Playing your part: Getting your club back up and running safely

Darrel Samanjoul, Kat Carlyle & Nick Steel
At the beginning of the month we celebrate National Volunteer Week, so it feels highly appropriate to thank the many volunteers in clubs who have worked tirelessly to ensure that their clubs and their members are supported through this difficult period. Implementing processes to enable a return to rowing are complicated and may take time to put in place.

At the same time, some volunteers may have been affected directly or indirectly by the virus and so rowing may well not be top of their priority list right now. So, if you are a member of a rowing club, please remember to say thank you to all the great volunteers who support our sport, both in times of crisis and once we return to whatever normal looks like in the future.
Volunteer action plan - in development

Drawing on the research findings and input from the Volunteer Working Group, emerging recommendations and actions are grouped in these workstreams;

1. Attracting new volunteers.
2. Training volunteers and supporting clubs and competition organisers.
3. Acknowledging the contributions made.
Regional Rowing Council - Overview
British Rowing has developed a sporting democracy structure within England based on ten designated geographical areas, referred to as Regions. Each Region has a Regional Rowing Council, which has the responsibilities detailed in the British Rowing Regulations. The Affiliated Members of British Rowing (being Rowing Clubs and Competition Organisers) within each Region elect the leadership personnel of each Regional Rowing Council, and also one or more Regional Representatives for their Region. These Regional Representatives are the Members of British Rowing, with the right to vote on resolutions at General Meetings of British Rowing.

17. Regions and Regional Rowing Councils:

17.1. British Rowing has designated ten Regions within England, being:

- 17.1.1. East Midlands
- 17.1.2. Eastern
- 17.1.3. North West
- 17.1.4. Northern
- 17.1.5. Thames
- 17.1.6. Wessex & South East Coast
- 17.1.7. West
- 17.1.8. West Midlands
- 17.1.9. Wiltshire, Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset (WAGS)
- 17.1.10 Yorkshire

17.2. The boundaries of each Region are defined by river basins and by the location of Affiliated Members who are members of the Region. Any changes to the boundaries of a Region shall be recommended by the Regional Chair’s Forum to the Board for their agreement.

17.3. A Regional Rowing Council, as further provided for in the British Rowing Regulations, shall administer each Region.

17.4. Model Constitutions

17.4.1. Model constitutions for Regional Rowing Councils shall be issued and reviewed from time to time by the Board. These shall embody the principles of transparent financial accounting; democracy and clear roles and responsibilities and accountability; and a fair and open disciplinary system.

17.4.2. The Board may also issue model constitutions for Clubs.
A diagram setting out British Rowing’s governance structure is set out below.
Regional Rowing Council Interactions

**BOARD**
12 x Directors

**AGM**

**Regions**

**COMMITTEES**
Specialist Nominations
Finance
Audit & Risk
Sport Committee
  - Coaching
  - Umpiring
  - Junior
  - Recreational
  - Competition
  - Rowing Safety
  - Masters
  - Adaptive

**Committees & Panels**

**Specialist Panels**
Disciplinary & Grievance
Anti Doping & Integrity
Young Persons
Facilities
Medical
Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups
Multiline Umpiring

**Regional Rowing Council**

**EXECUTIVE**
Chair
Deputy Chair
Regional Representative
Treasurer
Honorary Secretary

**Officers**
Coaching
Junior
Coord
Masters
Welfare
Safety
Events
Adaptive
Umpire

**Members**
Affiliated Member’s Nominated Person

**AFFILIATED MEMBERS**
Clubs & Competitions

**REGISTERED INDIVIDUALS**
Race – Row – Support - Coach

**Directors:**
Chair
Deputy Chair
Home Nations Director
CEO
Chair of Sport Committee
Nominated Individual #1
Nominated individual #2
Athlete Director
Independent Director #1
Independent Director #2
Independent Director #3
Independent Director #4

