

Report to NRC AGM - December 2016

Recreational Rowing

The Explore Series (formerly known as the Sunday League) enjoyed a successful fifth season with 146 competitors and a record 46 teams, representing 11 clubs, taking part over seven rounds held each month between March and October (the scheduled eighth round at Talkin Tarn fell victim to the weather). Having recently acquired 2 stable boats for Learn to Row courses Berwick ARC staged a round of the competition for the first time. The figure for the number of teams is skewed due to a rule change limiting the size of a team to 6 members. It is proposed to revert to 9 per team next year. The Open and Women's League winners for 2016 were Tyne ARC and Durham ARC, with Durham ARC runners-up in both. The league format pioneered here in the Northern region is now being rolled out nationally with Explore Series leagues being well received in regions around the country. BR has issued guidance relating to the responsibilities of clubs hosting events.

Day tours on the northern rivers are a developing theme. The inaugural River Tees Tour, arranged by Tees RC, went ahead on July 23rd, with 8 crews from 6 clubs taking part in stable quads and fours for the return trip from Tees to Yarm. The second River Wear Tour, arranged by City of Sunderland RC, took place on August 13th with 6 crews taking part.

There were 26 entries (7 from outside the region) for the 6th Great Tyne Row on August 27th, a fall from the record 40 in 2015. Included in the 26 were 4 St Ayles skiffs, representing Gateshead CRC as well as Eskmuthe and St Andrews from outside the region. Other entries from outside the region were 2 coxed quads from Windermere and 2 coxed fours from Runcorn.

In July/August the region welcomed a group of rowers from Leiden and Hemus Rowing Clubs in Holland who visited Durham, Tyne and Sunderland and enjoyed a paddle and local hospitality. The group visits the region every few years and has invited exchange visits.

Regular recreational sessions continue twice weekly at Durham and Tees with exchange visits between the clubs taking place on occasions.

Nationally the Recreational Rowing Committee plans to update touring guidance and improve its online presence. A register of clubs known to have recreational rowing groups is being prepared, along with a

calendar of recreational events for 2017 for inclusion in the BR calendar. The calendar will include the Explore Series, tours, long distance rows etc. It is hoped that this will raise awareness and facilitate inter-club links.

The committee has raised some issues for consideration by British Rowing, one of which is the difficulty of getting boats to where they are needed, and a proposal was put forward for a mobile pool of equipment to help stage events. Feedback indicates that there is recognition of the need but that funding is likely to be an issue. Consideration of what resources exist at regional level may be beneficial.

The British Rowing Tour in Yorkshire in September 2016 took in Leeds and Doncaster and was well received with 84 people (72 rowing and 12 supporters) from 16 clubs taking part, 26% of the rowers being first timers.

Details of the British Rowing Tour for 2017 are yet to be finalised but Lancaster in August is the likely destination. A European tour to Hamburg in May is also planned.