

NRC Exec April 27th 2020

Recreational and Explore Rowing report

Sunday League

A schedule for the 2020 Sunday League was circulated to clubs in March, with seven rounds included

1. April 5th - Tyne United
2. May 3rd - Tynemouth
3. June 7th - Berwick
4. July 5th – Tyne ARC
5. August 2nd – Ebchester (at Derwent Reservoir)
6. September 6th – Talkin Tarn
7. October 4th - Durham

The first round was to have been at Tyne United on April 5th but was cancelled in accordance with Coronavirus restrictions enforced by Government and British Rowing.

Some initial discussion took place regarding arrangements for boat sharing and trailering to Tynemouth and Berwick but before agreement could be reached BR issued guidance that clubs should cease activity until at least the end of June, meaning that the May round at Tynemouth and June round at Berwick will be unable to take place.

Ebchester BC has plans to undertake building works on its clubhouse this year which makes it unfeasible to stage the Sunday League or Ebchester Regatta there as intended. As an alternative they have offered to stage an event at Derwent Reservoir, possibly a sculling skills round, but this will require a planning visit to the site. Ebchester BC is affiliated to Derwent Reservoir Sailing Club and the intention was to make use of Sailing Club facilities. The Sailing Club was due to open for the season on March 21st but on March 19th the club's landlord, Northumbrian Water, closed the site and sealed off access to the Reservoir until further notice. As it will therefore not be possible to visit until restrictions are lifted it appears unlikely that the August round will be able to take place. The plan to hold Ebchester Regatta on the same day as a Sunday League skills round is felt to be over-zealous as regards the time commitment involved.

Consideration will need to be given to the remainder of the season as and when the situation becomes clearer.

Great Tyne Row

The Great Tyne Row is scheduled for August 15th.

Touring events

Some events took place elsewhere over the winter and others have been planned for this year.

Three clubs in the Eastern region each staged a round of a league for novice rowers over the winter months using the Charles Stanley sponsored stable quads based at Isle of Ely and have used the competition to support a recruitment drive for Learn to

Row courses to attract new members. The Charles Stanley Cup was presented to the winners by the sponsors.

The World Rowing tour to Samoa, intended to have been in April, was cancelled in February amid concerns about the Coronavirus after a state of emergency was declared by the Samoan government. The tour to Finland in July has also been cancelled.

It is intended to make touring rowing equipment available across the country and the Recreational Rowing Committee would like there to be tours in each region which can use the sponsored touring quads. The committee has suggested that a tour in the northern region taking in sections of the rivers Tyne and Wear might be feasible.

Entries opened for the Explore the Broads tour scheduled for June 6th and 7th but this has now been cancelled.

The national tour is to take place on the Middle Thames between Maidenhead and Putney from August 27th to 30th. Entries have opened and places should be booked and paid for by June 30th using the form available at <http://www.recrowing.org.uk/>. The committee intends to hold a telephone conference in June to determine the way forward should there be a need to cancel the tour.

Recreational Rowing Committee plans

Members of the committee planned to attend the 'Shaping Rowing's Future' conference in Birmingham on April 19th, aiming to encourage BR to make a strategic shift giving greater focus to recreational and other multi-generational types of rowing, and to commit and provide practical support to the broader rowing community to grow the base of the sport, but the conference has also been cancelled.

Feedback from last year's Lake District tour is being assessed and a system for the grading of tours is being considered.

There is also an intention to improve the promotion of recreational rowing and increase its visibility to the rowing community, including a newsletter and improved social media engagement, but this may have foundered in the current environment.

Colin Lawson

Recreational Rowing Co-ordinator