

Northern Rowing Council

Club Development Conference - 30 January 2011

Session on Review of Racing Calendar - questions to aid discussion

The purpose of this session at the conference is to review the range of current events on offer in the region and determine if we have a programme that serves the needs of our 2000-plus British Rowing members. This will help us to deliver the Regional Forward Plan over the next 3-4 years.

A small group met last October under the NRC banner to discuss similar issues. It undertook a SWOT analysis and the outcome of this is attached. At the end you will also find a list of events in this region and nationally which might help the debate. Any updates or corrections to this list welcome!

The structure of the session at the conference is not fixed and we can agree at the start exactly how we want to proceed. But we might choose to go through some or all of these questions:

1. Do we have a balanced programme in the region, winter and summer?
2. If not, are the wishes of individual clubs and events outweighing the need to achieve this balance?
3. Following this through, do we need to take action to avoid most summer events offering roughly the same schedule of races?
4. For the more popular events, is there a prospect of having to limit size of entry by overall number, by qualification or by cutting down range of races on offer?
5. Given changes in the points system and nature of competition here and 'down south', should we accept that may senior crews are going farther afield for competition; or alternatively, should we try harder to attract them to our events?
6. For those events struggling to attract entries, what can be done to turn this round?
7. There are almost no free weekends between April and July, and then relatively little. Overall, are there too many events, or are they perhaps too concentrated?
8. Should we be looking at a wider range of types of events, including primary regattas, Explore Rowing branded ones, informal club meets, etc.
9. Would Sunday be a more popular day than Saturday? A lot of sport now takes place on a Sunday. Could some clubs run two separate events over a weekend aimed at different groups?
10. Do we need to take more note of rowing in adjacent regions or Scotland, in terms of both events there and attracting clubs there to ours?

11. Do the clubs and the NRC need to work more closely with the universities and colleges on some or all of the above?
12. Are race fees about right or is competitive rowing in danger of becoming too costly for some?
13. Are we struggling to produce enough umpires and other officials? If we are, what should we do to address this?
14. What is NRC's role in all this?

Andrew Bryant
NRC Chairman
bryant10@btinternet.com

Colin Percy
NRC Events Coordinator
colin.percy@blueyonder.co.uk
07985 003304

Northern Rowing Council

Outcome of SWOT

As undertaken at Calendar Review meeting 12 October 2010

Strengths

Most (but certainly not all) current events full
Junior rowing very strong
New events including BUCS one coming forward

Weaknesses

Primary regatta event numbers down
Summer gap
Lack of trailer drivers
Lack of elite crews and/or entries
Clubs have set ideas about events and dates
Clubs will not travel from south
Divisions and multi rounds – no rest
Too many juniors in proportion – tend to overpower regattas

Opportunities

Explore Rowing branded regattas or events
August gap
Weekends – especially Sundays
Weekdays – especially school holidays
Summer heads
Committee boats
Scotland

Threats

Adjoining regions
Elite/good rowers moving south
Overnight stays and child protection issues
Lack of volunteers
Lack of umpires/unwilling to officiate
Race fees in time of recession
Trailerage costs
Parents/athletes not available for full event
Some events full up, others cancelled due to low numbers
Masters at 27
Juniors can be seen to overpower events
Races in time table order
Uni boat Race on Tyne may not happen in 2011

AB/CP

Rowing calendar for 2011

List produced by/for Tyne Rowing Club

These are mainly regional, but some national dates where of relevance and/or possible interest. A few dates are provisional or guesses! As at 27 January 2011.

22/23 January	DUBC Winter Challenge Cup Head - Tyne
5 February	Durham Small Boats Head
19/20 February	BUCS Championships & Beginner Head - Boston
27 February	Head of the Trent - Nottingham
5 March	Tyne Head
6 March	NE region trials for Junior Inter-Regional Regatta
19 March	Yorkshire Head
19 March	Women's Eights Head of the River Race - Thames
26 March	Ponteland Junior Head
26 March	North of England Head - Chester
26 March	Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race - 17.00
2/3 April	Head of River Race & Vesta Vets Head - Thames
9 April	Junior Inter-Regional Regatta - Nottingham
16 April	Chester-le-Street Regatta
23-24 April	Strathclyde Park Regatta
30 April-2 May	BUCS Regatta - Nottingham
30 April	Wansbeck Regatta
7/8 May	Durham City Regatta
14 May	Tees Regatta
21 May	Nottingham City Regatta
27-29 May	National Schools Regatta - Nottingham
28 May	Tyne Regatta incorporating Tyne at Home
4 June	Hexham Regatta
4/5 June	Metropolitan Regatta - Dorney
12/13 June	Durham Regatta
12 June	British Rowing Masters Championship
18-19 June	Marlow Regatta
17-19 June	Henley Women's Regatta
18 June	Berwick Primary Regatta
19 June	York Summer Regatta
25 June	Bradford Sprint Primary
2 July	Talkin Tarn Regatta
30 June - 4 July	Henley Royal Regatta
15-17 July	National Rowing Championships - Nottingham
6 August	Tees Primary and Adaptive Regatta
20 August	Berwick Trade Fours
20 August	Durham Allcomers Regatta
3 September	Hollingworth Lake - Sprint Championship - Rochdale
18 September	Boston Marathon
24 September	Durham Primary Regatta
18 September	York Sprint
October/November	Long Distance Sculling (LDS) series & related SBHs - TBC
19 November	York SBH
26 November	Rutherford Head