



Northern Regional Rowing Council

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting – draft v2 for approval 25-05-20

27 April 2020, held online via Zoom at 7.00pm

Present: Michael Laing (Chair), Charly Curtis (Vice Chair), Colin Percy (Secretary), Catherine Bowman (Events), 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), Pamela Walton, Holly Young (Deputy Junior Rowing).

Apologies: Alan Granlund (Treasurer), Gillian Lathan (Para Rowing), Dilwyn Jones (Sec NRUC).

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| 1 | <p><u>Minutes of last meeting - 2 February 2020</u></p> <p>Agreed a correct record as circulated and on the web site. Final version to be put on the web site.</p> | |
| 2 | <p><u>Matters arising from the minutes</u></p> <p>Outstanding matters from last time still needing action: Wording of constitution (CP/RM) Survey on 2021 Conference (CP/HY) - Colin & Holly to discuss; Michael had thanked Ellie for her work this year Grant to Lakeland RC for buoys - check on secure storage (CP) Criteria for applications for capital grant from NRC (CP).</p> <p>Agreed bring back all next time: All other issues discussed under reports.</p> | CP/RM CP/HY CP CP/GM |
| 3 | <p><u>Covid-19 news & possible action by Exec</u></p> <p>The situation in clubs was discussed as far as was known. Durham Uni and the colleges had shut very quickly and would not be back before October. DU and some colleges were running some online competitions and challenges or participating in national ones. DU/DCR websites were not very active; more was done through Facebook and other platforms now. DUBC was contacting clubs around the country asking them to help DU rowers keep fit.</p> <p>The feedback from clubs via Exec members revealed quite a range</p> | |

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| | <p>of online and offline activities, some for those lucky enough to have ergos and others encompassing a wider range of activities. Some were just within the club, others were part of wider national initiatives. Many were trying Zoom, though experience of running ergo sessions with a lot of participants could be challenging. Online pilates, s&c and stretching all featured. Strava popped up a few times. Some clubs had managed to lend out ergos and other equipment before the lockdown, so some rowers would return more rowing fit than others.</p> <p>It was not known in detail how clubs were fixed financially and it was hoped that most had access to emergency funding suited to their size and needs. Some had paid staff, most funded in part by commercial activities, now frozen. All would have costs of some sort. It was hoped most club members would be able to carry on paying subs, but some would not be able to. BR was active in sourcing emergency funding nationally, but other help was regional or local.</p> <p>Whilst it was hoped that most clubs would now have explored the sources of possible help, financial or otherwise, it was agreed to get in touch with all clubs and ask firstly about what they had found and used and secondly what they would like advice on. Colin was about to contact clubs in any case to establish better communication links across the board and would include questions on the lockdown. He would encourage clubs to share ideas with others, either through him, or direct online posting to Northern Rowing Facebook page (but see next section).</p> <p>The NRC's own resources were relatively limited, but it was agreed in principle that its money could be used to support clubs in difficulty if this was cost effective. This would be discussed further by email or at a further Exec meeting in about four weeks' time. Members were asked to consider what other actions the Exec could take. John said he would advise clubs on risk assessments for home training and on safety aspects of the likely phased return to rowing and competitions.</p> | <p>CP</p> <p>All members</p> |
| <p>4</p> | <p><u>Social media activity by Exec under lockdown</u></p> <p>The Exec had been relatively inactive on social media pending this meeting and it was agreed we needed to up our game. Some use of the Northern Rowing Facebook page had been made, but little of Instagram and Twitter (not heavily used before anyway).</p> <p>News items from British Rowing FB had been echoed on our FB but local news was not being on systematically. Colin P (amongst others) had admin rights to the social media platforms inherited from James Andrews, plus looked after the website, but was not the official NRC social media person.</p> <p>It was agreed that we should be doing more, initially on Facebook,</p> | |

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| | <p>but linking in to other platforms. News from around clubs seemed the obvious place to start, but the work of the Exec as per the reports made should also be covered. It was suggested that some of our junior members in the region might welcome sourcing stories and putting them together for FB etc</p> <p>It was agreed that Pauline at QE and Gabrielle at Durham ARC would seek candidates and contact Michael. It was agreed that a structure for feeding material through onto our social media sites would have to be established, hopefully light touch but enough to ensure suitability. Colin said he would liaise with Michael (and Pauline and Gabrielle as necessary) about this.</p> | CP/xx/HY |
| 5 | <p><u>Reports of Officers</u> (written reports are on the web site and should be read)</p> <p>Treasurer (AG) Alan had sent his apologies, but had reported a bank balance of £23598.20 by email earlier that day.</p> <p>Secretary (CP) (written report) Not discussed, but Colin reported on a new college alumni club being affiliated, making sure that BR general and safety reports to regions were being publicised better, making formal contact with club secretaries and making no progress on the draft new constitution (but all to be brought back next time).</p> <p>Emails on the NRC's Yahoo email group bemoaning the immediate demise of the printed version of <i>Rowing and Regatta</i> magazine announced that day were discussed. Nobody knew of any consultation on this matter though it looked as if it had been under consideration for some time but brought forward by the Coronavirus situation.</p> <p>It was agreed that as the full story was not known and the emails on Yahoo might not be a full reflection of all members' views, the Exec should not take position on this now, but it could return to the matter at the next meeting. The Chair and the Secretary would ask for further clarification from BR.</p> <p>Regional Rep (GM) (written report) Gabrielle's reported on the payment of two training grants to CLS and Tees RCs.</p> <p>Safety (JM) (written report) John drew attention to his report and its pleas that clubs still needing to follow through aspects of their safety audits to do so now whilst not rowing. On Covid-19 he urged clubs to promote sensible risk assessments at home, both on use of equipment and for the vulnerable to be wary of over exercising.</p> <p>On competitions he said that the easing of the lockdown could lead to clubs being able organise internal and external events in a wide variety of formats, but probably having to recognise social distancing, hygiene issues, etc. He would work with Catherine and Richard as necessary on advising on opening up competitions again</p> | ML/CP |

