

# **Rowing Ireland Board Bulletin**

## **September 2016**

This Bulletin summarises some of the items discussed and decisions made at the Rowing Ireland Board meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2016.

### **1 The Olympics and World Championships**

The President opened the meeting by reflecting that the successes recorded by Irish crews in the Rio Olympics and at other international regattas during the 2016 season were a credit to all involved in Rowing Ireland – athletes, staff and volunteers. He looked forward to celebrating this success at the Coaching Conference scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> October. Particular congratulations were offered to our Olympic silver medallists Paul and Gary O'Donovan and to Paul for his win in the World Championships.

The Board also sent congratulations to Holly Nixon of Portora Boat Club (and Leander RC) following her gold medal win in the World Championships.

### **2 High Performance**

It was decided to establish a High Performance Subcommittee of the Board. This subcommittee would have responsibility for ensuring that a HP strategy is agreed and implemented, that a fit for purpose implementation structure is put in place, that outcomes are effectively monitored and that responsible personnel are held accountable. Terms of reference reflecting these responsibilities will be drafted. Membership of the committee was agreed as N Maxwell (Chair), M Heskin, G Young and C Cronin.

It was agreed that M Espersen be offered new contract as High Performance Lead. D Casey will be offered a contract as High Performance Coach. A second coach will be hired in the coming months. The HP subcommittee will update job descriptions for these roles.

### **3 Equality Issues**

A target of a 33% minority gender balance on the Board was agreed.

### **4 Masters Rowing**

Each Branch will be asked to nominate a masters rowing representative. The CEO and the representatives will form a committee to draft a plan for the organisation and development of masters rowing in Ireland.

## **5 International Events**

The Coupe de la Jeunesse and the Home International Regatta will be in Ireland in 2018. Sponsorship will have to be sought to offset the anticipated €50,000 cost of the events. A subcommittee will be formed to raise funds.

The ongoing funding of the Home International Regattas was discussed and it was agreed to look at cost reduction opportunities for future participation.

Concerns with the status of the Home International Regatta as an international event were discussed. Concerns included the position of the regatta on the HP athlete pathway, the standard of rowers selected and the competitive focus of the event. These concerns will be addressed with the regatta committee.

## **6 Competition and Participation**

Terms of reference for a Competition Working Group are being prepared. Data collected on participation and competition trends at club level will be analysed and published.

As P McInerney is now working full time on coach education a new Junior Coach/Convenor will be sought.

## **7 Commercial**

A suitable professional agency will be sought to assist RI in maximising the current sponsorship opportunities arising from the recent Olympic success.

## **8 National Facilities Strategy**

A subcommittee to develop a national facilities strategy, including development of the NRC, will be established.

## **9 Next Meetings**

Board Meeting	14 <sup>th</sup> October
Board Meeting	20 <sup>th</sup> November
Board Meeting	5 <sup>th</sup> February
AGM	26 <sup>th</sup> March

**Frank Coghlan**  
**Secretary**  
**Rowing Ireland**

