Northern Rowing Council AGM on 17th November 2014

Report of the Participation Development Team Leader

Over the past year the region has shown a steady pattern of returning to growth after a sharp drop from the Olympic effect and the inclusion of a cost for under 14 members, with membership numbers although lower than 2013 have been consistently higher than that of 2012 with a good split of female and male members. The Northern Region is leading by example in increasing participation currently having grown by 3.41% since March 2014. Only one other region has grown by a larger percentage, and open club membership in the region has grown by nearly 100 members since March 2013. I believe this is due to schemes that the Northern Region has really helped make part of its culture. Learn to Row schemes now happen at the majority of clubs with graduates from these schemes taking part in new rowing events such as the Sunday League and Great Tyne Row.

The Sunday League continues to be a supportive and welcoming introduction into events with participants regularly moving up to main stream regatta’s and head races. More clubs are coming on board to take part in this series and clubs are securing funding to purchase stable boats (through Sport England Small Grants), to help expand learn to row courses and extra use of these boats in these events. I’d like to encourage more clubs to take up use of these boats to help change the perception of who can row and what rowing is.

With this in mind I would like to push more clubs to arrange tours, either through improved links already being formed in regular participation in the Sunday League or through arranged tours, more akin to how head races are arranged. Hexham, Tees, and Durham already have very strong links from the league and arrange visits to each other’s clubs. It would be great to expand this to a more event style, where minimal effort should be needed by host club, Small requirements such as arranging a calendar of tours, entries, safety cover and possible food arrangements to give routes on some of the regions spectacular rivers, lakes and coastline. Another avenue to keep rowers in the sport could be the creation of other new events, to keep participants who may be seeking something new keen on rowing. A coastal regatta for example at Tynemouth RC, could offer that new challenge to keep the sport fresh whilst also bridging the gap between sliding seat rowing in the region and the new Skiff Clubs being created.

With regards to the St Ayles Skiff clubs the region now has 7, (Alnmouth CRA, Blyth CRC, Amble CRC, Gosforth CRC, Byker CRC, Gateshead CRC and a club in Whitburn.) who are looking to create their own events series, and as these clubs grow I’m sure more clubs will be formed on the regions coastline with areas such as Seaham, Sunderland and Hartlepool, which are prime locations for this kind of club as well as many other smaller communities. The clubs in the North East are currently looking at to how they can best move forward. Possibly forming an English St Ayles Skiff Association, and/or affiliating to British Rowing as Gateshead Community Rowing Club has done.

A part of my current work programme is working with Durham College Rowing coaches and committees. Looking to improve the retention in the colleges for those who drop out after Novice Cup, to do so we are looking to hold a smaller series of league events copying the skills races held during the Sunday League. I am also working during the week to mentor any coaches that ask to help upskill knowledge/experience within the colleges. Jacqui Johnston is also working with Durham College Rowing and Durham University to see how we can best support the colleges with a programme of workshops for coaches, committees and volunteers that address the needs they have.

A potential area for future development in the region moving forward which may not have been highlighted before is competitive female rowing. With GB rowing stars as Katherine Copeland, Jessica Eddie and Nicole Lamb the region has had good fortune with its female performance rowers. This year no women’s crews attended WEHORR from any open clubs (Durham colleges and universities did attend). From feedback received after the event highlight issues such as cost, distance, time to train as well as placing at WEHORR were all issues. However at HORR the region had a recent record of 7 men’s crews from 5 clubs attending. Women’s rowing is strong in the Northern Region, once being the only region to have had more female than male members; however the only part where this is not true is in the Gold (Racing) membership. (All other categories are almost 50/50, if not more females.) Understanding this data might generate a further increase in participation in the region and the first attempt to improve this will be to hold a women’s training weekend in January. The aims of this weekend will be to encourage representation at both a local and national level in larger boats and to seek solutions to barriers which may currently be preventing this from occurring. At the same time we will look to promote more female coaches in the North which may further encourage female athletes to perform at a higher level and take more responsibility in their clubs. Provisional dates are currently the 10th and 11th of January and more details will follow shortly as planning is still in the early stages.

