



Masters Report November 2021

Summary of notes from Zoom meetings held:

Meeting November 2020: Impact of CV19 Pandemic on Clubs

- In general club memberships holding up with demand for more LTR courses. However, restrictions on rowing, and shorter daylight hours caused some difficulties. As a result, there have been membership losses in some Regions.
- Most clubs maintaining off water activities. Zoom ergo sessions - BR online sessions plus other private competitions organized between clubs have kept Masters motivated and training.
- All Regional Reps reported a growing level of sculling activity in singles and doubles in their regions.
- A number of individual rowers using personal boats and public launching facilities have been noticed in various locations.
- The immediate priority is to sustain the gradual return to more normal rowing.

Meeting March 2021:Return to Rowing

- Discussed difficulty in recruitment of volunteers in Clubs.
- Returned to a discussion of changes to Handicap Tables including differences between Women/Men.
- National Masters Championships 12/06/21: Discussed a simplified, one day competition. No spectators allowed and crews are expected to arrive in time to boat, race and then go.
- Many early regattas cancelled because of uncertainties around the proposed slow unlocking of events and how to manage crowds.

Meeting June 2021:Return to Racing

- National Masters Championships 12/06/21: Feedback on this event was generally positive and encouraging. If similar restrictions apply in future a system of A and B finals will be adopted. The events were held at 6 minute intervals rather than the usual 3 which reduced the overall size of the event but was necessary to reduce overcrowding at the slipways. There were very few 8 s entries which also helped to minimise crowds.
- Regional updates: All regions reported a gradual resumption of normal rowing and gradual return to LTR courses and competitions.
- There were some membership refunds offered by clubs to offset the Lockdown closures – this had some impact on club finances. Also some lower membership levels had an impact. Other clubs reported membership levels remained stable.
- Most Regions reported a lot of interest in LTR – many clubs running several courses and having long waiting lists. Some difficulty recruiting coaches/volunteers to support these courses.
- Further discussion of changes to Handicap Tables – these have been presented to the Sport Committee and discussions continue.



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Finally

I made the decision to step down from the Masters Committee recently and Jo Baxter from Lea has agreed to take over as Masters Rep. I wish her well.

Jo is keen to build a list of contacts in the clubs in the region so it would be really helpful if clubs could email her details of the relevant people to jobaxter59@gmail.com. She'd also like to draw clubs' attention to the recently published draft strategy that BR has produced. The link to the masters' section is <https://britishrowingstrategy.webflow.io/strategic-areas/masters> please use the link in the document to feed back your comments. It's really important that BR gets a view from clubs.

Many thanks to Andrew and the ERRRC for their support over the past few years.

Karen Wilson