

## **Northern Rowing Council - online meeting of Executive - 25 May 2020**

### **Report of Secretary - Colin Percy**

#### **New club affiliation**

No news on HildBede Alumni club affiliation.

#### **Chair's Monthly Report reports from British Rowing**

Nothing since April report except new membership stats - will be emailed to Exec members direct now. Members will see as part of Chair's May (or June) report when received – now being archived at [www.nerowing.com/br\\_monthly\\_reports.html](http://www.nerowing.com/br_monthly_reports.html) .

#### **Contact with clubs & keeping contacts page up to date**

I have emailed all open non-academic club secretaries and copied in chairs, asking for confirmation of their names and email addresses plus a short feedback statement on Covid-19 and how the club is coping. Four or five answers so far (arriving as I type on Sunday), so a few to go. Exec members can probably fill many gaps at the meeting. Not after a long essay! I'll circulate what I have received from clubs by 6.00pm on Monday.

#### **Updating NRC Constitution**

I have been on brief correspondence with Richard Mortimer as Chair of NRUC. He says the major outstanding issue - the relationship between RRCs and RUCs - will be discussed at the nation umpiring committee in late June/early July, so I will await the outcome of that before bringing this back to the Exec. Pippa at British Rowing has been told of the timetable and is happy.

#### **Loss of *Rowing and Regatta* today**

No action taken since the last meeting. I will email British Rowing shortly to ask for clarification of the decision making process up till the announcement and how publication will work in future.

#### **Grant to Lakeland RC for buoys - check on secure storage and availability**

I have emailed LRC to ask for confirmation on secure storage and availability to other clubs. I await a response.

#### **Criteria for a possible capital grant scheme**

This is an action from February. I suggest the bare bones as follows, but subject to discussion. I have been told the dormant Northumberland ARA has about £5,000 in an account which probably needs rescuing and put to use. The organisation has not met for many years and the money (mainly profits from Tyne Head until taken over by Tyne RC, as was) could possibly be put into the capital grant fund. I am discussing with the former treasurer of NARA (who although long out of post still gets the bank statements) about how to wind it up, probably under the NRC's aegis.

Possible structure for capital (and maybe project) grants for discussion:

- Strictly not for revenue costs of any sort
- Focussed on capital items, but not fine boats or ergs or other conventional equipment
- Possibly also money for aspects of projects which involve costs such as printing which although not capital as such are still one-offs and not part of ongoing revenue
- Focus on smaller clubs to begin with
- Emphasis on return to rowing after Covid-19, but not exclusively
- £500 maximum per club in any one year and must be matched 1:1 in cash or volunteer time at a reasonable hourly rate
- Same grant application structure as for training grants - coordinated by Regional Rep and decisions by a small group of officers
- All grants decisions and payments to be notified to Exec at next meeting for info, or exceptionally brought to Exec for decision if group cannot decide or controversial
- Applications not retrospective and firm evidence of expected expenditure in advance
- Payment of grant by NRC only on receipt of proof of payment by club unless in exceptional circumstances we agree to pay in advance

Probably needs more guidance on what is acceptable. To discuss and I'll bring back full scheme next time. Please read about current training grant scheme at <http://www.nerowing.com/grants.html>.

### **Use of social media**

The last meeting agreed to make more active use of social media and to enlist the help of some junior rowers who were skilled in it use. Gabrielle said she would approach someone at Durham ARC and Pauline one or two at Queen Elizabeth HSBC. Names have been forwarded to Michael and me. We have yet to set up a structure for them to work within, but we can discuss some ideas from me as below. I assume this will include more contact with clubs in the region, for starters the open clubs. Now I have as Secretary (nearly) confirmed contact points this may be easier, though we are not limited using only these club officers.

We need to agree the nature of what we are after and the structure for running the system. For discussion I suggest:

- Facebook to begin with, other platforms after
- Concentrate first on what open clubs are doing now, both virtually and on the water
- Need to agree how often we want a post; suggest every 5 or 6 days, taking clubs in turn (though noting we might have other posts on specific issues)
- Discuss with nominated juniors how to contact clubs (might be through their juniors) and the nature of the stories we are after
- And also ask them for ideas on what other ways we might use social media
- Agree timetables for actions and posts
- Agree how items will be posted, initially on FB, and how checked by NRC person/s
- Before doing all this look at safeguarding issues