

## **NRC Para Rowing Report: 26 June 2017**

Ian Ronald from Tees RC has been selected to represent the UK Team in Indoor Rowing at the Invictus Games to be held in Toronto from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Ian will be one of the 90 strong squad as part of the UK Team, fellow Tees Athlete James Rose just missed out on a place in the team following his trial in April.

Gateshead RC have completed the structural building of their boat house and hope to be fully up and running within the building soon, development of the club and its facilities continues to make good progress and work on the clearing of the slipway continues.

John Winton has stepped down as the Para Coach at Tees Rowing Club; Greg Beswick is currently filling the role.

Unfortunately this year there were no adaptive races at either Tees Regatta or Durham Regatta.

On a country wide matter there is a lot of concern within the Rowability community, following the redundancies of Maddie Millichap and James Searle, that this will have a very negative impact on Rowability. We are fortunate in the Northern Area to have strong Rowability/Para rowing however other areas are not as fortunate to have established squads in clubs, to be the only Rowability/Para Rower rower in a club can be a very isolating experience and the work completed by Maddie and James help to encourage wider participation. It would be a terrible outcome if this situation led to less disabled people accessing rowing.

This matter has been discussed on the Rowability (British Rowing) Facebook group and I have since had contact from a rower (out of our area) who had a very negative experience with their club and were actively encouraged to leave the sport; this is not part of our ethos or the plan for a legacy following 2012 and I will be having a further discussion with the athlete involved as she was unaware of a regional council Rowability representative and I felt it was important to raise within this arena.