



PHOTO: AL JOHNSTON

Above: Racing at Tyne Regatta

# COMPETITION FRAMEWORK

In 2014, British Rowing set out to overhaul the competition structure and create fairer, more competitive racing for everyone. Read on for an update...

A few years ago the rowing community set British Rowing a task: to create a framework for heads and regattas that provides close, exciting races for rowers of all levels of ability, something the current competition structure increasingly fails to do.

Since then a group of expert volunteers have worked alongside British Rowing staff to design a more accurate way to measure a rower's ability, a new competition structure for them to race in, and a more customer-friendly online entry system – all of

which have recently been tested at a selection of heads and regattas.

The existing points system is being replaced with a more contemporary Personal Ranking Index (PRI) status system. Rowers will get a PRI based on their performances in heads and regattas, rather than a status level based just on their wins at regattas. This allows event organisers to create events made up of rowers of similar ability, which means fairer, closer races. Alongside this is a new and improved version of the British Rowing Online Entry

System, known as BROE2.

The first live trial was Wycliffe Head in December 2016 and, as of 17 June, 30 competitions (both heads and regattas) have subsequently volunteered. This translates to more than 12,000 crews and more than 17,400 individuals entered online, which has generated a significant amount of good feedback on which to base improvements, both to BROE2 and to the framework itself.

Since January 2017, members have been able to view their own Ranking Point history via their online account

at [www.britishrowing.org](http://www.britishrowing.org)

Affiliated competitions not using BROE2 are being asked to ensure that their full results are captured and shared with British Rowing to increase the accuracy or rowers' PRIs going forward. The response from competition organisers has been superb on this front.

Will Everitt, who looks after the software for Bedford Amateur Regatta, said: "BROE2 worked well – the new user interface is a significant improvement. It provides comprehensive management of entries, and the ability to filter down to



## “ THIRTY COMPETITIONS HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO TEST THE SYSTEM ”

what we needed to see to make our entry secretary's job significantly easier.

He added: "We were fully aware that Ranking Points are not entirely accurate, since few heads and regattas have submitted sufficiently detailed results in the last 12 months. So the inclusion of crews' old points was very useful when working out how to band them.

"The banding worked out as well as we could have hoped. The winner of Open Eights (Band 1) was faster than the winner of Band 2, and so forth (we split Open Eights into four bands). Next year we expect Ranking Points to be much more accurate as all heads and regattas will have provided the necessary information."

In light of results from

competitions run under BROE2, British Rowing is now in the process of reviewing the points allocation between heads and regattas to ensure these are fair. The international results for those who have represented their country are not currently integrated into the Ranking Points but these will be added from the start of the 2017/18 selection process for the national team.

Testing of the new Competition Framework will continue over the coming months and the project remains on track to deliver a fully functioning solution by April 2018.

If you have any feedback about the Competition Framework, please email

[competitionframework@britishrowing.org](mailto:competitionframework@britishrowing.org)



## WHEELS FOR HELENE

The rowing community is raising £19,000 to buy **Helene Dyson** a Genny Segway wheelchair. The 2008 Paralympic champion writes...

We often hear about the 'rowing family' but I have never experienced it as much as I have in the last couple of months. Having struggled with my health for a year and then needing surgery on my cervical spine, times have been challenging. As an existing wheelchair user, the loss of function in my upper limbs is really debilitating.

Di Binley, from Rock the Boat, started a Just Giving page with the aim of raising money to support me with a power chair that is not much bigger than my manual wheelchair. Within days there was support from many areas of the rowing family.

The wheelchair fits into the boot of the car and would allow me to get involved in rowing again on the bank, enabling me to get over grass, etc.

I have been in hospital having surgery and recovering at home and have been completely blown away by the support from the rowing community. They have fundraised at regattas, got involved in the auction and made general donations. These Segway wheelchairs are very expensive but Di and everyone involved has nearly reached the £19,000 total.

Thank you very much for all of your support – through tough times it has been hugely uplifting.

If you would like to help Helene then visit

[www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/wheelsforhelene](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/wheelsforhelene)

