

The Chairman opened the meeting by remembering rowing's loyal servant, [Ian Fisher](#), whose contribution had been invaluable at so many levels and who would be sadly missed by the rowing community.

In her role as President of the National Federation, Annamarie Phelps had attended the [recent Congress](#) in Tokyo where the FISA president had underlined the challenges facing all sport. In the light of this it was reassuring to know that British Rowing was now 18 months into its modernisation programme. This work, led by the CEO, was essential to the health of the sport which must continue to be nimble and innovative to meet the demands ahead.

Council warmly applauded the re-appointment of Annamarie Phelps as Chairman of British Rowing and congratulated her on her [appointment as Vice Chair](#) of the British Olympic Association.

Membership programme and fees 2017 – 2018: A programme is under way, funded by Sport England, to provide a new specialist IT product to support British Rowing's ambition to grow and better serve its members. Its capabilities will inform how membership is modelled in the future, with the aim of providing a central facility for all types of membership management across the whole sport. Until this system is launched in 2018 it was proposed that no fundamental changes be made to British Rowing's existing individual registration model, but that non-system-driven features of membership, including cards, CRM communications and offers/benefits, be updated in parallel to this programme. Phil Hornsey, Director of Membership & Rowing Community, said there would be further consultation with user groups in the coming months, and reported that individual registrations are at the highest level since February 2013. Council approved the fee structure for 2017 – 2018.

Sport England (SE) funding: Whilst funding for the core market was disappointing this had been true for all sports and British Rowing had been commended by SE on an excellent submission. Helen Rowbotham, Director of Innovation, reported on the investment in [Indoor Rowing](#) and advised that she was also conducting a review of school rowing. An important benefit for members would be the SE investment in a new IT platform and P. Hornsey explained his vision of how this would enhance the experience of individual rowers, clubs and events, as well as allowing flexibility for important new markets, such as indoor and coastal. The CEO added that coach education and training was a vital resource that sat across all areas and his team was looking at ways to maximise that expertise for the benefit of the whole sport.

Competition Framework: Feedback from the sport had been welcomed and was extremely helpful as the test phase of the new framework was rolled out. It would continue to be modified, refined and updated prior to going live in 2018. The guide was being updated and would be circulated to Council when ready. Overall the response had been positive and Phil Clements reminded Council that the team would be happy to visit any region that wished to hold a workshop. E: competitionreview@britishrowing.org

Code for Sport Governance: Council considered the mandatory requirements of the Code and noted that compliance was a [requirement of funding](#) from both UK Sport and Sport England. The CEO said that this was an important area for the Board and Council to work together on and proposed that a small working group should be formed to take it forward. It was agreed that this also provided an opportunity to look at the sport's committee structure to ensure an effective route for communication was in place. Timelines were tight with an action plan to be submitted by 31st March.

Internal Review: [The review](#) of the High Performance programme was complete and work on implementation of its recommendations had begun. Council welcomed the CEO's offer of an update in June.

In addition - The Rules of Racing 2017 received final approval; the Rules of British Rowing 2017 were approved; a plea was made for an event calendar that was chronological rather than regional; news of two new partnerships was welcomed - Visit Sarasota and a new kit partner. Council heard that discussions were ongoing with both Holme Pierrepont (SERCO) and the PLA (Launches).

The next meeting of Council is Tuesday 13th June 2017.