

NRC Executive September 18th 2017

Recreational and Explore Rowing report

Explore Series

A competitive Series is nearing its climax, and as we head towards the final round Durham look to have secured the Women's league but the destiny of the Open league is still to be decided at Tyne United on October 1st.

The Tyne ARC round in July had to be cut short because of windy conditions.

The new scoring system of awarding 2 points for a win and 1 for taking part was well received. Following increased entry numbers in early season numbers tailed off somewhat with a marked drop for the Chester-le-Street round in September.

As Chester-le-Street have no stable boats there was some difficulty arranging transport for the 4 boats needed for their round.

The timetable and eligibility criteria for next year need to be determined.

Tours

Several inter-club exchange visits have taken place. Tees hosted groups from Durham, Tynemouth and Talkin Tarn. Durham entertained Tees, and Gateshead entertained Durham. Several clubs attended a scratch regatta arranged by Tynemouth to mark the club's 150th anniversary but conditions dictated that the only form of racing possible was on dry land.

A number of day tours took place during the summer. The Sunderland Tour in July was a great success with numbers increasing from last year.

Tees organised a row to Yarm in August which was attended by 48 members from Tees and Durham.

The 24th British Rowing UK Tour between August 24th and 27th was very successful with 65 people rowing 40 miles along the Lancaster Canal in good conditions.

The 25th anniversary Tour in 2018 is to take place on the River Thames, with the date set provisionally for August 31st to September 3rd.

A successful Great Tyne Row took place on September 2nd with entries increased from last year.

The Great Coal Row organised by Coalporters in May was a success and is to be repeated in May 2018.

Organisational changes at British Rowing have led to concerns about progression planning for committee volunteers on the Recreational Rowing Committee and uncertainty about the relationship between BR staff and volunteers.

Boat Transport

Transporting boats to where they are needed is a recurring issue for recreational events and a solution is yet to be found. Several clubs experienced considerable difficulty in arranging boat transport for the Great Tyne Row. Transport for the Explore Series and to tours is also difficult. Most trailers are designed for carrying racing boats, with 3 bays, and although 2-bay trailers suitable for carrying up to 6 stable boats are available, few clubs have them as they give priority to transporting fine racing boats.

Trailers suitable for carrying more than 2 stable boats are therefore in short supply, and even when available their size requires a towing vehicle of approved weight and a driver available and equipped to drive it. Some co-ordination of such resources across the region would be beneficial.

Colin Lawson