



Northern Regional Rowing Council

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting – draft for comment as at 29-04-21

19 April 2021, held online via Zoom at 7.30pm

Present: Michael Laing (Chair), Charly Curtis (Vice Chair), Colin Percy (Secretary), Pauline Higgins (Junior Rowing), Carol Singleton, Pam Walton (Recreational Rowing), Gabrielle Moore (Masters Rowing & Regional Rep), Tim Morris (Asst LDS), Richard Mortimer (Umpiring), John Mulholland (Safety), David Squirrell (Student Rowing), Dan Lockey (LDS).

Apologies: Alan Granlund (Treasurer), Catherine Bowman (Competitions),

		Action by
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 – 1 February 2021</u></p> <p>Agreed a correct record as circulated and on web site.</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>Officer reports</u></p> <p>The Chair asked for those present to give a short update, noting some had submitted a written report (available on the web site at www.nerowing.com/nrcminutes.html). Key points were:</p> <p><i>Competitions:</i> Catherine had given apologies, but had sent a written report. In it she said CLS, Durham City, Tees and Talkin Tarn regattas were cancelled. Wansbeck (as a head), Hexham, Durham and Tyne were at that point still on. All were seeing if it was actually feasible to run under Covid restrictions. Draft dates up April 2023 had been circulated to clubs. There was discussion on each, especially Durham as the largest and the most complicated to run. The willingness of people to volunteer to help on the day was mentioned as an as yet untested issue. Richard thought umpires were keen to come out.</p> <p><i>Safety:</i> John in his written report covered the need to progress outstanding issues highlighted in safety audits at the end of 2020, the need to still follow Covid rules and guidelines, clubs to keep on top of risk assessments in the light of changes to these and advice</p>	

	<p>to returning rowers to ease back in to rowing.</p> <p><i>Masters rowing:</i> Gabrielle in her written report referred to the national committee discussions. She confirmed Nat Masters would be a one day competition on 12 June; no spectators and minimum time spent at venue by rowers. There would be more news on the competition from BR soon. The committee had discussed handicaps for older masters and comparing those for women and men.</p> <p><i>Recreational rowing:</i> Pam in her written report referred to the recent BR Rowing webinar on Rec Rowing for Fun. She had featured! She recommended it. Touring ideas were at www.recrowing.org.uk . The national Rec Rowing group could host webinars if helpful to any clubs or events. The Charles Stanley stable quads were available for hire at reasonable cost. She would be contacting club rec rowing reps very soon and related to this would be consulting on a proposed new format for the Sunday League.</p> <p><i>Umpiring:</i> Richard in his written report said the RUC had met on Zoom on 1 March discussing a wide range of issues. The spring seminar now in early May would help umpires back in to the admittedly truncated regatta season. Regatta competitions still running would get an invite to the meeting and close liaison between the RUC and organising committees would be essential. Umpire training had begun with 10 or so candidates, with the theory exam soon. The national committee had been surveying umpires to see how happy they were with the return to rowing and competition.</p> <p><i>LDS Series:</i> Dan in his written report referred to a meeting the next night between the core groups and host clubs. The agenda included updating contact information, checking race dates were still OK, any big issues or blockers for running events and COVID issues. He would report back as soon as possible after.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Position around clubs</p> <p>Michael asked for feedback on clubs from those present. Clubs were getting rowers out, some in large numbers, which was good news. Many seemed keen to get back to competition. Some clubs had quite strict boat and outing booking systems while other depended for more on separating squads by timetabling for reducing the risk of passing on Covid. Use of gyms even by individuals seemed limited as yet, sometimes due to cramped space and in one at least due to ventilation needing boosting.</p> <p>Junior rowing seemed buoyant except in one club where there was a lull in recruitment even before the pandemic. Again there was a variation in organisation. School clubs generally had to mirror year bubbles, increasing the number of sessions needed at one club at least. On the plus side because some recent school leavers were still around due to Covid, they had been able to come down and</p>	

	<p>help supervise.</p> <p>College rowing at Durham had yet to restart and but it looked like it could start on 26 April low key, as the university was not welcoming student back officially until 17 May. However both NUBC and DUBC have been allowed back to train as elite squads and both have been out. Northumbria was just restarting. No news of Tees and Sunderland.</p> <p>Organisation and money wise it seemed that all club committees and treasurers had been “canny” and had been taking advantage of grants and loans and furlough as appropriate. As far as was known none were in financial difficulty. Some had used the lockdown to progress refurb and Durham ARC already had outdoor hospitality up and running. Michael complimented clubs, staff, officers and volunteers for all the hard work done behind the scenes.</p>	
6	<p>Affiliation of Armitage Boat Club</p> <p>As previously reported, alumni of Hild Bede at Durham were setting up a club of their own. Colin, Richard and John had been discussing the draft constitution with the chair of the new club and are close to recommending it be signed off by our chair and safety adviser and sent off the British Rowing. It was agreed to endorse the new club’s application but delegate to Michael and John in conjunction with Colin and Richard the power to sign it off when judged ready.</p>	<p>CP RM ML JM</p>
7	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>None other than as already discussed.</p>	
8	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>(a) Use of money from Northumberland County ARA - the money had not yet been transferred to the Rowing Council. Colin would progress consultation with clubs in the former NCARA area on its use. He said this area comprised the present Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland local authority areas, not just the latter.</p> <p>(b) Members were aware that Wade Hall-Craggs ex-DUBC coach was able and willing to help with coaching in the region.</p> <p>(c) Further information on the Wear at Durham was mentioned, including Environment Agency authorisation to dredge, rebuilding of the Royal County Hotel river wall and New Elvet Bridge works.</p> <p>(d) Colin asked if Charly could check for availability at DARC on Mondays evenings in November for the AGM.</p> <p>(e) Colin reported that the Great Tyne Row was definitely off and an event on 1 August was planned at Newburn with Tyne clubs</p>	<p>Colin asked if Charly could check dates on November</p>

	working together. It was in part to commemorate the first formal rowing race on the Tyne in 1821. A meeting of the (ex-GTR) steering group was meeting the following Thursday and a note of that meeting would be circulated to this committee.	
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	

Colin Percy

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