

# NORTHERN REGIONAL UMPIRING COMMITTEE

Chair: Dr. R. Mortimer Vice-Chair: Mr. C. Curtis Secretary: Dr. D. Jones  
Members: Mr. M. Bell, Ms. L. Forster, Dr. P. Hoare, Mr. J. Mulholland,  
Dr. A. Oakenfull, Mrs. L. Pain



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Report to the Northern Regional Rowing Council AGM 2021.

## **MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE**

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The committee met on 1st March 2021.

The committee membership remains unchanged from 2020. Much of the meeting was taken discussing plans for competitions in the shadow of Covid restrictions and discussing how umpire training could be progressed with those restrictions in place.

May we take this opportunity to recognise our vice-chair Charly Curtis who received a lifetime achievement award from British Rowing in 2021. Charly attends almost every Northern Region competition and his contribution to umpiring and the sport in general is reflected in the award.

## **UMPIRE COHORT**

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As things stand we expect to have 26 licenced umpires registered to the Northern Region as at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022. We expect that this will then drop to 25 with one umpire planning to transfer to a different region. This is a drop of 2 over the year. There were 0 new umpires due to the Covid situation. There is a high risk of us having insufficient umpires to run some competitions in 2022.

Renewals are in progress for those with licences expiring at the end of 2021. Dilwyn Jones is coordinating this for the Northern Region with over half of the expected renewals completed already. All umpires have renewed their British Rowing membership due 30<sup>th</sup> September and hence none are currently suspended from the National Umpiring Register.

## **TRAINING AND NEW LICENCES**

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Training started promisingly with almost 10 candidates attending theory training sessions via Zoom that adds to the 8 from 2020 who were not able to progress last year. Unfortunately the restricted regatta season limited the amount of practical training that was possible. We have one candidate who is ready to take the exams but delays in switching to an online theory exam and cancellation of the September regatta competitions has meant that we have not been able to progress exams yet. We do have a couple more candidates who are nearly ready for exams but we have agreed to wait until the first regattas happen in the 2022 season.

With the number of retirements over the past two years and no newly qualified umpires our focus for 2022 has to be on ensuring that we progress existing candidates and bringing in new trainees. This does however require that we have a full regatta season to give enough training opportunities to the candidates. To date we have 6 potential candidates who have indicated a desire to take part in umpire training in 2022.

We must thank all our trainees for their patience in what has been a difficult two years with limited opportunities to progress training.

## **SEMINARS**

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Our spring seminar was held online via video conferencing and was well attended. The autumn seminar was cancelled due to a combination of the low number of regatta held and lack of progress organising major incident handling content. This latter content is in outline planning for wider participation within the region to capture competition organisers, safety providers and similar. We did offer the option of attending Zoom based seminars in other regions for those who needed to attend for licence renewal purposes.

## **COMPETITIONS**

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The past year has seen many competitions cancelled due to various Covid related circumstances. Most competitions that have happened have been well attended but entries have generally been a little bit down

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on prior years. The umpiring community have in general been supportive of competition and we thank everyone for taking the additional Covid precautions in hand.

## **NATIONAL ISSUES**

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The NUC met via phone/video conference a number of times during the year with Richard representing the region. In addition to this Richard is a member of the Rules of Racing Panel along with exams and CPD/training working groups.