

Eastern Region Rowing Council
Open Meeting
Thursday May 4th 2023

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Election of Regional Representative*
3. CEO British Rowing, Alastair Marks
4. Youth Rowing in the Eastern Region
5. Adaptive rowing, diversity and inclusion
6. Coaching and performance
7. Any Other Business

*** NOTES:**

1. The meeting is open to all Registered Individual members of British Rowing. The voting entitlement is limited to Affiliated Members as defined in the Articles of British Rowing whose representation is defined under rule 1.10 of the regional constitution as follows:-

A "Representative" shall mean a person who is authorised by a Member Club or Competition to speak and vote for the Member at meetings of the Council. Such a person shall also be a member of the Member Club or Competition and must be prepared to produce proof of such appointment and membership if called upon to do so.

Discussion note A: Youth Rowing In the Eastern Region

Questions to discuss

How do existing and youth rowing schemes best work together?

What coaching resource and physical facilities are needed to maximise the opportunity?

How could we expand what we are doing in the region?

Cambridge / Central East Anglia

- East Anglia Youth Rowing – 11 Schools and 1,000 students working with City of Cambridge, Cantabrigian, 99 RC, Sudbury RC, Rob Roy, and fee paying schools: St Mary's School, Leys School
- Isle of Ely RC/Ely College – 4 schools, 100+ students, fee paying school Kings School Ely offering support
- Rob Roy summer taster sessions for local state schools

Norfolk

- East Anglia Youth Rowing – starting summer 2022. Programmes with Looked After children and 5 schools
- West Norfolk RC – outreach to local schools

Suffolk

- Deben RC keen to work with other clubs to do an outreach programme

Bedford

- Star Club / Bedford School – has funding for part time coach for school outreach

Northampton

- Northampton RC – Granted a GROW coach but no suitable candidate, exploring links with local schools

Essex and Hertfordshire

- GROW coach based at Broxbourne starting to build links with schools from Broxbourne to Colchester
- Essex University interested in supporting outreach as they rebuild the club

Lea Valley

- Lea RC working with schools in Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest

Discussion note B: Adaptive, diversity & inclusion

Questions to discuss

What more can clubs in the region do to support adaptive, diversity & inclusion?

Are there opportunities to work together?

Where are we missing facilities and coaching support?

Current activity highlighted in

Adaptive

- Northampton RC – Joined the BR Rowability initiative with a successful programme adding 4 adaptive sculling boats
- Cambridgeshire Rowing Association – may add adaptive facilities for all clubs on the Cam
- East Anglia Youth Rowing - looking to run adaptive sessions at Cambridge Milton Lake
- 99 RC looking to add a lift when they redevelop their boathouse
- Cantabrigian RC, Sudbury RC, Broxbourne RC, Fairlop RC, Peterborough City RC, Oundle RC, Mersea Island RC all offer adaptive

Diversity & Inclusion

- Lea RC runs the “IBelong” initiative, so people are able to walk past the club and think ‘I can belong here’.
- Yare RC working with Sprowston Youth Project and Norfolk County Council care leavers team to find a way to introduce 18-25 yr olds from deprived areas to the sport
- Star RC looking to reach out to 18+ young adults to improve diversity & inclusion

Discussion note C: Coaching and Talent Development

Questions to discuss

What support do coaches in the region need in order to learn and challenge the status quo in coaching methods and approaches that will attract new rowers?

How do we build a coaching community?

Given there will be no START or Pathway presence in the region, how should clubs, schools and universities identify and develop performance athletes with GB potential?

Coaching

- There are 624 British Rowing members who have a coaching qualification who are connected to a club in the eastern region (source: ClubHub regional reports).
- We estimate that around 400 people actively coaching in the region of which around 75 do so on a paid basis (counting session coaches as ½ a coach).
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Talent

- CUBC regularly has national level talent and has some links with GB squad.
- Talent has historically been found in many clubs eg: Northampton, Norwich, Lea etc.
- START/Pathway to be replaced with performance development academies

British Rowing's Selection Criteria For GB Performance Development Academies

- Ability to link with established Youth Rowing Programme
- Concentration of other performance clubs/programmes nearby
- Population size/demographics
- Transport/Accessibility
- Water Suitability
- University Links
- Land Training Facilities
- Boat Storage
- Sport England Requirements