



All-Party Parliamentary Group for Rowing

Ordinary Meeting Minutes

1800, 2 April 2019, Room C, 1 Parliament Street

Meeting commenced 1803

In attendance

Members: Lord Thomas of Gresford; Lord Addington; Sir Peter Bottomley MP

Honorary Members: Isobel Pollock-Hulf; Alan Foster

Organisational Associate Members: Mark Davies, Kenny Baillie, Paul Lorenzato (British Rowing); Amanda Hosking (Broxbourne Rowing Club); Brian Dobson (Molesey Boat Club)

Individual Associate Members (all, no affiliation): Chris Dodd; Philip Clements; Nick Hubble; Richard Packer; Judith Packer; Jon Neale; Laurence Darcy

Secretariat: Jack Baker

Other: Andrew Triggs Hodge (Tideway / Regatta London)

Welcome

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, particularly guest speaker Andrew Triggs Hodge.

Apologies

Members: Lord Moynihan; Baroness Grey-Thompson; Roberta Blackman-Woods MP; Jonathan Djanogly MP

Honorary Members: Annamarie Phelps; Jessica Eddie

Organisational Associate Members: Benjamin Cox, Suzanne Rae (RowUK); Michael Baldwin (London Rowing Club); Catherine Bishop (CUWBC); Steve O'Connor (Fulham Reach Boat Club); Peter Barker (Upton Rowing Club); Ian Henley (Broxbourne Rowing Club); Joanne Harris (Thames Rowing Club); Sian Kunert (Barnes Bridge Ladies Rowing Club)

Individual Associate Members (all, no affiliation): Tony Bull; Ray Cassidy; Philip Foster; Sally Pettipher; Jim Pettipher; Trevor Comber; Brian Curtis; Tim Koch; Malcolm Knight; Andy Crawford; Ivan Pratt

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous Group meeting were approved.

Matters arising

None

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Correspondence

- The Group wrote to the Canal and River Trust regarding water sports zones on the Lea navigation following the last private meeting alongside Broxbourne and Lea Rowing Clubs and British Rowing,
- The Group wrote to British Rowing with an update on its work.
- The Group wrote to the APPG River Thames, inviting Members of that Group to attend the presentation from Tideway.
- An email was received regarding the inability of rowing clubs to get vehicle breakdown cover that extends to their trailers, particularly for international events when using the Eurotunnel. This was something that British Rowing was aware of but perhaps the Group could also write to Eurotunnel and the AA about providing extended trailer cover.

Pending

- The Group wrote to the Duke of Edinburgh scheme regarding new scheme rules which prevent groups from going into schools to talk to students about the benefits of the award. This had an impact on volunteers for regattas.

Group activity report

Parliamentary

In a House of Lords debate on swimming and life-saving skills Lord Dunlop and Lord Addington highlighted how the ability to swim was essential for a range of water-based sports, including rowing.

Public

The Secretariat met with associate member Jon Neale to discuss what could be done to open up access to water for responsible and sustainable rowing. The Secretariat noted that British Rowing were also meeting with Neale and that the Group would wait for an update before proceeding with any approach to DEFRA.

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

Parliamentary Boat Race

The Chair outlined an opportunity for Members to take part in a Parliamentary Boat Race at British Rowing's national training facility at Caversham on Thursday 5 September.

There was discussion and Members agreed that this date would be suitable.

Action: Secretariat to liaise with British Rowing and Members to organise.

AOB

The Chair raised the subject of support provided to athletes transitioning at the end of their careers.

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There was a discussion around the support that is provided and what more could be done.

Lord Addington suggested that there might be value in bringing together different sporting APPGs for a discussion.

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

Main business concluded at 1827

Presentation: Tideway / Regatta London

The Chair welcomed Andrew Triggs Hodge from Tideway.

Triggs Hodge described background in rowing, and then spoke to a presentation on the Tideway Project and Regatta London.

There was a discussion of the need for the works undertaken by the Tideway Project in the historical context of London's sewers. Triggs Hodge outlined the work that was planned, focused around three solutions: upgrading the sewage works at Mogden; the Lee Tunnel between Abbey Mills and Beckton; and the Thames Tideway Tunnel. There was a detailed outline of the work around the Thames Tideway Tunnel in particular.

The key stakeholders in the project, plan and timetable were outlined.

Triggs Hodge noted that whilst the Thames Tideway Tunnel would be underground, people would use it every day without realising. This had led the Tideway project to consider what could be done to ensure that the project would continue to live and mean something for people past its completion.

The project's vision was to reconnect London with the Thames and promote a change in the relationship between London and the river, promoting the Thames as a safe environment for all.

Key legacy commitments around environment, health and safety, people, place and the economy were outlined.

Triggs Hodge outlined Regatta London, a mass participation event for paddling sports, and discussed the aspiration to create an event in the mould of the Royal Parks Half Marathon or Ride London. The potential for the event to raise money for charity was also raised, and Triggs Hodge noted Tideway's hope that through Regatta London, the project would deliver for the community forever.

There was discussion of how Regatta London could help to open doors for people to participate in rowing, and other sports, and showcase and celebrate them too. One of Regatta London's key charity partners would be London Youth Rowing.

The route and plan for the event was outlined, as were challenges to putting the event together.

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Outlining what Members of the Group could do to help, Triggs Hodge discussed support to raise the profile of the event and support with a Sport England application for a community outreach programme. An opportunity to run the Parliamentary Boat Race as part of Regatta London was also discussed.

Opening to questions, there was discussion around getting a wider range of people involved in the event, reaching beyond the traditional rowing community. The importance of finding enough boats was raised.

The process for rowing clubs to sign up to Regatta London was discussed, but Triggs Hodge made clear that the event wasn't about elite rowing but inspiring more people to row and take part in paddle-sports.

The timeline for organisation was raised, and Triggs Hodge noted that conversations with the PLA were ongoing.

The Great Tyne Row was raised, as was the potential to use FISA coastal boats for Regatta London to make the event accessible to mass participation. It was noted that the recreational committee within British Rowing had a number of these boats, as did clubs along the tideway.

The importance of collaboration with other initiatives was raised.

The Chair closed with thanks to Triggs Hodge for his presentation.

Meeting closed at 1939

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