

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE THIRTYFIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BRITISH ROWING held on Saturday 20th September, 2014 in the Di Ellis Room, 6 Lower Mall, London W6 9DJ at 12 noon.

PRESENT –

Directors: Mrs. A. Phelps (Chairman), A. Crawford, G. Harris (Deputy Chairman), A. Johnson, Mrs F. McAnena, Mrs N. Palios, Ms C. Spanton, M. Stallard.

Company Secretary: Mrs H. Mosienko

Council Members: C. Anton, R. Bayliss, A. Blit, M. Brandon-Bravo MBE (HLVP), A. Cawood, P. Clements, J.C. Davies, C. Eales, C. Edwards, Dame Di Ellis DBE (Hon President), B. Hawden, M. Humphrys, P. Knowles, M. Laing, Mrs L. Lion, F. Ljubicic, G. Nicholls, M. Teale, R. West, S. Worley (HRSA).

In attendance: K. Adams (Substitute TL-6), O. Kimberley (Substitute TL-7), J. Gill (Scottish Rowing), J. Lee (Substitute TU-1) Ms J. Perry (Substitute – West Region Chairman), C. George (Thames RC), D. Townsend (ULBC), S. Dickie (Youth & Community Manager), Mrs P. Randolph,

I. CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Having welcomed all to the Annual General Meeting, the Chairman delivered her Annual Report as follows:

“At the outset of the year we set our 2020 Vision to be the leading rowing nation with five key objectives, and were almost immediately stopped in our path by some of the worst weather in living memory for our sport. Widespread floods led to unprecedented river closures and event cancellations, taking so many of our clubs off the water for months with a devastating effect on activity, competition, income and membership at all levels. It is a credit to our sport's approach to safety, and the structure that we have for the dissemination of information via the regional water safety officers, that we had no serious incidents during this time.

Thank you to every one of our members and their families who turned up, at whatever time of day, when waters were rising to carry sandbags, move boats and equipment and, when it was finally all over, to help sweep out the detritus of the rivers, re-furbish, repair and repaint the buildings and dry out the facilities.

Thankfully the spring and summer has seen a re-balancing of that period, regattas have had record entries and our clubs continue to grow. The competition review, led by Fiona Dennis, Phil Clements and Guin Batten, has encouraged many new racing formats, which have been embraced by our events and have been enthusiastically met by the rowers. Much energy continues to go into this review and I hope that with the trials of the new ranking system over the next year we will see a new culture of aspiration to be at the top of the list, encouraging a racing and winning mentality and further growth of the sport.

As well as a number of personnel changes, including the retirement of Rosemary Napp who did so much to support development of rowing over her many years at the ARA and

latterly British Rowing, we have also seen during the latter part of the year the first fruits of the current Whole Sport Plan. There has been growing activity at water sports centres with a number of joint partnerships between RYA and Canoeing, and tangible signs of development in our Key Strategic Areas. We have seen the opening up of new waterways such as the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in partnership with London Youth Rowing. Leeds Rowing Club and Leeds University Boathouse were the first major new facility to be completed this year as part of a much larger strategic development of the area, with an Explore Rowing and Rowability centre, indoor rowing programmes and community use all planned. The National Paralympic Day was an opportunity for 600 people to try out rowing in the Olympic Park.

Indoor Rowing continues to be an area of development and the inclusion of indoor rowing in the inaugural Invictus Games allowed the staff from across the organisation to showcase how exciting a room full of rowing machines can be in front of an excitable audience of some 700 people.

Junior rowing continues to flourish at all levels with increasing participation at clubs and schools, a successful inter-regional regatta with record entries and full regional representation and the revitalised Junior British Championships has been an incredible success. Our international teams at Junior, U23 and senior level have all continued to move on, bringing home a number of firsts across the board. It is particularly worth noting the phenomenal achievements of the senior men and their coaches and support team at the World Championships in Amsterdam this year. Everyone involved with the development of these rowers from club or Start rowers through to the GB Rowing Team has played a vital part in that success.

I have been privileged to represent British Rowing around the country and across the world during my first full year as Chairman. Our club and high performance programmes are the envy of the world, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our coaches, umpires and volunteers without whom the sport simply would not happen. Our thanks must go to UK Sport, Sport England, the National Lottery and the Henley Stewards' Charitable Trust for their continued support; to our staff for their dedication, way beyond the call of duty to British Rowing; to other partners: Help for Heroes and Row2Recovery, London Youth Rowing and the British Olympic and British Paralympic Associations for their support in delivering our sport and to our commercial partners who are invaluable.

Thank you to everyone one of our members for supporting British Rowing with your time, expertise and money; to all our regional and national committee members, umpires, event organisers, club officers and to my fellow Board and Council members for their continued support and hard work in ensuring we can continue to face challenges together so that the sport of rowing thrives.

This year I would like to award three Medals of Merit, all to people who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes:

Brian Snelson of York City Rowing Club has contributed tirelessly for over fifty years at club and regional level; Brian took on the role of North East umpiring commissioner in the early 1970's under the guidance of Neil Thomas, covering an area from Nottingham to the Scottish Borders, before it became a regional responsibility. He has been a national umpire from this time and was active in the events held in the early days of the National Water Sport Centre at Holme Pierrepont. He has run the York regattas for many years; he continues his role training regional umpires, working quietly in the club in

roles such as trustee, treasurer and regatta secretary, to ensure the right environment for members to row and compete.

