

Northern Regional Rowing Council

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting – draft v1 for comment as at 07-09-20

27 July 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), Pamela Walton (Exec Member).

Apologies: Alan Granlund (Treasurer), Catherine Bowman (Events). The Secretary reported that Carol Croft had resigned as Deputy Para Rowing Coordinator.

		Action by
1	<p><u>Minutes of last meeting – 24 June 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>None not covered below or in written reports.</p>	
3	<p><u>New constitution for NRC</u></p> <p>The Secretary presented V2 of the draft new constitution for the NRC, amended slightly from the original draft earlier in the year in accordance with the February meeting's decision. He said it was still not possible to resolve completely the relationship between the NRC and the Regional Umpiring Committee - discussions were ongoing nationally. But a workable form of wording to keep us going was included. Richard said he was happy with this.</p> <p>It was agreed to add specific reference to election of a Vice Chairman and a Student Representative. If the latter was not from Durham College Rowing then a rep from there could still be invited to meetings. Colin would bring V3 back next time for final endorsement before taking it to the AGM.</p>	
3	<p><u>NRC response to Coronavirus</u></p> <p>The NRC had been less active than in the previous period as clubs were perhaps getting to grips with both money issues and getting back to rowing. Colin and Richard had organised a Zoom meeting for clubs and Exec members on 16 July, attended by 15 people and over half the open clubs. Since that date, BR guidance had been</p>	

	<p>updated so that larger crew boats looked likely from mid-August. Another Zoom meeting might be held. The possible timing of a return to competitions including the LDS series was still unclear.</p> <p>There was discussion whether return to rowing grants should be offered to clubs other than the 14 open clubs and one school club, in the light of the limited resources and probable low income from the LDS series in the autumn. Schools, universities and colleges were not close to returning and it would be difficult to get consistent information from them now. It was agreed not to progress any further offers of grants for the moment, but monitor the situation as time went on.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<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 that we were still solvent and that he was still very cautious about the paying of further <i>return to rowing</i> grants (see above).</p> <p>Secretary (CP) (written report) In his written report Colin P had covered the constitution and the response to the Coronavirus, both dealt with already as above. He had also said no progress on contacting clubs about stories for Facebook.</p> <p>Safety (JM) (written report) John said there had been a major downturn in activity and thus less frequent incidents; clubs should move carefully back into rowing now with Covid-19 related risk assessments and plans to the fore. He reminded clubs that safety audits would still be required by British Rowing in the autumn, despite the virus.</p> <p>Events (CB) (dates for 2021-22 circulated) Through Colin, 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, but would check with clubs one last time. There was still an outstanding issue with lack of papers to progress affiliation of the Chester-le-Street Autumn Regatta and their slot in 2021 might be given to NUBC's Tyne Single Scullers Head.</p> <p>LDS (RM) (written report) Richard said there had been LDS team meeting on Zoom, but little concrete could be done until British Rowing advice on a return to racing was issued.</p> <p>Recreational Rowing (CL) (written report) Colin L mentioned in his report that the national BR Tour on the Thames had been cancelled, but dates for 2021 for the same venue had already been published. His report included information from clubs on how return to rowing was working, with a boost in some clubs for a more recreational approach. Discussion on restarting learn to row courses was happening. Planning the 2021 Sunday League programme was well advanced.</p>	

	<p>Masters rowing (GM) (Written report) Gabrielle's reported from the national committee. This was mainly around lots of work on what makes for a good masters squad, including progressing masters from beginners programmes into squads. A paper will be available via a link on the masters section of the BR website.</p> <p>Junior Rowing (PH) (written report) Pauline's report was largely made up of coverage of Ade Roberts' retirement from BR as Lead Coach (Juniors). His final advice to clubs was repeated in her report and gave lots of useful advice and web links for the return to rowing for juniors, taking a measured and planned approach.</p> <p>Umpiring (RM) (written report) Richard again reported no activity in the region since the last Exec, other than planning for autumn umpiring seminar for prospective trainees. He and Peter Hoare were very active in helping to develop national training materials. He mentioned a possible Zoom umpiring/safety meeting with clubs running head races, in particular, along the lines of "What if"</p>	
5	<p><u>Social media activity by Exec</u></p> <p>No progress.</p>	
6	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>None other than as already discussed.</p>	
7	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>(a) Gabrielle mentioned a tree in the river above DARC; it was thought Durham University was being asked to help move it.</p> <p>(b) No answer from BR on the issue of paid coaches as per last meeting; may not now be important.</p> <p>(c) A proposal to recreate and enhance the history of rowing in the region online was reported by Richard and it was agreed to welcome the initiative and help where practical.</p>	
8	<p><u>Dates of future meetings in 2020</u></p> <p>Monday 14 September 2020 - venue probably Zoom - 7.30pm AGM - Monday 16 November 2020 - venue Durham ARC - 7.30pm</p>	

* 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