

## Northern Rowing Council – Exec – 27 June 2016

### Report of the Regional Representative

#### BR Council Business

Set out below is the summary of business Council considered at its last meeting. I could not attend because I broke my pelvis in 2 places. Progress is slow but steady, but I am staying put in Edinburgh for the time being.

1. Council opened the meeting held on June 7<sup>th</sup> 2016 by recording its very best wishes to all the 'Team GB' rowers who would represent the sport at the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio. Annamarie Phelps advised that the All Parliamentary Group for Rowing had invited rowers, clubs and supporters to join their newly formed [group.www.parliamentaryrowing.org/join](http://group.www.parliamentaryrowing.org/join). The Chairman reminded Council that it was essential to know and adhere to the fundamental principles of Safeguarding and Protecting Children, namely; the welfare of the child is paramount; the need to assess, listen, record and report; the need to respect confidentiality and share information on a needs to know basis only.
2. **Governance** - The Chairman thanked all the volunteers and rowers whose fantastic support had resulted in British Rowing being voted best National Governing Body by Women in Sport. The CEO covered headline points from UK Sport and Sport England's new Charter for Governance. With regard to the size and gender balance of the Board, British Rowing had made good progress and the Board biographies demonstrate the breadth of skills and expertise on the Board coupled with their knowledge of the sport. However it was noted that adherence to the Charter would become a key factor for stakeholders and funding partners. The CEO also covered the key points included in Sport England's Strategy for 2016 – 2021 'Towards an Active Nation'.
3. **Diversity** - Phil Hornsey, Director of Membership and Rowing Community, had invited feedback from the Regions on how British Rowing might support clubs to grow Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic participation. The following points were made; to examine and learn from examples such as the growth of grass roots cricket in Yorkshire, to look at pathways for volunteers, to support clubs in areas of diversity to attract and welcome members of their local community who may feel that rowing is not for them. Helen Rowbotham, Director of Innovation, gave background to the work that was already underway and which was taking into account staff, high performance rowers, the broader governance structure, clubs and membership. She said this was a challenging project and welcomed information about the work that had been done and invited input from Council, particularly with regard to case studies already carried out.
4. **Appointments** – The Nominations Committee would provide its recommendations regarding the Independent Director appointments at the October Meeting. Council approved the appointment of Tim Walton as Chairman of the National Competition Committee.
5. **Anti-Doping & Integrity** – The scope of the terms of reference for the panel had been broadened to include integrity and the terms were approved. It was noted that the UK Anti-Doping Code applied to all in the sport and that compliance was a requirement of funding. Minor amendments to the Supplement Policy were approved.
6. **Competition** – The discussion covered a number of areas relating to competition. The CEO gave a brief update on the Competition Review, citing positive advances in the IT development and improvement in communication with the membership. He advised that negotiations with the National Water Sport Centre at Holme Pierrepont were ongoing. Council approved the terms of reference for an Events Committee which would broaden the scope of the current British Rowing Championships Committee and allow for better co-ordination between the Organising Committees of British Rowing events. There was a discussion about the regulation of events that currently fall outside the British Rowing calendar and the desire of the NGB to be open to innovation and not to impose unwanted restrictions on the membership. This would be a matter for fuller debate. Finally, Council

- joined the Chairman in thanking Martin Humphrys for his huge contribution to the success of the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta which had been transformed under his chairmanship.
7. **Ready for Rio** – P Hornsey presented plans to support clubs with the anticipated spike in interest following the Olympic and Paralympic Games. More about the Toolkit here.
  8. **Row Safe** – Consultation on the proposed changes was underway and Regional Chairmen and representatives were urged to liaise with their Regional Safety Advisers prior to the next meeting of the Safety Committee.
  9. *The next meeting of the Council is on the 1st of October 2016.*

## **NRC GRANT FUND**

I am liaising with Carol Singleton to arrange the hand over of the grant fund.

## **BUCS Head**

The BUCS Head has been awarded to Tyne United, TARC and Newcastle University for a further two years

**It is RECOMMENDED**

**The Report be noted**

**Barbara Millns**  
**June 27<sup>th</sup> 2016**