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DURHAM REGATTA

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee of Durham Regatta held virtually, via Zoom, 26th April 2023

Present (& by Zoom): Sign up sheet TBA

- 1. Apologies:** Jim Dulling (Town), SACBC, TCBC, Nigel van Zwanenberg (Town), Mark Brian, James Lamb
- 2. Approval of Minutes from previous meetings:** Minutes of previous members meeting 2nd February 2023 have been approved.

3. Matters Arising

3.1. Dredging

- ⇒ Have permission to dredge the river, about a 250m section from DARC to the end of the concrete on the Racecourse side. Licence starts from end of May to commence works.
 - Only have 1 week in June before the Regatta to complete
 - Plan is: remove the contents and place on bankside to dry. Once dried remove and hopefully recycle and not go to landfill – which is based on the toxicity of the material removed.
 - 40%, 40%, 20% cost split between the council, the University and users of the river wear.
- ⇒ Current contractor we have in mind is Reuben Smith who completed the previous capital dredge.
- ⇒ Apologies in advance to any training inconveniences.

4. Chairman's Report

To talk little about the structure of the Regatta and Board of Directors changes.

Durham Regatta is a limited company, and has a £1 liability. The directors change as the committee changes year on year. Financially it costs around £40,000 each year to host the regatta, and we have around £80,000 in reserves in case of any cancellations.

We hopefully will have around 10,000 people attending the regatta and of course safety is our top priority of all visitors to the regatta. This year more monies have been spent on water safety and security to ensure this. In years gone by we have relied on volunteers for our water safety cover, and we gratefully thank DARC for all of their previous commitments, but this year we now have additional help from an outside specialist, North East Safety Boats. Insurance arrangements wise, as British Rowing have changed broker for their insurance, we are awaiting to hear more but have been informed that the cover will be the same arrangement as with Howdens, which will cover the Regatta as



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a British Rowing affiliated event.

We hope to have many clubs attending this years event including TARC, DUBC and NUBC including their top senior men's boats, so should make for some high quality racing,

If there are any questions please ask as we are trying to be as transparent as possible with the members of the regatta.

5. Planning for Regatta 2023

5.1. Facilities:

⇒ Making many improvements this year including;

- Signage improvements
- Boat circulation pattern on and off the water (inc being called to the water to boat)
- Many new traders this year

⇒ However there has been a small price increase of pitch fees to cover some of the additional costs.

5.2. Race & Technical

⇒ Really important to stick to the circulation pattern, as to not cause any disruptions and keep everyone as safe as possible.

⇒ Ask all clubs to please check boats **before** arriving at control commission

- Subs and coxes will be checked
- Boat numbers (stickers) must be clear and visible to comply with insurance

⇒ Please boat on time! **Races will go off when scheduled, it is the crew's responsibility to be at the start line on time.**

⇒ Once you've finished your race and you feel that you've been badly done by (due to interference or a foul) please raise your hand at the finish, once you've crossed the line.

⇒ There will be stakeboat practice on the Friday before the regatta. Some advice; don't take 3 or 4 strokes past, as it will be harder for you to get back onto the stakeboat!

⇒ Races on Saturday will be every 2.5 minutes, and races on Sunday will be every 3 minutes.

⇒ **Do not** lie down in a boat after a race! It will trigger the safety boats to come to you, and it is more dangerous as you may capsize!

5.3. Bankside entertainment

⇒ Most of the attractions and entertainment has been arranged.

⇒ Any ideas on how to entertain the students/young adults/teens on the



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bankside are welcomed.

5.4. Volunteers

- ⇒ We have 2 new volunteer coordinators this year, Ray Dominy and Dan Lockey.
- ⇒ Are in the process of writing role descriptions for all the roles and will figure out allocation based on the number of entries of each club.
- ⇒ There will be a briefing meeting where you will be able to attend in person or on Zoom.
- ⇒ Any additional volunteers who would like to do a specific role please let Ray know.

5.5. Media

- ⇒ The poster is ready for release, and entries will open after Durham City Regatta.
- ⇒ Keeping everyone informed and updated on social media inc. facebook and instagram.
- ⇒ We have an article in "The Field" magazine which features Durham Regatta!
- ⇒ PAL.TV has also been confirmed to be covering the event, livestreaming races throughout both days.

5.6. Prize Giving

- ⇒ The prize giving will be held at the Gala Theatre for an 8pm start.
- ⇒ The Lord Lieutenant and the Mayor of Durham have both been invited to hand out prizes to winners on the night.
- ⇒ There is a dress code; **rowing blazers and business wear** if possible.

6. AOB/Questions:

6.1. Masters Events

- ⇒ There are two other events being held on the same weekend as Durham Regatta. Namely, National Masters and Coastal Rowing Trials.
- ⇒ We will have 4's and 8+'s events for masters, with 8+'s both days.
 - We will check with national masters to make sure the events don't clash if anyone would like to enter both events.

6.2. Disruptions due to dredging

- ⇒ Should still have access to the river and there is no access issues after Collingwood College BC.
- ⇒ The Regatta will inform all clubs that it would affect of any disruptions or issues.

6.3. Alumni Races

- ⇒ There is a possibility to do some alumni racing after the long course finals on Sunday, but would have to make sure that all boats and people are completely free and would need advance notice of it.

6.4. Vice Presidents



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- ⇒ We have a number of Vice Presidents who are fantastic supporters of the regatta. There is an application process which can be forwarded out to anyone that would like to apply.
- ⇒ Would become an ambassador of the Regatta and it would be a great link with the Regatta once one graduates.

6.5. Sponsorship

- ⇒ There are still many opportunities to sponsor, including specific races, or having a banner on baths bridge or inside the enclosure. Currently £6000 to be the named sponsor of the whole event!
- ⇒ Any ideas please pass on to sponsorship@durham-regatta.org.uk

6.6. Maiden events

- ⇒ College Maiden events are strictly for competitors in their **1st year of rowing** only.

Meeting Closed 19:36.

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 2023 (DARC)