Eastern Region Annual General Meeting
27th November 2025
7.30 pm
Virtually: Link to Zoom meeting

Minutes

Apologies for Absence: Paul Gurbutt (Lowestoft RC), Samantha King (Milton Keynes RC),

Present: David Porter, Andrew Blit. Stephen Wyborn, Simon Prior (WNRC), Simon Murray (Oundle Town RC) Sarah Leatham (Saint Neots RC), Hugh Maltby (Bedford RC). Marcus Walker, Christina Dunn (Saint Neots RC), Ursula Arndt, Jay Milne, Jo Cotgrove, Liz Roberts & Kirsty Sherwood (Isle of Ely ERC), Helen Middleton, Teresa Aslett, William Schofield, Malcom Hingle, Paul Ashmore, (Saint Ives RC), Annabelle Lloyd-Carrick (Peregrine RC)

1. Welcome : David Porter welcomed all to the meeting

2. Minutes of January 2025 AGM : No corrections or matters arising were raised by attendees. The Minutes were, accordingly approved by the Council

3. Annual Accounts : **Stephen Wyborn** presented audited accounts for the region. David Porter assured the meeting that the region had and would continue to spend money to support rowing activity.

4. Appointment of Hon Auditor : **Stephen Wyborn** proposed that Robin de vere Green as Honorary Auditor

5. Chair's Report: **David Porter** reported on the turbulence at the top of British Rowing, both at the governance level and within the executive. The changes are still resolving themselves with many of the executive in interim roles and a new CEO yet to be appointed.

   Sport Committee is being dissolved to make way for the new Rowing Committee. The Regional Chairs Forum has been absorbed into a Chairs and Reps group which meets with Exec and Board members. David Porter shared an organogram of the proposed new structure.

   Initially there had been concerns that the domestic sport had lost voice but this had been assuaged to an extent by contact with and concessions by the current board. Will Schofield clarified that there had been an in-year deficit but that there was still a positive balance in the accounts.

The meeting discussed the deficit in the national accounts. There is recognition that this is not sustainable. Accountability is now stronger. Helen Middleton believes that grass roots rowing now has a stronger representation.

Hugh Maltby made the point that this cannot result in a tax raid on clubs and domestic rowing.

David Porter reported on two new clubs affiliating in the last year, but unfortunately Eton Mission appear to have ceased.

Ipswich RC are facing a crisis owing to their lease expiring. BR are supporting.

Head of the East ran for the first time since the pandemic and was successful WNRC have an appetite to grow the event.

JIRR selection at PCRC ran successfully, thank you to Peterborough.

As an executive we have reviewed the criteria for support we give to coaches int e region (thank you to Marcus for this work).

The region has also agreed support for those facing financial burdens to training umpires.

We have continued award bursaries to those juniors who from the region who have represented the country internationally.

Teresa Aslett has been energetic in producing a First Aid course for The region, although this has not yet been delivered in the region.

Nominations for Volunteers of the Year have been successful

6. Regional Officer Reports

Helen Middleton: Two coastal sculling academies, one at Mersea and one at Lowestoft. Training sessions will be run at Lowestoft in March, with attendance from other coastal academies. Mersea are looking to run a coastal race alongside the Harker's Yard series.

Beach sprint trials resulted in all but one of the selectees being from the inland rowers.

Will Schofield: Has attended CRA committee meetings to maintain links. JIRR – we had no individual winners but were 2nd and 3rd overall and in many individual events. Many regional junior crews qualified for HWR and HRR. Podiums at Nat Champs.

Teresa Aslett: Thank you to all the Safety Officers at Clubs who work very hard to keep us safe. We have 87 clubs who have submitted in excess of 548 incident reports. Reporting is am little patchy and clubs are encouraged to note all incidents.

We are good at submitting reports on our own mistakes and learning points. We are less good at reporting anti-social behaviour from others. Please do report this as it records what the sport is subject to.

The Safety Audit process has been troublesome but we are nearly there.

With regard to the regional first aid course, BR has approved the course and provider, we are now looking for a venue and date.

Full report appended

David thanked Teresa for her time and efforts.

Marcus Walker: There will be one coaching voice on the new national rowing committee. The region has very firm base for delivering coach education and can deliver anything that BR has. Session coach no longer runs. Marcus is looking for a bridging course between this and the L2 courses.

L3 is not being run at the moment as it is being revised, but the region is doing direct assessment for those who have not yet completed. Marcus can facilitate completion of assessment and qualification.

It would be good to find further venues for L2 courses.

