



Northern Regional Rowing Council

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting – draft no 2 as at 30-05-20

25 May 2020, held online via Zoom at 7.30pm

Present: Michael Laing (Chair), Charly Curtis (Vice Chair), Alan Granlund (Treasurer), Colin Percy (Secretary), Eddie Bryant (Coaching Education), Carol Croft (Deputy Para Rowing), 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), Holly Young (Deputy Junior Rowing), Ben Robinson (guest re Covid, Tyne ARC).

Apologies: Catherine Bowman (Events), Gillian Lathan (Para Rowing), Dilwyn Jones (Sec NRUC), Pamela Walton,

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1	<p><u>Minutes of last meeting - 2 February 2020</u></p> <p>Agreed a correct record as circulated. Agreed version to be put on the web site.</p>	
2	<p><u>Matters arising from the minutes</u></p> <p>See Secretary's report</p>	
3	<p><u>Covid-19 news & possible action by Exec</u></p> <p>Colin P had emailed open club secretaries and chairs and asked for brief feedback from them on Covid-19 and return to rowing. Most had replied and responses were in a written report. The situation at others was feedback direct at the meeting. All feedback (including some received after the meeting) are in an Appendix to these minutes as a separate document</p> <p>Most responses concentrated on the return to rowing with not much info on finances. But some clubs did ask for advice on money matters. The responses Appendix would be circulated back to clubs, but It was agreed to look into a Zoom seminar and info exchange for club reps as soon as possible. Colin would sort out with Richard.</p> <p>University and college clubs had not been contacted as yet by Colin. David said some Durham college BCs were active in the background and virtual events were happening. The University as a whole was shut on the ground and it was not clear when students would return. David said he would help in keeping Durham colleges</p>	CP/RM

	<p>in touch. Colin to contact him.</p> <p>One issue that came out at the meeting was how soon juniors might get back on the water. DARC was managing some limited singling with direct parental supervision. Other clubs were under pressure for junior rowing and were considering the issues involved.</p> <p>One or two member said they had heard of junior parents seeking to take boats from clubhouses (if not already at home) and trying to either (a) join a club taking juniors out already or (b) find a river on which they could launch boats themselves not from a club. It was agreed that both of these should be strongly discouraged by the NRC, given that (a) all clubs should be prioritising existing members and (b) that risk assessment and safety cover arrangements were unlikely to be as good as within a club controlled environment. And an incident involving an unattached junior rower near a club might reflect badly (though wrongly) on the club. Colin would highlight this NRC view in his next email back to open clubs plus on FB.</p> <p>It was suggested that all clubs would appreciate some financial help in their return to rowing. It was agreed that every affiliated club active in the region at lockdown in late March would be offered £250 to help with the return to rowing. Colin P would inform clubs (open first) by email and seek a postal address and account name for payment by cheque. He would keep Alan as Treasurer in touch.</p>	<p>DS/CP</p> <p>CP</p> <p>CP/AG</p>
<p>4</p>	<p><u>Social media activity by Exec</u></p> <p>The last Exec had agreed to revitalise its social media offer, focussing first on Facebook. Gabrielle and Pauline at QEHS BC had provided names of older junior rowers, three in all, to help. Michael said he would contact them and discuss how to progress things, looking first at doing regular spots on FB about what's happening in the open clubs. Colin P said he would look at how the Facebook page worked and suggest how we (the Exec) might moderate posts from them, for starters anyway.</p>	<p>ML/CP</p>
<p>5</p>	<p><u>Reports of Officers</u></p> <p>(written reports where indicated are on the web site*)</p> <p>Treasurer (AG) Alan reported a bank balance of £22,204.</p> <p>Secretary (CP) (written report) Colin referred to the ongoing correspondence with clubs now initiated, as per item 3 above. He said the drafting of a revised NRC constitution was on hold till we could sort our administrative relationship with the regional umpiring committee, hopefully by summer (see umpiring report below). He had not emailed British Rowing about the sudden demise of the printed <i>Rowing and Regatta</i> magazine hard version; he would do so now.</p>	<p>CP</p>

