



Northern Regional Rowing Council

Draft Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting – *for approval 17-06-24*

29 April 2024, held at 7.30pm at DARC and on Zoom

Present: In person Helen McMillan (Chair), Charly Curtis (Vice Chair), Gabrielle Moore (Masters Rowing & Regional Rep), Caroline Scholl (Recreational Rowing), Dan Lockey (LDS & Equipment), Pauline Higgins (Junior Rowing & Treasurer), , Colin Percy (Secretary), John Mulholland (Safety), Richard Mortimer (Umpiring), Daniel Armstrong (Social Media Officer), Jasper Bird (Student Rowing Rep), David Squirrell (Member), on Zoom Pam Walton (Coach Education), Mark Hyson (Member), Louise Forster (Competitions) and guest speaker Tom Pattichis (BR, Olympic Pathway Manager).

		Action by
1	<u>Apologies</u> Eddie Bryant (Member)	
2	<u>Minutes of previous meeting 29 January 2023</u> These were agreed a correct record as circulated, with but with Caroline Scholl stated as being present. John asked for Action Points next time.	CP
3	<u>Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere</u> None.	
4	<u>North East Regional Hub support: Beach Sprints funding</u> Tom Pattichis (British Rowing, Olympic Pathway Manager) attended on Zoom and spoke about beach sprints and in particular what its inclusion in the 2028 Olympics is prompting British Rowing to do in terms of pathways. Funding for a year had been received from the National Lottery for a programme to help identify potential talent, especially from areas of the country facing barriers to selection to traditional forms of rowing. BR is minded to fund to two Beach Sprint Performance Academies in England, one in the south and one in the North East. Tom is currently helping assess the suitability of venues in this region (South Shields and Redcar are leading candidates) and just as importantly the likely	

	<p>support from clubs. The scheme could start here by September. The focus would be on existing rowers in the age group 15-22, though there would be some flexibility. The money would go predominantly on equipment (boats, blades and maybe a launch, not sure about a trailer) and paying a coach.</p> <p>There were questions on various aspects for clarification. Tom said that it would be crucial to work directly with existing clubs, especially at the start and this would be the main way at first anyway for getting in touch with potential beach sprint rowers. Tynemouth RC would undoubtedly have a role, but the project would have to involve in some way most if not all the clubs in the region. One or two present thought that beach sprints were not really our priority and there plenty of issues to address in conventional rowing activities.</p> <p>Tom suggested that the Executive Committee officers come back to him in about two weeks' time with views on the project as a whole and also any views or suggestions for one or more beach venues in the region. He was open to coming up and meeting interested parties either in a meeting or on site or both. The meeting agreed that the officers should respond as he suggested, but that further discussion with NRRC and clubs and rowers in the region was necessary before coming to a final view and that the meeting idea was a good one.</p>	<p>CP HMCM MH</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Discussion with Alan Meegan, BR liaison contact</p> <p>There was some further discussion direct with Alan on the beach sprints issue plus a reminder to him that many in the region still regretted that BR had to withdraw direct support to clubs thought its regional support officers.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p><u>Junior Inter-Regional Regatta update</u></p> <p>Pauline said that JIRR had gone well, with fewer medals but more points than last year. We came sixth overall and won the Martin Humphrys Cup for the best performing club this year who were in the bottom half of the table last year. We won two gold medals, one silver and one bronze, all in smaller boats. 89 juniors from the region took part.</p> <p>A committee member wondered if we struggled a bit to put together stronger larger boats. Helen said that a debrief should take place and a discussion take on related issues as had come up in previous committee meetings before JIRR. The meeting agreed to thank Pauline (and Geoff) for all their work to allow JIRR to happen for the region's athletes.</p>	<p>PH</p>
<p>7</p>	<p><u>Regional strategy</u></p> <p>Colin said that he had circulated the slightly limited information on membership numbers in the region in 2023 sent by British Rowing. It was agreed to request information over a longer period so that trends could be better appreciated. The responses to the club census done by</p>	

