

Rowing Ireland Board Bulletin

This Bulletin summarises the items discussed at the Rowing Ireland Board Meeting held on 13th January 2017.

Board Meeting: Board Members in attendance:

E. Colclough (President), B. Leader (Secretary)

	Vice President	Representative
Munster Branch	Lisa O'Callaghan	TJ Ryan
Ulster Branch	Brenda Ewing	Garth Young
Leinster		Carol Ann Smith
Connacht	Deirdre O'Hara	N. Maxwell

Apologies: Leo Gibson, Dan Buckley
No independent directors appointed.

Board Meeting: 13th January 2017

1. The President, Eamonn Colclough, briefed the board in relation to items recently in the media. He then outlined to the Board the processes by which Rowing Ireland will be dealing with the issues raised.
2. The athlete carding funding and high Performance budget has not yet been announced by Sport Ireland for 2018.
3. The Capital Grant application submitted by Rowing Ireland for capital projects amounted to €600,000. The amount awarded in December was 11% of the amount requested - €66,000. A change in criteria has made it more challenging for National Governing Bodies to qualify for funds. Rowing Clubs throughout the country were also successful recipients of funds, and circa €700,000 was awarded to rowing Clubs through the scheme.
4. We wish to congratulate James Mangan on his success in raising sponsorship in the United States, where he has secured a significant amount of commercial sponsorship. The funding was secured using the Green Blades Document, which is focused on the development pathway for young athletes. Raising funding in the United States is an incredible achievement and will help Rowing Ireland put structures in place to further develop young athletes for the High Performance program.
5. The Board in conjunction with the Commercial Subcommittee will consider additional avenues to generate funding to support the high performance structures throughout the country.
6. Pat McInerney, who has worked for Rowing Ireland in excess of 10 years, is the person responsible for Coach Education. Pat made a presentation to the board outlining

how the Coach Education program is structured and the numbers who have participated in the program.

The Coaching Ladder is structured at Level 1, 2 & 3. A Level 4 Program may be developed in conjunction with a Master's program in University of Limerick. Sport Ireland Coaching are the awarding body for NGBs and they oversee the quality of syllabus, content and delivery before certificates at each level are awarded. Rowing Ireland is working with Coaching Ireland to pilot alignment with NFQ/FETAC.

No of Participants	Total number	Active number
Introductory course	850	340
Level 1 Coach	524	250
Level 2 Coach	132	100
Level 3 Coach	40	30
Accredited tutors	17	7

The increasing need for Tutors is critical and currently there are only 7 active tutors delivering courses.

Number of courses held in 2017 and participation levels:

Number of courses held	Number of participants
Level 1 : 7 courses	82
Level 2 : 2 courses	26
Level 3 : 1 course	12

Pat stressed that Rowing Ireland needs a clear development and competition pathway with goal alignment across clubs, schools, university, and High Performance team goals.

7. The High Performance Director – Antonio Maurogiovanni gave a presentation to the Board. Since taking up his position in August 2017, AM has travelled around the country to make presentations to clubs in Dublin, Limerick, Cork, Belfast and Galway. At these presentations, he highlighted the need to develop a clear “pathway” for athletes to the high performance program. He stated, “We must be open, work together, share ideas to ensure we have the same technique and enjoy working and achieving together. Rowing Ireland must have a vision, as we could be irrelevant after 2020 if we do not plan now for Openweight (Heavyweight) athletes. Rowing Ireland will continue to support our lightweight program but the focus on lightweight may change after the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo and we need to anticipate and plan for this”.

He endorsed the sentiments expressed by Pat McInerney and emphasised we must have consistency regarding coaching methods and rowing style. The technical model has to be passed to all coaches so that a consistent style is evident and this will help the overall standard of athlete and will help to feed athletes to the high performance pathway. He will work with coaches throughout the country and emphasised the need for discussion, liaison, partnerships, and sharing opinions.

8. REPORTING

(A) The **Audit Subcommittee** chaired by Paul Gallen submitted their report. They raised two questions: (1) Event Licences and the treatment of cash received (2) legacy bad debts figures recorded in the accounts. The Board had also requested that this committee could consider completing a Risk Evaluation Report. They will consider the scope of such a report and give a recommendation to the board in due course.

(B) **Facilities Workgroup**, chaired by Deirdre O'Hara. A presentation had been circulated to board members prior to the meeting. DOH felt the Terms of Reference originally specified did not address all relevant items as fundamentally Rowing Ireland needed to establish what facilities are required throughout the Island of Ireland and how Rowing Ireland can respond to these needs. She will prepare a consultancy paper for discussion at the next board meeting.

9. Matters for Approval

(a) The Terms of Reference for Coastal and Offshore Rowing were approved by the board.

(b) Kieran Kerr, Chair of the Offshore Subcommittee requested approval for a "Quad" purchase scheme similar to the scheme operated previously for four boats. This scheme will be cost neutral for Rowing Ireland and would allow clubs to purchase quad boats on a three-year payment scheme. The initiative is to support the number of Coastal Quads in Ireland, as this will assist in growing the sport.

(c) There is a Chair vacancy for the Masters and Recreational Subcommittees. These will be advertised on the website.

(d) Breda Leader is appointed Chair of the Governance Subcommittee which will have responsibility for governance oversight.

Next Board Meeting is scheduled to take place on 4th March 2018

AGM takes place in Garda Boat Club On the 22nd April 2018.

PLEASE NOTE:

Each branch should hold their AGM during the first quarter. The Branch Report needs to be submitted before the Rowing Ireland AGM.

Prepared by: Breda Leader. Rowing Ireland Secretary