

Northern Rowing Council - online meeting of Executive - 27 April 2020

Report of Secretary - Colin Percy

New club affiliation

An application for affiliation to British Rowing is going through local approval via our Chair and Rowing Safety Officer. It is for Armitage BC, which will be for alumni of Hild Bede College BC. N.B. We currently have 17 open clubs, 20 university/college clubs, 4 school clubs and 28 competitions affiliated from this region.

Chair's Monthly Report reports from British Rowing

I am now getting what British Rowing calls the Chair's Monthly report, which includes a mix of news and useful info for clubs on a whole range of rowing related things such as training, grant courses, etc plus a wide range of national and regional stats on membership. It comes from our BR contact officer, Jo Atkinson. I aim to circulate it to you and to clubs by email and publicise its existence on Facebook and the Yahoo group; copies are already on our web site at www.nerowing.com/br_monthly_reports.html .

Contact with clubs & keeping contacts page up to date

I am checking contact details (Secretary and Chair) for each non-academic club in the region and establishing a single contact point for academic clubs - and hopefully a single email address for all DCR clubs. Sarah Leys at BR has supplied her latest info (though back in January). I will use these to email clubs regularly (without overdoing it) so they feel a more direct relationship with the NRC. This is separate from the list of competition contacts that Catherine uses for her work on the calendar, etc. They will be used to update the Contacts web site page at www.nerowing.com/contacts.html .

Updating NRC Constitution

I have not progressed this as per the minutes from last time, but will do so for the next meeting (wording about named officers to be elected and quorum at general meetings and NRUC). I think we are still awaiting advice from one national source or another on the wording on our relationship to the NRUC, though I have wording in mind.

Loss of *Rowing and Regatta* today (on Agenda under Item 7 – but see overleaf)

There was an email to the Yahoo group today (27 April) from Ken Hastie re how British Rowing has stopped publishing *Rowing and Regatta*. An email went to all BR members at lunchtime today, as per the BR website at www.britishrowing.org/2020/04/changes-to-how-we-deliver-content.

Outstanding matters arising from last meeting:

Wording of constitution (CP/RM)
Survey on Conference (CP/HY)
Grant to Lakeland RC for buoys - check on secure storage (CP)
Criteria for applications for capital grant from NRC (CP)

Emails on Yahoo group 27-04-20 re loss of Rowing and Regatta (Agenda Item 7)

From: nerowing@yahoogroups.com [<mailto:nerowing@yahoogroups.com>] **On Behalf Of** roger brisley rogerbrisley@btinternet.com [nerowing]

Sent: 27 April 2020 14:05

To: Ken Hastie

Cc: ne rowing

Subject: Re: [nerowing] Magazine

This smacks of the tail wagging the dog. Did anyone consult us as members as to whether we wanted a printed magazine Or not?

Simply saying that's what's happening and implying it has been provoked by the pandemic- we can't get a magazine printed, seems unlikely to me, we still have newspapers and magazines , doormats buried in printed advertising stuff- is not good enough.

I like the magazine, the printed word and do not really enjoy reading from a screen. I'm with you Ken, will BR listen do you think?

Roger Brisley, Tees RC

On 27 Apr 2020, at 13:34, Ken Hastie ken@hastie.org.uk [nerowing] <nerowing-noreply@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

I was surprised and very disappointed to see the members' magazine is no longer to be printed. I have no interest whatsoever in digital magazines; we spend more than enough time looking at the "electronic portal to the universe" and see this as another reduction in value to the offerings of British Rowing to its members. Sadly this follows an absolute debacle with trying to renew my Umpire

Licence recently, a situation which lasted for many months, swallowed up much of my valuable time and drew virtually no assistance from British Rowing staff. In the end I was grateful for the persistence of our Umpire Chairman Richard Mortimer in getting this resolved.

This latest cost-cutting move with the magazine, with no previous communication I am aware, of sums up what I see as the poor state of the British Rowing organisation these days. At least with the ARA I found communication better, together with the option of talking to someone willing to help when problems arose. As a last resort, Chris Kenyon was always good at shaking the tree on our behalf.

Today's "computer says no" situation (my experience of renewing my Umpire Licence) was close to being the last straw; the removal of a printed magazine may well be it.

I do not wish to decry the efforts of our dear Kate O'Sullivan while venting my spleen....she is someone I strongly admire as a robust, thoughtful and conscientious representative of we rowers in the north, who I am well aware dedicates a huge amount of time on our behalf.

Rant over, Ken Hastie