



Eastern Region Annual General Meeting
23rd November 2023

Minutes

1. Welcome
2. Present: Mark Bavington, Seb Walker, Tom Upton, Gary Gilbey, Stephen Wyborn, Oli Frazer, Helen Middleton, Kate Saunders, Hugh Maltby, Alex Meadows, Rachel Munday, Arianne Hoppler, Paul Ashmore, Reuben Frost, Dave Porter, Mieke Hagemans, [Lea RC captain], Reuben Frost, Andrew Blit, Ash Wyatt. Someone else from Lea.
3. Apologies for absence: Jeff Elms
4. Minutes of 2022 AGM

Were Accepted as a true and accurate record

5. Regional Reports

Seb Walker gave a presentation on current British Rowing policies and initiatives. Day tickets have been introduced. There have been changes to the BR Insurers and clubs should be aware of how this affect them. Senior Championships have been re-introduced and will require support from volunteers.

Regional membership has largely recovered form the pandemic though it has not grown significantly. Competitions in the region have had varying success and the region may look to catalyse support for those that need them.

There have been a significant increase in cancellations of competitions. The region may want to consider whether it can offer a plan B especially for the tideway heads.

Seb highlighted the extensive successes of clubs form the region.

Regional Plan – looking to expand the hub concept for youth rowing.

Helen Middleton is looking to establish one of the BR coastal sculling centre and beach sprints in the region. We already have a centre in the south of the region at Mersea Island. We ran a session at Gorleston for youngsters. There will be a GB pathway session on the coast in Norwich, probably in February. Details to follow.

At the Los Angeles Olympics, lightweight rowing is out and beach sprints are out.

The region held a successful coaching café Look to hold another in the new year.

The region has opportunities for volunteers to get involved on a wider platform than their club. These are opportunities for all ages of volunteers.

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6. Annual Accounts

Stephen Wyborn presented the accounts as published on the website and copies at the meeting. The meeting accepted the accounts as a true and accurate record.

7. Appointment of Hon Auditor

Stephen Wyborn proposed that Robin de Vere Green of Beccles RC be engaged again. The meeting accepted. This.

8. Election of Regional Representatives

Seb Walker has been elected as a Director of British Rowing and accordingly will need to stand down as Regional Representative and as Chair.

Reuben Frost had been nominated as a Rep. There being no objection Reuben was elected.

The region will need to identify and elect a new Rep and a new Chair in the new year.

The meeting thanked Seb for his work as Chair and Rep.

9. Election or appointment of Officers of the Council for 2024

Chair to be elected at EGM

Hon Sec: Andrew Blit

Hon Treasurer: Stephen Wyborn

Regional Safety Adviser: Mark Goddard (co-opted)

Coach Education & Training: Mike Partridge

Chair of Regional Umpires Committee: Jay Milne (elected by RUC)

Junior Rowing Representative: vacant

Masters Rowing: vacant

Recreational Rowing: Teresa Aslett

Coastal Rowing: Nina Crouchman (absent)

10. Presentation – Yare Outreach Project to Young Adults Leaving Care - Ariane Hoppler, Yare BC - slides

11. Presentation – Developing membership and club affiliation offer from BR, Marieke Hagemans, British Rowing Director - Membership and Community.

Membership numbers are looking good. Survey take-up was good. 40% said Community Membership with add-ons was the way forward but 29% were happy as they are. Not a conclusive result.

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Community membership and day tickets already added this year so not going to rush into new initiatives without consideration.

Club affiliation – this year will stay as base fee plus members. There will be add-ons such as club affiliation plus insurance – still to be developed in detail. FAQs being developed. Likely to be much cheaper than existing club insurance – likely to be £300-400 (!),

Also adding “racing names” product, for social groups who wish to alumni groups who are not associated with an existing entity.

There will be an inflationary increase in general membership fees.

Looking to create a tiered membership model e.g. small, medium, large, To have an amnesty period for clubs to declare their true membership.

Club census in May – 80% clubs wanted BR to be in touch with key topics being coaches and equipment.

Conversation

There will be a survey of competition organisers.

12. Regional Awards

List of those representative honours

Will Young C99

Gemma King CUBC

Sophie Brown SRC

Eveline Pachoul Lea RC

Royal Humane Society Award

Dominic Young Isle of Ely

13. AOB

Hugh Maltby – cancelled events threatening clubs.