

**Northern Regional Rowing Council**

**Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting – for approval 06-12-21**

**13 September 2021, held online via Zoom at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Michael Laing (Chair), Charly Curtis (Vice Chair), Pauline Higgins (Junior Rowing), Eddie Bryant (Coach education), Carol Singleton, Pam Walton (Recreational Rowing), Gabrielle Moore (Masters Rowing & Regional Rep), Tim Morris (Asst LDS), Richard Mortimer (Umpiring), John Mulholland (Safety), David Squirrell (Student Rowing),

		<b>Action by</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies:</b> Alan Granlund (Treasurer), Colin Percy (Secretary), Dan Lockey (LDS), Catherine Bowman (Competitions),	
<b>2</b>	<b><u>Minutes of last meeting – 21 June 2021</u></b> Agreed a correct record as circulated.	
<b>3</b>	<b><u>Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting</u></b> Purchase of umpiring bells - Richard had done some research and he had found the ones bought before at about £80 each; <b>it was agreed</b> to buy three. On jackets Mark Bell was still looking. Charly knew of a good embroiderer.	RM
<b>4</b>	<b><u>AGM arrangements</u></b> The AGM was coming up on 15 November 2021. Michael introduced the topic and said he was keen to seek new faces where existing officers might be thinking of stepping down or just to bring new ideas. He would sound out the existing committee members about staying on or not, but asked those present to look around for new talent. There could be some shadowing of roles over a year where in depth knowledge needed.	ML
<b>5</b>	<b><u>Covid situation round clubs</u></b> Michael remarked on Tyne ARC's good showing at Henley, so it was getting back to normal it appeared. John confirmed this, with lots happening at the club. BR guidance was being followed of course, but with the phased relaxation coming in it was easier to organise, for example, indoor activities. Pauline said in schools classes could now mix and thus they were not stuck with year groups, though indoor training was still restricted in her case. So QEHS and Hexham RC were getting back to normal but not quite there yet. Carol at Tynemouth RC said their first face-to-face committee was imminent. Filming of Vera	

	<p>had distracted them recently but rowing activity was increasing. Pam said Hexham RC rowers had been paid well for rowing past Vera not too long ago.</p> <p>David said at Durham University students were coming back slowly. He thought there would be twice a week testing for those doing sport generally. The nature of Indoor training would vary depending on the college and what facilities each. A new head coach was being appointed the following week for the performance University Boat club. At Durham ARC, Gabrielle said numbers not now limited though still needed to book in/out. Individual washing implements were required. Eddie said school rowing at Durham and Yarm was more or less back to normal, though with twice weekly testing.</p> <p>Michael said that updated Covid guidance from British Rowing was imminent.</p>	
6	<p><b><u>British Rowing Awards for 2021</u></b></p> <p>Michael said all Exec members had been sent a paper on the awards with nominations needed soon. There had been publicity on Facebook locally. We could send reps to the awards ceremony on 27 November and fund shortlisted people from the region. Michael knew that some nominations had been sent in and that the region usually did well. Applications for financial help might come forward when we knew who was shortlisted.</p>	
7	<p><b><u>Use of money from wind-up of Northumberland County ARA</u></b></p> <p>It was agreed to split the available funds of £5190,23 from the dissolution of Northumberland County Amateur Rowing Association equally between the following clubs in accordance with criteria agreed by the Executive Committee on 21 June 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Berwick Amateur Rowing Club</li> <li>• Cambois Rowing Club</li> <li>• Hexham Rowing Club</li> <li>• Newcastle University Boat Club</li> <li>• Northumbria University Boat Club</li> <li>• Queen Elizabeth High School Boat Club</li> <li>• Tyne Amateur Rowing Club</li> <li>• Tynemouth Rowing Club</li> </ul> <p>The Secretary was asked to liaise with the Treasurer to make the due payments of £648.79 per club.</p>	CP/AG
8	<p><b><u>Discussion on training for recovery of crews at events</u></b></p> <p>Dan Lockey who was indicated as to introduce the topic was not at the meeting. Charly thought that it stemmed from a rescue/recovery at a Durham event that was not ideal. It would probably involve clubs (those organising competitions mainly) plus agencies such as Red Seal who</p>	

