

Northern Rowing Council January 25th 2016

Report of the Regional Representative

BR Council Business

The Council of British Rowing gathered at the Cutlers' Hall in London on Saturday 28th November, for its last meeting of the year. Key points to note are:

1. The results of the recent regional elections saw little change to the membership of Council. The Chairman, Annamarie Phelps, congratulated Andrew Cawood (Yorks), Phil Clements (WAGS), Chris Edwards (North West) and Mike Laing (North) who had been re-elected as Chairmen of their Regions, as were representatives Chris Callow (East), Luke Dillon (Thames TL-6) and Fil Ljubicic (Thames TL-5). Peter Knowles returns in January as the representative of Thames TU-2, and Karon Phillips is the new representative for Thames TU-3, following Laura Lion's election to the British Rowing Board. Two other appointments confirmed at the meeting were the election of Nick Hubble as the Deputy Chairman of the Sport Committee and Jim Harlow who will serve for a second term as Chairman of the British Rowing Championships Committee.
2. The CEO, Andy Parkinson, gave an update that focused on three areas; Anti-Doping, the Modernisation Project and feedback from the Regions on the Strategic Plan. Recent anti-doping rule violations, resulting in two members of a club crew being banned from rowing for two years, had served to highlight how vital it is for every rower to be vigilant in what they consume and understand that testing can be conducted at any level. Education for coaches is available and they should also ensure that they are able to provide appropriate information and support to their rowers. British Rowing is working closely with UKAD, BUCS and other partners to educate everyone in the sport and there will be regular features in Rowing & Regatta during 2016.
3. The new year would also see the Modernisation Project gather pace. There is one final senior position to fill, namely the Director of Pathway Development, and from there a middle management structure will be put in place. These new skill sets will enable British Rowing to remain financially sustainable and relevant in the current climate for rowers, volunteers, staff and partners. The Director of Membership and Rowing Community, Phil Hornsey, had been in post for six weeks and was keen to understand the challenges for Regions and learn more about their priorities. The CEO invited the Regional Chairmen and representatives to give feedback on what their Regional Council was successfully delivering and what challenges they might encounter in their contribution to the Strategic Plan 2015 - 2024. Following a wide-ranging discussion the Chairman summed up saying that there was clearly some excellent work being done to improve facilities but also some common themes emerging, particularly the challenges for the regional councils around lack of visibility and difficulties in attracting new volunteers. P. Hornsey took on board the feedback which would inform his work over the coming months. Effective communication between British Rowing and its Members would be essential as the Strategic Plan was rolled out.
4. The Sport Committee, under new Chairman Andrew Crawford, was embarking on plans to align the work of its constituent committees with the Strategic Plan and the five Strategic Objectives. A working group would be set up to review the British Rowing Rules and the Rules of Racing, together with other key guidance. The aim was to report back to Council with draft proposals in time for their adoption in April 2017. The 2016 Rules of Racing (which come into effect on 1st April) are introducing provision for the move to a Personal Ranking Index. New sections have been included to allow events the flexibility to begin the transition between the points system and the ranking system. Once a final version has been agreed the Rules will be published on the British Rowing website. A communication plan has also been drawn up to ensure that the sport is informed about the next stages of the Competition Review.

- The upgrade to www.britishrowing.org was close to completion and improved user experience would be key to its success. Staff would continue to update and refine the site and so feedback would be welcomed.

NRC Grant Fund

At its meeting in January 2015 the NRC approved the extension of the NRC Training Fund for a further year with a budget allocation of £6000. This year grant applications could be made at any time. Table below gives a summary of the grants awarded this year. All grants awarded at 50% of total costs

Summary of Grant Awards 2015

Club	Activity	Amount
Cambois RC	Rowing Leader	£435.00
Talkin Tarn RC	Towards L2	£198.00
Berwick RC	L2 Powerboat	£350.00
Gosforth CRC	L2	£524.00
Gateshead CRC	L2	£529.00
Tees RC	L2	£273.00
Durham Chorister School	L2	£212.50
Tyne ARC	L2	£243.50
Durham School	Junior Leaders	£600.00
Total Awarded		£3364

As Regional Representative I have administered the grant fund reporting to a grants panel that comprises the NRC Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer who formally award the funding. As most people are aware I have moved to Edinburgh and am spending this next year focussing on handing over my responsibilities prior to finishing my period of office on GB Rowing Council. I therefore feel the time has come to hand over the administration of the grant fund if the NRC are minded to continue with its support in 2016. The Council needs to name a replacement so that this year's grant fund can be administered. I will of course be happy to advise the new administrator as part of the handover process.

It is RECOMMENDED

- Views are requested as to how the NRC wish to proceed in 2015/16 with the NRC Grant Fund**
- If the fund is to continue to be supported the Council appoint a new fund administrator**
- The key points from the GB Rowing Council held on November 28th 2015 be noted**

Barbara Millns
January 25th 2016