

# Junior Report – Northern Rowing Council Meeting 21 September 2020

## Junior Return To Rowing

Juniors in all clubs in the region have returned to rowing in some form. However, there are many differences between the clubs generally brought about by having to comply with external agency regulations on top of British Rowing and Central Government advice. Eg schools have adopted year group bubbles so in some cases different year groups can not be on the water at the same time and Talkin Tarn must comply with Cumbria CC regulations.

There is likely to be a very wide variance in the ability of juniors to attend any competitions in the near future.

## State School Rowing Network

Aim of the group: Improve awareness of State School Rowing and increase engagement with the Junior Rowing Committee.

The inaugural meeting of this group on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020 was attended by 12 schools along with BR representatives and in particular Ashley Wyatt (BR Community Support) who has coordinated the initial stages of the group formation.

I attended the first meeting and was on the sub-group of the Junior Rowing Committee charged with the responsibility for determining the broad objectives of the network.

Issues discussed:

- Lack of funding and support from some state schools administration and senior team.
- The Kitchin Society was interested in supporting state schools and a meeting to discuss how this could move forward is planned.
- There is an issue of the perception of rowing within state schools where traditional school sports dominate.
- There were many hurdles to overcome from those staff or volunteers willing to run or set up state school rowing clubs. Where can these individuals seek advice particularly about financial models. It was suggested that all state schools submit an outline of their financial model as a resource for new SS club coordinators. Include in Club Hub.
- There are several non BR affiliated SS Rowing Clubs and they should be involved in the network.
- School clubs face additional challenges to deal with Covid-19 regulations and a sharing of ideas would be most welcome.
- The development of the Go Row Indoor Schools Platform to promote rowing in State Schools
- How could the role of the School Games Organisers be used in the promotion of Rowing. Their input should be arranged for the next meeting.

## Junior Rowing Council

Holly Young (Park View Academy) attended the meeting - 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020 on my behalf.

The JRC has been divided into three subgroups and each subgroup reported on progress:

### **1. State Schools** (see above)

### **2. Education**

- Progress on the development of the course for juniors to be Activity Leaders.
- Using the qualification as part of DofE.
- Inclusion of the course materials on Row How
- The use of juniors at events and assisting with club tasks such as boat maintenance.

### **3. Competition**

- Certification of performance at fun events eg watermanship skills.
- Competitions need to be far more flexible to engage juniors – league structure, private challenge matches, challenge hub
- Cancellation of events because of weather and calendars mean rearrangement near impossible.
- Smaller more local events involving 4 or 6 clubs
- Lack of volunteers to run events.

### **Return To Rowing**

- Clubs have more freedoms than schools.
- Darker evenings will bring greater challenges around inside training. Need to be more creative in developing athletic youngsters.
- Attendance at events if they are on could be an issue. Schools particularly nervous about cross contamination and maintaining age group bubbles. Transport to events of rowers and equipment whilst maintaining social distancing.

### **2021 Season**

GB Junior Wash Up Meeting 19 Sept 2020.

Global rowing continuing despite problems.

Planning for GB involvement in international events is going ahead.

Trials etc need to be controlled by what schools are allowed to do.

SHORR – possibility of virtual competition.

JIRR – hasn't run for 2 years. NWSC preferred venue.

NSR – hope to run a full regatta, format has been distributed for feedback.

HRR – possible no oversea crews

BRJC – location still a question mark but plans to run as normal regatta as possible.

### **Junior Athlete Recruitment Between Clubs or Schools**

Following complaints about poaching of junior athletes by some clubs BR have released an updated policy document. This is a must read document to avoid difficulties arising when athletes themselves or their parents desire a change of club for a junior rower.

All the points are extremely valid and ensure the welfare of the junior athlete is at the forefront of all considerations and positive lines of communication is the key to a positive move.

Document Attached 3.14 Policy and Procedures for Safeguarding, Welfare & Protection.

### **GB Strategy Document 2021 Season**

The deadline for coach registration is **Mon 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

The Preliminary Advance Notice On Strategy and the Assessment & Trials Process for Junior Events was emailed in the middle of July

EID in November at Boston will not take place.

The deadline for athlete registration is **Mon 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

Pauline Higgins

21.9.20