

Rowing Ireland Board Bulletin

September 2014

This Bulletin summarises the items discussed at the Rowing Ireland Board Meeting on the 6th September 2014.

The following directors were present at the 6th September meeting: F Coghlan (Secretary), S Dunlea (Treasurer), K Kerr (Munster), L O'Callaghan (Munster), L Gibson (Leinster), B Ewing (Ulster), E Colcough (Connacht), R Cooke (Connacht). H Adams (CEO) in attendance.

The following were the main items arising from the meeting:

- 1 The CEO is working with our insurers to produce an insurance information document for distribution to the clubs. This is proving more difficult to generate than originally anticipated.
- 2 Rowing Ireland's insurance business will shortly be put out to tender
- 3 The full list of Rowing Ireland qualified coaches will be reviewed and reposted on the website.
- 4 A meeting regarding the newly developed rowing facility at Lough Rynn, Co Leitrim was organised by E Colclough. It was attended by representatives of the Ulster, Connacht and Leinster Branches, Leitrim County Council, Carrick On Shannon RC and RI staff. Leitrim CC's objective is to use the rowing facility to fill tourist accommodation in the county. They are open to RI using the facility as we see fit if it helps to achieve this objective. The Board will consider holding an event on the course in 2015 if possible. In the meantime any club wishing to use the facility for a camp or other event are encouraged to do so.
- 5 The second theft of engines at the NRC in August was discussed. The Rowing Ireland engines were properly locked and secured and therefore are covered by insurance.
- 6 The Board intends to start working on a plan for the next development phase of the NRC. An outline plan will be ready for presentation to the Board in March 2015.
- 7 A donation of €15k has been received which, supplemented by funding from NUIG, will allow the recruitment of a full time RI coach and a part time development position in Galway. These positions will be advertised.
- 8 A donation of \$30k has been secured from a USA based developer which will be used to provide a loan fund for purchase of boats by heavyweight men on the Rowing Ireland programme.

- 9 Michelle Carpenter, Development Officer, Rowing Ireland was complimented on the excellent support she is giving the Leinster Branch.
- 10 Year to date Rowing Ireland financial performance is on budget and our cash situation is satisfactory.
- 11 The Safety Committee's report was considered by the Board and there were no particular issues arising.
- 12 The Touring Committee's report was considered and it was noted that seven expressions of interest from clubs had been received regarding the purchase of boats under the RI recreational boat purchase scheme. The scheme will remain open for a short while more.
- 13 It was agreed to bring the start date for new registrations for any coming year forward from the 1st October to the 1st September.
- 14 The Domestic Events Committee will consider how to facilitate recreational rowers entering HORs and will report its conclusions to the November Board meeting.
- 15 Morten Espersen, HPD, joined the meeting and presented his report. Items arising were:

2015 Season:

The objective is to make early crew selections starting from the October trials. 2015 targets are that the W1X, W2-, W2X would hold or improve the qualifying places which they had achieved at the World Championships. To do this they need to improve up to 5%. In addition there was an outside chance of qualifying one or two other crews.

Lightweight Men

28 candidates had indicated an interest in the camp planned for the end of September.

Club Coaches:

J Holland, D Mannion, J Mangan and D Casey are assisting with HP coaching. It is planned to establish a number of regional sculling groups. In addition the HPD is considering approaching club coaches to assist with specific U23 crews.

Para Rowing:

15 para rowing athletes attended a camp in Castleconnell. It is hoped to establish up to three crews from this group.

Support Services:

The Irish Institute of Sport have agreed to fund a physio at the NRC for a half day per week.

Concerns:

Further funds are required to provide the resources necessary for the performance improvements required to ensure Olympic qualification. The Women's 2- need a new boat and the full squad needs one or two training camps abroad this winter. The HPD is also concerned about the standard of our towing vehicle for European travel. This inability to address these issues due to lack of resources leaves us at a significant disadvantage in relation to competitor nations.

- 16 The re-drafted Risk Management Policy was approved.
- 17 A letter has been sent on behalf of the Board to D Henihan congratulating him on his appointment as General Secretary of the Olympic Council of Ireland.
- 18 The Governance Implementation Plan was reviewed and delivery commitments confirmed.
- 19 A clarification on the "Overseas Wins" implications for the new grading system was agreed and will be posted on the website.
- 20 A Branding Protocol for use of Rowing Ireland logos will be drafted.
- 21 Next Board meeting will be at 6.00pm on Friday 10th October 2014

F Coghlan
Secretary
Rowing Ireland