

Rowing Ireland Board Bulletin

December 2014

This Bulletin summarises the items discussed at the Rowing Ireland Board Meeting on the 15th November 2014.

The following directors were present at the meeting: C Cronin (President), F Coghlan (Secretary), S Dunlea (Treasurer), K Kerr (Munster), L O'Callaghan (Munster), L Gibson (Leinster), G Farrell (Leinster), B Ewing (Ulster), G Young (Ulster), E Colcough (Connacht). H Adams (CEO) in attendance.

The following were the main items arising from the meeting:

1 In line with agreed practice at the National Rowing Centre, a "summer" set of buoys would be laid before the first regatta of the season and would be replaced by a "winter" set after the Irish Rowing Championships.

2 Holding a regatta in Lough Rynn will be considered for 2015 if a suitable date can be found.

3 The Irish Sports Council are allocating an additional €96,000 HP subvention to RI for spending in 2014.

4 The Board approved the purchase of a catamaran engine at €4,000.

5 Queries arose as to why €6,000 was budgeted but not spent on regional/provincial development centres. The High Performance Director will outline for the Board what a mature model of such centres would look like.

6 The HP budget was overspent in the first nine months of the year due to unbudgeted regattas attended during the summer and to thefts of equipment from the NRC. This overspend will be reduced to less than 5% by year end.

7 There are currently 5 athletes on the Talent ID Programme in Belfast with another likely to join. Concentration on this smaller number of athletes will be continued in the future as resources do not allow for widespread screening. The focus will be on Belfast rowing clubs and transfers from other sports - especially swimming and athletics. A small number of schools may also be involved. There are also currently 4 potential HP rowers in QUB who are not members of the programme.

8 RI is anxious to increase its focus on club and coach development. The CEO will work with the Board Branch representatives to prepare means of generating feedback from club representatives on their requirements of and expectations from, RI on these matters.

9 A Working Group on Coach Education has been set up to review our Coach Education Programme. Terms of reference will be drafted and published for the Group.

10 A review will be held of the points system. Clubs will be asked to submit views for consideration at the January Board Meeting.

11 Recreational rowers will be catered for on the Tracker system as follows:

- a recreational rowing category will be created on Tracker
- HORs and regattas can offer recreational rowing events to be rowed in touring/recreational boats
- the registration fee will be 50% of the full fee (i.e €27.50)
- rowers can upgrade to full rower by paying the extra 50%
- there will be no age restriction on who can register as a recreational rower
- registration will use up the "novice" year for open competitions

12 The extra Tracker cost is estimated at between €6k and €8k which will be paid for from new recreational rowing subscriptions.

13 A campaign targeted on raising funds to support crews in qualifying for Rio has been undertaken by the CEO.

14 New Board governance actions were agreed as follows:

- A new CEO Report Format
- A new CEO Performance Review process
- A new process for developing strategic KPIs
- A list of desirable Board skills.
- A new Board Performance Evaluation process

15 As the ISC requires all National Federations to hold their AGM and approve their annual accounts before June each year, the Board decided to revert to the original date of 19th April 2015 for next year's AGM at which the financial accounts would be presented for approval, the next year's calendar agreed and there would be consideration of additional agenda items built around a (to be agreed) theme. The AGM would then be adjourned and reconvened in the Autumn when Officer and Committee reports would be presented and the new Board elected (and a second "themed" discussion held).

16 An EGM may be required in early 2015 to consider any changes related to the new grading system as April would be too late for such decisions

17 The Championship Committee have recommended the following changes to the Championship rules:

- That members of the Irish squad ("squad" to be defined by HPD) should only be able to compete at Senior level at the Irish Championships.
- That to be eligible to compete in the Irish Championships, a rower must have previously participated in four Irish regattas in their lifetime.

- 18 Cahir Rowing Club were accepted for affiliation to Rowing Ireland.
- 19 A working group was established to consider if the hosting of the FISA Masters regatta is feasible and if so to prepare a bid.
- 20 We are currently the only national rowing federation applying for hosting the 2018 Coupe de la Jeunesse.
- 21 The next Board meeting will be held on Saturday 10th January 2015

F Coghlan
Secretary
Rowing Ireland