

Junior Report for meeting of the Northern Rowing Council 29.1.18

At the AGM Ellie Hizzett was appointed to the NRC as Assistant Junior Commissioner.

JIRR Trials 2018

The trial date is set for Sat.10th February. Entries close on Sat.3rd. In past years there has not been many J16 athletes available to fill the greater number of seats required in this age group. Last year we held a 'J16 pretrial get together day' to help gauge how many were available and to put together potential composite crews. Two crews formed went on to gain selection for the team. I attempted to organise a similar day this year, but response was poor with only 3 athletes nominated to attend so the day did not go ahead.

Junior Rowing Council Meeting – BR Headquarters, Hammersmith 14.1.18

- **Attendance**

The attendance at the recent Junior Coaches Conference in September was poor. Chairman is going to investigate reasons.

- **Changes to J14 Age Band**

The proposal is that anyone born in July or August who has attended school with those in the Academic year below where they should be will be allowed to row as J14 (i.e. with their year group rather than as J15). This would not be extended beyond the J14 year.

Discussion but no conclusion re extending the J14 age band. Several concerns raised re abuse, should it be continued into higher age groups etc. It was agreed to look at data i.e. How many rowers with birthdays at the end of the Academic year (July and August) have been kept back a year so are not rowing with their schoolmates?

- **Beryl Crockford Award**

This is a new award which will be awarded to someone who has made a significant contribution to Junior Rowing. This is not necessarily a coach award. Nominations will be discussed at the September JRC meeting. The award will be presented at the annual Awards Dinner in February.

- **Events update 2018**

- No changes to Schools Head or Scullers Head.
- Henley Women's Regatta: No change to JW 4+, Discussion about Time Trials (Fri or Sat?)
- NSR: Moving away from participation to performance. Reduction in events, removal of some B events/ 2nd crews to be entered in main event. Possible limit on number of entries in an event. A request was made for a WJ16 4- on the Sunday to fit in with GB France selection.
- JIRR: I had been contacted prior to the meeting regarding a proposal to combine Northern Region with Scotland. I had argued against this. Inclusion of Scotland at JIRR was discussed, increase to 13 regions presents problems. On the basis that Scotland could probably produce a full team, Northern always enter a full team but

other regions regularly do not I proposed that combining them was a possibility. Consideration to be given to combining smaller regions or splitting others and reformatting the event.

- BRJC: Continues to grow. Discussion regarding the Omnium being a prerequisite for quad event.
- New Regatta on 9th June in Nottingham. Start at 10am, Finish at 5pm to allow travel on the day (I pointed out that we would need to leave at 4am!) Guaranteed 3 races (TT, Semi, Final). Progression on times, not on age or boat type. Entry £5? Events will be J14 Oct/Quads, J15 Coxed Quad/Coxed Four, J16 Coxless Quad/Coxless Four. Crews who made NSR Final or Semi Final are excluded from entry. NB This clashes with Durham Regatta.
- **Skills Badges**
These are for the sculling skills and are to be assessed by coaches. A video with informative commentary will be available to assist coaches and athletes standardising the requirements at each level.
- **North of England Schools Head**
This is a new event which was proposed to be held in the NW Region this year. Venue problems has lead to the event not going ahead. Discussion as to possible venue for 2019, Tyne Rowing Club was put forward as having an excellent venue and course (reference made to BUCS).

Performance Athletes

Durham University has been supporting athletes from the Durham area for some time. They have offered to extend this to a small number of athletes from outside Durham County. At a meeting between myself and Ellie Hizzett we discussed eligible athletes. We decided to restrict invitations outside Durham to those J17 and above and invitations were issued to 5 boys and 2 girls. One boy no longer rows, a second declined the invitation. The others are attending an 8-week course focussing on Strength and Conditioning.