



Northern Regional Rowing Council

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting – draft v2 as at 06-07-20

22 June 2020, held online via Zoom at 7.30pm

Present: Michael Laing (Chair), Charly Curtis (Vice Chair), Alan Granlund (Treasurer), Colin Percy (Secretary), Catherine Bowman (Events), Pauline Higgins (Junior Rowing), Colin Lawson (Recreational Rowing), Gabrielle Moore (Masters Rowing), Richard Mortimer (LDS/Chair NRUC), John Mulholland (Safety), David Squirrell (Durham College Rowing), Pamela Walton (Exec Member) plus guest Jo Atkinson (Community Support Manager, British Rowing).

Apologies: Eddie Bryant (Coaching Education), Carol Croft (Deputy Para Rowing).

		Action by
1	<p><u>Minutes of last meeting – 25 May 2020</u></p> <p>Agreed a correct record as circulated. Version as agreed to be put on the web site.</p>	
2	<p><u>Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting</u></p> <p>See the Secretary's and other reports for action on some. Outstanding items not reported on will be carried over to the next meeting, primarily conference planning.</p>	CP
3	<p><u>Presentation from Jo Atkinson, British Rowing</u></p> <p>Jo said she was our immediate link between the Chair and Secretary and British Rowing. She was in touch with Michael and Colin P at least monthly with the Chair's report, and otherwise as necessary or requested. Colin P said the Council was now set up to pass on information from Jo to clubs and rowers quickly.</p> <p>Focussing on Covid-19, Jo underlined the existence of BR's Club Emergency Fund, though it was targeted at those with serious viability threats. It would close on 8 September. Members due to renew BR subs were being encouraged to take out the cheaper <i>Row</i> membership and upgrade in due course to <i>Race</i> when needed, rather than just let membership lapse. The recent Chair's report did show a large drop in membership, however.</p> <p>On rowing in clubs and competitions, nothing had changed in advice since <i>Coronavirus Advice - Return to Rowing v3</i> on 12 June, but a government announcement on major easing of the lockdown was</p>	

	<p>expected the next day (23 June), so everybody should watch out for a BR update in the next few days. National events were now being cancelled in September and it seemed unlikely club affiliated ones could start before then and could be a good deal later.</p> <p>Early ones seemed likely to be for singles only as social distancing (even at 1m) would still make crews boats (especially stern coxed) very difficult to allow. Big competitions take six weeks minimum to organise in BR's view. Jo mentioned problems helping para rowers back on the water at comps or otherwise.</p> <p>Under Q&A, comps came up again. John said a key issue was the need for safety launches at most, with guidance needed on social distancing issues and the possible need for PPE for launch crews. Jo said she would ask Jeff Elms on the national comps group to consider and reply to these points.</p> <p>On retaining membership, Jo asked about club initiatives. Exec members reported on virtual competitions, online training and other activities designed to keep members engaged. Now that rowing was starting again, that was easier, though the novice and younger junior end of things would be the last to benefit in most cases.</p> <p>Active social media was important in most clubs. Jo said BR was of course very supportive of this and was doing much in a similar vein nationally. She said Wendy Kewley at BR would welcome return to rowing and similar stories for the national channels – go to #yourstories at www.britishrowing.org/news/yourstories. Jo commended the Team 21 initiative in the North West – see www.team21nw.com.</p> <p>Jo stayed for the rest of the meeting and took further notes! The Chair thanked her for attending.</p>	Jo
5	<p><u>Reports of Officers</u></p> <p>(written reports where indicated are on the web site *)</p> <p>Treasurer (AG) Alan reported a slightly dented bank balance (taking off all known liabilities) of £xx, as the 14 open clubs and one school had now received their £250 grants and Red Seal their £500.</p> <p>Whether to progress to actively offering the grant to colleges and universities was discussed. David said that Durham college boat clubs would probably lose much income as freshers would very probably not be recruited in the usual numbers and they were a large proportion of total members each year. He thought they would welcome a grant.</p> <p>It was agreed Colin P and David discuss the best way of contacting colleges about the grant and what other issues were facing them. They would bring back conclusions to the next meeting of the Exec before committing to giving out the grant so colleges so the overall</p>	

