

## MINUTES

Annual General Meeting of RowNB

February 6, 2016

Attendance:

Executive:

John Oxley, President  
Aaron Trafton, V-P Finance  
Sean Moore, Treasurer  
Donna Bliss, V-P High Performance  
Cyril Johnston, Secretary  
Chris Flood, KRC Representative

Public Attendees:

Randy Miller  
Matt Snelgrove  
Lisa Portelli  
Dreama Galbraith

Regrets

Dion Durnford, FRC Representative

Staff:

Chantelle Hanley, High Performance Coach

Honorees:

Dolores Young  
Charles Thornton

Government Representative:

Jamie Shanks

### 1. Meeting Called to Order.

#### **Motion**

The Minutes of the last Annual Meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Aaron Trafton, seconded by Sean Moore, that the minutes be adopted. Motion Carried

## 2. President's Report

This year we will have an opportunity to see the best of Canadian rowing at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. The example these athletes set will bring new athletes to our sport and inspire our current group of young men and women to strive for excellence. Perhaps before long we will see a New Brunswick athlete carrying their dreams onto an Olympic course to compete against the world's best.

A highlight of 2015 for both Canada and New Brunswick was Taylor Perry of the Fredericton Rowing club winning gold at the U23 world championships. Taylor's rise in the sport of rowing has been impressive from winning 3 medals at the 2013 Canada Summer Games to now having the title of world champion.

We had a provincial team of 5 athletes attend the National Rowing Championships in St. Catherine's this past October. While a young group of athletes, their performances were impressive

Membership numbers were up at both the Kennebecasis Rowing Club and the Fredericton Rowing Club this past year. Each club put on successful regattas in 2015, with the yet to be named High School championships in Rothesay and Head of the Four Bridges in Fredericton.

Additionally we had New Brunswick athletes compete out of the provinces for their university. Several New Brunswick athletes competing for the University of Western Ontario won both the men's and women's titles. While our provincial program is small, our impacts are felt far and wide.

In 2015, we introduced our new 4 year strategic plan with a focus on 3 areas - athletes, coaches and officials. On the weekend of April 18-19 RNBA hosted a Learn to Row instructors course with 8 registrants taking the course. On the weekend of June 26-28 an RCA weekend 1 coaching course was offered with x registrants. These 2 courses are an excellent start on 1 pillar of our strategic plan.

With athlete development being another pillar of our strategic plan, we continued to invest in our athletes through the work of our Provincial coach. Through Chantelle Hanley's leadership we re-engage with the Canadian Sport Centre Atlantic and have a training group supported with additional funding being provided. In July we had a visit by Volker Nolte to the province and many of our athletes, and coaches, benefited from his decades of experience at a high performance camp.

As President I attended Rowing Canada meeting in Burnaby in January and again in September in Toronto. I continue to grow my network of contacts throughout the country and this helps as we continue to implement our strategic plan into 2016 and beyond.

Finally, a provincial sport organization is only as good as the people that make it up. As President of RNBA, I am incredibly fortunate to have such strong talent around the table

that bring a wealth of experience both in and out of rowing. I would like to thank our VP Admin & Finance - Aaron Trafton, VP High Performance - Donna Bliss, Treasurer - Sean Moore, Secretary - Cyril Johnson and our Directors at large - Chris Flood and Dion Durnford. Their professionalism and experience has allowed us to tackle tough challenges over the years and directly benefited all that row in New Brunswick.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

Reader's should note that the attached financial documents are for discussion purposes only. As of this meeting they have not been reviewed by our accountant.

RNBA is in a sound financial position. We have no outstanding payables, receivables are all less than 60 days and we have enough equity to meet our payroll obligations as outlined in the MOU for the Provincial High Performance Coach between RNBA, Fredericton Rowing Club, Kennebecasis Rowing Club and The Province of New Brunswick.

This past year at the 2014 AGM, RNBA voted to change yearend from March to December. This will allow us more time to prepare financial documents used in obtaining funding from RNBA's various partners. The following financial documents reflect this change.

RNBA did adhere to the goal of past years spending the majority of our funding on Athlete development. Included with payroll for the High performance coach position, greater than 80% of our funding went to funding athletes and athlete development.

In 2015, we spent significantly more than what we were able to obtain from funding sources. RNBA was able to absorb this spending because of money left over from this past year. However, this is not sustainable in the coming year. For 2016, priorities and budgets should be set before the competition season begins in late spring. This will ensure continued financial strength for RNBA for the coming year and leading into 2017.

### **4. High Performance Committee Report**

The High Performance Committee, as subcommittee of RNBA, mandate is to oversee the role of the Provincial High Performance Rowing Coach.

