

Para Rowing - NRC AGM - Report for 2016

Para rowing has had an amazing 12 months in the region, from the continued growth of local clubs to international success with a Paralympic Gold Medal won in Rio. Local events have been well supported and we have also had a NRC Region athlete take part in the Boston row for the second year running. The Great Tyne Row has also seen further para entries and this will hopefully be built upon in the coming 12 months.

Laurence Whiteley (Tees RC) along with his partner Lauren Rowles (Marlow RC) had international success winning a gold medal at the Rio Paralympic games in the TAMix2x, setting a world record time in the qualifying heats. Tees RC is extremely proud of Laurence's achievements as are the rest of the region; his hard work paid off with him gaining the ultimate prize.

The region had representation at Brit Champs last year with rowers from Gateshead RC and Tees RC competing, a gold medal was won in the Rowability Open category and a bronze medal won in the AS Fixed Seat category by Gateshead RC athletes. Athletes from both clubs will be competing again this year.

Gateshead RC continues to grow as a club, and they now have a Boat House and work continues on their site to improve access and facilities with hard work being done by club members to improve the steps and ease access to the river.

Durham Amateur Rowing Club are working with local special schools and offering indoor rowing sessions on a term by term basis and the club are continuing to build their links with the Phoenix Rehabilitation Centre at Catterick Garrison.

This year's Great Tyne Row again had para rowers amongst the crews with Gateshead RC having a quad crew containing a VI rower and their Skiff boat had an AS Rower. It is hoped that a full para crew may enter the event next year.

Both Durham Regatta and Tees Regatta saw entries from para athletes spanning the full classification range of AS, TA and LTA as well as facilitating entries from Rowability categories as well, most entries were from local clubs however we did have entries from Doncaster RC and Sudbury RC.

Lucy Radley, Tees RC, completed the Boston Marathon for the second year running as an LTA athlete, she was the only para entry into the event and an inspiration to those who train with her at Tees.

Gateshead RC and Tees RC continue to gain new members and both clubs offer the full range of Para Rowing classifications, new members are always welcome.

The creation of a separate Rowability council has been raised by the NRC at Council, a decision is still outstanding.

For 2017 I am confident that the current growth will continue and athletes from the NRC region will continue to make the region proud with their achievements.

Gillian Lathan