The Sunderland area will continue to be a focus over the coming year, with the partnership of Sunderland Rowing Development group being used to push activity forward. City of Sunderland, Sunderland Uni, Adventure Sunderland, the local authority and County Sports Partnership are working in unison to increase participation in the area.
British Rowing Membership Breakdown Northern Region –

2191 (1841 16+) – Sept 11 3rd Largest Region
2253 (1874 16+) – Sept 12 (increase of 62 overall) 5th Largest Region.
2474 (2360 14+) – Sept 13 (increase of 221 overall) 4th Largest Region
3246 (2257 14+) – Sept 14 (decrease of 128 overall) 3rd largest Region

Northern membership peak of 2570 in May 2013 but has had a peak of 2483 in January 2014 in this last year. One reason might be due to the J14’s shrinking due to the first year of membership no longer being free for that age group, and a fall off from the Olympics.

Breakdown by gender is roughly 50/50 with 1144 female to 1202 male members in the region.

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Junior (14)</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>109</td>
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<tr>
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<td>216</td>
<td>186</td>
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<tr>
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<td>10</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1144</td>
<td>1202</td>
<td>2346</td>
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March 2013 to September 2014 (14+ Membership)

- Clubs show 98 increase (8 increase, 1 no change, 2 decreased)
- Universities show 5 increase (2 increase, 1 no change, 3 decrease)
- Schools show 31 increase (4 increase, 1 decrease)
- Colleges show 27 decrease (8 increase, 4 no change, 3 decrease)

3 Open Clubs, 4 University, 2 Schools, 8 Colleges and 2 others have memberships below 50.
4 Open Clubs, 2 schools and 7 Colleges have memberships of 50+
2 Open clubs, 2 University and 1 school have memberships of 100+
1 Open club have memberships of 150+
1 Open club has a membership of 250+

Compared to September 2013

- 3 Open Clubs, 4 universities, 2 schools, 10 Colleges and 2 others have memberships below 50.
- 4 Open Clubs, 2 schools, 1 University and 5 Colleges have memberships of 50+
- 1 Open club, 1 University and 1 school have memberships of 100+
- 2 Open clubs have a membership of 150+
- 1 Open club has a membership of 250+
## Overview

### November 12
- Durham County Schools Indoor held at Durham University
- North East University Indoor Rowing Championships held by Durham University

### Dec 12
- Northumberland Schools Indoor held at Cambois RC

### Jan 13
- Club Development Conference
- Tyne United hold Winter Head.
- Open L2 at Tees RC
- DCR and DUBC hold first Durham University Rowing Ball.

### Feb 13
- Tyne and Wear Go Row indoor final

### Mar 13
- JIRR Trials held at Cambois
- First Sunday League skills event held at Hexham.
- Regional Schools indoor final held by Durham University.
- Angelo Savarino is presented inaugural GB Rowing Award for outstanding contribution to the development of young rowers
- Newcastle University win university and novice pennant at WEHORR.

### Apr 13
- Tees RC puts new junior coach in post.
- Juniors win 8 medals from JIRR, 4 Bronze, 2 Silver and 2 Gold.

### May 13
- All 5 university clubs attend BUCS regatta.
- Durham University retain win women’s VL at BUCS regatta.
- Masters win 18 medals at National Masters Regatta with 6 Bronze, 5 Silver and 7 Gold.
- Durham ARC win Women’s J16 8’s at National Schools.

### June 13
- DCR L2 Durham
- Record entry for Durham Regatta.

### July 13
- Durham Allcomers
- Cambois reach knockout rounds of Henley Royal Regatta for first time in clubs history.
- Blyth Rowing Club launches “Crofton”
- Gateshead Community Rowing Club starts rowing from Derwent Daga.
- 7 Medals at Junior Nat Champs, 2 Bronze, Silver 4 Gold.