Full report appended

Amanda Hosking (by correspondence): The National BR Master's committee has continued to meet regularly over the last year despite the changes from BR, partly to understand what the changes are and the impact and how we can best still support the master's community.

The main other topics across the year have included handicaps, they have been trying to get some money from BR to do some statistical analysis to improve handicap figures, they have identified someone / organisation to do the work at fairly low cost but are still trying to get the money committed from BR, this has been delayed by BR changes.

The major master's events are discussed and any issues people are finding including lack of competition and where events will not offer handicaps of more than two age categories.

Malcom Hingle: Recreational rowing has been active both nationally and internationally. National tour was well attended by regional clubs. We shall be hosting a tour of the Boards next year in June 2026. The European tour will be Poland

The region will be looking to refurbish the recreational boats held at Ely.

Full report appended

Jay Milne: Thank you to all the umpires in the region. We currently have 40 umpires in the region. We are proud of the new financial assistance for new umpires. We have further plans to grow CPD of existing umpires to grow the skills of other colleagues.

Jay will be stepping down as Chair of the RUC but will be staying on as VC, David will be taking over but will be stepping down as Chair of the Region.

Andrew Blit: We have maintained regularity and governance as a region. The website is still down, though efforts to revivify it continue.

7. Election of Regional Representatives

   David Porter has reached the end of his current term as Representative. Nominations had been invited and one had been received, being for David Porter – a copy is appended.

The meeting unanimously elected David for a further 3 year term.

8. Election of Officers of the Council for 2026

Chair

Helen Middleton had been nominated (form appended). The meeting unanimously elected Helen Middleton as Chair of the Region

Honorary Secretary

Andrew Blit was nominated by David Porter and seconded by Helen Middleton. The meeting unanimously elected Andrew Blit as Secretary to the Region

Honorary Treasurer

Stephen Wyborn was nominated by Andrew Blit and seconded by David Porter. The meeting unanimously elected Stephen Wyborn as Treasurer to the Region

Water Safety (for approval)

Ursula Arndt had been nominated – form appended. The meeting unanimously approved the appointment of Ursula Arndt as Regional Rowing Safety Adviser

Coach Education and Training (for approval)

Marcus Walker has been appointed to this position by the Coach Educators. The meeting unanimously approved the appointment of Marcus Walker as representative of the Coaching Committee on the Regional Council

Umpires Committee (for approval)

David Porter had been selected by the Regional Umpires Committee to be its Char. The meeting unanimously approved the appointment of Jay Milne as representative of the RUC to the Regional Council

Events Committee

Teresa Aslett (form appended) was nominated by David Porter and seconded by Andrew Blit. The meeting unanimously elected Teresa Aslett as representative of the Region to the National Competition Committee

Junior Rowing

Mark Bavington has been unwell, and David Porter will reach out to him when he is recovered

Masters

Amanda Hosking was nominated by Helen Middleton and seconded by David Porter. The meeting unanimously elected Amanda Hosking as representative for masters rowing to the Regional Council

Recreational

Malcolm Hingle was proposed by David Porter and seconded by Andrew Blit. The meeting unanimously elected Malcolm Hingle as representative for recreational rowing to the Regional Council

Coastal

Vacant

Both David Porter and Andrew Blit encouraged attendees to look into their clubs for further volunteers to help grow the sport in the region.

9. AOB

Simon Prior: have any other clubs been asked whether they wish to take on the Head of the East for 2027?

David Porter responded that the region was very grateful to West Norfolk RC for the efforts they had put in so far, and praised their further ambitions. The region would be very keen to support any other venue that came forward.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 21.01

Report for ERRC AGM 27 November 2025

I want to begin by thanking all the Club Safety Advisors for their work throughout this year in keeping our clubs and those in it safe both on and off the water. You all do an excellent job and its very much appreciated.

Briefly, here are some stats:

Incident reporting

- We have 87 clubs in the Eastern Region
- Incident reports submitted Jan – Nov 2025
- 548 IR have been submitted by 64 of the 87 clubs.

Think we can all agree its encouraging to see a good percentage of clubs engaging in this process. To those clubs who have yet to submit an IR I would encourage them to do so, it's a valuable educational tool.

We're good at reporting obvious incidents on the water – collisions, rogue trees tipping us out of boats. We're good also at reporting incidents in and around our clubs. What I would like to encourage more of are incident reports involving anti-social behaviour experienced either on the water or around our rowing clubs. These all help us to build a picture of what our community has to deal with and enables BR to be aware of any patterns.

BR Annual Safety Audit 2025

I would like to acknowledge that there have been considerable technical issues with the audit process this year and thank everyone for persevering in getting the audits submitted. BR are aware of the issues and will be reviewing systems in due course.

