



1834

DURHAM REGATTA

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Members Committee of Durham Regatta held virtually, via Zoom, 24th April 2024

Present (& by Zoom): Simon Wilson, Charly Curtis, Andrew Stephens, Michael Laing, Matthew Watson, Sarah-Louise Wheeler, Chris Bell, Izzy Friedlander, George Adair, Nigel van Zwanenberg, Barry Hudson, Richard Mortimer, Debbie Mortimer, Andrew Curtis

- 1. Apologies: Chloe Kelly, Harry Longbottom, David Squirrel,**
- 2. Approval of Minutes from previous meetings: Approved subject to minor changes**
- 3. Chairman's Report**

4. Reflection on Regatta 2024

- 4.1.** Walking through the whole day, start thinking about even from the pre-planning, poster and timetabling of events. Should we move to a 3 day regatta? Running 3 minute regatta on both days? Could put up the fees, or reduce number of races. Allows huge benefit for the regatta in general. We could run time-trial races on Friday along the minute reach. Other club secretaries/coaches asked to start earlier, so can have more competitors in the event. Do we want to improve the standard of the event? Should we be hosting quite so young crews on the premier event in the North?
 - ⇒ Everyone who put entries in whether on wait list or not got entries. Every club got around 85% of their entries accepted. Way to get around is to have entries open for certain number of days and then seed. Would also be good to have an expected level of competency (2 or 3 events in the region). **Need to improve our messaging carefully** on the protocol on how entries work to stop Chinese whispers from spreading.
 - ⇒ Friday time trial would work, but would need to ensure we have enough officials etc. to make it safe.
 - ⇒ Need to identify what our aim as the regatta would be, so that we can then flesh out an idea of how to achieve the aim.
 - ⇒ Removing maiden novice event may lose a lot of support on the riverbanks, and it's become part of the inter-college rivalry.
 - ⇒ Also have an issue with the same people winning multiple events over the weekend. Could go back to 1 division, but then becomes a problem for boat sharing. Could look at how much we accept on doubling up over the event, and keep 2 divisions.
 - ⇒ Disqualifying crews due to not turning up needs to become more consistent due to some complaints over the weekend.



1834

DURHAM REGATTA

4.2. Umpiring and marshalling

- ⇒ Message from Captain of Colleges from people who hadn't understood the rules of racing, could do with some kind of pre-workshop to explain what is expected of rowers at the regatta.
- ⇒ Some complaints of how marshals and umpires were talking to rowers on the river that need to be addressed. We did ask umpires to be considerate and calm to crews, prior to the regatta.
- ⇒ Had enough umpires to run the regatta, just. But would like around 10 more to fill some positions that would be a great addition to the regatta.
- ⇒ Bungee required on music stand on the start!

4.3. Site

- ⇒ Getting harder and harder as the regatta is getting bigger and more equipment. Really helped having extra volunteers on site tear down, but would be good to have more on Monday and Friday.
- ⇒ No safety incidents on site. Traders seemed happy, and public seemed to enjoy it. No complaints from anyone that came.
 - Signs around the site looked great! - feedback
- ⇒ Toilets not up to standard this year – quite a few complaints.

4.4. Sponsorship

- ⇒ Everything went smoothly! Lots of people turned up to the Presidents Marquee. Just shy of £8000 on sponsorship this year.
- ⇒ Definitely need a working fridge for the President's Marquee catering.
- ⇒ Entertainment seemed very well received. Need to have some more social media promoting the bankside activities. Must check the tags roll over from each platform.
- ⇒ Need to do some push into advertisement before the event starts in local magazines etc.
 - Feedback from Presidents Marquee was fantastic. Nice to see that attendees feel welcomed to the Regatta.

4.5. Welfare

- ⇒ Need to look at safety of people who are competing who may have been ill the day before or have managed health conditions that may not be known to the regatta. Need to be pre-warned at the very least, the responsibility lies with the club to let the welfare officer know.
- ⇒ Need to have a look at which positions on the committee need to have a DBS check.
 - Inc. photographer wearing an "official" tabard, needs to have
- ⇒ Wristbands handing out. Sunday in particular, more than 10 clubs pled



1834

DURHAM REGATTA

poverty not having enough wristbands. Would like a different system for handing out wristbands.

- ⇒ Good feedback for cox weigh ins!
- ⇒ Comments about water quality making people ill needs to be addressed.
- ⇒ Single person in the safety boat, must be 2 people – needs to be addressed for next year. Need to also know how to deal with rowing boats. Also took a very long time to get to the incident, but once at the incident handled it very effectively and quickly.

4.6. Volunteers

- ⇒ Did quite well for a new system – but lots of room for improvement!
- ⇒ Generally had a volunteer where they were meant to be, some positions some volunteers thought they required some training before. Feedback over the weekend from volunteers was generally OK.
- ⇒ Some posts needs to be handpicked and trained. Such as start marshalling platform and lead finish results.
- ⇒ Need to look at how to help people on the pay gates, and we do have security on the gates but also need a folder inc. diversion route, road closure, how to pay, what payments etc.
- ⇒ Would like to get to the point of teams of people who manage year in year out for certain roles within the regatta.

4.7. Presentation

- ⇒ Lectern with light needed for reader of the prizes.
- ⇒ Lighting system needs to be changed for on the stage.
- ⇒ Lots of positive feedback from junior parents especially having the presentation on site.
- ⇒ Screen at the back worked well, still need some work on the photographs after the presentation.
- ⇒ Traders that were meant to be in the marquee at DARC disappointed not in main regatta enclosure – also weren't inside marquee as too dark.

5. AOB/Questions:

5.1. Thank you to everyone!

Meeting Closed: 20:16

Next Meetings

Admin Committee: 18:45 Wednesday 3rd July 2024

(DARC)