

NORTHERN REGIONAL UMPIRING COMMITTEE



Chairman: Dr. P. Hoare

Annual Report to the Northern Rowing Council AGM for year ending 31 December 2016

MEMBERSHIP

Dr. P. Hoare, Hexham RC (Chairman); C.F. Curtis, Durham ARC (Vice-Chair); Dr R.E. Mortimer, Durham ARC (Secretary); M. Bell, Durham ARC; Dr. D.P. Jones, Tees RC; J. Mulholland, Tyne RC; Dr. A.G.P. Oakenfull, Durham ARC, Mrs. L. Pain, Durham ARC.

CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

None

MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE

A formal meeting was held in spring 2016 and we also hold ongoing discussions of relevant matters throughout the year primarily using e-mail (we have our own Yahoo! Usergroup with 100% membership) and also *ad hoc* discussions at local events between various members of the Committee.

TRAINING AND NEW LICENCES – EXAMINATIONS

As things stand we have 34 licenced umpires registered to the Northern Region. Renewals for those licenses that expire 31 December 2016 are in hand with 12 out of 16 renewed already, 1 retirement and 3 still awaiting completed forms.

We had 5 new umpires who qualified in 2016. Congratulations to Louise Forster (Durham ARC), Paul Freeman & Paul McCarron (Cambois ARC), Colin Percy (Tyne RC) & Srinjoy Sen (Northumbria University BC).

As a region we are still critically short of umpires and need around 15 more qualified umpires before we can be confident that we can ensure that events are not at risk of either reduction in course length or cancellation due to shortage of qualified officials. Note that 10 of our umpires will be 70 or older within 4 years. Whilst there is no longer a mandatory retirement age it is essential that we keep up the pace of training to ensure that we can maintain umpire numbers once the current shortfall is addressed.

Remember that we require umpires for both regatta and head racing. In particular the Rules of Racing require that for head racing the full course is monitored by race officials. As a rough guide a club/locality should be providing 2 umpires to the regional pool for each day of racing that they hold.

Based on this guideline the regional umpires based on river/water body should be:

River/Location	Racing Days	Umpires		
		Quota	Actual	Shortfall
Talkin Tarn	1	2	1	1
Tees	2	4	4	-
Tweed	1	2	-	2
Tyne (Hexham)	1	2	4	-
Tyne (Newburn)	7	14	3	11
Wansbeck	2	4	3	1
Wear (Durham)	7	14	17	-
Wear (CLS)	1	2	-	2
Wear (Hylton)	1	2	-	2
Other	-	-	2	-

NOTES

- The Tyne (Newburn) and Wear (Durham) events are not broken down by club/organisation.
- The new Tyne Single Scullers head is included.
- The 3 sculling series events with two events on one day are counted as a single event in terms of umpiring requirements.
- BUCS is not included because it is not a BR event but it does have a requirement for Umpires similar to Durham Regatta and we struggled to fulfil that in 2016.

- Note that umpires' club affiliation is approximate based on the latest data that we hold and indeed you do **NOT** need to be a member of a club to hold an umpires licence. Just have BR Silver membership.

ONGOING TRAINING

- 6 people have passed the theory test and are currently working through the practical training.
- 7 people are awaiting the theory exam (5 are Tyne based).
- We have interest for future training from a number of individuals from various clubs including Chester-le-Street (3), Durham Colleges (3), Sunderland (2), Talkin Tarn (3), Windermere (1), Newburn (1), Hexham (1).
- Based on interest so far we are likely to be holding at least 2 training courses in the New Year one in Durham and one to the west of our region near Talkin Tarn.
- We intend to hold a session for potential umpire trainees as part of the Region Club Development Conference in early spring 2017.