

Northern Regional Rowing Council

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting – draft for approval

1 February 2021, held online via Zoom at 7.30pm

Present: Michael Laing (Chair), Charly Curtis (Vice Chair), Alan Granlund (Treasurer), Colin Percy (Secretary), Pauline Higgins (Junior Rowing), Pam Walton (Recreational Rowing), Gabrielle Moore (Masters Rowing & Regional Rep), Richard Mortimer (Umpiring), John Mulholland (Safety), David Squirrell (Student Rowing), Dan Lockey (LDS), Catherine Bowman (Competitions), Eddie Bryant (Coaching), Tim Morris. Carol Singleton was present (but see item 1).

Apologies: None

The meeting paused to acknowledge members who had passed away in 2020: Brian Dalkin, Clive Hole, Phil Metcalfe, Mick Downworth.

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1	<p><u>Co-option of new member of Executive Committee</u></p> <p>It was agreed to co-opt Carol Singleton from Tynemouth RC as a member of the Executive Committee with immediate effect.</p>	
2	<p><u>Minutes of last meeting – 21 September 2020</u></p> <p>Agreed a correct record as circulated.</p>	
3	<p><u>Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting</u></p> <p>None not covered below or in written reports.</p>	
4	<p><u>Update on rowing under Covid-19</u></p> <p>The Chair described the process by which British Rowing took new government advice and DCMS and produced its guidance for rowing and he thought a good job was being done. Feedback from BR indicated a drop in subscription renewals as no racing. He said a return to the water after the reimposition of lockdown at the end of 2020 was some way off. He was aware that many clubs were organising training and general contact online though their ability to do so varied. Rowers in schools were missing so much.</p> <p>Some feedback on individual clubs was given, confirming a mixed picture on virtual activity. Lack of equipment, especially ergos, at home was a major issue. DCR were running home training programmes but there had been low interest in competitions. There</p>	

	<p>were some open online club competitions being organised, including one at Chester-le-Street recently and Tyne Head shortly. Discussions on re-starting affiliated competitions were being held at national and regional levels, but it was difficult for organisers, with them not knowing when they might be allowed to restart and what restrictions may remain even if they do start. National Schools Regatta was being split in two for younger and older juniors and discussion on JIRR continued.</p>	
5	<p><u>Virtual Club Development Conference</u></p> <p>With Covid and its restrictions the running of a face-to-face conference was obviously out of the question and officers had not progressed this. The possibility of holding a virtual version, possibly not all on one day but with a series of themed virtual sessions mirroring Exec members' responsibilities was discussed. A speaker or two from BR could be invited, though BR was undertaking a series of webinars itself.</p> <p>It was agreed to look into a programme of themed online sessions over the next few months.</p>	All
6	<p><u>Junior Inter Regional Regatta update</u></p> <p>Pauline reported on discussions nationally on whether it would be possible to organise JIRR later in the year as the planned date of 24 April was clearly not now workable. Options were the summer or later in the year, though all posed problems. She would keep clubs informed of any news.</p>	
7	<p><u>Use of money from Northumberland County ARA</u></p> <p>The money had not yet been transferred to the Rowing Council. Once received there would be consultation with clubs on how to use it, with a view to dispensing it quickly.</p>	
8	<p>Reports from officer</p> <p>(written reports where indicated are on the web site *)</p> <p>Safety (JM) (written report) John said there was actually little to report with no rowing. He advised that clubs should move carefully back into rowing when allowed and review their existing Covid-19 related risk assessments and plans. Advice should be given to rowers not to rush back into full heavy training mode.</p> <p>Events (CB) (written report plus list of dates for 2021-23 circulated) Catherine said it was very difficult to know how competitions in the region this summer would turn out. Head races up to Easter were all now effectively off. It was not clear if early regattas that might also be cancelled would want to explore alternative dates later in the year. She would help and advise as necessary. On a positive note</p>	

