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# DURHAM REGATTA

## Draft minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee of Durham Regatta held virtually, via Zoom, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**Present (by Zoom):** Izzy Friedlander, David Squirrell, Richard Mortimer, Nigel Van Zwanenberg, Mark Bell, Chris Bell, George Adair (DARC), Rob Smith (VMBC), Chloe Fellows (SMCBC), Lucy Hopkins (BCBC), Becca Sandercock (CCBC), Henry Miller (UCBC), Charlotte Carter (DCR), Amy Lake (SCCBC), James Finfer (SACBC), Patrick Chorley (GCBC), Olivia Bothamly-Dakin (JSBC), Jasmine Hamid (HBBC).

**1. Apologies:** Debbie Mortimer, Tim Morris, Charly Curtis, David Robinson.

**2. Approval of Minutes from previous meetings:** Minutes of previous members meeting have been approved.

### 3. Matters Arising

**3.1. Dredging update:** The Environment Agency has accepted our application to extend the dredging permit along the Wear, from the DARC boathouse to around Baths Bridge (approximately).

⇒ Plan is to start works in the first week of June, prior to the regatta.

⇒ Waste material will be on the bankside during the regatta, but will be removed once the material has drained of water.

### 4. Chairman's Report

**4.1.** Firstly, thanks to all for attending this meeting and for being a member of the Regatta. As a member of the regatta, you have the facility to make decisions. The way to do this would be to call for a meeting to discuss the points you would like to raise.

**4.2.** For those who have not attended before, the 2021 regatta was a successful rowing-only regatta (i.e. no spectators). The regatta in 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the 2019 (full) regatta including spectators and bankside activities was cancelled due to the weather. This year we are hoping to run a full Durham Regatta, spectators encouraged.

**4.3.** For those who have not attended a Durham Regatta before, the regatta consists of 2 days of racing, along 2 courses. The short course which runs from the DARC end of the racecourse, to just past Baths Bridge, and the long course which runs from the same start, to the Counts house, racing through Old Elvet Bridge. We also host a range of bankside activities, from a bouncy castle, to Viking re-enactments to a host of local food traders. On the Sunday once racing has finished we hold a prize giving ceremony, this year it will be held at the Gala Theatre.

**4.4.** The Admin Committee decided this year and in 2019 not to run a Friday event. This may still be considered in years to come.



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### 5. Planning for Regatta 2022

- 5.1. This year's event will be similar to previous years events such as in 2018. We are hoping to run a full event! We are also a named event for the City of Culture 2025 bid for Durham!
- 5.2. **Events:** Durham Regatta does not have many novice events. Durham Regatta is aimed at the more experienced and competitive crews, which is why it is the most prestigious event in the North. We do still have a few novice crews enter, and some events for College Maiden crews. There will also be a possible reduced entry of Masters crews this year due to the clash with the British Rowing Masters Championship on the same weekend.
- 5.3. **Racing:** Durham Regatta has stakeboat starts both days in a classic side by side style racing. We plan to have 2½ minutes between races, and hope to run races to time as printed in the programme. If not, crews may be at risk for disqualification!
  - ⇒ There is also a 1 way system which has been put in place *on and off the water*. There are no exceptions to this process, which is outlined in the competitors instructions.
- 5.4. **Volunteers:** Thank you to everyone who helped out last year. We had a terrific response from the DCR in 2021. We would like to have a good number of volunteers again in 2022 from DARC, DCR, St Leonards, Durham School and the Council volunteers.
  - ⇒ Safety boat roles have been contracted out to Red Seal.
- 5.5. **Sponsors:** Still yet to find a main sponsor for Durham Regatta 2022. Durham Gin approached the regatta to become our named sponsor for the event but for various reasons among the regatta partners Durham Regatta has decided not to have an alcohol-related product be our named sponsor.
- 5.6. **Jamies boathouse/Browns boats:** We will not be using Jamie's carpark for car parking. All parking will be on the top field, accessed via Green Lane.
- 5.7. **Boat/trailer storage:** All boat storage and trailer storage will be on the University rugby field.
  - ⇒ There will be **no boats on the tarmac outside the DARC clubhouse**. All clubs must join the 1 way system.
  - ⇒ The DARC boats will join the one way system around the back of the function marquee, through the caravan site to control commission.
- 5.8. **Control Commission:** We will be using a sticker system to note whether boats have been checked or not. This does not absolve crews of ensuring boats are still safe to row in.
  - ⇒ Control checks may be done on the Friday prior to the event, and also at control commission on Saturday and Sunday.
- 5.9. **VMBC:** Van Mildert Boat Club have been offered first refusal on the t-shirt competition this year. The captain of VMBC (Rob Smith) has thanked Durham Regatta for this opportunity. VMBC are still waiting for the insurance to cover



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the cost of repairing the boathouse and the GoFundMe website has been successful so far, but possibly will need to raise more for refurbishment costs. For the meantime, DARC have offered membership to all members of VMBC. Thank you DARC!

**5.10. Weather:** Wind and river levels will be out of our control, but we will plan accordingly for conditions.

**5.11. Weirs on the Wear:** The weir is owned by the Dean in Chapter. As far as we are aware there are no plans to clear the weir of the debris. There is an external group for cleaning up the bankside – but can't touch the weirs due to safety reasons.

⇒ This group is coordinated by the Parish Council, DARC, the Canoe Club, Durham Regatta and more.

⇒ There has been a clean-up around the river already prior to Lumiere.

⇒ The council has cleaned up some of the river further on up, but not on Prebends or the weir.

⇒ The financing and will for cleaning up the weir is already there, but there is currently a block from the Environment Agency (possibly regarding otters).

⇒ If the weir fails then **no more rowing!**

**6. AOB:** None.

Meeting Closed 19:42.

### Next Meetings

Admin Committee: 18:45 Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 (DARC/Zoom hybrid).

Members meeting: 18:45 Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022 (DARC/Zoom hybrid).