



## Northern Regional Rowing Council

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting – as approved as at 08-12-23

26 September 2022, held online via Zoom at 7.30pm

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

		Action by
1	<b>Apologies:</b> Catherine Bowman (Competitions), Alan Cook (Conference).	
2	<b><u>Minutes of last meeting of Executive – 20 June 2022</u></b> Agreed a correct record as circulated.	
3	<b><u>Matters arising from minutes not otherwise covered</u></b> Colin said that the issue of a draft of a British Rowing membership fee and competition levy had come up last time. He suggested that this be taken up with Alan Meegan ( <i>see next item</i> ).	

4	<p><b><u>Changes at British Rowing and liaison arrangements with regions</u></b></p> <p>Alan Meegan, Facilities Manager with British Rowing and interim liaison person for this region, attended. He said he would act as one channel of communication, though would not replace specific links with BR persons on competitions, clubs, etc. And the Regional Chairs and Regional Reps Meetings would continue. Given finances he could not see the old system of regional officers returning. He thought he would be attending the AGM in November and would speak more widely on the changes going on within British Rowing then.</p> <p>He asked for any questions. A number of those present expressed concern over the proposal for a reduce BR membership fee but allied to a levy on seat fees at competitions. They thought the scheme they had seen would lead to a significant net increase for many, as this region had perhaps more well attended competitions such as the LDS series events than others. Alan asked for some worked examples based on actual entries so he could pass these on to those directly involved. Two or three members said they would.</p>	
---	---	--

5	<p><b><u>Club Development Conference 2023</u></b></p> <p>There was brief discussion on the format for the 2023 club development conference as previously circulated by Alan Cook (not able to attend). It was confirmed as being at Durham ARC on Sunday 29 January 2023. Comments on the format were still welcome. It was hoped the British Rowing CEO would attend.</p>	
6	<p><b><u>Affiliation of new clubs to British Rowing - NRC view requested</u></b></p> <p>Further to his written Secretary's report, Colin explained that the relevant Regional Rowing Council had to "approve" an application from a club to become affiliated to British Rowing before the final decision is taken nationally. The RRC is given access to the application documents in order to make a decision.</p> <p>There were two applications pending and a sub group of Charly, Colin, Richard and John were vetting these. Another previously seen by the Exec for Armitage BC (for alumni of Hild Bede) had now been approved by BR and the club was now 'live'.</p> <p>South College at Durham University was the first new application. Rowing there would sit under the University and DCR and river rules and guidelines and the application reflected these. The constitution (after some amendments) and safety audit were judged acceptable by the sub group. The sub group recommended approval. <b>This was agreed.</b></p> <p>The second application was in the name of Chester-le-Street United Rowing Club. The Secretary said that there was a degree of overlap with the situation at Chester-le-Street ARC (still under suspension of its affiliation). He said that an application normally had to be decided on its own merits, but in this case the wider situation could not be ignored.</p> <p>The sub group had considered the application documents and advised that there were significant inconsistencies between them and that much was not clear on governance, links to other organisations and on current and ultimate location of rowing on the water. The sub group recommended that the application as it stood should not be approved and that, if British Rowing agreed, discussions be held locally with the applicants to see if a satisfactory set of documents could be achieved. After discussion, <b>this was agreed.</b></p>	
7	<p><b><u>Unprofessional behaviour</u></b></p> <p>A member asked about how we as regional council exec members should offer advice or otherwise react to poor behaviour by, in particular, club coaches at competitions in relation to their own junior crews. This behaviour was maybe not serious enough to prompt immediate action, but in at least one case it had been reported to the umpires at a competition and escalated to BR nationally. However, again as perhaps not serious enough, no further action had been taken as far as was known, except maybe referral back to club involved.</p>	

