



1834

DURHAM REGATTA

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee of Durham Regatta held virtually, via Zoom, 15th February 2023

Present (& by Zoom): Sign up sheet TBA

1. Apologies: Andrew Curtis, James Lamb, DUBC, Debbie Mortimer, David Squirrell

2. Approval of Minutes from previous meetings: Minutes of previous members meeting 22nd June 2022 have been approved.

3. Matters Arising

3.1. Dredging Update

- ⇒ The river is very shallow on the bend between DARC and the racecourse. It is even more of an issue in the summer when the river runs low.
- ⇒ Nigel van Zwanenberg is currently leading the investigations on behalf of the Regatta.
- ⇒ Since the waste isn't toxic, we have to use our secured licence to remove the waste from the river within the timeframe that it allows. The next step is to find a contractor to physically move the waste to bankside to let dry, and then remove off-site and hopefully recycle.
 - We have arranged a meeting with potential contractors to visit the site next week.
- ⇒ Following on from that we need to secure a 5 figure sum with help from the University and the Council to be able to carry out the works.
- ⇒ Ideally would like to move the material out in May in advance of the Regatta.
- ⇒ The Regatta may be asking assistance from local clubs to move sediment around the river.

4. Chairman's Report

The committee is in process of discussing long term planning of the regatta.

- ⇒ We would like to run a **safe event**, especially on the water.



1834

DURHAM REGATTA

- ⇒ We would like to improve the **financial viability** of the regatta. It costs around £40,000 to run the regatta with a £4000 deficit – would like to try and break even.
- ⇒ We would like to encourage good **quality senior crews** from collages, universities and local clubs both in open and women's categories.
- ⇒ We would like to encourage the **local community** to attend our regatta by continuing with many attractions on the bank – big thanks to Debbie M for all your continued work.
- ⇒ We would like to improve the **visibility of the races** from the bankside – this would be through hiring a sheltered grandstand but only possible if sponsored.
- ⇒ We would like to improve the **visibility of the regatta** by going into partnership with a kit provider who can sell merchandise over the weekend and possibly other times too.

5. Planning for Regatta 2023

5.1. Site

- ⇒ Now have an opportunity to work with DARC with their newly acquired land. Please note that parking restrictions are now enforced at the club car park.

5.2. Water Safety

- ⇒ We have bought into professional safety cover on the water – North East Safety Boats. This of course does have an additional cost compared with our volunteers from previous regattas.

5.3. Fees

- ⇒ We are increasing the prices of the entry fees on the gates and per seat in line with cost increases. Proposed costs are
 - Gates: £6 adult, £3 child/concession
 - Seat: £17 senior, £13

5.4. Attractions

- ⇒ We have a whole host of attractions returning to the regatta including a classic car show, and a Viking reenactment village, as well as more food outlets the we have had in the past.

5.5. Boating

- ⇒ As per previous years we will have our competitors on the boat/trailer field on the University Rugby pitch, and the following a 1 way system, boating at DARC. There will be a tannoy system which will call competitors to boat in sequence and on time.



1834

DURHAM REGATTA

5.6. Volunteers

⇒ Thanks to all our volunteers continued support who help our event run smoothly each year!

5.7. Sponsorship of races

⇒ Sponsorship of any races is available to anyone, including colleges, anything is appreciated.

5.8. Tech

⇒ We will be using a whole host of tech, which we are hoping to make more reliable this year. The twitter feed will be entirely dependent on Elon Musk – but we have an alternative which we are working on.

5.9. PAL.TV

⇒ We are hoping to work with PAL.TV which will have a live stream of racing from the start line to viewing Baths Bridge at the finish, with live results. We may be able to promote your boat club on our live stream!

5.10. Questions:

⇒ Who owns the weirs? The weir itself is owned by the Dean in Chapter. They have plans to remove the debris. Michael will prompt them to see what the plan is. The sluice gate has been replaced recently.

⇒ Stake-boat practice? The stake-boats will be in place from the Friday before the regatta, and competitors are strongly encouraged to practice. Novice maiden crews must complete and be signed off on the stake-boat practice before competing on Saturday or Sunday of the regatta. The marshalling buoys will be in place from Durham City Regatta a few weeks prior to Durham Regatta.

6. AOB:

6.1. Sponsorship: There is plenty of opportunities to sponsor Durham Regatta. Any ideas are welcomed by committee, especially links to big companies!

Meeting Closed 19:31.

Next Meetings

Admin Committee:	18:45 Wednesday 3 rd May 2023 (DARC).
Board of Directors:	17:45 Monday 15 th May 2023 (DARC)
Members meeting (Briefings):	18:45 Wednesday 8 th / 9 th June (DARC)