	<p>BR in 2013 were also useful, though by no means all clubs had replied. Helen said she would continue to work on amending the 2010 strategy document (now to include beach sprints, of course, plus noting the significant increase in clubs since then) and circulate as soon as possible.</p>	<p>HMCM</p>
<p>8</p>	<p><u>Officer reports</u></p> <p><i>N.B. Reference should be made to written reports, at www.nerowing.com/nrcminutes.html, as these were taken as read at the meeting. Key points or formal decisions only are mentioned here.</i></p> <p><i>Secretary (Colin Percy).</i> Colin said his main item was on a new school club based at Tyne United RC, Dame Allan's Boat Club. He thought this would be fairly straightforward with the constitution being less convoluted than for an open club. It was agreed that the final decision to approve this application could be made by the Chair with the involvement of the Vice Chair, Secretary, Richard and John.</p> <p><i>Masters rowing (Gabrielle Moore).</i> In her written report Gabrielle gave an update on the National Master Championships on 15/16 June 24.</p> <p><i>Safety (John Mulholland)</i> Further to his comprehensive written report John mentioned that a club coach at a competition had sought to 'blame' Control Commission for not spotting that one of their club's boats was unsafe. It was pointed out to them that BR and local guidance was quite clear that responsibility for putting out safe boats lay with the entering clubs and the athletes, not the host club or the umpires. Richard mentioned the reporting of incidents happening at competitions rather than at clubs and who should submit these. John said this was in hand.</p> <p><i>Recreational Rowing (Caroline Scholl with Colin Percy)</i> Caroline said she was focussing on identifying possible local recreational tours in the region and would report back. Colin under his Secretary's report said that the Sunday League event at Berwick on 7 April had been cancelled due to bad weather, but it looked as if weather was going to be better for the upcoming Tynemouth event on 5 May. He also reported that it had not been possible to find a date in 2024 with a suitable tide for the Great Tyne Row. He asked the committee to agree formally that it was cancelled, and this was agreed. He would publicise this.</p> <p><i>Umpiring (Richard Mortimer)</i> Richard referred to his written report (covering rules of racing, cox weighing, low umpire numbers, control commission issues, radio reliability, training and yellow jackets) and said he was keeping busy. He was preparing quick reference guides on cox weighing, starts and radio protocol). Helen said there had been no cox weighing at the recent regatta at Strathclyde Park.</p> <p><i>Competitions (Louise Forster).</i> Louise said she was reminding competitions as they happened about the proper procedures for cox weighing under the BR guidelines. She asked for approval for changed competition dates in 2025: 31 May to 7 June for Hexham Regatta and Durham SBH and Tyne Head were now to be 1 February and 8</p>	<p>CP with others</p> <p>JM</p> <p>CP</p> <p>RM</p>

	<p>February respectively in order to accommodate BUCS Head later in that month on the Tyne. These were agreed. She said dates for 2026 were being looked at.</p> <p><i>Coach education (Pam Walton)</i> Pam said the hybrid online/practical Level 2 course earlier in the year had seen its practical session delayed till late June. There would be another Level 2 course in August this year and two were planned for January and August 2025. Helen asked if Level 2 assessors' availability was still an issue. Pam said things had improved quite a lot. She referred to quite a few British Rowing initiatives around coaching in her written report which were worth examining.</p> <p><i>Junior Rowing (Pauline Higgins)</i> Pauline said her written report included feedback from JIRR on 20 April 24 (and this text had been put up on the web site with a link from our Facebook page just afterwards). There was also news from various GB Pathway events where athletes had participated, with some success, notably Scarlett Palmer of CLSARC winning the Women's U19 event at the GB Olympic Pathway Development Regatta on 21 April.</p> <p>Pauline said she had agreed with Matt Mole (Performance Development Coach - Yorkshire) a date for GB Junior Development Day in the region on 22 September 24, with further details to follow. She said she found it very difficult to get comprehensive information from BR on junior rowing initiatives – BR was compartmentalised.</p> <p><i>Finance (Pauline Higgins)</i> Pauline had circulated direct to committee members the up to date financial statement for the period since the start of the financial year (1 October 23). It showed the balance in the current account on 11 April 24 was £14097.77.</p> <p><i>Regional Rep (Gabrielle Moore)</i> Gabrielle said she had reported on training grant applications received in her written report; at the meeting she asked for advice on giving training grants to prospective coaches at a private school. It was agreed that this was acceptable as we did discriminate in our rules about who could receive grants.</p> <p><i>LDS (Dan Lockey)</i> A washup meeting looking at the 2023 series was in planning.</p> <p><i>Student Rowing (Jasper Bird)</i> Jasper reported concerns in some Durham college boat clubs about water quality in the Wear, especially as some clubhouses did not have running water. Helen wondered if DCR was looking at this issue. It was agreed to return to this topic (not just on the Wear) at a future meeting. It was reported that the Hild Bede landing on the Wear at Durham had now got funding for repair and this should go ahead soon.</p> <p>Jasper said that some college clubs had asked about the increasing level of race fees across may if not all competitions in the region, which for some student rowers were becoming quite onerous. Louise said she would raise this with competitions in the region, though another member did point out race fees in this region were mostly well below those for national competitions.</p>	<p>LF</p> <p>PW</p> <p>PH</p> <p>GM</p> <p>DL</p> <p>CP</p> <p>LF</p>
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10	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>None recorded.</p>	
11	<p><u>Dates of meetings in rest of 2024</u></p> <p>Executive Committee 7.30pm Mon 17 Jun 24 Format TBC</p> <p>Executive Committee 7.30pm Mon 23 Sep 24 Format TBC</p> <p>Annual General Meeting 7.30pm Mon 18 Nov 24 In person, DARC*</p> <p>* Zoom will be available</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.30pm
Thanks to Richard for arranging the Zoom.

Colin Percy
Secretary
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Email: secretary@nerowing.com
Web page for NRC meetings: www.nerowing.com/nrcminutes.html