	<p>The current and potential role of regional officers in the broadly defined welfare and protection area was discussed. It was agreed that we (as the NRC officers) did not normally get involved except maybe to refer issues on to others or we might get involved down the road where some form of intra or inter-club dispute occurred, needing regional input under BR procedures.</p> <p><b>It was agreed</b> to look at this at a future meeting, having done some homework, including whether a formal NRC appointment of a welfare officer or adviser might be warranted.</p>	
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b><u>AGM arrangements</u></b></p> <p>The NRC AGM was to be on Monday 14 November 2022 at Durham ARC at 7.00 for 7.30pm. Colin said he would be sending out formal notices to clubs and competitions shortly and would publicise on social media.</p> <p>He asked if anyone was thinking of standing down. He understood the Chair, the Recreational Rowing Coordinator and the Competitions Coordinator were not carrying on. If confirmed, he would discuss with the Vice Chair how to seek replacements. The meeting thanked those standing down for their work, which was often underappreciated.</p>	
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b><u>Reports from officers</u></b>  <i>N.B. See also the fuller written reports on the web site</i></p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Tim in his written report summarised various issues he had become involved in, many of which were beyond his immediate remit and many involved late evening phone calls. He was considering standing down for various reasons.</p> <p><i>Treasurer:</i> Pauline presented the meeting with transactions from September 2021 up to mid July 2022. The start of year balance of £19814 had moved to £21430, but that masked significant flows in and out, including sums originally from NCARA being dispensed and LDS race fees in. She had had an issue with getting signatures for signing cheques, now sorted hopefully.</p> <p><i>Secretary:</i> Colin, in addition to the club affiliation issue and AGM arrangements already dealt with, reported on the lack of progress on making better use of social media, upgrading the web site and improving the flow of information between BR and the Exec.</p> <p><i>Regional Rep:</i> Gabrielle said no grants had been applied for since the last meeting.</p> <p><i>Safety:</i> John in his report reminded clubs their safety audits were due in by 9 November and they should ensure ClubHub had the right person down as Safety Adviser to get the information. He also had reminders for clubs to check boats for safety issues before reaching control commission at competitions, on collision avoidance (look round more!) and life jacket fitting.</p>	

*Competitions:* Catherine was unable to attend but had emailed in that there was nothing to report since the last meeting.

*LDS and equipment hire:* Dan said that the 2022 LDS series arrangements were well in hand. Storage of the PA equipment bought from Ken Hastie was proving an issue. He had it at home but wanted the space back. Gabrielle said she might be able to rent a lock-up garage near where she had a property and would investigate. He needed to purchase another radio and waterproof pouches for the radios **It was agreed that ongoing smaller purchases such as this for the LDS and/or equipment could be authorised by the Chair or Vice Chair and Treasurer between meetings.**

*Recreational rowing:* Pam and Colin reported that the Great Tyne Row had run successfully in August and the Sunday League last round was coming up on 3 October at Tyne ARC.

*Coach education.* Eddie noted that the S&C Level 2 course had started but had not been well supported. Two Level 2 Club Coach courses were currently proposed in 2023, one in early 2023 and one around Easter. A high-performance land training workshop was being looked at by BR.

He reported also on the Diploma in Sporting Excellence, the Women's Development Programme, American University opportunities and a reminder that coaching qualifications need up-to-date safeguarding and first aid qualifications to remain valid.

*Masters rowing:* Gabrielle reported from the national committee. Water levels and water quality including algae were general concerns. National Masters Regatta had been discussed; the increasing participation of higher-level athletes had prompted debate on whether a championship level should be introduced. A majority of attendees reported favourable on the event.

On World Masters in France, given much increased border and customs paperwork for those taking boats, it had been felt that BR should have taken more of a lead, though a very useful WhatsApp self-help group had emerged.

*Para rowing:* Post still vacant

*Junior rowing:* Pauline reported on the BR Junior Championship results, two local ex-juniors in the team for the World Beach Sprints in October, and other juniors selected for national teams. At the national committee the format for National Schools Regatta was under review and the issue of younger juniors rowing up in competitions. **It was agreed** that the 2023 JIRR regional heats should be on 11 March at Cambois RC.

*Umpiring:* Richard said there had been no regional committee since the last Executive but a lively regional umpiring seminar had been held the day before. On training and new umpires, this was proceeding with people coming through the system. He wondered if the conference

	<p>might allow a discussion with regional competition organisers on issues such as equipment and facilities that should be provided by host clubs for umpires, e.g. better weather shelters.</p> <p><i>Tech:</i> Richard reported on expenditure, past and proposed. On race timing equipment he listed about £120 spent on mobile top-ups and printer toner, with maybe further spend of the same amount to come.</p> <p>On conference equipment etc, Zoom was up for renewal at just under £120 and he recommended purchase of a wide-angle webcam for meetings including the AGM and conference, for about the same cost again. The meeting noted the report and <b>agreed</b> all the past and proposed expenditure listed.</p> <p><i>Student rowing:</i> David said there was not much to report on the ground given the summer holidays. But he had been working with the Durham College Rowing exec on coaching and club management help for the colleges. He was also working on providing support for college clubs on preparing training plans, widening use of the Maiden Castle rowing tank and on installing defibrillators.</p>	
10	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>	
11	<p><b><u>Dates of meetings in 2023</u></b></p> <p>Dates suggested were (all Mondays) Executive Committee on 30 January 23, 24 April 23, 19 June 23 and 18 September 23 with the AGM on 13 or 20 November 23.</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

**Colin Percy**

Secretary, Northern Regional Rowing Council

Email: [secretary@nerowing.com](mailto:secretary@nerowing.com)

Web page for NRC meetings: [www.nerowing.com/nrcminutes.html](http://www.nerowing.com/nrcminutes.html)