**RCF**
Regional Rowing Council Activities

**Executive**
- Chair
- Deputy Chair
- Regional Representative
- Treasurer
- Honorary Secretary

**Regional Rowing Council**
- Coaching
- Junior
- Adaptive
- Masters
- Safety
- Events
- Welfare
- Umpire

**Members**
- Affiliated Member’s Nominated Person

**Affiliated Members**
- Clubs & Competitions

**Run RRC Accounts**
- Support to Chair
- Run Grant Scheme
- Communicate with Affiliated Members

**Chair RRC AGM**
- Attend RCF
- Attend Inter-Regional Umpire Panel
- Support to Discipline & Grievance Cases
- Review Affiliation Requests
- Communicate with Affiliated Members

**Attend BR AGM**
- Communicate with Affiliated Members

**Coord RRC AGM**
- Does everything else

**Attend Sport Committee Meeting**
- Arrange Regional Activities
- Communicate with Affiliated Members

**Attend RRC AGM (and vote)**
Safe return to rowing at Maidenhead
Nick Steel (Club Captain)
30th June 2020
Maidenhead Rowing Club aims to provide a friendly, safe and supportive environment for Members of all ages and ambitions to pursue the sport and fellowship of rowing to the best of their ability.
Principles-based approach

Key principles

1. Follow Government, British Rowing, & Environment Agency guidance

2. Cautious, safety-led, risk-based approach

3. Build on existing safety & safeguarding protocols

4. Additional Health risk management via Risk Assessment

5. Phased process, learning & adapting
**Safe Return to Rowing**

**Wave 1 (16 May)**
- Private singles (seniors & J16+)

**Wave 2 (31 May)**
- Club singles (seniors)
- Household crew boats

**Wave 2a (14 June)**
- Club singles (J16+)

**Wave 3 (22 June)**
- Club singles (<J16)
  - "Shielders"

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### Squad Schedule

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**Total outings/day**

- 8 outings/day
  - 48 outings/day
Volunteers enable ...

- Club Committee
- Rowing Committee
- Keep MRC Connected Team
- Clubhouse security Team
- Squads
- Junior coaches & session supervisors
- Safe Return to Rowing Team
- Members
Volunteering at Bewdley Rowing Club
I have been a member at Bewdley Rowing Club since June 2008 and a volunteer since a month later!

My volunteering started like many others on the tea tent at the regatta and taking drinks to the umpires along the course.

When I realised I was into rowing for the long game this quickly turned into helping out wherever I could.

Cleaner
Bar Work
Committee Member
Cox
Ergo Monitor

...
Then as well as those:

- Ladies Rep
- Coach
- Membership Secretary
- Club Admin
- Vice Captain
- Captain
- Regatta Secretary

Oh and rower!

My volunteering doesn’t stop there, I’m also Regional Coaching Rep for West Mids

I’m not the only volunteer at Bewdley there’s plenty more and we all know how important volunteers are to keep a club running, without them most clubs couldn’t exist.
During lockdown and the return to rowing
We have loaned out our ergos and some free weights on a rota basis. I created a spreadsheet and contacted members to tell them when it was time to pass the ergo on.

The ergos are still on loan and will continue to be until the gym is allowed to be opened up again.
Phase 1
Private singles were allowed back on the water, via a booking system. Providing they were paid members of both the club and British Rowing, had signed a declaration form and could competently get themselves on and off the water.

Phase 2
Allocated club singles to competent scullers who followed the same rules above.

Phase 3
Scullers who require assistance getting on and off the water via a member of the same household, plus doubles with members of the same household. All following the same rules above.
All club facilities closed in March and remain closed. Sculling boats were moved out of the boathouse on to the patio in a controlled manner and continue to be racked outside to avoid needing any access to the facilities.

Social distancing rules are in place

Sanitizer stations have been set up along with various instruction posters.

Members bring their own washing equipment to clean the boats after use, we are not sharing boats currently.

Policy Committee have regular Zoom meetings and keep in contact via a WhatsApp group.

Constant communication is sent out to the membership via email and Facebook

Following the latest government update, we are looking at ways in which we can open up our bar again.
Questions?

BRITISH ROWING LOCKDOWN WEBINARS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH SAS
Playing your part: Getting your club back up and running safely

Thank you!