

Reports

Chairman

The major item taking up time this year has been with regard to finally having the Sport England (SE) and Council (NCC) money come through. The SE deed has been signed up but submitting it to SE commits us to certain deadlines that we cannot fulfil without NCC's money. NCC seem to take their time on these matters but some prodding at Ward Hadaway, NCC's legal advisers, seems to have loosened up the log-jam for now. Nevertheless, the council wheels turn slowly so it may yet be a while until we can make progress. I remain hopeful that our December demolition date can remain, nonetheless. It seems increasingly likely that it may be put back, yet again.

Reece Group's very kind donation has been most welcome. Despite this, it looks like we will still be borrowing much of NCC's funds on offer, which at 5% will not be cheap. Consequently, more fund raising is vital to keep the project on track. Savings may be made in terms of VAT if the club converts to a charity with proposed savings of £177,000 at a cost of about £20,000, if advised by Deloitte's. Once some concrete progress can be seen with NCC, we will commence the process of becoming a charity, with the membership's agreement.

Part of Reece Group's conditions for receiving the grant was that they would be the club's kit sponsor. Godfrey, the club's official kit provider have all the necessary logos. The club has paid for the logos to be produced. The club will not pay for any more logo weaving so please go to Godfrey's where you will find the correct equipment in which members can represent the club.

A further involvement that Reece Group wished to encourage was the sponsoring of the Reece Group Rutherford Head, which will start outside their premises at Scotswood, weather permitting. We are delighted that those facilities, with such a close and historic connection with the Tyne, continue to have an involvement with Tyne RC. Indeed, Tyne RC's former location was adjacent to Reece Group's current home.

Many thanks need to be offered to all the volunteers that the club has. In a volunteer organisation, nothing happens without them. Newcomers and learn to rowers should never worry about treading on anyone's toes. Please feel free to join the committee and help where you feel able. Notable volunteers include Mike Windle, who has been our Treasurer for the last three years. The club is most grateful for all his hard work. Without his efforts we would not have been able to apply for the SE money or that from NCC. The club owes him a great debt of gratitude.

As chairman, I must also thank the committee, especially the captain and vice-captain. They have really focused upon boats and rowing, which is reflected in all the club's success on the water. Please help them as much as you can by looking after the equipment and mending it when it is broken. I must also thank our secretary who has shown such devotion to the club in his first year. He continues to grow into the job and is making a really positive impact upon the running of the club.

I wish you all the best for the forthcoming year.

Come on Tyne.

Simon Dobson

Secretary

Taking over from Colin, who has an encyclopaedic knowledge of TRC, has been challenging, particularly for someone new to rowing. That said, I've had fantastic support from the committee and other members who have been very willing to advise and assist, without their efforts the club could not function. Much of the committee's time has been focussed on the planned new build and, while progress may seem slow, there is a lot of unseen work ongoing with any delays being beyond our control. Membership continues to grow with the total in excess of 250. Six learn to row courses were run over the summer, three for adults and three for juniors, both were oversubscribed.

As well as the routine bureaucratic responsibilities my tasks have included assuming the role of assistant club welfare officer and securing the Clubmark reaccreditation, whilst this is an administrative process it demonstrates that TRC meets the required standards of the various sports governing bodies and, without the certificate, we would not be eligible for many funding streams. When possible, I assist Alex with the junior squad; his contribution to their success in the last twelve months needs to be recognised.

I would like to reiterate the chairman's comments about volunteering and assisting our captains, their efforts are invaluable and literally keep parts of the club afloat. Finally I would like to recognise the contribution of the chairman and his wife over the last twelve months; Creature provides regular sustenance at weekends and organises the catering for the events we host. Simon has invested a significant amount of time (unseen by most) in organising and attending meetings with Sport England, solicitors, accountants and sponsors in an effort to raise money for the club. He does his utmost to ensure that there is a harmonious atmosphere within the club. In addition, he still finds time to row and has had a rather good year as a crew member of the veterans black boat.

Jerry Barker

Intermediates

The Intermediate Squad has increased in both size and strength over the last year, and has seen its most successful 12 months since its formation due largely to the efforts of our coach Andy Pennington. With good wins in competitive categories at Yorkshire and Tees Heads, Tees, Wansbeck and Hexham regattas and a close second at Durham Regatta the squad is progressing well.

Following a great win in the 1x and a hard-fought 3rd in the IM3 4+ at Tees last week we have now shifted our focus to the 8+ with a view to entering a competitive crew for HoRR in 2015. We have welcomed a couple of men from the Novices and have seen improvement in both fitness and technical ability throughout the squad.

Away from racing the squad is looking at various fundraising opportunities to raise money and recognition for the club as a whole and hopes to be able to provide some good income over the coming year to help support the delivery of new facilities.

Sam Grant

Novice squad 2013/14

The L2R course was run on 3 different days last year due to the number of participants, with the majority staying on with the club as full members.

Initially 3 teams were entered into the Sunday League 2014: the women's team Tyney Temp-Oar and the mens' team, Tyne Young Boys both of which consisted solely of 2013's L2R graduates. A third team, Old Father Tyne consisted of an amalgamation of those returning to rowing and L2R graduates from both 2012 and 2013.

All novices were fortunate to benefit from training and support from a large number of club members not least: Liz, Colin, Al, Dennis and MAB, and a whole host of other members from all squads – too many to list here, but all your help was appreciated.

Unfortunately/Fortunately members of Old Father Tyne gained points early on and therefore dropped out of the Sunday League before they got to try their hand at blindfolded rowing at Talkin Tarn in the first of the two skills based tests. The two remaining teams continued to have great success in both sweep and sculling events and both teams were victorious at Durham meaning a double win for Tyne in the overall Sunday League.

The novices from the 2014 L2R course entered teams in the last two events both in the open and women's categories and chalked up an impressive amount of wins given the level of experience in some of the other boats. Although this will do little to dispel the general opinion that Tyne crews were "too competitive", we may have to consider a permanent trophy home in the new clubhouse.

Away from the Sunday League, two novice boats also entered the Great Tyne Row in September. Places were drawn by ballot due to the level of demand and Tyne rowers even had to resort to bolstering crews from other clubs to get a seat. The DFDS ferry and a large container ship meant that timings went awry on the day but both Tyne crews looked strong throughout and all had a great day.

Becky Walton