

## **Northern Rowing Council**

**Online meeting of Executive - 25 May 2020**

### **Responses from clubs on Covid-19 and return to rowing**

**[some received just before and some after the date of the meeting]**

#### ***Open clubs***

##### **Berwick ARC**

We have opened the club to competent single scullers with staggered times for members coming to the club and getting on the water. We have antibacterial sprays and wipes available in the boat house to clean down equipment and no access to the changing rooms at the moment so we advise members to come down ready to row.

We are following government guidelines in regards to distancing etc. We have also advised that rowers from the same household are able to take out doubles if needed.

##### **Cambois RC**

We are currently putting risk and safety assessments together - they are pretty much finished now. We're looking at a trial this Sunday with 2 juniors going off in sculling boats, helped on the landing by a parent, and only 2 people in the boathouse at once. Washing all equipment before and after the session. One coach on the bank with them but keeping distance to ensure it is not classed as a meeting, however the announcement tonight (28 May) on groups should make things a bit easier on that front.

We are planning on everyone who wants to come down completing a form to say they agree to abide by all the conditions set out, and are going to have a booking form with 2 hour slots. Initially juniors will be weekends only to make it easier for parents to help out.

##### **Chester-le-Street ARC**

We have been able to support training sessions via the internet during the closure and so far things have gone as well as they could have.

Our position on re-opening is that we have had a team consisting of the safety officer, club captain and head coach pulling together a Covid-19 Risk Assessment this week and it is ready for approval by the club officials.

As yet the club has not re-opened but I'd expect it to at some stage this week. Adults only at the moment.

##### **Durham ARC**

DARC re-opened on a partial basis on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> for singles. This followed a rigorous risk assessment, the production of guidelines and a timetable for members. There will be a restriction of six members rowing in any time slot. Access to the Club is through the boathouse only and provision has been made for distancing and hygiene in accordance with government guidelines.

We shall be monitoring this and will review in response to members' feedback. Juniors being allowed out with parents taking responsibility for supervision from the bank (mentioned at meeting).

## **Ebchester BC**

We have as of today decided to allow max 3 on the water. We initially allowed 4 in singles, or doubles in family units but I think 3 will be easier to manage with the extra time and effort it takes to keep the social distance, extra cleaning, and in general keeping an eye on the rowers.

We are lucky though in that 50% of our members are family units so this has made things a bit easier. Our clubhouse is very small so extra care is taken to social distance, with a one in one out system.

## **Gateshead CRC.**

We had a break in last week the boat engine, life jackets etc taken. Damage to our safety boat. No plans to return to rowing for a while especially has a lot of our members have underlying conditions and need extra assistance.

## **Hexham RC**

Currently in line with British Rowing guidance and the government guidelines we're allowing private singles stored at the club to be used alongside club singles and doubles (when both rowers live together). The only people allowed out are those capable of rowing without supervision and in addition to this we've put new health and safety policy in place around cleaning and use of the boats, only one member down at once etc. Hope this helps!

It would be interesting to know how other clubs are looking at reopening.

## **Lakeland RC**

We are closely following BR guidelines and are in the process of finalising our safety protocols for private boats to be able to launch from our beach.

This will be followed by a phased opening of the club compound for the use of club singles, or doubles for family groups.

We are a bit worried about finances this year with increased insurance costs and very little reserves so I've been speaking with our AAP about funding support. I wonder if Covid-19 has affected other clubs financially too?

## **City of Sunderland RC**

Through the 'hard' lockdown we were able to distribute the club ergs and bikes so as many members as possible had access to equipment. We've provided weekly training plans including erg and non-erg sessions for people who wanted to partake. We took part in the Tees lockdown regatta, have issued various stretching and core guides on social media and we ran an Easter competition for the different sections of the club.

We're back and running on a limited basis for seniors now. We hope to be getting some of the older more experienced juniors out next week, though we're still finalising how to do this whilst meeting social distancing, no one-to-one contact between juniors and coaches and ensuring the sessions are safe without a launch. We're pretty sure we've got a method that should work though, albeit the parents may have to graft a bit!

Logistics wise we're doing pretty much the same as everyone else managing to get out. Singles going out in pairs on a timetabled basis to comply with social distancing, boat

house access minimised, hygiene rules to ensure everybody disinfects hands before using equipment and then disinfects and cleans the equipment used afterwards etc.

### **Talkin Tarn ARC**

In terms of Covid-19, the Committee made the decision to shut the Club (including all access to the shed and club activities) on Tuesday 17th March and we have remained closed since. A virtual committee meeting was held on 7th April, when the Committee agreed to a lockdown strategy which would continue to engage members through the lockdown. This has consisted of a weekly Club update sharing good news stories, photos, pics from the past, workout inspiration etc.. We have also been running an internal Virtual League with 20 members participating from home on their machines each week in line with the cancelled season (e.g. last week we all had to submit an 850m 'Tees' time and next week we're submitting a 700m 'Hexham' time).

