



Minutes of Northern Regional Rowing Council Meeting  
(draft for approval at next meeting, as at 28 October 2017)

At Tyne Rowing Club, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017, 7.30pm

**Present:** Michael Laing (Chairman), Charly Curtis (Vice-Chairman), Pauline Higgins (Junior rowing), Colin Percy (Events), Gabrielle Moore (Masters rowing), Colin Lawson (Recreational rowing), Alan Granlund (Treasurer).

**Apologies:** Pamela Walton, John Mullholland, Gill Houston, Peter Hoare,

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1	<p><b><u>Minutes of last meeting 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and matters arising</u></b></p> <p>Held over till next meeting. Colin P to take minutes for this meeting.</p>	ML/PW
2	<p><b><u>Reports from officers and coordinators</u></b></p> <p>N.B. Those with * had done written reports - on NRC web site at <a href="http://www.nerowing.com/nrcminutes.html">www.nerowing.com/nrcminutes.html</a>.</p> <p><b>(a) Treasurer:</b> Alan said that as at 18 July 2017 there was £21,074.32 in the account with no major movements since. He was aware that the LDS organising committee had some expenditure in mind. It was agreed to look at other possible spending areas for the next meeting. Suggestions requested.</p> <p><b>(b) Junior rowing *:</b></p> <p>Pauline said that results at British Rowing Junior Champs had not been outstanding overall, but she personally was happy with taking our rowers for the experience. There were not the resources in this region to have a highly developed pathway into the top end of junior rowing. She said some J14s would have benefitted with more practice on skills before the 'omnium' Friday. We should think about that for next year.</p> <p>In this context she mentioned the Chester-le-Street invitational J13 junior regatta that was proposed for 23 September, but had been cancelled due to lack of numbers. The meeting felt that a junior regatta for a wider target audience was a good idea and should be discussed for 2018 (<i>see later re competition format and the Club Development Conference</i>).</p>	All