<p>He was awaiting a response from Lakeland RC about storage and availability of the grant aided buoys [N.B. email since received confirming situation is as we wanted]. Colin referred to the suggested structure for a small capital grant aid scheme in his report and suggested members look at it and we discuss at the next meeting; agreed. Finally his report dealt with social media, but discussed as item 4 above.</p> <p>Regional Rep (GM) (written report) Gabrielle's only item was a query from Tees RC about eligibility under the training grant scheme for level 2 coaching. Agreed this was clearly eligible.</p> <p>Safety (JM) John did not add to his report to the last meeting. A member asked if new risk assessments for the return to rowing should be published. John said this was not a requirement for any risk assessments, existing or new, but said it was good practice to place on club web sites (and to store on the club's safety audit folder on British Rowing's system).</p> <p>LDS (RM) (written report) Richard said no further work on 2020 had been done pending any announcements by British Rowing on the 20-21 head race season. Dates for the 2021 series had been suggested by Catherine and most clubs had confirmed acceptable.</p> <p>Events (CB) Catherine was absent but had said in an email that dates for the complete programme for 2021-22 had been sent around clubs; a few changes had been requested and work was ongoing. The affiliation documents for Chester-le-Street ARC's autumn regatta in 2020 were still outstanding and British Rowing was querying this. Catherine was asked to chase up.</p> <p>There was some discussion about easing back into live competitions with restricted head races, but no firm conclusions as much depended on government restrictions on social distancing.</p> <p>Recreational Rowing (CL) (written report) Colin L in his report said that the national Recreational Rowing Committee had discussed the impact of Covid-19. The national, tour on the Thames had been postponed till 2021, work on promotion of recreational rowing was underway and virtual events were planned. There was concern nationally that recreational rowers would be near the back of the queue to get back on the water.</p> <p>His report mentioned the possible cancellation of the whole Sunday League 2020 series and also the Great Tyne Row in 2020. The two Colins said in the last few days both SL and GTR steering groups recommended that <i>all</i> SL events and the GTR in 2020 be cancelled and asked the Exec to endorse these decisions; agreed. The Colins would publicise these decision.</p> <p>Junior Rowing (PH) Pauline said nothing to report as nothing happening right now!</p>	<p>AII/CP</p> <p>CB</p> <p>CL/CP</p>
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	<p>Umpiring (RM) (written report) Richard reported no activity in the region since the last Exec. Nationally working groups continued, notably that on training/CPD, which he and Peter Hoare were on. The working group on terms of reference for RUCs should report to the national committee in June or July (see Sec's report above).</p> <p>Coaching Education (EB) (written report) Eddie reported the Diploma in Sporting Excellence for older juniors would open on 1 June and info would go out then on social media (but see https://www.britishrowing.org/gb-rowing-team/performance-talent/diploma-in-sporting-excellence/ for background. He asked for comments on his imminent coaching survey - it was at https://forms.gle/zRuEdxTteCAJjmsN9, but he said he would circulate a pdf version to the Exec.</p> <p>Masters (GM) (written report) Gabrielle said that regional reps were sharing ideas about good practice around the country for the return to rowing.</p> <p>Club Development Conference planning for 2021 (HY) (written report) Holly said that with Colin she was developing surveys first for participants in the 2020 conference in January then for clubs and rowers more generally. She had ideas about the programme and would bring these next time. Ideas welcome.</p>	<p>All EB</p> <p>HY</p>
6	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>None other than as already discussed.</p>	
7	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>It was agreed to give a donation of £500 to Red Seal Rescue to help through this difficult times and in recognition of their invaluable work on safety cover for rowing events. Charly would progress.</p> <p>It was agreed that Richard could upgrade his Zoom account to the next level at NRC's expense so meetings were not interrupted after 40 minutes.</p>	<p>CC/AG</p>
8	<p><u>Dates of future meetings</u></p> <p>Monday 22 June 2020 - venue Zoom- 7.30pm Likely Zoom meeting in July and maybe August Monday 14 September 2020 - venue Tyne ARC - 7.30pm AGM - Monday 16 November 2020 - venue Durham ARC - 7.30pm</p>	<p>CP/RM</p>

* Reports etc are all on the NRC website at <http://www.nerowing.com/nrcminutes.html>
The meeting closed at 21:25. Thanks to Richard for organising the Zoom.
Comments to Colin Percy, NRC Secretary, at secretary@nerowing.com