<u>Here's where we're at as of today.</u>

- Audits received & approved: **76**
- Audit received but not yet approved due to questions sent to clubs: **6**
- Audits outstanding: **5**

BR will be sending reminder emails on **11** Dec to clubs yet to submit an audit reminding them of the deadline – we are now in the grace period as deadline for submission of audits was 25 Nov.

<u>First aid courses – in the region</u>

We've had confirmation from BR that our 3 hours bespoke first aid course complies with their requirements and is accredited for purposes of Level 2 Coaching Qualification. We have (Red Turtle) a provider who is willing to run the course and costings have been shared with ERRC – we just need to look at logistics and talk this through with Red Turtle ……

Bye from me: Have enjoyed my time as RRSA – I feel that I've helped when asked and I've definitely learned loads!

Teresa

COACHING OFFICER'S REPORT FOR AGM ON 27/11/2025

BRITISH ROWING GOVERNANCE

Following the Governance shake up there was a recent meeting of the National Rowing Committee of which coaching is now a 'specialist' group with only 1 representative nationally on it. As coaches we still have a voice but not as a single region. There is now one voice on the National Rowing Committee for coaching.

EDUCATION:

We have consolidated to provide and maintain consistency and quality. Whilst numbers of active educators has fallen in the region since last year (We have all been offered to recontract to BR). We continue to meet the expectations of the current scheme.

The **Session course** is no longer run but I would be surprised if we couldn't arrange a bridging certificate to the level 2 if one decided as a Session Coach to move forward.

We can deliver the new **Assistant coach** scheme online and practically and Internally and Independently assess it within the region.

We can deliver the **Level 2 face to face** and Internally and Independently assess it within the region.

In conjunction with BR we are capable of **Tutoring and Internally and Independently Assessing the Level 3 as it was** . The initial course is **not** being run currently.

DEVELOPMENT FOR COACHES:

Peterborough City has been running the L2 'face to face', the last in September this year. The next in March with all things being equal. The practical element of the Assistant coach course has been held at Peterboro' too.

Lower Thames has requested a **Fixed** seat L2 course which I will be leading in March 2026. It is now being advertised on the BR website.

Some candidates from our region have travelled further afield in the last year towards **Newark (East Midlands**), for example, which begs the idea of using more clubs towards the coast for courses so that we can reduce costs on the face to face courses for 'our' candidates.

FYI There is a course in **Leicester (East Midlands)** coming up in February in case Peterboro' is oversubscribed, which I will be leading.

Well done to The East Anglia Youth Rowing Group who are putting their first coach onto a course if they haven't already done so!

(We have explored, to enhance club framework, time expired L2 candidates and I can report that we have recently had 2 level 2 coaches from 2021 pass through on a re-registration process with another potentially looking to reregister and complete work started in 2018)

This has also been trialled at L3 for those who have timed out.

REGIONAL COACHING:

I said that I would try to create a Coaches' Register. That still has to happen! I am still aiming to be in contact with all Clubs in the region to ask for their support in getting me that information together and send me the detail. It is not available any other way. Please email me at coachingprospects @gmail.com
From that we can create a regular process of newsletters, guest coaching, support coaching, mentoring, workshops and 'get togethers' to exchange ideas as we all do things differently. **No coach or club should feel that they are an island.**

INITIATIVES For clubs and individuals:

Teresa Aslett has initiated and had approved by BR a Regional First Aid Course so that we can support coaches and clubs in their quest for a provider. **More information to follow from her on that.**

As a region we are currently looking at restructuring financial sponsorship for coach /athlete representation within the region. Watch this space!

Weekly coaching sessions have been run at a club in the region where there has been a shortage of coaching until they have been able to secure more permanent coaching.

A Closed Club Rigging workshop was run recently as a pilot and seems to have been deemed a success.

We continue to try to provide a rapid 'response' to support requests in keeping the coaching current, providing the coaching we need to serve our athletes' ambitions and to keep our clubs producing competent athletes who remain safe, responsible and progressive on our waterways. It is great to see the National and International success that youngsters from the region have achieved in the last 12 months and the continuing aspirations that our senior athletes have.

MPW 27/11/2025

Recreational – Malcolm Hingle

The year 2025 has been a busy one nationally and in Eastern Region. The year started off with the National Recreational Dinner combined with a row on the Severn. Eastern Region filled many of the boats on the European Tour to the Netherlands, where the scenery was stunning and the weather fair. Lea RC also organised and ran a tour in France, which also was successful. The British Tour was again well attended by Eastern Region crews. This tour was held on the rivers Weaver and Dee. The Region entered four crews in the Head of the Dart race where they achieved a class win. In 2026 the Region is hosting the British Tour at the Norfolk and Suffolk National Park (The Broads). This is occurring on 5-7th June and is involving many clubs in Eastern Region. The European tour is in Poland. In 2026 will be looking to refurbish the touring boats held at Isle of Ely RC. These boats are a regional asset that can be hired by any club within the region.

