

## Junior Report for AGM of NRC on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

### **JIRR**

The Junior Inter Regional Regatta was to be held on April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Peterborough City Rowing Club. Selection trials were held at Cambois Rowing Club on Sat. 8<sup>th</sup> February just before Storm Desmond hit us. My thanks go to the members of Cambois who took charge of all the marshalling and timing enabling the day to run as smoothly and as quickly as possible with the weather deteriorating during the day.

Almost a full team was selected with the WJ14 2x to be determined at Ponteland Head due to an incident during the race which had an effect on the outcome. With the cancellation of the event the NRC acknowledged the disappointment that would be felt by the chosen athletes and agreed to still purchase the sweatshirts for the team. Several thank you messages were sent to the NRC from parents stating that the sweatshirts were most welcome and some compensation because this was the second year that the JIRR had not taken place. Hopefully, the JIRR will take place in 2021 and it is scheduled for Sat.24<sup>th</sup> April at Nottingham.

### **GB Junior Selection**

The GB selection process ground to a halt due to Covid-19 and no international events took place. This was obviously extremely disappointing for those athletes who were hopeful of wearing a GB vest! There is continued disruption to the GB pathway for 2021 with the cancellation of the EID trials and greater emphasis placed on gym assessments.

### **Indoor Rowing**

This year the county indoor rowing competitions and the regional championships were coordinated by Dan Hetherington, Youth Indoor Rowing - Project Manager | British Rowing. The county events saw a variable attendance with the younger year groups well represented. The regional championships were again hosted by Durham University and coordinated by Amy McCarthy. There were several improvements on previous years: better display of racing image on screen; up to date rolling monitor screen display of results; presentation of prizes and clarity of announcements. The only issue was ergos moving on the gym floor but Amy hopes this will be resolved by new mats for next year.

In the Regional Championships there were 52 schools represented and competition was better than previous years with double figure entry for every event apart from Sixth Form girls where there was an entry of just 5. One record was broken, Year 9 girls: Joy Wildsmith, Prudhoe Community High School 1075m.

British Rowing in partnership with education experts 'Ed Comms' have developed a range of free resources aimed at schools, colleges and clubs working with schools. These new resources aim to support the delivery of indoor rowing activity, based against the Physical Education National Curriculum long three topic strands; Learn to Row, Row to Health and Row for Fitness.

For more details please see to the Go Row Indoor Schools website linked below:

[schools.britishrowing.org](https://schools.britishrowing.org)

## **State School Group**

A new subgroup of the National Junior Rowing Council has been formed to share good practice between state school rowing clubs and consider ways to assist new clubs setting up in state schools. There has been one 'google meet' meeting of the group which highlighted common issues around staffing and funding.

## **Junior Programmes and Recruitment**

It has been a very strange year for all rowers and it has been pleasing to see the innovative ways junior coaches have found to keep their athletes active and engaged throughout lockdown and getting juniors back onto the water from June. As regional junior representative I would personally like to thank all concerned and although we are currently experiencing further disruption I am confident that the work of junior coaches will be rewarded in 2021 with a good cohort of juniors resilient to the further challenges they will face in training and the restoration of competitions.

Many clubs have found running Learn to Row courses challenging within the Covid-19 restrictions and some clubs currently have not been able to formally recruit newcomers. I would like to ask junior coaches to send me numbers in each age group split by gender and highlight any particular issues.

Pauline Higgins