### Aug 13
- DU sculling camps at Tyne United
- Tyne United hold Masters Sculling Camp
- Amble Coastal Rowing Club launches “Coquet Spirit”
- Berwick Trades Fours

### Sept 13
- Great Tyne Row holds largest ever entry, including a hanningfield skiff, Celtic Longboat and Dragon Boat. 34 boats complete in total.
- 2 Universities Represented at EUSA. (Durham & Newcastle)
- TRUT put new CSAF coach in post part of her role is to work with Tees RC and increase rowing participation.

### Oct 13
- Final Sunday League held at Durham ARC.
- DUBC, NUBC & Tees RC all medal at British Rowing Championships.
2. Club Matters
   - General:
     o Need to insure clubs register participants to show increased uptake in rowing.
     o Clubs need to ensure they have appropriate Entry routes into clubs following on from Learn to Row Courses.
     o Excellent entry from Open Clubs in the region to HORR 7 boats in total entered from 5 clubs.
     o No entries from open clubs to WEHORR.
   - Berwick ARC:
     o Continues to run very popular Trades Four Regatta.
     o Club successfully received funding to replace flooring and structure of boathouse.
   - Cambois RC:
     o Qualified for first time in clubs history.
     o Successfully ran JIRR Trials, LDS and Regatta.
   - Chester-le-Street:
     o Club looking to accredit for Clubmark, after not completing reaccreditation in May.
   - Durham ARC:
     o The club has expanded hours for Explore Rowing coach.
     o Continues to run successful L2R programme but would prefer to look into sustainability rather than pure growth, through L2R courses.
     o Working with Help for Heroes and Row to Recovery for recovering veterans.
     o SCT continuing to work with the club.
   - Hexham RC:
     o SCT coach has been given more hours to work with Hexham RC.
     o The club is still having various issues with finalising hand over of new build.
   - City of Sunderland RC:
     o Increasing membership needed and has a large population to draw from
     o Club could do with more coaches/volunteers to help assist with any new intake
     o Sunderland Rowing Development group working towards increasing membership in the Sunderland Area.
     o Club has been given 1 year with an SCT coach to build up the junior participation at the club.
     o Looking to secure funding to purchase a stable coxed boat.
   - Talkin Tarn:
     o Continued working with Cumbria University.
     o Successfully received Sport England funding to purchase two Stable coxed boats.
   - Tees RC:
     o Tees RC had a member in the winning Princess Grace crew at HRR.
     o Tees RC had members in the winning Women’s Elite 4x- and S4x-
     o TRUT employ CSAF coach to increase participation in watersports at the centre. Part of her time will be working with the rowing club.
     o TRUT is looking to build two new boat bays.
     o Adaptive rowing still strength at the club
   - Tynemouth RC:
     o The club is looking to improve its current facilities
     o The club is struggling to grow due to lack of volunteers
   - Tyne RC:
     o The club has secured funding from Sport England to build a new clubhouse with boat storage space, hoping to commence work following Rutherford Head.
     o Club won both Open and Women’s categories in the Sunday League.
   - Tyne United:
     o Club seeking to secure funding to extend clubhouse.
     o Club now employing 3 part time coaching staff.
     o Club held first Veterans Training week in August, after holding weekly Thursday sessions.

