

Northern Rowing Council

AGM - 18 November 2019

Event Coordinator's report for 2019

Annual programme

The work of the Coordinator has been focussed as usual on receiving proposed dates from affiliated competitions in the region and forging these into a draft programme for the National Competitions Committee to approve. This is done over one summer/autumn for the next rowing year (1 April to 31 March).

There are also occasional new competitions which need shepherding through the BR affiliation process, currently Derwentwater Head for March and CLS Autumn Dash in September. 2020 looks like a busy year! A try-out for Derwentwater is happening this week on 23 November 2019.

The NRC Exec has endorsed all requests made by clubs in the region for 2020-21, barring one, Tyne Regatta, which is still being examined due to a potential clash with a competition in Yorkshire. The draft (but almost certain) programme for 2020-21 can be found below on the right and is on the NRC web site at www.nerowing.com/calendar.html.

Dates for 2019-20	
Sat 20 Apr 19	Easter
Sat 6 April 19	CLS Regatta
11-12 May 19	Durham City Regatta
St 18 May 19	Tees Regatta
St 25 May 19	Wansbeck Regatta
Sat 1 Jun 19	Hexham Regatta
8-9 Jun 19	Durham Regatta
Sat 29 Jun 19	Tyne Regatta
Sat 6 Jul 19	Talkin Tarn Regatta
Sat 7 Sep 19	Tyne Single Scullers Head
Sun 8 Sep 19	Great Tyne Row (non-affil)
St 28 Sep 19	Durham Autumn Sprint
Sat 5 Oct 19	South Hylton LDS
Sat 12 Oct 19	Tees LDS & SBH
Sat 19 Oct 19	Tyne LDS & TU SBH
Sat 26 Oct 19	Berwick LDS
Sat 2 Nov 19	Wansbeck LDS & SBH
Sat 9 Nov 19	Durham LDS & SBH
St 07 Dec 19	Rutherford Head
Sat 25 Jan 20	TURC New Year's Head
Sat 1 Feb 20	Durham SBH
Sat 15 Feb 20	Tyne Head
22/23 Feb 20	BUCS 4s & 8s Head (non-affil)
Sat 7 Mar 20	Derwentwater Head
Sat 21 Mar 20	Ponteland Junior Head
Sat 11 Apr 20	Easter

Dates in draft for 2020-21 going to BR	
Sat 11 Apr 20	Easter
Sat 18 Apr 20	Chester-le-St Regatta
S/S 9-10 May 20	Durham City Regatta
Sat 2 May 20	Tyne Regatta ?
Sat 16 May 20	Tees Regatta
Sat 30 May 20	Wansbeck Regatta
Sat 6 Jun 20	Hexham Regatta
S/S 13-14 Jun 20	Durham Regatta
Sat 4 Jul 20	Talkin Tarn Regatta
Sun 16 Aug 20 ?	Great Tyne Row (non-affil)
Sat 12 Sep 20	Tyne Single Scullers Head
Sat 19 Sep 20	Chester-le-St Aut Dash
Sat 26 Sep 20	Durham Autumn Sprint
Sat 3 Oct 20	Tees LDS & SBH
Sat 10 Oct 20	Tyne LDS & TU SBH
Sat 17 Oct 20	Wansbeck LDS & SBH
Sat 24 Oct 20	South Hylton LDS
Sat 31 Oct 20	Berwick LDS
Sat 7 Nov 20	Durham LDS & SBH
Sat 28 Nov 20	Rutherford Head
Sat 23 Jan 21	TURC New Year's Head
Sat 6 Feb 21	Durham SBH
Sat 20 Feb 21	Tyne Head
Sat 6 Mar 21	Derwentwater Head
Sat 27 Mar 21	Ponteland Junior Head
Sat 1 April 21	Easter

Report on affiliated competitions in calendar year 2019

The year started with the Tyne United New Year's Head in mid-January, with more placid conditions than the 2018 Rutherford a few weeks before, which was cold and wet in the morning. Durham SBH in early February was full again very quickly and did run but with some clubs choosing not to race due to forecast or actual conditions - freezing temperatures and snow beforehand and sunny but still very cold on the day.

Tyne Head ran on 16 February and went well. Overall 150 raced, up a little on last year. Unfortunately Ponteland Junior Head planned for 16 March at Tyne ARC was cancelled a couple of days before due to the forecast of wet, cold and windy weather (which did happen). Into the summer and all was going well until Big Durham was called off due to high water and then Tyne Regatta, with a new slim-line format, due to low numbers.

A sunny Talkin Tarn Regatta rounded off the summer proper and NUBC's Tyne Single Scullers Head ran in early September with a smallish entry, perhaps due to a clash with Great North Run, having moved from the Saturday at the request of the Great Tyne Row; the latter is hopefully moving weekend in 2020, maybe to August. Durham Autumn Sprint at the end of September was another cancellation due to low entries.

There is a separate report on the LDS series, but in brief the first five weekends of racing went more or less to plan, but the concluding LDS and Autumn SBH competitions at Durham on 9 November were cancelled due to high but not very high water levels that just refused to go back down. A very full Rutherford Head is looming on 7 December, with BROE not coping well with the large number of club entry admins trying to get entries on at 6.01pm on 10 November (apologies from British Rowing received).

BUCS 4s & 8s Head, University Boat Races

We did not have BUCS in 2019, but Gloucester did and it did not go very well - we have it back on the Tyne on 22/23 February 2020 (to be followed by a new bidding round for the years after). Newcastle and Durham University BCs battled it out on the Tyne in the city centre on 11 May 2019, with a clean sweep by Newcastle. No date know yet for 2020.

Other events

Although not necessarily part of the Event Coordinator's brief I have helped to an extent with the Sunday League with Colin Lawson, Gabrielle Moore and Caroline Scholl. Colin Lawson's recreational rowing report covers this. Many thanks to Colin L for his behind the scenes work; he hopes to step back in 2020.

I have helped in the past in a major way with the Great Tyne Row. In 2018 it did not run, due to difficult tides. In 2019 it did run, though with a relatively late swap of dates with TSSH to avoid a direct clash with the Great North Run (and thus lack of helpers at Tynemouth RC). It ran the day before the GNR with 18 crews, a bit less than was required to cover operating costs. A change of date, to August maybe, and earlier marketing is needed in 2020 to boost interest. But those who did row enjoyed it hugely, especially (?) the rough bits. It had to come in short on the beach just past the Fish Quay due to the conditions in the harbour mouth, but we coped very well.

Regional discussions on competitions

This initiative has not progressed very far, but I hope we can get some feedback on 2019 events when we ask once Rutherford is over in a few weeks' time, with another discussion possibly at the Club Development Conference in January.

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