

Rowing Ireland Board Bulletin

October 2013

At the Rowing Ireland Board Meeting on the 5th October it was agreed that a Board Bulletin summarising the discussion at the meeting would be posted on the Rowing Ireland website following each Board meeting.

The following were the main items arising at the October meeting.

- 1 L Gibson (Leinster Provincial Director) is working on a Youth and Ethics Policy which will be ready for issue by January 2014.
- 2 H Adams (CEO) is working on the Core and HP Budgets which have to be submitted to the Irish Sports Council by the 14th and 18th October respectively. It was agreed that a Core surplus should be targeted with a view to building a reserve.
- 3 A Governance Audit of Rowing Ireland has been completed by Sport Northern Ireland. Although it has not yet been circulated to Board members, the CEO reported that the Report gives a "Satisfactory" rating to the organisation. Some relatively minor recommendations were included such as building a cash reserve and achieving better gender balance on the Board.
- 4 G Farrell (VP Leinster) confirmed that J Cantillon of St Michael's Rowing Club was happy to go ahead with organising the Irish Indoor Championships this year on the basis that Rowing Ireland would give him responsibility for the event for the three years to 2015.
- 5 The CEO is to install a w/c water solution to cater for large events in the NRC.
- 6 The replacement of buoys due to "wear and tear" in the NRC was questioned as these were purchased at a significant expense within the last 18 months. The buoys are to be checked for fit for purpose.
- 7 The money budgeted for the Tracker development for the new Grading Structure is €20,000. Estimated cost was likely to be closer to €35,000 which would be covered by the money being raised through the once off levy.
- 8 A decision to change our registered name to Rowing Ireland was being proceeded with.
- 9 A submission from the SIA Group to undertake a Governance Review of the organisation was discussed and a decision to proceed was postponed to the next meeting, the CEO being asked to clarify some matters with SIA.
- 10 It was agreed that any cash balances forecasted to be on hand for a period should be invested in prize bonds.

- 11 A Domestic Events Committee report focusing on the support needed by Grand League event organisers was discussed.
- 12 A Touring Committee report was discussed and it was agreed that the committee's remit should be broadened to take in recreational rowing.
- 13 Umpires Committee, Connacht Branch and High Performance reports were also submitted.
- 14 The following financial policies were reviewed and approved by the Board: *Asset Control Policy, Credit Card Policy, Expenditures and Authorisations Policy*
- 15 A strategy document produced by J Williams of SIA Group following a Board strategy workshop in September was discussed in conjunction with the 2014 operations plan circulated by the CEO. This strategy document will be posted on the website.

- 16 The Operational Plan for 2013 was discussed as follows:

16.1 *Club Development.* It was agreed that the key output for 2014 would be a club Q Mark process. The new club development officer in Northern Ireland (Gordon Reid) would prioritise this.

16.2 *Coach Development.* The CEO will issue a questionnaire to all clubs to gather information on coaching and coaching effectiveness. The question of whether all coaches should be licensed by first qualifying as L1, L2 or L3 and then by actively maintaining the licence by, for example, attending a required course every year was discussed. The views of clubs on this matter will be sought.

16.3 *High Performance.* The performance of HP crews during 2013 was reviewed. It was suggested that ability to target qualification for A and B finals should be a minimum standard for future entries at World and European level.

It was agreed that Irish athletes in the HP programme who are based abroad should have their erg scores published along with those of home based athletes.

The Secretary informed the Board of a conversation he had had with Matt Smith, FISA CEO, at the World Junior Rowing Championship in August. FISA have introduced a rule whereby any athlete who has rowed in FISA World or Regional International events for one country must, except in exceptional circumstances, go through a two year international competitive moratorium before being able to row for a different country in similar events. This will apply to juniors who have rowed for Ireland and wish to row for GB at U23/Senior. The dual ROI/UK nationality available to NI citizens makes this a unique issue for Irish/British rowing. It was agreed that clubs be informed of the FISA rule through a posting on the web site.

16.4 *Participation and Competition.* It was agreed that there was a need for a Committee with a broader remit than the current Touring Committee which would cover recreational, touring and masters rowing. A priority for this committee would be to develop a plan for recreational rowing. They would also address how to make membership of Rowing Ireland more attractive for recreational members.

The CEO is to submit a "Women in Sport" (WIS) grant application to fund basing a new staff member in Dublin who would focus on developing women's rowing in the city. Such a resource could also be used to develop indoor rowing in Dublin. There are up to 100 Rowing Ireland ergs located in various schools throughout the country which could be collected and used more effectively.

16.5 *Commercial* The CEO is targeting raising €50,000 in commercial sponsorship for 2014. To provide support for this work, it was agreed to hire a staff member in 2013 to focus particularly on media communications and PR provided the money could be found from the 2014 budget

- 17 J Mangan's proposal to set up a Munster Academy was discussed and it was agreed that the proposal should be incorporated in the overall HP plan. The CEO will revert to the Board by year end with a detailed proposal regarding the Academy.
- 18 A child protection officer will address the 7th December Board meeting.
- 19 A register of members will be put in place before the 19th October EGM and the Secretary will contact all clubs in this regard.

Frank Coghlan

**Hon Secretary
October 2013**