

Masters Report Carol Singleton

The last meeting of the Masters Committee was held on April 8th at Nottingham Britannia Boathouse, and the next one is due on Friday 15th July.

National Competition Review

Phil Clements provided an extensive update on the competition review. The headlines of which are that the competition framework has not changed but they are waiting for BROE software to be modified. In the meantime they are continuing to run pathfinder regattas during 2016. For Masters, age categories will not be changed but there will be opportunities for a wider range of competition through the "ranking index" which will be based on the "speed" of boats.

Head Races

Everybody will have an individual ranking index based on speed alone. Raw times recorded in head races will count towards your ranking. If you race in a head race as "time only" this will still count towards your ranking points. Disqualified crews will still receive ranking points based on raw time.

There is nothing to stop running head races with masters categories, with banding by age to award prizes. However you will still receive points based on raw time.

Regattas

Time becomes irrelevant in regattas Ranking points are, therefore based on position in which crews finish. It will be possible to organise regatta programmes using ranking points. If there are 16 crews entered in a regatta. There is potential to split into races based on ranking index. If masters crews have a high ranking index they may race against "seniors."

Time trials prior to major regattas such as Henley will not count towards ranking points.

The aim of ranking points is to help masters (and younger) rowers to get better racing. Can use ranking index to put masters crews within senior events. Can also apply to newer masters crew putting crews together with similar numbers of ranking points (based on boat speed).

At the moment there is no weighting for more elite events such as National or Henley Masters. The top 8 heads and regattas (8 total) over a 5 year period will be used to calculate a Personal Ranking. Ranking Points from events which automatically fade on a rolling 'year'.

At the official close, regatta secretaries will be able to download crews and ranking points to complete the draw. Substitutions will be allowed to change the ranking of a crew by up to 25%

As soon as results have been finalised, It is hoped than an email will be sent out when results are finalised, confirming the number of ranking points awarded, with an appeal system lasting

up to five days.

BROE software is being updated and due for release in May. BR members should have ranking points on their personal data base on the website already.

There is a document being produced concerning ranking points but it is not expected that it will be included in the rules of racing.

Raising the Profile of the Masters Committee

Karon has written to Kenny Baillie saying that Masters Rowing has dropped off the BR website. Due to be restored.

It was also suggested that Committee Members should establish masters contacts within each club in their region, with a view to improving communication between BR, the Masters Committee and our constituents. It is recognised that this is difficult in some Clubs, due to the varying numbers of 'splinter' groups, each with its own skill levels. We need to find a way to overcome this. It should be an area of concern for all Club management, as groups in the Clubs can become quite detached.

BR Membership

Letter from Masters Committee to Phil Hornsey was well received. The aim is to grow BR membership including everybody who is rowing at any level or discipline as a BR member. Approx 12% of rowers are BR members and BR membership is growing by 2%pa whilst rowing participation is growing much faster. BR membership need to involve the entire rowing population, including meaningful membership option for gig and coastal rowing and volunteers.

There were also proposals to encourage participation by developing a pay as you go option and also to make it easier to manage your membership account on line.

Linked to this was a query with regard to 3rd party liability cover for club members who are not individual members of British Rowing. It was stated that they would be covered using club equipment.

Succession Planning for Masters Committee

Agreed to review how long each member of the committee had served and to encourage new committee members where appropriate.

Review of Recent Races

BRIC indoor rowing championships – feedback would suggest that Lea Valley (Olympic) Velodrome is a large, though iconic venue but not particularly user friendly. BR are looking at alternative venues. It has also been note that the number of “rowers,” as opposed to “ergo rowers” is reducing.

Spring Head Season

Whilst many events had been cancelled due to high water levels, those that had been run appeared to have been well run.

Volunteers how to avoid being “volunteered out.”

This is a topic that applies to all clubs, as there appears to be a membership/participation deficit in the 35 – 50 year olds. Agreed to seek out good practice in retaining this age group. Potential to encourage recreational rowing as a potential source of people with time to help with Club organisation.

National Masters Regatta –

Chris Anton had provided a written report as follows:

BROE opened on 1st April and we have this year moved to a divisional format. Not everyone will be able to do absolutely the same events as they did last year if they were multiply doubling up but the vast majority of people will. People can still do 3 events per day but have more certainty about it being able to fit into the schedule.

One slight issue is that despite the rule coming into effect on 1st April BROE still cannot cope with Masters K so we hope to be adding these events in when BR have sorted out this little difficulty.

It was noted that entries were limited to 12 crews per event.