	<p>she said she now had a firm draft programme of competitions through to the end of April 2022 and more tentatively to April 2023.</p> <p>LDS (DL) (written report) Dan as the new LDS Coordinator said he was getting up to speed with Richard and Charly generally and had liaised with Catherine and Colin on dates for 2022. New Exec member Tim Morris had volunteered to help Dan on the LDS. A virtual meeting of the core group and club contacts was to be held on 20 April by which time Covid issues might be clearer.</p> <p>Recreational Rowing (PW) (written report). Pam reported back from a national committee meeting in January. There had been a discussion on maintaining interest during lockdown, improving the national database for recreational rowing reps in clubs and encouraging challenge and recreational rows around the country.</p> <p>Colin said there had been a meeting of the Great Tyne Row steering group in January (written report circulated). It had been confirmed Red Seal Rescue were not free for the new preferred date of 1 August, one of the few days with suitable tides. The GTR meeting had concluded that the event could not run without them.</p> <p>Colin said there was in any case a proposal to hold a celebration/commemoration event on 1 August at Newburn, that day being the 200th anniversary of the first formal rowing race on the Tyne and also close to the 150th anniversary of the death of James Renforth in Canada on 23 August. The meeting asked the GTR group to investigate other safety cover, but said that the Newburn event sounded interesting.</p> <p>Junior Rowing (PH) Pauline's reported on national issues, including performance pathways and a campaign from some clubs/schools to allow more information on entries to affiliated competitions prior to close so that crews could be matched (and presumably withdrawn if no suitable opponents). This probably suited clubs/schools with fixed 1st, 2nd etc crews rather than those who ran with more flexible squad entries like QEHS. Others thought this would be very difficult and clearly against current rules.</p> <p>Umpiring (RM) (written report) Richard again reported little activity in the region since the last Exec. As at 1 Jan 21 there were 28 licensed umpires in the region, thanks to Dilwyn as NRUC Secretary chasing people up for renewals by year-end. But more always needed and planning for umpire training in the spring was in hand. National work on training and CPD continued. New <i>Rules of Racing</i> would be out soon, with relatively minor changes from last year.</p> <p>Student Rowing (DS) David had already talked about Durham College Rowing, where the continual changes with rowing being off, then on, then off again was making things very difficult. This was much the same in the universities too. BUCS had hoped to run their 4s & 8s Head later in the month but that was now off. They were now looking to see if the BUCS Regatta date in May was viable.</p>	<p>DL</p> <p>CP</p>
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9	<u>Social media activity by Exec</u> No discussion.	
10	<u>Correspondence</u> None other than as already discussed.	
11	<u>AOB</u> (a) It was agreed that approx £80 could be spent on a subscription to a newspaper online archive to help the ongoing history of rowing in the region initiative agreed at the last meeting. (b) Eddie said that The Chorister School at Durham was merging with Durham School but the two boat clubs would remain separate. (c) Congratulations were agreed to winners from this region of British Rowing national awards as announced in very late 2020. (See copy of post made to the Northern Rowing Facebook page on 2 Jan 21 below)	
8	<u>Dates of future meetings in 2020</u> Monday 21 June 2021 - Executive Committee Monday 13 September 2021 - Executive Committee Date of AGM in November to be agreed at next meeting	

* Reports etc are all on the NRC website at <http://www.nerowing.com/nrcminutes.html>

Colin Percy, NRC Secretary, at secretary@nerowing.com

Northern Rowing Facebook post on 2 Jan 21:

British Rowing announced its national award winners (and outstanding nominees) for 2020 during the gap between Christmas and New Year. Full details of all awards are available via the BR web site at www.britishrowing.org/news or on their Facebook page.

This region has award winners and commendations and the NRC would like to congratulate them all. Information taken from the BR web site just for them is also at www.nerowing.com/br_awards_2020.html.

- Lifetime Achievement Award - regional winner Charly Curtis, Durham ARC
- Beryl Crockford Award for contributions to junior rowing - Bill Parker, St Leonard's School BC/Durham ARC
- Club of the Year Award - commendation to Tynemouth Rowing Club
- Volunteer of the Year Award - regional winners are Pauline and Geoff Higgins, Queen Elizabeth HSBC
- School or Junior Crew of the Year Award - Junior Men's double, Tees RC
- Club Crew of the Year Award - commendation to Women's MasC 4x from Talkin Tarn ARC
- Rising Star of the Year Award for young volunteers – regional winner David Squirrel, Collingwood College BC/DCR