Geoff Adams of Putney Town Rowing Club has been chairman of the club since the late 1980's. He has been instrumental in keeping the club in existence, moving it from the Duke's Head, and later overseeing the re-development of the site after the fire when the club almost failed to survive. He designed the new boat house, project-managed the building of that and more recently the new ramp providing much better access for everyone visiting and boating from there for our national events, as well as every day at the club. He was a huge advocate for the development of women's rowing at Putney, and was an instigator of a Project Oarsome Junior section, the only club on the Tideway to do so. His work has made a major contribution to club rowing in the region and kept an historic club alive and thriving.

The third Medal of Merit is awarded posthumously to Wendy Pearce of Weymouth Rowing Club. Wendy began rowing at Christchurch Rowing Club in 1979 and was a founder member of Weymouth Rowing Club. She was a central figure at the club, as a cox, a Level 2 coach, honorary secretary, ladies captain and vice-captain. Wendy was an excellent Welfare Officer for the Cornish Pilot Gig Association, taking her role very seriously, and was a supportive, dedicated and passionate advocate of safeguarding. She was a key figure behind the scenes in ensuring the coastal community was aligned with British Rowing and part of the bigger rowing family, that training and education was appropriate, and she trained as a British Rowing safeguarding tutor, delivering our safeguarding courses throughout the South West. Sadly Wendy passed away earlier this month after a long illness.

There are two Medals of Honour which are awarded for outstanding service to the sport.

John Layng, from Bedford Rowing Club and Emmanuel School, for his twenty-five years of service to the Junior National Team as team manager and coach. John has not missed a training camp or world championships since 1989, he organises the camps, from start to finish throughout the year, instilling a respect for opponents and fellow team-mates alike, and by the end of the three or four weeks together these young people will have been transformed into a coherent team with an astonishing degree of professionalism in their training and preparation, undoubtedly helping to prepare them for a move to the senior team and later life as ambassadors for the sport. The team spirit in our Junior Worlds team is in a very large part due to the way that John treats and communicates with the Junior athletes and his meticulous planning, which is always outstanding.

Last but not least, Alan Meegan, who has supported the development of club facilities across all the regions for over twenty-six years, but for longer still as a volunteer and club member. Alan has shared his expertise with volunteers, club officers and staff in all our clubs and has been a central part of the strategic planning for the Whole Sport Plans. He has an unrivalled knowledge of planning procedures and maximising grant applications, across the country. He has helped to secure tenure, negotiate leases and access, advised on facility grants, helped complete applications, reviewed and advised on building design and function, often challenging club officers about their priorities and sustainability of their plans, always with an objective long-term view and for the good of the sport of rowing. He has worked tirelessly to ensure that the right people are invited and worked with clubs to make sure that their development is promoted well in the right circles to ensure that other clubs too will have the opportunity to grow and expand. As a sport we have had amazing investment on facilities across every region due to Alan's dedication and hard work.

Lastly, I am sure you will want to join me in congratulating Rosie Mayglothling, who was elected to the Chair of the FISA Competitive Rowing Commission at this year's FISA Congress. This is a key commission at a very important time for our sport on the international scene. Rosie brings the number of Britons in senior positions on FISA to an unprecedented three Council members, unprecedented not just for rowing but throughout any of the British national governing bodies.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

2. To approve the Minutes of the Thirtieth Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 22nd September, 2013.

The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting and were signed.

3. To approve the Minutes of an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company held on Wednesday 18th June, 2014.

The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting and were signed.

4. The Financial Statements and Directors' Report for the year ended 31st March, 2014.

The Financial statements were presented to the meeting by the Finance Director, together with the reports of the Directors and Auditors.

There were a number of questions arising.

D. Townsend asked for clarification in connection to Note 17 and the company's pension liability regarding the Teachers' Pension Scheme. As the scheme is a multiple employers' scheme, British Rowing is unable to identify its share of assets and liabilities. Any pension liability to employees is the responsibility of the Teachers' Pension agency and British Rowing has no further liability to the scheme over and above the contributions paid during an employee's period of service with British Rowing.

It was noted that the Reserves Policy requires British Rowing to maintain sufficient reserves to meet its ongoing commitments. This had been reviewed recently in the light of a lack of key sponsor and reserves were considered to be sufficient to manage the operations of the organisation at the current levels until the end of this Olympiad.

C. George asked if the level of contingency for redundancy had been factored in as a consideration in the Reserves Policy. The Finance Director advised that it had.

D. Townsend asked if any budget was set aside for safety and IT support. He was advised that if any committee had a project requiring funding the proposal would go first to the Sport Committee for consideration and any recommendation would then be presented to the Board prior to approval at Council, to be looked at alongside requests from all committees.

G. Harris confirmed that British Rowing's Education & Training programmes invested a significant amount of time and resource to safety.

C. George said that the incident report system was not fit for purpose. He was advised that the Safety Committee might wish to identify what the issues were and put forward a proposal in line the procedure outlined above.

The Accounts had been approved by the Board and the Chairman thanked the Finance Director for her hard work in preparing them.

5. The appointment of *haysmacintyre* as Auditors of the Company

Members approved the re-appointment of *haysmacintyre* to hold office until conclusion of the next General Meeting at which Accounts are laid before the Company, and authorised the Board to fix their remuneration.

6. Other business

There was none.