
Annual Report to the Northern Rowing Council AGM for year ending 31 December 2019

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 2019 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 2020. Renewals for those licenses that expire 31 December 2019 are mostly in hand with all 6 of 10 renewed already! One of these is still deciding whether to renew and another is having troubles with RowHow/ClubHub which is not allowing completion of the renewal process.

We had 1 new umpires who qualified in 2019. Congratulations to Barbara Millns (Tyne United RC). 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. 2 candidates are still to complete their training which has effectively stalled due to cancelled regattas earlier in the year.

TRAINING

A number of people have expressed an interest in training. A number of clubs provided candidates just too late to take part in 2019 training. We expect to begin at least two theory training course towards the end of January. Location will be based on demand but we expect one to be held in Keswick. Thank you to clubs for their help identifying suitable candidates for training.

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

COMPETITIONS

The deep reviews of competition documentation is now mostly complete and going forward we hope that minor incremental updates will be required. Thanks to all of the competitions for taking our feedback into account.

Throughout the year a number of incidents of unsportsmanlike behaviour have arisen. These have been handled on a case by case basis with various outcomes ranging from verbal warnings or disqualification from individual events to referral to clubs for handling through their own disciplinary procedures. We remind competitors that issues should be reported to umpires as soon as possible. Waiting hours, or even days, after an incident often makes it almost impossible to fully investigate and sanction/escalate appropriately. For the most part however competitions have run very smoothly and the umpiring team thanks the various organising committees for inviting them to their competition and for the hospitality shown during the day.

Peter Hoare & Richard Mortimer 18 November 2019