



Northern Regional Rowing Council

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting – draft for agreement at next meeting

21 September 2020, held online via Zoom at 7.30pm

Present:

Charly Curtis (Vice Chair), Colin Percy (Secretary), Pauline Higgins (Junior Rowing), Colin Lawson (Recreational Rowing), Gabrielle Moore (Masters Rowing & Reg Rep), Richard Mortimer (LDS/Chair NRUC), John Mulholland (Safety), David Squirrell (Durham College Rowing), Catherine Bowman (Events), apology for absence: Alan Granlund (Treasurer).

In attendance for item re LDS:

David Robinson (TARC), Alex Shiel (TURC), Sarah Hodge (City of Sunderland RC), Mark Bell (DARC), Alex Leigh (NUBC), apology for absence: Helen Carr (Cambois RC).

		Action by
1	<p><u>Minutes of last meeting – 27 July 2020</u></p> <p>Agreed a correct record as circulated; to be put on the web site and sent to British Rowing.</p>	CP
2	<p><u>Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting</u></p> <p>There were none not covered below or in written reports, except to report the tree in the river at DARC had been moved.</p>	
3	<p><u>NUBC test competition and LDS series 2020</u></p> <p><i>N.B. This is not a full note of discussions, but meant to give a flavour of what was said.</i></p> <p>Reps of host clubs (TARC/TURC & City of Sunderland RC) attended. Richard and others reported back from NUBC's Tyne Single Scullers Head the day before. It had gone well in terms of both racing and Covid precautions, reflecting a huge amount of work. British Rowing reps seemed happy. The meeting congratulated NUBC and its partners. TSSH could demonstrate much good practice, but the LDS races could be larger and, for example, have more trailers.</p> <p>Turning to the LDS series, Richard confirmed Tyne and South Hylton hosts were keen and Wansbeck and Durham hosts had doubts. Durham in particular had a wide range of issues to deal with, not just Covid. Richard said there were ongoing debates about boat mix, combining LDS and SBH competitions to reduce workload and give</p>	

	<p>more flexibility, course length and number of divisions (at Tyne) in order to produce a poster as soon as possible. There was discussion on possibly limiting entries to this region to keep numbers down (though this could be controlled anyway) and reducing travel.</p> <p>Some Exec members present expressed concern that the Council might be regarded as carrying on with the LDS regardless of the increasing number of Covid cases. We were now being asked to reduce contact and legal restrictions were coming in. 'Organised sport' did seem to be exempt, but we should not use this as an excuse to carry on regardless. The safety of our volunteers as well as those of competitors was very important.</p> <p>It was agreed that Richard carry on in discussions with host clubs in the coming days and report back to Exec members by email as soon as possible so that a final decision could be made on any LDS competitions still being backed by host clubs.<i>[N.B. Series as a whole cancelled shortly after meeting]</i></p>	RM
4	<p><u>New constitution for NRC</u></p> <p>The Secretary presented draft V3 of the new NRC constitution, amended slightly from V2 considered at the July meeting; specific reference to annual election of a Vice Chairman and a Student Representative had been added. It was agreed that the Executive Committee endorse the draft V3 for presenting to the AGM November for approval and/or adoption. Colin would send draft V3 to British Rowing for comment now and ask their advice on the exact process to follow up to, at and after the AGM.</p>	CP
5	<p>Money in Northumberland County ARA bank account</p> <p>Colin P as Secretary in his written report said that Northumberland County ARA had been active for many years in what were now the Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside council areas. Its role had been primarily in organising events, notably the Tyne Head in latter years, and selecting county crews for matches with other counties.</p> <p>It had received income, notably from Tyne Head in later years and this was banked with Barclays. Activities and income had declined and then stopped maybe 7 or 8 years ago when Tyne ARC took on the full responsibility for and income from Tyne Head. Management meetings had possibly stopped by then and NCARA's affairs ended up with one individual, who passed away before matters were resolved. However another individual remained as the named treasurer and account holder with the bank, even though he thought he had retired.</p> <p>NCARA had £5,190.34 in its account, Colin said. The bank wanted to close the account as it has been inactive for a long time. The former treasurer had said he would be happy to authorise payment of this</p>	

