(a) <u>Trial run for Regional Welfare Lead role</u></p> <p>Eddie had met Jacqui Traynor, Head of Safeguarding and Integrity, at British Rowing and discussed a pilot scheme in this region The role of the Regional Welfare Officer as currently envisaged is to help develop and support BR's approach to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults in the region. This might involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitating communication between the national Lead Safeguarding Officer and Club Welfare Officers (CWOs) - supporting dissemination of policy, procedures and resources - ensuring every club in the region has a CWO in post and help on recruitment, selection and training where necessary - advising and supporting CWOs to fulfil their responsibilities - promoting the reporting of lower level concerns as well as poor practice and abuse to British Rowing - promoting and demonstrating anti-discriminatory practice. <p>In answer to a question, he said it was not the intention to get involved in specific cases if possible but to advise and support. Once the role was further clarified by BR then it would be rolled out with due publicity.</p> <p>(b) <u>Junior rowing coordination and JIRR</u></p> <p>Pauline said she was aware of interest in how the junior rowing coordination and the running of trials and selection for the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta was carried out. She thought not all suggestions made in the past were workable. The current system of club-based crews and side by side racing in the trials was simple and the outcome of races clear. She recommended keeping the rule of no doubling up if there were other rowers who would not get selected as a result.</p> <p>The JIRR trails would be on 11 March at Cambois (water allowing) Richard Mortimer said he could help with taking in entries and arranging the races on BROE and his software. This would save him time if the process was integrated. Pauline would do a poster.</p> <p>Pauline was thinking about a J16 day, maybe in February at Hexham (still needed to consult one club there about this). It was suggested this might allow an opportunity to discuss a range of issues with some if not all club junior coaches. And it might ease the way for some composite JIRR crews. She would look at a J14 day too. This was all welcomed,</p>	

	with a request that a suggested date or dates be publicised well in advance.	
6	<p><u>Applications for training grants</u></p> <p>Gabrielle said she wanted the Exec to consider some new applications and in doing so to decide if there should be more flexibility in applying the rule in the current system that says (on the web page) “Clubs will undertake to enter into a formal agreement with individuals receiving grant to ensure appropriate volunteer time is given for a two-year period”. It was suggested that more flexibility, if agreed, would especially benefit students who might not have 2 years left at university or college in the region.</p> <p>The meeting agreed that a degree of flexibility be allowed where it seemed likely that the skills learnt would be put to good use even if not in region, but the general principle of asking for two years commitment be kept. The applications previously circulated were agreed: four Level 2 club coach courses at 50%, i.e. £249 each, and in principle for 50% of the cost of a first aid course for one of these applicants, though only if a cheaper option than shown were found.</p>	
7	<p><u>Affiliation of new club to British Rowing</u></p> <p>Colin had done a brief note and had circulated this. It was on the application for affiliation to British Rowing from Lambton RC, previously Chester-le-Street United RC. He had circulated the latest versions of the proposed constitution, risk assessment and a very recent paper (not part of the application) about the move to rowing on the River Wear, boating from the Lambton Estate. In his view the constitution was nearly acceptable and the safety aspects probably sortable. In discussion it was clear that others thought the risk assessment they had seen still had quite major omissions.</p> <p>Colin said the lack of a firm agreement from DUBC and/or the university (not just a coach) to allow LRC to row from the steps at Maiden Castle was emerging as a concern with British Rowing, given their rules. Those at the meeting also felt that a relatively informal agreement was not sufficient to cover all eventualities, e.g. an accident on the steps or an incident on the river and who might have to accept some liability.</p> <p>The document setting out the move to Lambton Estate was discussed. There was uncertainty about how suitable the Wear here was for rowing at various water levels and how accessible the river was from the bank. It was noted a site visit was on offer to NRC officers. The general feeling was that it might take some time to assess the suitability of the range of possible boating locations and the river itself and that rowing at Durham might have to continue for some time.</p> <p>It was agreed that the application from LRC based on rowing at Durham was not yet in a fit state to be approved, in particular given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the risk assessment and the safety audit were not yet acceptable 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - within the safety audit the stated role of DUBC as host club for safety purposes seemed at odds with the very limited agreement by the DUBC through the head coach for use of the steps only - more generally the agreement given by the head coach was not of sufficient strength and clarity to satisfy BR rules and this meeting's reservations about liability issues - doubts about the optimism of the timetable of the move to Lambton by February meant that LRC perhaps need to sort out Durham as a longer term but still temporary solution, but how to achieve this was unclear. <p>It was also agreed that the LRC reps be informed of the above and also that the Committee's view was that approval from the NRC before the deadline given by BR officers of mid-January to allow them to take it all to the BR Board at the end of January was very unlikely. However, discussions could continue to try and achieve a workable solution.</p>	
8	<p><u>Competitions</u></p> <p>A request had been made by Tyne ARC to hold Ponteland Junior Head on 18 March 2023, not 25 March 2023, as tides had been misread. This was agreed.</p> <p>A consultation from the NW RRC on holding a Junior Head (North) in Runcorn on 28 January 2023 was considered, with the possibility of it moving around the north in future years. It was agreed to welcome this and to say we would be willing to host this in a future year.</p>	
9	<p><u>Conference update</u></p> <p>No update available. Colin said he would check what the situation was.</p>	
10	<p><u>Vacant posts (Competitions & Recreational Rowing Coordinators)</u></p> <p>John Carter of Durham ARC was proposed as Recreational Rowing Coordinator. He was willing. It was agreed to co-opt appoint John in this role. Louise Forster was proposed as Competitions Coordinator; she was an umpire with no current club. She had still to formally agree to stand. It was agreed to co-opt Louise in this role subject to her confirming interest.</p>	
11	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
12	<p><u>Dates of meetings in 2023</u></p> <p>It was agreed that meeting dates for 2023 would be (all Mondays): Executive Committee on 30 January 23, 24 April 23, 19 June 23 and 25 September 23 with the AGM on 20 November 23. Gabrielle said she had booked DARC for the AGM on 20 November 23.</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Colin Percy

Secretary

Northern Regional Rowing Council

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