

NORTHERN REGIONAL UMPIRES COMMITTEE



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

Minutes of Autumn Seminar held in at Durham ARC 10:00 on Sunday 23rd September 2018

Present

Peter Hoare (chair), Richard Mortimer, John Mulholland, Lynn Pain, Nicki Trehwitt, David Robinson, Andrew Oakenfull, David Oliver, Colin Percy, Dilwyn Jones, Charly Curtis, Liz Puddick.

Apologies for Absence

Graham Marples, Brenda Stavers, Peter Stavers, Gill Houston, Nigel van Zwanenberg, Andrew Stephens, Louise Forster, Dilwyn Jones, Tim Lang, Pam Walton, Paul Freeman, Ken Hastie, James Lamb, David Brindle, Mark Bell, Paul McCarron.

Licences, Retirements & Renewals

The following umpires have licences that expire at the end of 2018.

Charly Curtis, Peter Hoare, Dilwyn Jones, James Lamb, Graham Marples,
Andrew Oakenfull, Lynn Pain, David Robinsn, Nicki Trehwitt, Pam Walton.

Renewal forms have been sent out to those who need to renew. Early submission to Richard will be appreciated. There is no-longer any grace period and non-renewals will be removed from the register on 1st January 2019.

Remember that British Rowing memberships expire at the end of September. Check your mailbox for renewal reminders.

Mark Lawrence has left Durham and has moved to Eastern Region to continue his umpiring career.

James Lamb has indicated that he will not be renewing. Many thanks to James for his 13 years of service.

Trainees

Six people attended the theory training earlier in the year. Of those:

- One was a returning umpire doing a refresher course and who has subsequently revived their licence.
- Another was an existing trainee from a previous year refreshing theory knowledge.
- Four were new trainees. One of whom has now qualified, two are still actively training and another who has decided to not pursue training.

Seven people have shown interest for future rounds of training. Experience has shown that only approximately half of these will progress into training and qualify in due course. This still leaves us right at the minimum number that we need to be able to run all of the competitions in the region. The NRUC is working with the Northern Rowing Council to address this issue.

It has been suggested that we work with the University coaches to ensure that umpiring opportunities are on their radar for athletes who are looking for volunteering opportunities or maybe for injured athletes who can maintain a connection with the sport whilst recovering.

Rules of Racing update

The changes to the 2018 rules were discussed. In particular the following were noted:

- Masters handicap system now part of the rules.
- Must state whether banding or handicap or a specific combination is being used when advertising the regatta.
- Did not finish and Not Rowed Out formally added into the rules.
- When more than 2 crews take part in a race the finish position of each crew must be recorded and submitted along with the results.
- 5-5-3.d No competitor may be entered more than one in an event at a competition if that event has side-by-side races. This allows a competitor to enter more than once in an event at a head race if allowed by the competition but not at a regatta where there are side-by-side races in the event entered.

National Issue

Not much of note. There was some talk of “official” suppliers of umpiring kit earlier in the year. This has died down. As a region we are keen to ensure that whatever is supplied is affordable and will be requesting assistance from the Northern Rowing Council for essential items of kit.

Safety

Ability to perform CPR important – a recommendation that all umpires should attend a CPR course. Maybe we should organise a course to co-incide with a future seminar.

Emergency medication (that would otherwise be banned) for competitors is generally acceptable providing it was required for emergency treatment by a medical professional.

Competition cover. Ideally there should be a doctor on site. But there are insurance issues here. Not a hard requirement and this should be covered in the event risk assessment. Not directly an umpiring matter.

Review of Regatta Season

Course maps may be useful with a grid on them to allow locations to be mentioned in x,y format i.e. B3.

Chester-le-Street – foliage was a significant visibility issue especially for a September competition. Also becoming an issue at Hexham. CLS have made significant improvements over and above 2017 due to buoying the course.

Hexham – start location is not ideal. Poor visibility for umpires in the first 100 metres or so. Only about 10 strokes visibility for the starter. Partly mitigated by having 5 umpires but needs examining further for future competitions.

Handicap start procedures – need constant practice. Add as agenda item for spring seminar. One particular issue arose at Talkin Tarn where the handicap times were mixed up in a 3 age group race. The older crew got the mid crews gap and vice-versa meaning the mid-group crew started 2 seconds earlier than they should have. Suggestion to list older age handicaps first in the handicap list as these will be first in the countdowns.

All events should be producing feather/spider draw. These really are useful for identifying races especially in later rounds. The feather/spider draw diagrams should have race numbers/times marked on them though.

At Tees a multi-lane masters crew raced off the course whilst still counting down the handicap start for the other crews. The starter stopped and restarted the race but there is a point of view that the race should have been allowed to continue with the crew abiding by their own mistakes. This particular issue is being referred to the MLUP because it is not clear whether the starter or race umpire has jurisdiction once the first crew in a handicap race has started.

At Talkin Tarn a few crews from one club were questioned (within their rights) the results of races they thought they should have won. Once the investigations had been concluded no-evidence of mistakes/inaccuracies could be found. The crews never really accepted the results of the investigations and went away muttering. Clubs and Crews are reminded that they should accept umpiring decisions in good grace. Failure to do this may be considered to be unsportsmanlike behaviour. Clubs should be re-inforcing this to their members.

Durham Regatta – desire to set races off in order – will be putting more procedures in place to assist with this in 2018. Note that the main issue is crews not presenting themselves at the time of their races.

Look ahead to Head Racing Season

The NRUC continues to focus on ensuring that all events are properly covered by race monitors and that the documentation fully reflects the procedures that are happening in practice. Thanks to all the organising committees who have been assisting with this.

We are also pleased to see the Tyne clubs organising a competition emergency procedures day to allow the various officials and rescue teams to discuss and rehearse various rescue procedures.

The BUCS head has moved to Gloucester for the next 3 years.

The LDS organising committee is going to trial a supply of dyneema cord for repairing heel restraints. The crew number/weighing team will have stocks of this available for clubs to purchase if their boats fail control commission checks. This will be reviewed but will likely be included in the standard equipment pack sent to other head races.

AOB

No other items.