



All-Party Parliamentary Group for Rowing

Ordinary Meeting Minutes

1800, 12 February 2019, Committee Room 5

Meeting commenced 1803

In attendance

Members: Lord Thomas of Gresford (in the Chair); Dr Matthew Offord MP

Honorary Members: Alan Foster; Isobel Pollock-Hulf

Organisational Associate Members: Paul Jackson (North West Region Rowing Council); Joel Cassells (Fulham Reach Boat Club); Brian Dobson (Molesey Boat Club); Paul Lorenzato (British Rowing)

Individual Associate Members (all, no affiliation): Philip Foster; Richard Packer; Judith Packer; Matthew Gordon; Jon Neale; Philip Clements; Chris Dodd

Secretariat: Jack Baker

Other: Dan O'Sullivan (AHOY Centre); Charles Fisher (Office of Greg Hands MP)

Welcome

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

Apologies

Members: Lord Moynihan; Baroness Grey-Thompson; Lord Addington

Honorary Members: Annamarie Phelps; Jessica Eddie

Organisational Associate Members: Kenny Baillie (British Rowing); James Hill (NWRRC); Catherine Bishop (Cambridge University Boat Clubs); Ben Cox, Suzanne Rae (RowUK); Steve O'Connor (Fulham Reach BC); Jock McKerrell (Vesta RC); Peter Barker, Ian Mackie (Upton RC)

Individual Associate Members (all, no affiliation): Daniel Walker; Sally Pettipher; Malcolm Knight; Trevor Comber; Andrew Crawford; Tony Bull; Ray Cassidy; Ivan Pratt

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous Group meeting were approved with one amendment on with regard to the Duke of Edinburgh scheme raised.

There was further discussion of this issue, and how the Group could support. **Action: Group to write to Duke of Edinburgh Scheme**

Supported by:



Delivered by:





All-Party Parliamentary Group for Rowing

Ordinary Meeting Minutes

1800, 12 February 2019, Committee Room 5

Matters arising

The Chair discussed ongoing engagement with the Canal and River Trust.

Correspondence

- The Group wrote to the family of Anna Thornton, a British Rower who had fallen into a coma in the USA, passing on the best wishes of Members.
- Group Co-Chair Lord Thomas of Gresford wrote to Natural England regarding opportunities for access to water, and for the sport to work more closely and in collaboration with conservationists. A response was received including some advice that had been produced in conjunction with British Canoeing on responsible and sustainable kayaking and canoeing on rivers, as well as a suggestion that an approach be made to DEFRA in the first instance, to provide a policy framework for discussions with Natural England.
- A suggestion was received that the Group look to organise a future presentation from the Tideway Project including on Regatta London, in conjunction with the APPG River Thames. **Action: Secretariat to organise.**
- An email was received from the Hucknall Rolls Royce Duke of Edinburgh Awards Group, who have historically supported various British Rowing regattas, but are struggling to recruit to provide this support because of new Duke of Edinburgh scheme rules that prevent the group from going into schools to talk to students about the benefits of the award. **Action: Group to write to the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.**

Group activity report

Parliamentary

In a House of Lords debate on Sport, Recreation and the Arts, Baroness Bottomley of Nettlestone referenced the Atlanta Olympic Games where Britain's only gold medal came in rowing.

In the same debate, the Earl of Listowel discussed his own rowing experience, and commended efforts to make rowing more accessible, as well as praising the health benefits and sense of team spirit from the sport.

In a general debate in the House of Commons on sport in the United Kingdom, John Howell MP raised rowing in his constituency of Henley. The Minister for Sport, welcomed activity in Henley and said she planned to visit.

In the same debate, Rebecca Pow MP referenced British success in rowing at recent Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In the same debate, Kevin Foster MP referenced Paignton and Torquay rowing clubs in his constituency.

Public

Supported by:



Delivered by:





All-Party Parliamentary Group for Rowing

Ordinary Meeting Minutes

1800, 12 February 2019, Committee Room 5

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 the implementation and enforcement of the London Mooring Strategy.

At the time of the meeting, the Group had 423 followers on Twitter. The Group's twitter name: @ParliamentRow.

AOB

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

Main business concluded at 1838

Presentation: AHOY Centre.

The Chair welcomed Dan O'Sullivan from the AHOY Centre who made a presentation on the work of the AHOY Centre, a watersports charity based in Deptford that utilised rowing and sailing as an educational tool for children and adults.

There was discussion of the activities and programmes on offer.

A short testimonial from the AHOY Centre was read.

O'Sullivan discussed the facilities at the AHOY Centre, and opportunities for future growth, including pilot projects.

Opening to questions, funding was raised and O'Sullivan highlighted AHOY's rowing challenges that generated 60% of funding.

On expansion, the AHOY Centre were looking at opportunities.

The Parliamentary Boat Race was raised and O'Sullivan offered any support that AHOY could provide.

There was further discussion of the apprenticeships on offer from AHOY, focusing on qualifications and transferable skills.

The Chair closed with thanks to O'Sullivan for his presentation, and noted that the next meeting would be held on 2 April.

Meeting closed at 1922

Supported by:



Delivered by:

