



All-Party Parliamentary Group for Rowing

Ordinary Meeting Minutes

1900, 4 December 2018, Committee Room 6

Meeting commenced 19

In attendance

Members: Lord Thomas of Gresford (in the Chair); Baroness Walmsley; Lord Addington

Honorary Members: Isobel Pollock-Hulf; Jessica Eddie; Alan Foster

Organisational Associate Members: Andrew Simpson, Paul Jackson (North West Regional Rowing Council); Yolande Joubert, Meghann Jackson (Fulham Reach BC); Kenny Baillie, Paul Lorenzato (British Rowing); Brian Dobson (Molesey BC); Peter Barker (Upton RC); Richard Ellis (Lea RC); Nick Murray (Broxbourne RC); Gillian McFarland (CUBC)

Individual Associate Members (all, no affiliation): Philip Foster; Diane Burley; Tony Bull; Phil Clements; Judith Packer; Chris Dodd

Secretariat: Mark Ramsdale

Welcome

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, and in particular:

New individual associate members:

- Diane Burley
- Brian Curtis
- Gordon Jones

Apologies

Members: Jonathan Djanogly MP; Lord Moynihan; Jim Fitzpatrick MP; Sir Edward Leigh MP; Baroness Grey-Thompson

Honorary Members: Annamarie Phelps

Organisational Associate Members: Steve O'Connor (Fulham Reach Boat Club); George Perrin (NWRRA); Ian Henley, Amanda Hosking (Broxbourne RC); Joanne Harris (Thames RC); Mike Baldwin (London RC); Suzanne Rae (RowUK);

Individual Associate Members (all, no affiliation): Ivan Pratt; Andrew Crawford; Malcolm Knight; Sally Pettipher; Gordon Jones; Ray Cassidy; Richard Packer; Tim Koch; Matthew Gordon; Richard Sinnott; Brian Curtis; Daniel Walker;

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous Group meeting were considered an accurate account.

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Matters arising

- The Secretariat was looking to schedule future presentations from the AHOY Centre, River and Rowing Museum, London Rowing Club and Upton Rowing Club.
- The Group was investigating opportunities for an annual charity dinner.
- The Secretariat had liaised with British Rowing regarding an approach to Natural England, following on from the last meeting, and would draft a letter for approval by the Co-Chairs.

Correspondence

- The Group received a response from the Canal and River Trust, directly addressing a number of points raised in previous correspondence including the paper put together by Broxbourne and Lea Rowing Clubs, and setting out the trust's legal powers.
- Lord Thomas of Gresford wrote to Ros Daniels, Canal and River Trust Director, London and South East, seeking clarification around a number of issues related to the trust's powers.
- A further letter was also sent to the Lea Valley Regional Park Authority, regarding a specific area of water owned by that organisation, and important to Broxbourne Rowing Club.
- The Group wrote to Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment, Dr Therese Coffey MP, regarding congestion on waterways and the impact on rowing. A response was received that noted that "the Government recognises that the current and projected future uses of our waterways mean that there is a potential need to ensure that the rights of those who choose to live on waterways and those who use them for recreation are suitably balanced." The letter also noted that DEFRA was establishing a working group in response to issues around boats used as rented accommodation moored to publicly accessible land without the landowner's permission.
- Matthew Offord MP wrote to the Secretary of State for Education, introducing the work of RowUK.
- Matthew Offord MP wrote to the PLA, to encourage them to get involved with the Group.
- A suggestion for a future meeting focusing on St Ayles Skiffs was received.

Group activity report

Parliamentary

In a Westminster Hall debate on local sporting heroes, John Howell MP referenced the Regatta for the Disabled, which takes place every year in his constituency of Henley. Particular reference was made to Helene Raynsford, a Paralympic rowing champion, as an inspirational figure.

In a written parliamentary question, Royston Smith MP asked the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport whether an assessment had been made of British Rowing's ability to trade and work with its counterpart clubs in EU member states after the UK leaves the EU. Responding on behalf of the government, the Sport Minister outlined the government's plans to negotiate a future economic partnership and a mobility framework with the EU that would support businesses to provide services, and allow people to travel freely without a visa for tourism and temporary business activity. It was noted that the government expected these measures to minimise barriers to UK businesses, including sports organisations such as British Rowing, in trading and working with their counterparts in the EU after leaving.

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In a short debate in the House of Lords on performance enhancing drugs in sport and particularly amateur and junior sport, Lord Addington referenced the excellent anti-doping programmes put in place in rowing.

Lord Addington discussed the details of his debate, particularly the ease of access to performance enhancing drugs and suggested NGBs should work together with specific examples welcome. British Rowing is recognised as a clean sport, and bans under-18s from taking supplements.

Public

Lord Thomas of Gresford chaired a meeting in Parliament including representatives from the Canal and River Trust, Broxbourne Rowing Club, Lea Rowing Club and British Rowing regarding ongoing concerns around the implementation and enforcement of the London Mooring Strategy.

Lord Thomas discussed the meeting, saying the Canal and River Trust would look to advance access and enforcement. The danger of the barges is such that finding a way out of the water after falling in is a challenge. It is hoped representation from the Group would make a difference and an update is expected.

A meeting was organised for British Rowing with new Group Member Steve Double MP.

A press release was sent out regarding the Group's AGM and election of Officers.

At the time of the meeting, the Group had 419 followers on Twitter. The Group's twitter name: @ParliamentRow.

AOB

Group scarves and ties are available.

Correspondence to associate members regarding programme related the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme to take part in regattas charges a fee and is prohibitively expensive to schools.

Action: letter from Group to DoE Award Scheme commenting they are taking the opportunity to row from, effectively, all state school children. Speak to Alan Foster.

A plea from British Rowing was made for the rowing community to come together and get involved in the Group.

There being no other business, the Chair brought the main business of the meeting to a close.

Main business concluded at 1947

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Presentation: RowUK, Ben Cox

The Chair welcomed Ben Cox from RowUK.

Answering questions, anecdotal evidence suggests a link between physical activity and academic attainment, results from the study will be available in several years as students progress through their schooling. Points around mental health and physical activity was raised.

Meeting closed at 2027

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