3. School Boat Clubs
   - Queen Elizabeth High School
     o SCT hours have been reduced.
     o The club is still having various issues with finalising hand over of new build.
   - Durham School
     o Eddie Bryant now head of rowing.
   - Yarm School
     o School constructing new boathouse.
4. University Boat Clubs
   - Cumbria:
     - Talkin Tarn no longer focusing on club after struggling to retain membership.
   - Durham:
     - Won the Women’s VL at BUCS regatta.
     - BUCS Regatta – 8 Bronze, 3 Silver, 4 Gold
     - Thought to run the largest Learn to Row programme in the world.
     - Durham Rowing bored focusing on sustaining the future and quality of the sport at Durham University.
   - Newcastle:
     - BUCS Regatta – 7 Silver, 4 Gold
     - Women’s Henley – Had a member in the winning E.Lwt.4x-
     - Henley Royal Regatta – Won the Prince Albert Challenge Cup.
   - Northumbria:
     - Club is now focused on Participation.
   - Sunderland:
     - Club continuing to look into long term future and how to work best with Sunderland Development group.
   - Teesside:
     - BUCS Regatta – 1 Bronze

5. Coastal Rowing Clubs
   - Alnmouth Coastal Rowing Association
     - Boat build continuing, set to launch on November 22nd, 2pm at Alnmouth being launched by Her Grace the Duchess of Northumberland. Boat will be named The Pride of the Aln.
   - Amble Coastal Rowing Club
     - Club completed Coquet Spirit in August. Need a location to build the second boat.
   - Blyth Community Rowing Club
     - Completed Crofton in July. Looking to build 2nd boat but need a location.
   - Byker Rowing Club
     - Club boats from St Peters Warf in Newcastle on the River Tyne.
   - Gateshead Community Rowing Club
     - Affiliated to British Rowing at board meeting on November 4th.
     - Formed by Gateshead Veterans and families hub, but will be an open community club.
     - Based at Derwentaugh Sea Cadet station.
     - Starting boat build of St Ayles Skiff.
     - Project started by 2 members of Durham ARC.
   - Gosforth Community Rowing Club
     - Club is currently looking for a permanent location to store its boat, currently located in a container at Tyne RC
     - The club is also looking to build a second boat.
     - Club keen to help St Ayles skiff rowing grow in the region.
   - Whitburn
     - A club was being formed in Whitburn.
     - Led by a local family business Latimers Sea Food.
   - Looking to set up new clubs where possible.
     - Looking into other areas as well, all at various stages.

6. Other Rowing Activity
   - Adventure Sunderland
     - Centre have two trinity 500’s on loan.
     - Has had difficulties attracting new participants
     - New centre manager starting in November.
   - Sea Cadets
     - Rowing activity expanding at various locations.
     - Looking to expand its rowing output but looking to improve its own coach education.

7. Clubmark Accreditation
   - Cambois & Tyne reaccredited.
   - Chester le Street and Sunderland looking to accredit.
8. Coach Education

- New Education and training manager covering the North East, Yorkshire and the East-Midlands.
- 3 more coach educators have been trained in the region, 2 more assessors and 1 more tutor.
- L2. 2006-11 174 Candidates
- L2 2012 34 Candidates
- L2 2013 28 Candidates
- L2 2014 20 Candidates
- Plan for courses in 2015
  - January – Tees
  - June – Durham (DCR only)
  - September – Tyne - if demand
  - Fixed Seat Course – if demand
- Level 2
  - Courses costs will now be £395 across the country.
  - Free online modules of Safety Based and Hypothermia available online for free for all clubs and members. These are pre-requisites for the UKCC Level 2 Coaching Rowing
  - Before attending a UKCC Level 2 course candidates must have attended a First Aid, Safeguarding and Protecting Children and Capsize & Recovery / Man-overboard & Recovery workshop. First Aid and Safeguarding and Protecting Children can be completed independently through SportsCoachUK or another first aid provider. Capsize & Recovery Workshop must be through British Rowing.
    - 23 learners have completed Capsize & Recovery Training (2014)(21 from the region)
    - 17 learners – Emergency Aid (2014)
    - 9 learners – Introduction to Coaching People with Disabilities
    - 15 learners – Learn to Row Instructor
- Level 3
  - Level 2 Strength & Conditioning needed before attending a course. 1 from the region has completed this.
  - Induction days are run to guide prospective coaches through what further CPD they may need and to determine if they are well placed to complete a Level 3 qualification.
  - 2014 – 1 learner has attended the UKCC Level 3 from the region
- Learn to Row Instructor
  - 17 hour course for more beginner coaches to learn how to structure and deliver a safe learn to row course in their clubs. It was free for an introductory period and is running for a short period at a special offer.
  - 2 Pilot Learn to Row Instructors ran in 2014
  - 1st course targeted DCR
  - 2nd course targeted Sunderland & DARC
  - Plans in 2015 to run two more Learn to Row Instructor