	<p><b>(c) Recreational rowing*:</b></p> <p>Colin L said that the Explore Series was going well, though with a drop off in numbers more recently; the last event for 2017 is on 1 October. The point per race for competing (plus another for winning) had been welcomed. For 2018 the steering group (Colin x 2, Gabrielle and Caroline Scholl) needed to discuss what to do about eligibility with novice status being dropped from 1 April 2018. And Colin P had just circulated tide times, which did not look helpful in setting dates.</p> <p>As well as the successful Great Tyne Row, tours had happened on the Wear in stable boats and on the Tees, with a less formal row to Yarm. Tynemouth RC's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary invitational regatta was scuppered due to water conditions (Charly said the 100<sup>th</sup> was as well). The BR tour on the Lancaster Canal had 65 rowers recently.</p> <p>Finally Colin L said that moving stable fours/quads around the region was an issue, as most trailers could only take two on top. It was agreed to consider at the next meeting the possibility of the NRC buying a 2-bay trailer that could take more, preferably in partnership with a club, who would look after it for the NRC. Colin P said he would get a cost. Finally Colin L said that the national recreational rowing meeting had noted a lessening in support from British Rowing – something to monitor.</p> <p><b>(d) Events*:</b></p> <p>Colin P said regattas had gone well apart from Tyne not happening due to low numbers. The first Tyne Single Scullers Head run by NUBC on 3 September had a modest 131 rowers but went well and got a thumbs-up from NRUC for organisation.</p> <p>He confirmed the Great Tyne Row had gone to plan, with good weather and only a few waves. Moreover it was set to make a small surplus. It had only gone ahead on the basis of a break-even position being reached on close of entries. Alan expressed a degree of satisfaction. Colin would convene a steering group meeting as soon as possible for a full wash up. He said he was standing down, at least for 2018, as Event Director. There were problems with tides again in setting a date as well. So lots to discuss.</p> <p>The draft regional calendar for 2018-19 still stood as before; nothing yet back from national level. He said Northumbria University BC wanted to revive the idea of a Summer Head and Cambois wanted to take back the afternoon Wansbeck SBH from the NRC, both in 2018. Both clubs had been advised on the process, with a request for documents and a form by early November. It was agreed that a group comprising the signees for the application form be given power to endorse or not the two applications, if ready prior to the AGM.</p> <p><b>(e) LDS Series &amp; Head Race meeting *:</b></p>	<p>CL/GM CS/CP</p> <p>CP</p> <p>CP</p> <p>CP</p>
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	<p>Charly reported on the new organisational arrangements, as outlined at the last meeting. The 2017 series was all in hand. It was agreed to fund an upgrade in timing and computer equipment out of NRC funds, up to a maximum of £1000, with Richard Mortimer authorised to purchase in consultation with Charly as necessary.</p> <p>The recent meeting on 6 September about the LDS series and head races had been very useful (note for and minutes of meeting were on the web site). The message had been put across to organisers that better resourcing was needed in some cases, e.g. some needed bank monitors and/or better marshalling, and that most clubs must do better in bringing forward new umpires (numbers were dropping at the moment).</p> <p><b>(f) Masters rowing *:</b></p> <p>Gabrielle reported feedback from the national masters meeting. There were items on preparing information for coaching and training of masters (this has been in preparation for some time), comments on Henley Masters and National Masters regattas.</p> <p>She said there was strong evidence that the new Competition Framework PRI points system is not being kept up to date or is not entirely accurate and there was support in the national masters meeting for not using the system for master's events.</p> <p><b>(g) Safety Adviser's report *:</b></p> <p>The written report was taken as read, though Colin P urged people to read it as it included a number of interesting items. One seemed to indicate a greater role for regional rowing councils in keeping an eye on clubs' non-affiliated competitions and events. Clarification on this would be welcome. And an update on heel restraint rules was given - back to horizontal from 1 April 2018!</p> <p><b>(h) Regional Representative's report *:</b></p> <p>The written report (mainly about grant take-up) was taken as read.</p> <p><b>(i) Chairman:</b></p> <p>Michael said that the structure of British Rowing governance would be evolving further as required by UK Sport and staffing as dictated in part by money considerations. He would report further as best he could, perhaps at the AGM. One positive outcome might be a regional centre for coaching excellence.</p>	<p>RM/CC</p> <p>All</p> <p>ML</p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b><u>Format for local events</u></b></p> <p>Pauline had previously raised concerns about the expansion of some events, notably regattas, such that racing was from very early till quite late. This meant that both organisers and visiting coaches and trailer drivers (though not necessarily rowers, who could often drop in just</p>	

	<p>for their event) had extremely long days.</p> <p>There were options such as going to two days or limiting entries more rigidly or maybe having some competitions targeting seniors/masters and others juniors. It was agreed that the next Club Development Conference should have a substantive session focussing on this.</p>	ML
<b>4</b>	<p><b><u>Funds to be raised from sale of NRC singles</u></b></p> <p>Pauline reported that the NRC singles had now been collected in for assessment and valuation with a view to sale. She was preparing text to go on the web site to say how clubs could bid for boats. Many were interested in the one they had been lent most recently.</p> <p>She said that maybe £10,000 could be raised. It was agreed to discuss at the next Exec meeting how the money might be spent. One suggestion was to set up a revolving loan fund for smaller clubs to enable them to purchase boats. Thoughts welcome.</p>	PH  All
<b>5</b>	<p><b><u>Correspondence</u></b></p> <p>None brought to meeting.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>It was agreed to hold the NRC AGM on 27 November 2017 at 7.30pm at Durham ARC (Charly confirmed venue clear that night). The Chairman said he would discuss the AGM arrangements with Pam as Secretary and get early requests out to clubs to consider nominating people. He asked the current Exec members to tell him their current thoughts on carrying on. He would be standing down as Chairman as required by the rules.</p> <p>A new post of Club Liaison Officer had been suggested by Tyne ARC and it was agreed this would be 'advertised' alongside other posts for nominations. He would seek to get Jo Atkinson, our BR Community Support Manager, as a speaker. It was also agreed that the Club Development Conference would be on Sunday 28 January 2018 at the same venue. Suggestions wanted for topics, to Michael.</p>	ML/PW  All  ML  All
<b>7</b>	<p><b><u>Date of next meetings</u></b></p> <p>NRC Exec meeting dates for 2018 were not discussed; to decide at the AGM.</p>	

The meeting closed at 8.59pm