



Minutes of Regional Event Coordinator Committee on Sunday 14/02/2016 11:00 at Hammersmith

1) Welcome & introductions

Present: Nick Hubble (Chairman), Chris Anton (WM), Anne Homa (Yorks and NCC), James Lee (Thames), Colin Percy (Northern), Philippa Sondheimer (WAGS), Paul Trinick (EM), Barbara Wilson (Thames),

2) Apologies: Luke Dillon (NCC), Terry Edwards, Tim Williams,

3) Role of this committee going forward under NCC

Nick has become Deputy Chairman of the Sport Committee and James Lee will be taking over as representative of Eastern Region. Nick will continue as chair of this committee until the next meeting whereby the remaining committee will need to elect a new chairman from within.

The committee has draft Terms of Reference which may need amendment in light of the way in which NCC wishes it to operate and support events.

General open discussion took place with regard to ToR & NAH asked for everyone to feedback in due course.

Its current roles are thought to be:

- To support new and existing events in conjunction with Regional Rowing Councils (RRC's). This should involve finding out what events want and feeding information to events.
- To contribute to the compilation of the Racing Calendar - see Item 7 below
- To support initiatives which would increase awareness of rowing; we are good at organising races but need to make ourselves more visible so as to contribute to growing the sport. Possibilities discussed were:
 - 250m sprint races at Nottingham & other venues
 - addressing the lack of awareness of top class rowing by e.g. getting GB squad members to support local events where press coverage is available
 - holding a series of local derbies e.g. Durham vs Newcastle (reinforcing already existing university races)
 - encouraging more online publicity
 - looking at new competition formats especially primary and recreational .e.g. Great Tyne Row.

- Perhaps encouraging multi-disciplinary events e.g. rowing and athletics
- extending the Rowing League idea, already done successfully in Northern Region using Explore boats and Cambridge (Winter League) using a series of head races. WM are planning to start a series.
- expanding summer racing
- expanding the number of events, possibly by introducing a qualified marshal role to support volunteers. NUC is looking at different training methods.

4) Update on BR structure & staffing

There has been a Strategic Review, Andy Parkinson has been in post for about a year and new Directors have been appointed:

- Kenny Baillie - Director of Partnerships
- Phil Hornsey - Director of Membership and Rowing Community
- Helen Rowbotham - Director of Innovation
- Rosie Mayglothing - Director of Pathway Development

5) Competition Review

The presentation being given at the current series of Regional Get Togethers had been circulated.

It had been established that there would be support within HQ at fixed times for events to ask for help with the new system. The meeting hoped that there would be training for events, possibly in the form of an online training manual available well in advance of introduction of the system. Ideally there should be a dedicated HQ team and communication via NCC to Regional Champions for dissemination to clubs and events.

Current timelines for pilot events and the setting up of the new system to be updated after Council on 20th February.

Note: no council minutes out yet but it is anticipated that once IT has progressed further that the system may be ready for testing at the end of 2016 with a view to it progressing after that, further updates to follow.

6) Regional 'Get togethers'

Northern had had its Regional Get Together on 24 January and feedback had been reported in a paper circulated by Colin for this meeting.

WAGS had had its RGT on 13th Feb and competition topics discussed had included:

- The difficulty of running the RI system alongside age-related masters and older junior and novice events. Winning an x boat masters event gives the same RPs as winning an x boat senior event but is this sensible?
- It will be possible to split novice events by RI as novice still have RPs. If you split the novice event, who wins their novices?
- Some masters were not willing to enter RI events but preferred to race as masters.
- Uncertainty for competitors about event size, doubling possibilities, boats needed etc if regattas are deciding event splits
- Balance between head and regatta points - crew coming 200th in Tideway gets 57 points - equivalent to winning several regattas
- Substitution rule - 25% is very big tolerance
- Inclusion of University events? This is important for affiliated University crews who race in BR events and any (affiliated or non-affiliated) University crew wishing to enter a BR event where a minimum point level is specified.

7) Event Calendar

The 2016/7 calendar is still being developed and some dates have been changed when events have had to be cancelled.

The NCC is setting up a management tier to deal with cases where RRCs cannot agree on event dates. It is also setting up a system of stakeholders; Anne has the event support task and someone will hold the responsibility for the overall calendar.

The meeting felt that it was unclear which events went onto the major events list but concluded that it was those where tide times determined their dates or where early booking of facilities was essential.

The calendar on the BR website is not as up to date as the David Biddulph site and the latter also includes information on other events such as GB Trials. The meeting agreed that the function of the BR website calendar needed to be agreed and that, ideally, it should include BR affiliated events, Scottish Rowing, Welsh Rowing, BUCS events, University events, indoor and commercial events. It is important for awareness of the sport that all this information is in one place. And it is important for people trying to sort out dates that it is possible to see on one screen, all the events happening on a particular weekend.

That said, the meeting wished to record its compliments to Sarah Leys for her help with event support and her flexibility in dealing with changes.

Actions: All to give views to Nick on what we do to help compile the calendar and ways to improve the process.

8) Event Support

Anne had been newly appointed to the event support role. She has found that there is a lot of information available but that it is not being actively communicated. A particularly helpful link was to the Event Organisers' Manual

<http://www.britishrowing.org/events/organising-events/event-organisers-manual/>

It was suggested that there could be more sharing of information, perhaps through a forum on the website. This would be particularly important when New BROE emerged.

Action - all to tell Anne what we need and can offer, as event organisers.

Action - all to tell NAH whether we think the current process of affiliation is correct and sensible. Do we need to set out the levels of events and affiliation/insurance needs & promote them, e.g. apparent availability of BR insurance for Private Matches being sanctioned for JIRR trials and BASHER events?

9) Event Categories

It was reiterated that recreational events took place in stable boats, though not all events in stable boats needed to be recreational/non-competitive.

10) Terms of Reference

Action: all to take another look at the ToR in light of this meeting

11) AOB

An affiliated event can get BR insurance and this will become more of an issue as new types of events appear. A private match needs to be affiliated if it wants insurance and this has not been discussed at NCC. For example, the Henley boat races have to re-affiliate each year to get insurance, and WM JIRR trials affiliated this year so as to be able to take entries via BROE and obtain insurance.

Action: Nick to take this issue back to NCC and ask them to look at it

If an event wants to change its date, the request goes to the Event Co-ordinator who consults the RRC, and then to NCC as Sarah Leys cannot put it onto the calendar until NCC has agreed. Under Rule 5.1.1.c - it needs Regional Council and NCC approval.

12) Date of next meeting

Saturday 9th April at 13:30 at Hammersmith