

Tyne Rowing Club

Committee meeting - 6 December 2011

Minutes - draft as at 09-12-11 for comment by those present

Extract re discussion on Rutherford Head

<p>7</p>	<p>Events</p> <p>Chris reported that both divisions of Rutherford Head had had to be cancelled on Saturday 3 December. The primary reason was that the safety cover boats did not arrive. It was decided by event officials that the windy and somewhat choppy conditions meant that use of club launches (even if supplemented by extra ones) was not adequate to allow the races to take place. Chris said that he had made a booking some time ago with the provider and this had been acknowledged. It should perhaps have been double checked just prior to the event, but the provider was normally reliable.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that boating for division 1 had been started at around the advertised time and that boats were progressing to the start under supervision of club launches. No significant problems were being encountered even though it was quite windy. When it was known that the safety cover was definitely not going to arrive, boating was suspended and shortly afterwards that division was cancelled. The 30 or so boats on the river were recalled. Tyne United RC agreed to put out launches to provide extra cover for the returning boats. All boats returned safely without incident by about 10.45am. The second division was cancelled shortly afterwards.</p> <p>Chris said since Saturday he had asked the safety cover provider by email to give the club their side of the story. He was clear that cover had been requested and agreed by email well previous to the event. It was agreed to wait for a reply from the provider before deciding if any action should be taken to seek redress. He said that overall the club stood to lose some money, but that the loss of perhaps £9,000 net income was a major blow. Simon said that we had to ensure that we regained confidence of past and potential future competitors and needed to put in place suitable measures.</p> <p>It was noted there had been a formal safety incident report filed with British Rowing and that Tyne United RC had sent some comments on the events to the Chairman of the Northern Rowing Council. The latter had been copied in to Colin and John in their NRC capacities. Colin said he would send these on to the club Chairman and the Captain for information. He was not sure if we would need to respond specifically to them.</p> <p>It was agreed that there should be an immediate refund of race fees, subject only to receiving the cash transfer from British Rowing.</p>	
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	<p>Chris and Laura said they had discussed organisation and would create a more formal events group to oversee the work on all events. It would more clearly delegate and check on tasks and would seek to improve communication. There was some discussion on the size of the group; it was generally felt it should not be too large. Chris and Laura were asked to bring back a progress report on setting up the group (and on Tyne Head) for the next meeting. Colin asked that Ponteland Junior Head and support for the Tyne LDS event be taken under the wing of the group.</p> <p>It was agreed that an email should be sent immediately to all clubs that had entered, informing them of the refund and also setting out briefly the measures to be taken to address issues from Saturday. A public statement based on this email would be published on the web site and publicised.</p> <p>The Chairman asked that thanks be minuted to all volunteers, especially those doing the catering. A £500 profit on food would help a bit to reduce the loss on the day. He also said that those in the kitchen and on the food stall were a bit disappointed that they were left to do much of the clearing up in the clubhouse after all their work during the day. Most other members had left by this point, even though it was still early. He asked the events group to build in help to tidy up after events into their task schedules.</p>	
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