

Northern Regional Rowing Council

AGM - 16 November 2020

Secretary's report - Colin Percy

Club Development Conference - 26 January 2020

Ellie Hizzett did a great job organising the conference early in the year. It was well attended if not to 2019 levels. In reviewing it afterwards the Exec Committee agreed that a conference be held in January 2021, but it needed to go back a little towards club development in its various forms and a little less maybe on hands-on aspects like rowing skills, S & C, rigging and so on which might be better done in more depth at one-off days or half-days. But plans for a conference in 2021 are now on hold!

Meetings of the Executive Committee - 3 February 2020 onwards

Our first meeting in January, at Tyne ARC, was relatively normal (as with all meetings, reports and minutes from it are downloadable at www.nerowing.com/nrcminutes.html). But notable perhaps was Richard Mortimer reporting he had been elected as Chair and Dilwyn Jones of Tees RC as Secretary of the Regional Umpiring Committee at a meeting of the region's umpires in January. Thanks were minuted to departing RUC Chair, Peter Hoare.

Three more regular meetings were at that time scheduled for 2021, i.e. in April, June and September. In practice all these three became virtual and extra ones were held in May and July, the process having been overtaken by Covid-19. The agendas became dominated by Covid too, with most regular activities by officers ceasing almost immediately. Agreeing a race calendar for 2021-22 was one of the few exceptions.

Three issues discussed at some length at the Exec were the new constitution required by British Rowing, the winding up of the affairs of the dormant Northumberland County ARA and whether we could run the LDS series (the answer was eventually "no"). There are separate reports to the AGM on these. Virtual meetings on Zoom have worked well (apart from my trusty old laptop freezing regularly - I have a tablet now for the AGM) and maybe the Exec will continue with these even if not made necessary by Covid in 2021.

Covid-19 and clubs - from 23 March 2020

Discussion from March onwards at meetings was focussed on Covid-19. The Exec decided it had a limited role in actually setting policy and offering detailed advice, which was best left to British Rowing. We thought we had a role in keeping the clubs in the region in touch with each other. In May we gathered news from all clubs in one place (see report to June meeting) and then held a Zoom meeting with them on 2 June and another on 16 July, the latter focussing on the LDS series and competitions generally. They were well attended.

As a side product of this process I undertook a thorough check that I had the right contacts (Chair and Sec) at each club. The Exec agreed quite early on that the NRC should make a one-off grant to each active club in the region to help with the return to rowing set out by BR. £250 was paid to the open non-academic clubs in the summer and about £1250 in the autumn to Durham College Rowing for their 15 boat clubs to help with a rather abrupt restart.

Web site and social media - all year (or not)

The Executive also discussed use of social media and agreed we could do better. Plans to remedy this were agreed but for whatever reasons did not come to very much. So this is a major item for the first Exec meeting in 2021! Ideas (and volunteers) welcome. I continue to run the website, but again this needs a thorough revamp as part of the social media review.

CP