

Rowing Ireland Board Bulletin

September 2015

This Bulletin summarises the items discussed at the Rowing Ireland Board Meetings on the 6th June and the 29th August 2015.

The following were the main items arising at the meetings:

1 Domestic Rowing:

1.1 Clubs will be asked to submit all kit and blade designs to the Domestic Events Committee where the designs differ from that on the RI website and/or from their registered colours. Blades must be painted in the registered colours of the club.

1.2 A Schools Sub Committee will be established with a primary focus on the development of schools rowing.

1.3 Statistics for 2014/15 shows that registered rowing numbers are static and that there is a swing to female participation in both junior and senior rowing. Adult rowers leaving the sport will be polled over the next few weeks to establish their reasons for leaving.

1.4 A very positive report on the 2015 Rowing Championships was reviewed. S Scully was reappointed as Chair of the Championships Committee.

1.5 A new structure for the Connacht Branch has been established.

1.6 A €5 increase in registration fees will be proposed to the Rowing Ireland AGM to support implementing the recommendations of the Coach Education Group's report.

1.7 An application for planning permission for a water based boat house at the NRC will be made.

2 High Performance Rowing:

2.1 Four coaches have been added to the HP coaching team in a temporary and/or voluntary capacity – S Casey, D Mannion, D Casey, G de Capua.

2.2 There will be 8 crews at the World Championships including 5 in Olympic/Paralympic events.

2.3 A policy allowing for the rental and/or loan of HP equipment to clubs was approved. The policy incorporates allowing HP squad rowers to compete as Tara in RI boats in all domestic events except the Irish Rowing Championships. The policy will be posted on the RI website.

2.4 HP junior assessments will be carried out on a regional basis in 2015/2016 and will be completed before the 1st March.

2.5 Locations for the Men's Lightweight and Women's Lightweight squads are still under consideration.

2.6 An academy is being established in Limerick to identify high potential talent among teenage non-club members in the area.

2.7 A Board/HP review of the year will be held in November

2.8 A contribution of €12,000 to support HP rowing has been received from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

2.9 The purchase of two Fillippi Quads for HP use was approved.

3 International Rowing:

3.1 N.I. Rowing supports the NI Commonwealth Games Council in their rejection of the proposal to reclassify rowing as a "Recognised" sport by the Commonwealth Games Federation.

3.2 The President will attend a meeting in September in Cardiff of the "Home" rowing federations to discuss the Home International Regatta.

3.3 K Kerr will attend the FISA congress at the World Championships on behalf of Rowing Ireland.

4 Strategic Planning:

It is recognised that the timing of the Irish Rowing Championships militates against the optimal development of the High Performance Programme. The Board also recognises that there is a need for an integrated operational structure incorporating the domestic rowing calendar, the High Performance Programme and the ambitions and targets of affiliated clubs. The Board will explore the possibility of securing the services of appropriate expertise to assist in developing proposals for creating an improved programme structure.

