

Northern Rowing Council

Online meeting of Executive - 30 January 2023

Report of Secretary - Colin Percy

Affiliation of new club to British Rowing

Discussions with what is now Lambton Rowing Club have continued, though stalled a bit over Christmas. But a site meeting on the Lambton Estate was held today (Saturday 28 Jan) involving Helen, John and me. We saw the (good) indoor spaces available to them and the stretch of the Wear proposed for rowing with the landing sites (with some distance between them and the land facilities). All are now the subject of a written legal agreement between the Club and the Estate on what access is allowed and on what terms. Our first reactions were generally positive (I think) but with a feeling that to get a new club up and running safely given the constraints of various sorts was a big challenge. And given past experience, getting the relevant procedures and paperwork together and agreed between us would not be that easy. More can be said at the meeting.

British Rowing need a decision from us by the end of February (exact date TBC) to make a decision in March. To achieve this it would be necessary for our meeting to hear what is said and then delegate powers to the Chair and other named officers to make a final decision on the basis of paperwork of various sorts resubmitted during February; alternatively, we could agree to hold a special meeting at the end of February to make the final regional decision. There are some concerns around the region about how the new club would operate given what may have happened at the old CLSARC. British Rowing have been asked to consider how best to take such views on board in their deliberations.

Situation at Chester-le-Street ARC

The NRC has been informed that the BR Board last Monday 23 Jan agreed to lift the suspension of the affiliation of CLSARC. This is subject to the adoption of their new revised constitution (in hand to be approved early Feb, CLSARC say) and a degree of monitoring by BR after the suspension is lifted for 12 months to ensure the good practice that has been demonstrated in the last few months continues and improves further.

Executive Committee posts

The Executive Committee last time agreed new postholders for the Recreational Rowing Coordinator (John Carter) and Competitions Coordinator (Louise Forster) positions, the latter subject to her confirming she would take it up. She has done so. It is suggested for avoidance of doubt that the Executive Committee **agree** again that she be appointed, knowing now she is definitely willing.

Both John and Louise have received the agenda for the meeting and an invite to attend as full members. I have offered to both arrange to see them, with former postholders or others with an interest (especially on recreational rowing), but these have not yet been fixed. Hopefully our other two members from the AGM, Paul and Ryan can attend too and speak as far as they can on their area of interest.

Email addresses

Please note Helen's official email account is now set up (apologies from me for the delay) and she is at chair@nerowing.com. Use this from now on and not her personal one. Also, Pam has asked us to use this email - pwalton64@gmail.com - as the sky one you may have stored has problems. The full revised list of email addresses including all members plus Dilwyn as Secretary of the Umpiring Committee is in the covering email for this report dated 28-01-23. Do not use "reply to all" on any emails prior to this one.

Social media and web site

As before, I will say again that a more organised approach to social media and discussions on how to tackle a web site revamp must be progressed as soon as we can. Members might like to consider creating a Social Media Officer post, but in any case, should ask some named individuals to meet to discuss all this soon.

Communication BR to/from regions

The Chair and I have not been able to discuss how to improve the flow of information from British Rowing down to this Committee and/or to clubs. The delay in activating the chair@nerowing.com email address also meant Helen missed some emails and a meeting in the last month. The email is now up and running and Helen should get briefings and meeting invites regularly, out of which she can decide what and how to pass on. Gabrielle as Regional Rep will get some if not all of these emails from BR too. We three will liaise on how best to keep first you and then clubs and competitions informed.

I still seem to be on the list to get an invite to meetings for Chairs and Reg Reps, having stood in for Tim late last year, but assume I will now be taken off. But through that I know there is an extra Chairs and Reps meeting outside the normal cycle on Zoom on 6 February. The invite says it is to:

- (a) Enable Alastair Marks as CEO to reinforce the current direction of travel he presented at the November AGM and summarise the essence of the recent Sport England Grant Submission (*see next item*) for the next funding cycle; and
- (b) Provide you (*i.e. the regions*) with an opportunity to work together to inform how we engage with and align the Regions, Clubs and Events.

I have not exchanged any emails with Alan Meegan as our liaison person at the centre of BR, but he is invited to this meeting and he will be able to fill in any gaps.

Statement on Sport England grant situation from BR

This was received on 25 January from Alastair Marks via Kate O'Sullivan as Chair of the Regional Chairs Forum. It contains a lot that will shape the future of BR's work as it affects the regions and will be an important input into the national meeting just referred to in the last section. I will forward this info to you by email just after sending this report. We can decide how best to pass this on to clubs etc at our own meeting on Monday.

28-01-23

CP