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| | <p>when the time came. Events for singles and married couple doubles might come first.</p> <p>Events (CB) (written report) Catherine said there was little to report on competitions except cancellations (Tyne Head for weather and the rest due to Covid-19 up to and including Talkin Tarn Regatta in early July). Beyond that the situation was very unclear.</p> <p>This was the time of year when clubs are normally asked for dates for the next rowing year (Apr 2021 to Mar 2022). Her report showed suggested dates for regattas in summer 2021 plus the LDS 2021 series. Those for the following head race season up to March 2021 would follow shortly. It was agreed that these dates should be circulated to clubs and competitions for comment quickly, as some dates need fixing asap (wedding booking alert).</p> <p>Recreational Rowing (CL) (written report) Colin in his report indicated the Sunday League series was affected along with everything else with April, May and June events definitely off and August very doubtful because of venue issues (Derwent Reservoir). The rest were up in the air. 2021 might suffer as well if no L2R people were coming through.</p> <p>Carol asked that events at new venues be assessed for accessibility for all. She felt that Ebchester had not been very good from this aspect. Colin said that Derwent Reservoir would have been assessed generally for suitability. He acknowledged that access at all venues should be looked at by the end of the year</p> <p>The report covered recreational tours past and in the future, with the national BR tour, on the Thames, due in late August – it was open for bookings but to be reviewed in June. The Great Tyne Row was due on 15 August. Colin P said that the organising steering group was about to discuss it, but there must be doubts.</p> <p>Junior Rowing (PH) Pauline said JIRR local trials had happened at Cambois RC and thanks are due to club members for their help, especially with Storm Desmond approaching. Her report also covered the county and regional junior indoor championships. There was good participation except in the older age groups. Thanks to DUBC for hosting the regional comp and Amy McCarthy for coordinating.</p> <p>Umpiring (RM) (written report) Richard reported there had been no NRUC meeting since the last Exec. There had been the spring umpiring seminar, held online on 30 March (with some technology issues). Training is on hold as practical work is not possible with no regattas running; in effect everything is on hold till 2021. Some online training options for new candidates are being looked nationally.</p> <p>Coaching Education (EB) (written report) Eddie had to leave before his report came up. In his written report he said normal coach</p> | <p>CB</p> <p>GTR group</p> |
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| | <p>training was suspended but he was able to give lots of online links for coaches, both existing and aspiring.</p> <p>Eddie had asked in the email with his report for ideas on how we improve the quality of coaching in the region, i.e. how do we develop theoretical knowledge into improved actual coaching practice and delivery, particularly around technical development. He also asked if an online session on developing an annual programme for coaching and longer term planning for juniors would be useful. Not discussed at the meeting, but Exec members could respond direct.</p> <p>[The day after the meeting Eddie emailed to say he would be doing a coaching survey as a needs assessment for Coach Education in the region, unless any objections. None known.]</p> <p>Masters (GM) (written report) Gabrielle reported back from the national committee. The biggest issue seemed to have been how to achieve fair and transparent application of handicaps.</p> <p>LDS (RM) (written report) Richard said that planning for the 2020 series was on hold apart from making contact with key suppliers. Dates for 2020 are known (and work on 2021 dates is about to start). The LDS team will await any new government or British Rowing guidelines and advise the NRC Exec meeting in June accordingly.</p> | EB |
| 6 | <p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>None other than already discussed.</p> | |
| 7 | <p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>None</p> | |
| 8 | <p><u>Dates of future meetings</u></p> <p>Online meeting TBC in about 4 weeks (tho 25 May is a bank holiday) Monday 22 June 2020 - venue Tyne ARC - 7.30pm Monday 14 September 2020 - venue Tyne ARC - 7.30pm AGM - Monday 16 November 2020 - venue Durham ARC - 7.30pm</p> | ML/CP |

The meeting closed at 22:25. Thanks to Richard for organising the Zoom.

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