

## **Recreational Rowing Report: NRC January 2016**

**Carol Singleton**

### **Recreational – feedback from BR Sport Committee October 2015**

Passage through locks

- Issue raised for BR support in discussions with Canal & River Trust not resolved yet. This is critical to planning of a possible Yorkshire tour on Aire & Calder Navigation / River Don next year. Chairman RRC is pursuing with local contacts but National policy issue remains

Key points for Committee to highlight to regional Clubs

- Explore League dates 2016 to be set in regions before end of the year – so all Area Participation Managers will be holding regional meeting to discuss these
- Programme Manager would like to hold regional and individual meetings with all Explore Clubs to discuss the way forward and improving access to Learn to Row courses or activity.
- Queried scope of Recreational Rowing and overlap with Juniors, Masters, Explore Rowing etc.
- Encourage cross working between committees i.e. Juniors J14 events ...

### **Recreational Rowing – November 28<sup>th</sup> 2015**

FISA Touring website The new FISA website will include links to the touring pages of all member countries' national websites. The BR website is being redeveloped so there is currently no suitable page to link to. JA has asked for recreational events to be added to the website calendar – details should be sent to her.

Insurance for borrowing Explore boats It was suggested at the previous meeting that clubs borrowing boats should temporarily add them to their own insurance. Towers (previously Lovatt) would do this free of charge and other insurers were felt not to be too expensive. JA will ask Hazel Mozienko (BR Finance Director) to produce a guidance note. PC asked what the situation would be regarding trailing. JT replied that trailers and boats are covered by their clubs' insurance but that drivers are legally responsible for third party damage in case of accidents.

Discussing participation, AH felt that many people in racing clubs see recreational rowing as an easy option, with those involved thinking that they don't need to train regularly, which causes friction with those who do want to train and do endurance events. However it was agreed that inclusivity was the key to growing numbers and clubs should find a way to accommodate people who do not have time to commit to serious training. BH said that Lea have separate groups: "train to race" and "train to row", but this depended on having sufficient resources.

Amendments to Appendix D of the Rules of Racing BH explained his concerns that the title refers to "Stable Boat (Recreational) Competitions" but many clubs do not have enough stable boats and run recreational competitions in fine boats. He suggested dropping Stable Boat from the title and amending the wording of the Boat Types paragraph. The meeting agreed in principle. CT to circulate the proposed new wording to the committee for checking and JT to refer to the Sport Committee for their January meeting.

UK BR Tour 2016 & passage through locks A proposal is being developed for a tour on the Yorkshire canals, subject to obtaining permission for non-powered craft to go through the locks. The route being considered was from Leeds to Doncaster, which is about 76 km.

It was thought that the tour should not coincide with the Great Tyne Row, as many people would want to do both. The proposed date for the tour would be the first weekend of September with the GTR the week before.

Overseas Tours As the tour in Holland had been popular, it was felt that another foreign tour would be a good idea. Paris was suggested, as it would be good to show solidarity with French rowers following the recent terrorist attacks. An alternative might be the Loire/Cher

An Irish club had contacted JT about tours which they organise, but the rivers are too small for a large number of boats. A Swiss rower, Volker Fritz based in Basel, has started a business running tours in various European countries. The meeting discussed whether to publicise this commercial venture. RW felt that it would add “glamour” to recreational rowing and encourage more people to try touring, as well as motivating more clubs to run events as a way of raising funds. details. Next year’s FISA tour will be on the Austrian lakes from 25th June to 3rd July, which is Henley week. The closing date is 15th February.

Next meeting of Recreational Rowing – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2.00 – 6.00 at Leander