

Text of email to participating clubs after cancellation of Rutherford Head on 3 December 2011

“Can I first start by apologising for the cancellation of this year's Rutherford Head. We greatly appreciate the efforts people make to come and row at our events and the distances some crews travel to race on the Tyne. The cancellation was due to our booked safety cover provider not attending the event. When it became clear that they would not be able to attend we had no option, after consultation with appropriate safety advisers and umpires, but to cancel the event.

We are very sad about the outcome but in the circumstances, it was unavoidable. We will be offering full refunds to all crews which entered. We currently await British Rowing processing the payments and for them to clear before we can return them to you. Please bear with us during this period.

We have undertaken a review of how we organise and run events. This includes amended procedures and additional support to key decision makers. Additional consultation is due to take place, over the forthcoming months. We will be putting our findings into practice at the next event, Tyne Head, on the 18 February 2012, where we hope you will join us for a good day's racing.”

Chris Parsons
Captain