

NORTHERN REGIONAL UMPIRING COMMITTEE



Annual Report to the Northern Rowing Council AGM for year ending 31 December 2017

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 2017 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 2018. Renewals for those licenses that expire 31 December 2017 are in hand with 10 out of 12 renewed already, Jim Dulling and Bob Manning are retiring with almost 25 years umpiring service each. Ashley Law and Srinjoy Sen are also standing down.

We had 3 new umpires who qualified in 2017. Congratulations to David Robinson (Tyne ARC), Nicki Trehitt (Durham ARC) and Mark Lawrence (Cantabrigians/St. Cuthberts Society).

As a region we are still critically short of umpires and need around 20 more qualified umpires before we can be confident that we can ensure that events are not at risk of either reduction in course length or cancellation due to shortage of qualified officials. Note that 15 of our umpires will be 70 or older within 4 years. Whilst there is no longer a mandatory retirement age it is essential that we keep up the pace of training to ensure that we can maintain umpire numbers once the current shortfall is addressed.

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.

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.

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

Richard Mortimer

27 November 2017