

Northern Rowing Council

Executive meeting – 25 January 2016

Report of Events Coordinator & Webmaster

Competition review update – session at Regional Get Together

The RGT on 24 January had a session on the national review and the progress towards the new competition structure and 'points' system. It is still work in progress, with (I think) possible dual running with the existing system in 2017-18 and full implementation by 2018-19. A lot still depends on successful upgrade (or complete rewrite) of BROE.

We should be able to circulate and publish the Powerpoint presentation by Fiona Pollack shortly when she has ironed one or two issues in it. There was good attendance and some were coming to this somewhat drawn out process for the first time. Many people were a little taken aback, I think, by the complexity of the points system (although all the calcs will be done behind the scenes by BROE Mk2, of course). There were lots of questions and comments, e.g. why would head races (now included) give lots more points, potentially, to high placed crews in events with lots of eights (say) than in regattas.

The implications for event organisers were explored to an extent, but lots more discussion and training even will be needed nationally and regionally to allow them work out what needs doing upfront and behind the scenes and then explain, in particular, the new senior categories (in place of IM3 up to elite) and how regattas events might be structured, using the new individual (and thus crew) points system.

Junior and Masters rowing could carry on much as at present under the new scheme, though event organisers could create events for them, as well as seniors, using the points as a means of creating more competitive races. Organisers, especially for regattas will have a lot more work to do in reporting results to BR.

I had prepared a paper to promote discussion on regional aspects of competition as a follow on to looking at the national situation. However, there was not time to discuss it. I attach this also for the NRC Exec. I need therefore to send this out by email to event contacts and seek discussion by email or at a further meeting, preferably before the summer season.

Events programmes for 2016-17 and 2017-18

The programme for our affiliated events as per my last report has been incorporated into the forthcoming national calendar for 2016-17. The Northern Rowing web page at www.nerowing.com/calendar.html has the regional 2016-17 dates, with key national and other regional dates about to be added; also Sunday League and Junior Skills dates for 2016 are there.

I will incorporate consideration of the 2017-18 programme into the regional events discussion just mentioned under the last item. At present we have a Tyne/Tees clash in requests for a May weekend in 2017, otherwise it seems settled unless the clubs collectively want a major reshuffle (unlikely).

Sunday League

I would welcome clarity on responsibility for Sunday League. The programme is fixed and slightly amended rules etc are in place (though the Northern Rowing web page needs updating on these). Partly down to comments made yesterday in passing in the competitions session, I think we need to consider writing to clubs and suggest that in putting together crews for the League they consider the spirit of the competition. For example, younger and stronger learn-to-row graduates, should perhaps be steered towards racing in ordinary regattas, where there are plenty of novice races, rather than concentrating on winning the League.

We need to check again on who might borrow boats from whom, as some clubs seem to tow a lot and others don't at all. One club asked to tow to Berwick is having problems organising this. There might be a need to formalise paying for transport. We should probably have a look at insurance too, both for borrowed boats and for host clubs more generally.

Great Tyne Row

There is a competing (cycle) event using Tynemouth headland on Sunday 28 August, so we are having to look either at Saturday 27 August or another date. The Great North Run weekend has good tides but we cannot clash for various reasons. Once fixed, the new date will be promoted widely. The steering group will be starting to meet again shortly. Gateshead RC is to be invited to send a rep and get more involved.

Web site issues

There are no major issues to report. The hosting and domain name are due for renewal in 60 days - about £50 (£30 hosting for 1 year and £20 domain for 2 years).

Colin Percy