In light of the recent British Rowing guidance, the Committee again discussed the situation and agreed that the Club should remain closed until further notice. This has been backed up by the Council who have requested that no boats go on the water at all. Whilst the Tarn car park was reopened recently (having been shut at the main road for weeks), all facilities e.g. toilets and showers on which the Club usually rely remain closed which makes risk assessments interesting and takes the decision almost out of our hands.

The Club has been open a couple of times recently by personal appointment through the Captain to allow members with private equipment to remove it from the shed and take it away, however these members have been told that any rowing shall not be carried out with Club endorsement, on the Tarn or in Club colours and that those individuals must carry out their own risk assessment and apply for their own launching licenses etc.

Our Committee has another virtual meeting scheduled for Tuesday 2nd June, with the main agenda item of discussing how we may re-open as and when the time comes. In preparation for this meeting, Committee members have been asked to submit any workable ideas/proposals to me by next weekend so that they can be circulated prior to the meeting and discussed during the meeting. It is hoped that the outcome of this meeting will be some form of proposal for re-opening as and when the time comes.

### **Tees RC**

Currently some of our members who have private boats within the boathouse are being allowed to book via one person at specified days and times. Most private boats are in one bay so people are being given 15 minute slots. Cleaning protocols have been put in place e.g. sanitiser is available on entry and within. Social distancing 2m apart as normal.

In response to receiving the latest BR report, some pressure for use of club singles to be allowed, so currently looking at how many, what the criteria should be, whether we charge full subscription, checking swimming ability, etc. We will probably have to determine who have used 1x before, how often to offer and get an idea of demand for club boats.

We are monitoring the effect of private boat users at the moment. They are allowed Tue/Wed 8 -11 & 6-8 and Sat 8-11. If we allow 1x back we may look at increasing times on other days. In terms of boathouse facilities we only have access to the disabled toilet for emergencies. People have to arrive ready to scull.

## **Tyne ARC**

Club closed and staff furloughed. Grant obtained from local authority. Ergs and spinning bikes lent to members for donation. Utilities costs well down. Can keep going for the time being financially.

After trials, system for return to rowing as at 25 May is for 90 minutes slots, each slot taking up to four rowers: 15 mins to get on water, 60 minutes on water, 15 minutes to get off and leave, then 15 min gap to next four. Singles only at present, private or club (choice of 6 currently). Rowers must be experienced. Slots and boats must be pre-booked on Google sheets; start 7.00am and finish 8.00pm

Social distancing of course and lots of hygiene. As we have the separate 'old' boathouse, there is no need to open the new clubhouse at all, though this does mean no toilets or changing available (rowers are advised not to drink too much beforehand). We are considering how to get juniors onto water, without safety launch cover first, then at some point with launches, depending on social distancing restrictions, etc.

## **Tyne United RC**

We have tried to implement government rules and BR guidance and have put together a procedure document that has been published and all members must follow when attending the Club site and rowing.

The co-ordinator of each squad collect names of people who want to row in club sessions and then our Captain (or in the case of Daytime Rowing, the coordinator) puts together a list which allocates 15 minute boating slots and boats, 2 boats at a time in each 15 minute slot. Members are expected to come changed, wash the boat before and after use, clean anything they touch and leave immediately after the session. We've put out cleaning sprays and paper towels for cleaning surfaces and various reminder notices.

A member of the committee is present at each session to make sure it runs OK and that members are observing the rules. The clubhouse is not open except in exceptional or emergency circumstances. We are quite lucky in that our boat sheds are spaced a distance apart, there is a lot of outdoor space and we don't have to go through any clubhouse or other buildings to get access to boats and blades.

Club boats are only allowed between White House and Blue House at the moment as there are no launches out. Owners of private boats don't have restrictions (no change).

## **Tynemouth RC**

In terms of what we are doing – that's a straight forward one - nothing!! Our club is officially closed for rowing, training and any social activities. The committee decided that our club couldn't guarantee social distancing for any of those activities. Even our singles can't be launched by 1 person on their own.

The 1 thing I will say though is that the use of WhatsApp has been brilliant. Before Covid kicked off, a lot of the regulars were on a WhatsApp group. The use of this has been maintained during this time, more for social purposes/banter than rowing, but I think it is a good outlet and a good way of maintaining momentum in the club which has really picked up in the last year or so. I have also contacted people who had expressed an interest in a learn to row course this year explaining the position and to hopefully maintain their interest.

## ***Schools***

### **Queen Elizabeth High School BC**

QEHS has not as yet resumed any activity on the water. I have not had any communication from school but we feel that under current guidance we cannot take responsibility for juniors and could only put them out one at a time which is against our normal protocol anyway, not to mention that we have over 100 members! Geoff is waiting for the BR guidance expected today before finalising our Risk Assessment.

### **Durham School**

No rowing currently.

CP 28-05-20