

NORTHERN REGIONAL UMPIRING COMMITTEE



Annual Report to the Northern Rowing Council AGM for year ending 31 December 2018

MEMBERSHIP

Dr. P. Hoare, Hexham RC (Chairman); C.F. Curtis, Durham ARC (Vice-Chair); Dr R E Mortimer, Durham ARC (Secretary); M. Bell, Durham ARC; Dr. D.P. Jones, Tees RC; Mr. J. Mulholland, Tyne RC; Dr. A.G.P. Oakenfull, Durham ARC, Mrs. L. Pain, Durham ARC.

CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

None

MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE

A formal meeting was held in spring 2018 and we also hold ongoing discussions of relevant matters throughout the year primarily using e-mail (we have our own Yahoo! Usergroup with 100% membership) and also *ad hoc* discussions at local events between various members of the Committee.

TRAINING AND NEW LICENCES – EXAMINATIONS

As things stand we will have 31 licenced umpires registered to the Northern Region as at 1 January 2019. Renewals for those licenses that expire 31 December 2018 are in hand with all 8 renewed already! James Lamb has retired as of 30 September 2018 after 12 years umpiring service. Mark Lawrence has now left the region but continues as an umpire in his new region.

We had 2 new umpires who qualified in 2018. Congratulations to David Brindle (Tees RC) and Tim Lang (Durham ARC).

Remember that we require umpires for both regatta and head racing. In particular the Rules of Racing require that for head racing the full course is monitored by race officials. As a rough guide a club/locality should be providing 2 umpires to the regional pool for each day of racing that they hold. The NRC are considering making this a mandatory requirement for event affiliation within the region.

TRAINING

A number of people have expressed an interest in training. We expect to begin at least one theory training course towards the end of January. Location will be based on demand. We have definite interest from Berwick, Durham (various clubs), Hexham and the Tyne clubs.

Practical training will involve some head race officiating but the main training will take place during the regatta season.

COMPETITIONS

The NRUC has continued the ongoing process of providing deep reviews of competition documentation. Thanks to all of the competitions for taking our feedback into account. Of particular note the Tyne (Newburn) based clubs, with Colin Percy as front-man, have been working on a consistent set of documentation to be applied at all competitions hosted there. This brings a consistency for competitors, coaches, spectators and umpires and is to be congratulated.

We have noticed some inconsistencies in the way that masters handicaps have been applied at competitions. Discussions are ongoing with various national committees to determine if anything needs addressing in the Rules of Racing etc. Notwithstanding any changes made nationally the NRUC will be reminding competitions that the guidance in the rules is different for both head and regatta racing. It is permissible for competitions to deviate from the guidance but this should be documented beforehand in competition advertising/local rules and should always be approved by the NRUC as part of the standard pre-competition approval process.

Peter Hoare & Richard Mortimer 20 November 2018