

## **Junior Rowing meeting at Tyne ARC 26 July 2016**

Meeting Attendance: Ian Stonehouse, Eric Shields, Alice Furness, Alex Leigh, Arran Lewcock, Richard Peel, David Wright, Alan Granlund, Geoff Higgins, Pauline Higgins

Pauline summarised the purpose of the meeting:

A Consider ways to promote greater cooperation between clubs to enhance the provision for potential elite rowers.

B Promotion of skills events for J14 male and female rowers.

### **Agenda item A**

Alex Leigh stated that the level of participation at a junior level in the North East was at a high level but felt that the number of elite junior rowers/crews competing in national events was at a low level. He also wished to investigate ways Newcastle University could support an increase in a higher level of participation at national events especially from a specific group of identified elite junior rowers.

Alex Leigh offered to run two coaching sessions at Tyne ARC for J16, J17, J18 single scullers using Newcastle University Students as coaches with the aim of creating a supportive network amongst this group of rowers and their coaches. Suggestions Sep 10<sup>th</sup> 2016 and a weekend in Jan 2017.

Alex Leigh suggested greater communication between coaches with the aim of entering this group of elite juniors in the same events so that they got a higher level of competition.

Arran said the elite juniors from CLS would not be competing in local events as competition was not there so they would be training at CLS or competing further afield to get a better level of competition.

The potential costs of entering a rower in the GB programme should be fully discussed with rowers and parents and coaches made aware of their expected commitment. Examples: GB Potential Camp 3 days cost £185 for each rower and coach; Early Identification Trials Registration £100; GB Training Camps cost vary but could be £400+; attendance at Training Days at Caversham – travel and accommodation costs £100+; Final Trials cost **for both coach and rower** £395 (JM) £325 (JW); selection for GB team depending on venue - 2016 Worlds £950 Coupe £850 Home Countries £200 coach £320 rower.

For some trials partners are required for 2x or 2- and if no suitable local partner then travel to create a partnership is required for training. If a local elite group identified this could help with potential partnerships.

### **Issues raised across those present were:**

A huge discrepancy between the number of well qualified coaches available to junior athletes in clubs. Particular issues at SLS and QEHS whilst CLS were coach rich.

A discrepancy in the facilities available to junior rowers. SLS facilities very poor – no water, toilets etc so difficult to attract rowers when DARC and CLS are in easy reach.

Particular issues relevant to schools in terms of having to abide by local authority regulations. Areas such as H&S and safeguarding of particular significance.

Cambois RC find it difficult to attract large numbers of juniors and experience certain issues relevant to an area of economic deprivation.

QEHS have particularly large numbers at limited sessions therefore concentrating on larger boats with J14 rowers.

DARC have few singles to use with juniors.

Assistance from British Rowing not balanced across the regions clubs.

TURC offered facilities to clubs with limited facilities or length of water.

Cambois raised the issue of not receiving payment from NRC for coach training sessions.

The group of elite athletes identified should remain with original clubs and coaches should be professional in dealing with parents and athletes wishing to change clubs for whatever reason.

Rowers and parents should be fully informed and consulted about what is entailed in an elite programme such as GB pathways or high level national events. A rowers views must be a priority and a coach should not put any rower under pressure to participate in events held for the identified elite group. A coach should support their rower to achieve their individual goals but be realistic in helping them to identify a suitable level of achievement.

Entries made under composite rules will require a high level of communication between rowers, parents and coaches.

## **Agenda Item B**

Pauline gave feed back from JRC meeting on J14 skills:

Event needs a review of organisation.

Rowers involved enjoyed the event.

Numbers likely to increase in future years now clubs realise it will be part of GB Junior Champs.

Region has attempted to hold skills events at QEHS, Durham, Tees, Cambois but participation has been quite limited.

Next year regional skills events to be held perhaps in conjunction with elite coaching sessions at Tyne.

Alex Leigh to investigate whether Newcastle University students could assist with organisation.

Ellie Hizzett (Henley Stewards Coach) proposes to organise a skills event very early in September.

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