9. British Rowing

- Andy Parkinson announced as new CEO.
  - Effective as of January 2015, taking over from Interim CEO Neil Chugani.
  - Andy established UK Anti-doping agency.
  - Was part of UK Sport as Director of Anti-doping and Head of Operations
  - Was Medical & Scientific Director of the International Paralympic Committee.
- Jacqui Johnston started in November 2013 as Area Education & Training Manager
  - Covering North East, Yorkshire and the East Midlands.
- SCT positions
  - Beth Yates is now working in her 2nd year.
    - Continuing to focus on Queen Elizabeth High School, Hexham RC and Durham ARC.
  - Sarah Cunnold
    - Focusing on the Sunderland Area and Tees RC
10. **Great Tyne Row**
   - 36 entered and 34 completed (up from 22) (188 people took part in total.)
     - 3 Open St Ayles Skiffs
     - 3 Mixed St Ayles Skiffs
     - 2 Women St Ayles Skiffs
     - 1 Open Hanningfield Skiff
     - 1 Celtic Longboat
     - 1 Dragon Boat
     - 1 Open 4x+
     - 1 Open 4+
     - 7 Mixed 4x+
     - 2 Mixed 4+
     - 10 Women’s 4x+
     - 1 Women’s 4+
     - 3 Open 2x+
   - The event is still aiming for a minimum of 50 boats next year.
   - We wish to continue the carnival feeling the event has.
   - Date set for September 6th.
   - We hope to improve publicity next year.

11. **Sunday League 2014**
   - Total of 26 different teams over the 8 events
     - 16 open teams
     - 10 women’s teams
   - A total of 137 people have taken part not including coxes. (55 Women, 82 Open)
   - 9 clubs entered teams. (1 from Yorkshire)
   - Events will run as 2014 with no new rules in 2015
   - Tyne RC win both the Open and Women’s Leagues.

12. **Rowability**
   - Classification opportunity at Tees RC in early 2015.
   - Sign up on education and training section of the BR website.

13. **2014-15 plans**
   - Continue to progress Clubmark accreditations where applicable.
   - Club development conference planned for 25th January 2015.
   - Increase 14+ membership of British Rowing, wherever possible.
     - Focus area will be Sunderland and all rowing activities in that area including, City of Sunderland, Sunderland University, Adventure Sunderland, Indoor rowing and the creation of a Coastal Rowing Club.
     - Work with DCR coaches and committees to help coaches, crews with participation/retention.
     - Encourage the growth of daytime/recreation rowing, especially at Explore rowing pioneer clubs.
     - Assist smaller clubs with L2R courses where needed.
     - Continue the “Sunday league” series with clubs with Explore rowing boats.
     - Assist & advise when required to run Great Tyne Row.
     - Continue to work with and assist Adventure Sunderland & new watersports opportunities
     - Work with Gyms & post appropriately to correct contacts.
     - Work with clubs to further expand “Rowability” schemes where appropriate & post appropriately to correct contacts.
     - Work with new St Ayles Skiff clubs to further expand opportunity for fixed seat rowing and look into opportunities for new clubs and appropriate regional organisation body.
     - Work where needed with Sea Cadets/scouts to further expand rowing participation.
   - Indoor Rowing competitions
     - Continue to support and run Tyne & Wear, County Durham & Northumberland Competitions
     - Reintroduce Tees Valley.
   - Implement British Rowing WSP in the North.