

The meeting of Council on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June was one of reflection, challenge and opportunity.

Members joined the Chairman in a minute's silence, each reflecting on their own unique memories of Hon. President Dame Di Ellis, and paying tribute to her years of service to rowing. There is a book of condolences at British Rowing HQ and letters or messages for inclusion should be sent to [pippa.randolph@britishrowing.org](mailto:pippa.randolph@britishrowing.org). A memorial service is to be held in the autumn and further detail to be made available once known.

**Code for Sports Governance:** The meeting that followed was focussed to a large part on the requirements of the new Code. In order to comply with [UK Sport's Code](#), Council learned that it was to lose four of its longest serving volunteers, Christopher Anton, Bonner Davies, Gary Harris and Annamarie Phelps. With the exception of the Chairman (who at the request of the Board had been granted a five month extension) all are required to stand down by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017. Following a presentation by Jane Purdon, Head of Governance at UK Sport, Council agreed unanimously to comply with the requirements of the Code. A round-table discussion of the remaining options ensued, taking into account the reduced decision-making powers of Council and opportunities there might be to re-vitalise the existing format. Among the key points raised were; to strengthen and support the role of Regional Councils, to strengthen communication at all levels of the sport, to enhance the voice and the role of the Sport Committee and to consider the balance of representation across the sport. Members of the Governance Working Group listened to all views put forward and agreed to take these away and draw up proposals and a timescale for consultation.

**Staffing:** The CEO updated Council on staffing in relation to the reduction in funding for the 2017 – 2021 cycle. As part of the re-structuring 11.2 roles had been removed and 5.5 created. This had meant a reduction in staff across three teams; Pathway Development, Partnerships & Communications and Membership & Rowing Community. Among those leaving who had not applied for one of the new roles were the staff who had supported Adaptive rowing. The CEO assured Council that he was taking steps to ensure that their expertise in this area was passed on. The job descriptions for the new Community Sport Manager (CSM) roles are [available to view here](#). The new CSMs were J. Atkinson, P. Pring and A. Wyatt whose brief was country-wide but who would be based in the West Midlands, the East and South East. P. Hornsey advised that work continued on the development of 'ClubHub', the proposed portal and good club guide for the rowing community. This was currently out to tender following a consultation that included 35 rowing clubs, events and other stakeholders. View the [presentation on staffing and the Internal Review here](#).

**Sport Matters:** Council received a presentation on the Internal Review into the culture of the Performance programme. Eight working groups were meeting on a regular basis to address the recommendations agreed by the Board. An appendix to the Rules of Racing was approved for the [British Rowing Offshore Championships](#) taking place on 29<sup>th</sup> July and thanks were extended to the Rules of Racing Panel and Guin Batten for their hard work in completing these in a challenging timescale. A paper was circulated to update on progress with the new [Competition Framework](#). It was agreed that it was critical to communicate this to all in a simple and understandable format. Whilst still in a testing phase the closer racing witnessed at recent events using the new system was extremely encouraging. P. Clements thanked all for their input and patience during this period of transition. Council members were invited to contact [Jonna.devries@britishrowing.org](mailto:Jonna.devries@britishrowing.org) if they would like to join a small working group to consider a re-vamping of the annual awards for Volunteers.

The AGM and next Council meeting would take place on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.