



1834

DURHAM REGATTA

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Members Committee of Durham Regatta held virtually, via Zoom, 28th February 2024

Present (& by Zoom): Sign up sheet TBA and Zoom attendees

- 1. Apologies: Nigel van Zwanenberg, David Robinson, Andrew Curtis,**
- 2. Approval of Minutes from previous meetings:** To be approved at a later date.
- 3. Chairman's Report**

Dredging the regatta course: have been in quite involved conversations with the Environment Agency over the past 5 years but they are now uncertain as to whether the dredging should occur in Jan-March or June-Aug. We have been in touch with the local MP to address the speed of which the EA have been responding. The money has been secured for the capital dredge, and have secured someone to complete the ecological survey. If we are to dredge in the Jan-March then we have been asked to reapply for the permit which is an added cost – we are opposed to doing this. In May onwards, the stretch by the start is particularly shallow so in the days prior to the regatta usually have many helpers moving silt around. We have also tested the gravel and material in the river bed recently, to prove that it is non-toxic and can be recycled when removed.

Financially the regatta is in a good position going forward having had a successful regatta last year. It is still heavily reliant on gate fees from walk ins, (and heavily dependent on weather). We would like to move to being able to have corporate sponsorship to cover the main costs of the regatta – to keep costs to the local community low.

4. Planning for Regatta 2024

4.1. Site

- ⇒ Lots of planning going on behind the scenes.
- ⇒ Over the past few years we have increased the signage but now we are going further, including signs on the river to make it clear. We have also made advertisement boards to put around the city – if anyone has any ideas on how to improve our advertising, please let us know.

4.2. Race & Technical

- ⇒ Doing analysis on timings from the past few regattas and how we can best time race intervals. Planning more information for volunteers on managing the circulation plan so that everyone is more on board/more cohesion as to what we all should be doing on the day.
- ⇒ Crews will be called directly from the boating field this year, so minimise the time waiting on the water.



1834

DURHAM REGATTA

- ⇒ Need to have communication with volunteers that they are in positions, and that experienced people are in key positions who can make decisions if and when it is needed.

4.3. Communications

- ⇒ Everything has been ticking over and have been doing some social media updates
- ⇒ We have already written to the County Durham news so that they know when it's on and will be hopefully advertised in the magazine
- ⇒ Lots of promotion of the trader applications and volunteer applications on the social media pages too
- ⇒ This year we have a BBC Radio Newcastle presenter to do a pedalo race against our Chief Umpire!
- ⇒ Matt Baker also planning to attend with his parents and incorporate it into some of his current television work

4.4. Sponsorship & Entertainment

- ⇒ Entertainment has mainly been booked including inflatables, Vikings, stilt walkers etc..
- ⇒ Updating the prospectus for the sponsors, please any ideas for sponsors drop Debbie an email at sponsorship@durham-regatta.org.uk
- ⇒ Parish Council willing to donate some money to the regatta – have given an option to them,
- ⇒ VIP/Presidents Marquee is also underway!

4.5. Technical

- ⇒ Evolving what we have already set up over the past 10 years, but it is steadily improving.

4.6. Secretary

- ⇒ Event Plan – main document that allows us to run a regatta on this scale – currently under review to be submitted to Durham County Council Safety Advisory Group ASAP.
- ⇒ Blazers underway! There will be 2 designs, one will be Navy, with a purple and white trim, other will be a deckchair-esque style. One will be able to be purchased by winners of Durham Regatta!
- ⇒ Security – currently the tender is under review as we ran out of contract last year.
- ⇒ Presentation is now going to be hosted at DARC in the marquee – will be able to display the trophies earlier than normal. The Mayor, Matt Baker and the Lord Lieutenant will be available to present prizes.



1834

DURHAM REGATTA

5. AOB/Questions:

- 5.1. On the boating platform on Saturday – the tablet wasn't working. - There is now an access point outside the building which should hopefully solve the issue but there are also a few back up plans just incase.
- 5.2. Car Parking – on the entry gate on the cricket field on Sunday afternoon – cut off time at 4pm stop charging people to come onto the site. Would like to have a more robust presence at the gates – and moving to a cashless site – bar one point which will be cash and card.
- 5.3. Would like to start thinking about 200th regatta anniversary – any ideas welcomed.

Meeting Closed: 19:45

Next Meetings

Admin Committee: 18:45 Wednesday 6th March 2024 (DARC)

Board of Directors: 17:45 Monday 13th May 2024 (Zoom/DARC)

Members meeting: 18:45 Wednesday 24th April 2024 (DAC)