

NRC Executive September 24th 2018

Recreational and Explore Rowing report

Six rounds of the Explore Series have been completed and the event continues to be enjoyed greatly by those taking part. The concern is that the number of entries is down significantly on previous years with the average per round now standing at 9 with one round remaining at Tyne ARC in October, as against a more typical 15 in previous years. Berwick lead in the open league and Tyne United lead in the women's. New trophies are to be provided for the winners and these will be crafted by a volunteer. Although the Explore Series is referenced in BR's updated Rower Development Guide on RowHow the level of support from BR and the position regarding insurance for the event remain unclear.

Planning is in progress for the 2019 Explore Series.

There has been some increase in enthusiasm for touring, although mainly on a club or individual basis.

The Great Coal Row weekend took place at Southampton in May for the second year, and in June around 50 rowers took part in the 2-day Explore the Broads tour of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads, arranged by the Eastern Region Rowing Council, including one representative from Durham ARC who has recommended it highly.

The River Wear Tour in Sunderland went ahead in July but with numbers down on last year. Crews from Gateshead and Lakeland joined City of Sunderland RC for the 20km row in stable boats and skiffs.

The annual row to Yarm took place on a Tuesday morning in August with an increased number of participants. The Tees 'Wrecks' invited members from Durham ARC and Hexham RC to join them and other members of the host club for the 25km trip in a mixture of fine and stable boats of all classes, including the new Wintech touring quads acquired by Tees earlier this year. The row was followed by a BBQ lunch back at the River Tees Watersports Centre. It was a very well organised day with the 21 visitors swelling the attendance to over 100.

Members of Gateshead organised a skiff row on the Tyne in July, and in August members from DARC took part in the Rallye du Canal du Midi, a 5-day tour over 200km in southern France.

Two members from DARC and two from TURC joined around 100 participants for the 25th annual British Rowing Tour, covering 75km of the Upper Thames

over 3 days in August and September, crews taking part in the stable quads provided for British Rowing through sponsorship with Charles Stanley Wealth Management.

A half marathon for recreational quads and fours was arranged to coincide with the Boston Marathon, for which the Charles Stanley boats and blades were again available, seats being bookable by individuals. The Recreational Rowing Committee has plans for these boats to be available for the Great Tyne Row, sadly cancelled this year but expected to return in 2019.

The possibility of a regional tour has been raised.

Colin Lawson