

Northern Rowing Council

Online meeting of Executive - 27 July 2020

Report of Secretary - Colin Percy

Updating NRC Constitution

Exec members will have seen the latest version (v2) of the document circulated to them on 16 July, incorporating changes (to the British Rowing model) we agreed in principle back in February. This latest draft shows the new wording highlighted. If the ongoing national discussions produce a clear new statement on how regional rowing councils and regional umpiring committees should relate to each other we can change that bit up until taking it to our AGM in late autumn. Committee is **recommended** to endorse the draft v2 for forwarding to British Rowing for comment and then on to our AGM for adoption.

Grants to academic boat clubs for return to rowing

In May we agreed “that every affiliated club active in the region at lockdown in late March would be offered £250 to help with the return to rowing”. Grants of £250 have now gone to all 14 open clubs and QEHS BC. David Squirrell of DCR and I have corresponded on how to distribute the grants to Durham colleges and he willing to administer the grant for us (and he would appreciate a small grant to DCR also as their income is well down). He made a case at the last meeting for DCR colleges needing support as income from freshers would be almost certainly be severely down.

Since the last meeting Alan as Treasurer has confirmed his views to me. He says that with the grants to open clubs now paid, if we do pay all clubs including colleges a grant and continue our own training grant system we could be down to about £6000 in our reserves and uncertain income from the LDS series. This would be very low. He suggests caution in finalising the payments to Durham colleges and the universities now, well ahead of actual need, and that if we do continue we should ask for individual applications, asking the academic clubs to state why they need a grant. He reminds us DCR as such is not a rowing club. **A decision is needed.**

Contact with clubs

My principal contact as Secretary with open clubs has been through a further Zoom session on 16 July, reviewing where clubs were at with returning to rowing.



.....continued overleaf

15 people attended, with reps from over half of the open clubs. All present except one were back on the water, but one or two only just and Gateshead CRC still stopped by their council landlord. Singles and the odd family double were de rigeur. Some clubs were using groups of six for outings, sometimes including a launch driver as one.

Juniors were getting out in good numbers and QEHS with 80+ rowers was trying hard to get all out in rotation, two groups of five at a time, one north bank and the other south bank (though major issues with other river users at Hexham). Some clubs had got new Glide or other training singles for nervous scullers not used to singles. These were proving well worth the money.

Nobody was rushing into opening gyms when allowed (many had lent out ergs anyway), but DARC's bar was opening outdoors and Tyne ARC's soon indoors. One or two clubs were opening clubhouses for informal socially distanced and hygienic coffee after outings. Learn to Row was only being considered at DARC so far (I think).

New British Rowing guidance has of course been issued in the last few days which should pave the way for crew boat rowing as long as no resurgence in Covid-19 numbers. I can feel another Zoom session coming on. Tees RC has already issued fairly detailed guidance on how it will work to members there.

Stories for NRC social media from clubs

No action by me on this. Sorry.

Chair's Monthly Report from British Rowing

No report received in so far July.

CP