	<p>financial implications could be considered. Jo said she would seek advice/ideas at a national level about how colleges could be helped.</p> <p>Secretary (CP) (written report) Colin P said in his report that recommendations on the new constitution and the proposed capital grant scheme would be held over till the next meeting. He had (eventually) got details from all open clubs for the grant mentioned above to be paid. Schools and colleges/universities were next (but again see under Treasurer's report above).</p> <p>He reported on a very useful Zoom meeting with open club reps on 2 June, focussing on the return to rowing. 12 clubs and 25 people attended. It was agreed to hold another one once the next major update of BR guidance came out.</p> <p>Safety (JM) John had not made a written report as not much had been until recently. However he now knew of a capsized. Pauline had two more to add as well. None of them were serious. Changes due to easing of the Covid lockdown would presumably kick in soon and John would be available to give advice.</p> <p>Events (CB) (written report) In her report Catherine said she had little new to report, but outstanding were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to compile list of all club contacts responsible for events so I have a contact for each - CLS autumn regatta still to confirm details for affiliation - JIRR 2021 still waiting for date, chased BR on numerous occasions - On events for 2021-22, provisional dates have been submitted by clubs. I have a couple of change requests and still waiting for JIRR date but will submit final proposal to clubs within the next few weeks for final checks. <p>Catherine asked for any feelings on when competitions might resume. Jo and Richard said no clear answer yet, but things might start happening in September or October.</p> <p>LDS (RM) (written informal paper) Richard said his paper as circulated was a set of 'first thoughts' on how the LDS series (and by extension other competitions) might start getting back into gear. Richard said Jo could share it within BR. Richard would use the LDS team plus a few others from other major head races to discuss it in the light of any updated BR advice and bring it back to the next meeting.</p> <p>Recreational Rowing (CL) (written report) Colin L mentioned in his report that some clubs such as DARC were buying stable singles usable with or without floats so less experienced rowers could get on the water. The national committee was looking into this as well. Sunday League dates for 2021 were progressing and depending on BR guidance it might be possible to have some sort of event this year.</p>	<p>CP/DS</p> <p>CP</p> <p>CP/RM</p> <p>CB</p> <p>RM</p>
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	<p>Junior Rowing (PH) (written report) Pauline reported most open clubs had juniors back on the water and commended a variety of ideas to engage them all again. She had distributed the sweatshirts for the JIRR squad (despite it being cancelled). There was a national committee upcoming in early July.</p> <p>Umpiring (RM) Richard reported no activity in the region since the last Exec. He was still working with Colin P and nationally to make sense of the NRUC and NRC relationship so they could bring back the final draft NRC constitution next time.</p> <p>Coaching Education (EB) Eddie although absent had emailed in and said nothing to report on coach education now, though there might be something soon.</p> <p>Div Rep (GM) Gabrielle had reported in an email that there was a Div Reps Zoom meeting on 29 June with Kate O’Sullivan.</p> <p>DRC rowing (DS) Further to the discussion as above under the Treasurer’s report David reported on uncertainties around both the return of students generally and how this would affect college and indeed university rowing. DCR had been running or supporting a number of virtual events for college rowers. The new officers in college boat clubs would all be in place by this coming Saturday.</p>	RM/CP
3	<p><u>Covid-19 news & possible action by Exec</u></p> <p>There was a short discussion on what actions the NRC Exec might take further to agreeing the £250 grants, arranging the Zoom meetings for open clubs and use of social media. Colin P said he now had a good channel of communication open to club officers and thought in the first instance we should use this to say what had happened at this Exec meeting and to suggest another Zoom meeting when new BR advice was out. This was agreed. See next item as well.</p>	CP
4	<p><u>Social media activity by Exec</u></p> <p>The last two Execs had agreed to revitalise its social media offer, focussing first on Facebook. Gabrielle and Pauline had provided names of older junior rowers to help. It was agreed this system should be put on hold as we were obviously not coping with its complexities. Colin P would try to get stories direct from clubs for the Northern Rowing Facebook page to get us moving and we could reconsider involving the juniors at a future meeting.</p>	CP
6	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>None other than as already discussed.</p>	

7	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>(a) Pauline asked for advice on a query she had received about whether a <i>paid</i> junior coach taking out juniors on the water (in a small group, socially distanced) would constitute a club organised activity and thus contravene BR's guidelines. Jo said she would ask her colleagues</p> <p>(b) Eddie in his email had asked if boarding schools on returning soon would be able to count those pupils living/studying as a bubble would be able row in crew boats in the same bubble. This might also be a question applicable to students living in shared accommodation when they got back. Jo said she would take it up.</p> <p>(c) Jo was asked to thank Sarah Leys at British Rowing for all her help to the region and clubs across a range of issues.</p>	<p>Jo</p> <p>Jo</p> <p>Jo</p>
8	<p><u>Dates of future meetings</u></p> <p>Monday in July date TBC - venue Zoom - 7.30pm Monday 14 September 2020 - venue Tyne ARC - 7.30pm AGM - Monday 16 November 2020 - venue Durham ARC - 7.30pm</p>	<p>CP/ML</p>

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

The meeting closed at 20:35.

Thanks to Richard for organising the Zoom.

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

Main action points summary:

Take away questions to BR colleagues on PPE etc for safety launch crews at competitions, whether use of a paid junior coach would constitute club organised activity, if a boarding school bubble could also row in a crew boat with the same people and to thank Sarah Leys at BR. **Jo**

Discuss grant aid to Durham colleges and report back next time. **CP/DS**

Contact schools about £250 grant, but wait on colleges and universities. **CP**

Organise another Zoom meeting with open clubs when BR guidance revised. **CP/RM**

Progress 2021-22 calendar and related task. **CB**

Convene augmented LDS team to discuss possible shape of head race season. **RM**

Bring back final draft of new NRC constitution to next Exec. **RM/CP**

Contact clubs for stories for Northern Rowing Facebook. **CP**