

NRC Executive January 30th 2017

Recreational and Explore Rowing report

Explore Series

The following schedule for the 2017 Northern Explore Series has been agreed and circulated to clubs –

Round	Date	Sculling/sweep	Format
Hexham	March 5 th	sculling	Splash & Dash
Durham	April 2 nd	sweep	Splash & Dash
Berwick	May 7 th	sculling	Splash & Dash
Tees	June 4 th	sculling	Skills
Tyne	July 2 nd	sweep	Splash & Dash
Tynemouth	August 6 th	sculling	Splash & Dash
Talkin Tarn	Sept 10 th	sweep	Skills
Tyne United	October 1 st	sculling	Splash & Dash

Changes to the competition format for the coming season include –

- the amount levied annually on host clubs by the NRC is to increase from £10 to £15.
- reverting to the rules in force prior to last year whereby teams are allowed up to 9 members over the course of the series, with any team exceeding its original 6 members for a round restricted to half points for that round.
- to encourage greater participation winning crews will score 2 points and runners-up 1.

The new competition framework and points system will require changes to eligibility criteria in respect of novice status for Explore Series participants by 2018 if not before.

Tours

City of Sunderland RC has agreed to stage the third River Wear Tour on July 30th, but after last year's inaugural River Tees Tour Tees have indicated they are unable to host a tour this year as the organiser has moved away and there is little enthusiasm to take on the onerous task. Offers by other clubs wishing to organise day tours are welcome on condition that a suitable date can be found in the schedule.

The British Rowing Recreational Rowing Committee (RRC) has advised that the BR National Tour for 2017 to the Lancaster Canal will take place from August 24th to 27th, the weekend before the Great Tyne Row, which is on Saturday September 2nd. The BR European Tour, arranged by Nottingham RC, is to Hamburg between May 11th and 13th (closing date for entries is February 14th).

The RRC plans to arrange a series of Great Rows, of which the Great Tyne Row will be one. Other proposed events include a Great Ancholme Row in April, Great Coal Row (Southampton) in May and Great Thames Row in July.

Transporting boats continues to be a difficulty for some of those wishing to take part in recreational events, with little trailer towing experience among clubs' recreational members. The RRC has indicated that regional councils may be able to offer assistance in this respect.

A national diary of tours, Explore Series and other recreational events and associated information, including touring advice, safety and links to online courses, is to be made available on the Recreational Rowing website <http://www.recrowing.org.uk/>

A touring workshop is to take place at Weyfarers RC on April 9th.

The next committee meeting is at Henley on March 18th followed by the annual dinner at which full details of the national tour will be released.

Colin Lawson