BRITISH ROWING
EASTERN REGION

NOMINATION OF REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

To be returned to Andrew Blit, Secretary, Eastern Region Rowing Council
By 5.00pm on Friday 12th November 2025
Email: andrew.blit@outlook.com

In completing this form, please note that **five signatures** are required, two from the proposing and two from the seconding Club/Events. These should be those of the Captain/Chairman and Secretary of each club or event involved. In addition the candidate's signature is required.

We, the undersigned on behalf of the Committee of Name of Club/Event: Lea Rowing Club *wish to nominate* Name: David Porter
Email: david.porter61@gmail.com
Member of Club: Lea RC
British Rowing Membership No: 1102883
Signature: Charles Barry *(Captain)*
Signature: Daniil Slavin *(Secretary)*

We, the undersigned second this nomination, on behalf of the Committee of Event: Lea Spring Regatta
Signature: Jennie Brotherston *Chairman*
Signature: Caroline Carson *Secretary*

I AGREE TO THE NOMINATION Signature of Candidate:
Date: 05/11/25

BRITISH ROWING
EASTERN REGION

NOMINATION FOR CHAIR OF EASTERN REGION ROWING COUNCIL

To be returned to Andrew Blit, Secretary, Eastern Region Rowing Council
By 5.00pm on Friday 12th November 2025
Email: andrew.blit@outlook.com

In completing this form, please note that **five signatures** are required, two from the proposing and two from the seconding Club/Events. These should be those of the Captain/Chairman and Secretary of each club or event involved. In addition the candidate's signature is required.

We, the undersigned on behalf of the Committee of
Name of Club/Event:
Norwich Rowing
Club Events
Committee

wish to nominate

Name: Helen Middleton

Email: helen.middleton@gmail.com

Member of Club : Norwich High School Rowing Club/Oulton Broad Water Sport Centre Sculling Club

British Rowing Membership No: 1055892

Signature:
~~(Captain~~/Chairman) Sarah Lister [redacted]

Signature: [redacted]

(Secretary) Katherine Trehane

We, the undersigned second this nomination, on behalf of the Committee of
Club / Event: LEA ROWING CLUB / LEA SPRING REGATTA.

Signature:
~~Captain~~/Chairman DAVE PORTER

Signature: [redacted]

BRITISH ROWING
EASTERN REGION

NOMINATION PAPER FOR REGIONAL OFFICER - EASTERN REGION

CANDIDATE	PROPOSER	SECONDER
REGIONAL OFFICE* **Safety Advisor** Name: Ursula Arndt Address: 105 Bromedale Ave, NR148GZ	Club/Event Sarah Leatham	Club/Event Teresa Aslett

NAME OF AUTHORISED OFFICIAL IN PROPOSER ORGANISATION: Sarah Leatham

POSITION HELD IN CLUB OR EVENT: Chair, St Neots

NAME OF AUTHORISED OFFICIAL IN SECONDER ORGANISATION: Teresa Aslett

POSITION HELD IN CLUB OR EVENT: current Safety Advisor

Please return by 5pm on 12/11/2025 by email to:

Andrew Blit
Secretary
Eastern Regional Rowing Council
andrew.blit@outlook.com

BRITISH ROWING
EASTERN REGION

NOMINATION PAPER FOR REGIONAL OFFICER - EASTERN REGION

CANDIDATE	PROPOSER	SECONDER
REGIONAL OFFICE* **EVENTS COMMITTEE**	Beccles Rowing Club Management Committee – LTR Coordinator	Beccles Rowing Club Management Committee Chair
Name: Teresa Aslett	Jon Bartram	Janet Cobill
Address: Waterwell Cottage Candle Street Rickinghall Suffolk IP22 1LW	Beccles Rowing Club	The Ashes Metfield Charleston Norfolk IP20 0LS

NAME OF AUTHORISED OFFICIAL IN PROPOSER ORGANISATION:

POSITION HELD IN CLUB OR EVENT:

NAME OF AUTHORISED OFFICIAL IN SECONDER ORGANISATION:

POSITION HELD IN CLUB OR EVENT:

Please return by 5pm on 12/11/2025 by email to:

Andrew Blit
Secretary
Eastern Regional Rowing Council
andrew.blit@outlook.com