	<p>sum to the NRC on the basis that there would be then some discussion with clubs in the old NCARA area and that it would in due course be dispensed as grants or similar in that area.</p> <p>It was agreed that that the NRC would be willing to receive this money in trust and that there would be consultation with still active former NCARA member clubs, probably at NRC's AGM in November. Colin said he would inform the NCARA treasurer.</p>	CP
4	<p><u>Reports of Officers</u></p> <p>(written reports where indicated are on the web site *)</p> <p>Treasurer (AG) In the absence of Alan there was no report other than we had just over £14,000 in the bank and that he was still cautious about the paying of further <i>return to rowing</i> grants now. This was noted.</p> <p>Secretary (CP) (written report) All matters in Colin P's written report were covered under other items.</p> <p>Safety (JM) (written report) John said again there had been relatively low activity and thus fewer incidents than in a normal year. Clubs were moving carefully back into rowing with Covid-19 related risk assessments and plans. He reminded clubs again that safety audits would still be required by British Rowing in the autumn, despite the virus.</p> <p>Events (CB) Catherine said she now had what she hoped was the final draft set of dates for competitions in 2021-22 to put through British Rowing.</p> <p>LDS (RM) (written report) Richard in his written report gave a very comprehensive summary of recent discussions and the issues covered. The discussion at this meeting on the LDS series is dealt with under Item 3 above.</p> <p>Recreational Rowing (CL) (written report) Colin L in his report gave draft dates for Sunday League events 2021; discussions were ongoing on some dates and venues. He asked the meeting to thank Caroline Scholl who was standing down from the SL steering group for all her work. This was agreed.</p> <p>Masters rowing (GM) Gabrielle said there was minimal activity nationally at the moment.</p> <p>Junior Rowing (PH) (written report) Pauline reported that there was a wide variation in how schools and junior sections were working. For some school year bubbles were quite rigid, for other less so. Using older juniors in learn to row courses with younger rowers was almost impossible.</p> <p>She mentioned the inaugural meeting of the State School Rowing Network, which was very positive. And also the meeting of the Junior</p>	CP

	<p>Rowing Council which Holly had attended and which covered much ground. Lastly she said that British Rowing had updated its policy statement and guidance on recruitment between clubs.</p> <p>Umpiring (RM) (written report) Richard looked forward to the return to rowing and to competitions, though timescales were difficult to gauge as the first competitions were only being allowed by BR from 10 October. The Tyne Single Scullers Head test event the day before had been well run and his written report contained a detailed set of learning points. The autumn umpires' seminar would have been that day so needed to be rearranged if there was time. National discussions were ongoing around return to rowing, umpires exams. He reported an unfortunate omission in the published rules of racing about heel restraints.</p> <p>Coaching Education (EB) (written report) Eddie gave a brief report on piloting online assessment, when Level 2 courses might restart, the Diploma in Sporting Excellence and Women's Development Days</p>	
6	<p><u>NRC response to Coronavirus</u></p> <p>Colin P reported that the NRC again had been less active than earlier in the return to rowing period. Another Zoom meeting with clubs had not been held. However there had been active discussions with those clubs involved in the LDS series, which had been useful in hearing what was happening around the region. Another general Zoom meeting might be offered soon once the LDS position was clear.</p> <p>David gave feedback on Durham College rowing. There was much work taking place on risk assessments, which was throwing up interesting issues around responsibility for boathouses. DUBC elite rowers had restarted, but nobody else. It was not yet very clear when rowing generally would restart.</p>	
7	<p><u>Officer Election and AGM arrangements</u></p> <p>Colin P said the NRC AGM is due on Monday 16 November at 7.00 for 7.30pm at DARC. It was agreed to seek British Rowing agreement to hold it virtually. It was also agreed to set in motion the arrangements for elections and producing the formal notice of the meeting. Colin said he would warn clubs now about the upcoming AGM and make sure the formal notice went out in good time. Michael as Chair said he would welcome anyone not currently an officer or on the Exec contacting him to discuss standing. The Chair and the Treasurer said they would both like to stand down.</p>	CP
6	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>One item from Jo Atkinson about seeking good practice examples</p>	CP

	from clubs for publication. Colin P said he would forward to clubs.	
7	<u>AOB</u> None	
8	<u>Dates of future meetings in 2020</u> Exec - further date in October if needed - TBC AGM - Monday 16 Nov 2020 - 7.30pm on Zoom	CP

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

The meeting closed at 21:00. Thanks to Richard for organising the Zoom.

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

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