	<p>helped out a lot, but maybe would benefit from a joint rowing specific exercise. John said something of this sort had happened at Tyne some time ago. He said the emphasis should be on rescue of rowers rather than boats, though that should be looked at too.</p> <p>Richard said part of it would be looking at how to make rescues efficient as well as addressing safety so that delays were minimised. John said this might mean more safety boats, though Richard said it could just be better use of what was already there. It was agreed to progress the idea and fund a training event; John and Dan to work on this. John suggested competition safety plans should address the issue fully.</p>	JM/DL
9	<p><b><u>Officer reports</u></b></p> <p>The Chair asked for those present to give a short update, noting some had submitted a written report (available on the web site at <a href="http://www.nerowing.com/nrcminutes.html">www.nerowing.com/nrcminutes.html</a>). Key points were:</p> <p><i>Safety:</i> John highlighted two new issues. One was the government's proposal to allow those with post-1997 driving licences to tow larger trailers without a test. He strongly recommended clubs do some training anyway and also check their insurance. He said BR might be changing advice on swim test and capsize drills, with less emphasis on work in pools on capsizes (a video was available) and more on assessing confidence in water in the pool.</p> <p><i>Div Rep:</i> Gabrielle said nothing to report, including no new grant applications. Michael said he thought British Rowing was having to look seriously again at finances; Gabrielle had heard nothing.</p> <p><i>Masters rowing:</i> Gabrielle said there had been lots of discussion nationally about swimming ability for rowing, to return to that topic, on club subs being reduced or not during lockdown, a new 8 lane 1000m rowing lake in the Cotswolds and adjusting handicaps for Masters women,</p> <p><i>Junior rowing:</i> Pauline said not much to add to written report, except about opinions expressed recently on a move to a more regional approach to junior training and competing, given clubs crews were generally not of the same standard as in some other regions. Eddie thought we had not moved on with junior training generally, with little emphasis on 2k events, though acknowledging this was difficult as not many side-by-side competitions at this length up here. He thought perhaps more emphasis on seeking good competitive racing rather than pot-hunting would be good.</p> <p>John said a big problem here was geographical spread and difficulty getting juniors together to train. Plus there was no good straight for racing longer than 1000 metres. Pauline said on distance that 1000 metres was fine for most J14 rowers. It was suggested Maybe we should look at camp-type events rather than proper regattas. Michael said Eddie 's comments about moving on were sensible. Tim said at a Level 4 training event someone said people tended to coach as they</p>	

	<p>were coached. So some discussion of how we coached was needed to make sure our rowers were being taught current best practice.</p> <p>Michael asked Pauline to go back to the person who had commented and see if something for the next year could be put together.</p> <p><i>Umpiring:</i> Richard said there had been little activity until recently, with Covid. Umpire numbers was a concern. Some trained had not been able to practice and there had been a few problems getting the national theory training set up. There was the prospect of only 25 umpires in 2022. Exec committee retirees might join up, Michael suggested.</p> <p><i>Student Rowing:</i> David said not a lot to report so far as students were just coming back now. The role of session coaches to assist the lead coach in each uni/college was being looked at, at Durham at least. He thought the safety cover training event mentioned before would be good for colleges.</p>	PH
10	<p><b><u>Correspondence</u></b></p> <p>None other than as already discussed.</p>	
11	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>Richard said the Zoom subscription was running out soon. Did we want to continue at a cost of about £100? <b>It was agreed</b> to renew for a year. A table top microphone might help for hybrid meetings and would be investigated.</p>	
12	<p><b><u>Dates of future meetings</u></b></p> <p>Monday 15 November – AGM – Durham ARC, 7.00pm for 7.30pm</p> <p>Those for 2022 to be confirmed after the AGM.</p>	

**Colin Percy** with help from Richard Mortimer's Zoom recording  
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