The subcommittee was comprised of:

- Donna Bliss, VP High Performance RNBA (Committee Chair)
- Chris Flood, President KRC
- Dion Durnford, President FRC

The Committee is responsible for the developing a bridge between the Clubs and the provincial board, while supporting the HP Coach in her role as coach and mentor. The Committee met 3 times formally with minutes copied and submitted.

This was Chantelle's first full year as HP Coach. Her coaching was divided between athletes at both club's on an agreed upon schedule, after considerable discussion. With the HP position in place we were once again able to apply to Canadian Sports Centre Atlantic for full access to their programming and grants. The Centre is located in Fredericton however, a satellite sight has been arranged in Rothesay therefore, HP athletes from both Clubs have access without undue need to travel weekly. The application was also successful in acquiring a grant for supporting HP Athletes development through encouraged participation at regattas and a camp outside the region. The grant funding expires March 31, 2016. It will be important to reapply for the following funding year.

Impact on Rowing in New Brunswick:

- Continues to be an ambassador and champion of the sport in the communities, as well as regionally and nationally
- Continues to develop links with universities and high schools in the search for rowing athletes
- Continues to seek out opportunities to enrich her skill set through Professional Development
- Develops training plans for athletes and their coaches to follow for growth and development
- Has a vision beyond the short term for the sport's future

Strengths brought to the position:

- Enthusiasm
- Passion
- Coaching skill set
- Verbal and written communication
- Mentoring of coaches
- Vision for the sport
- Stability
- Recognition of needs within Clubs

- Identification of priorities
- Commitment

Chantelle continues to show a commitment to develop athletes to move forward with their goal of joining the National Program. The number of HP Athletes has grown marginally over the year. Meetings and time lines have been established looking ahead to the Canada Games in 2017.

## **5. Umpire's Report**

New Brunswick has 4 qualified RCA Umpires:

1. Donna Bliss L3,
2. Tom May L2
3. Charles Thornton L3
4. Roger Tremblay L4

New Brunswick has 1 Associate Umpire:

1. Mike Casey L1

Regattas Officiated this year:

1. Nova Scotia Sprints, Dartmouth
2. Head of Four Bridges, Fredericton
3. CURC, Antigonish

Out of Province Umpire participation in Regatta: include: Joan Backman, Bonnie Anderson, Leslie Griffiths, Julie Ann Vincent)

- Head of Four Bridges

Associate Umpire participation in Regatta:

- Mike Casey
- Head of Four Bridges

Expenses:

Purchase of materials to support Umpire stations and use of containers per station

Professional Development:

Once the new RCA Umpire Education Program has been rolled out there are seven interested candidates to take the course.

## **6. High Performance Coach's Report**

2015 was the first full year of my contract and I am very pleased at the progress the province is making towards our strategic aims of sustained performance from NB athletes, coach development, and umpire development.

The 3 primary facilities for coaching are Fredericton Rowing Club, Kennebecasis Rowing Club, and CSC-A at UNBF. I spent 75 days away from home at regattas, camps, events, conferences, and workshops so 25% of my time is spent away from the primary facilities. I worked 305 days in 2015 with 25% of my time is at KRC, 48% at FRC and 2% at CSCA. I serve on the following professional groups: RCA Coach Educators group, Canadian University Rowing Association - Coaches and Administrators committee, CURC competition review committee, Atlantic Row to Podium Coaches Committee.

### **Athlete Results of Special Note for 2015:**

Gold	World U23 Championships M4x	Taylor Perry (FRC) representing Canada
Gold	Royal Canadian Henley MLwt4-	Andrew Johnston (KRC) representing Western Univ.
Gold	Royal Canadian Henley MLwt2-	Andrew Johnston (KRC) representing Western Univ.
Silver	CSSRA Championships U17 W2x	Dana Durnford & Jennifer Clarke (FRC) representing Fredericton High School

### **Coach Education & Development:**

Coach development, mentoring and education was a main goal and I have had weekly contact and mentoring sessions with coaches in the province. Tim Sears (FRC)– getting him prepared for RCA Coach Evaluation; getting people prepared for Learn to Row Instructor evaluations in Fredericton; Matthew Snelgrove(KRC) worked on understanding rigging in a practical way; Geoff Holloway (FRC) worked on physiological principles of heart rate loading.

Learn to Row Instructor Course – hosted by KRC – 8 new instructors

RCA Coach Weekend #1 – hosted by KRC – 6 new coaches

Core Facilitator & Evaluator training – hosted in Moncton by CoachNB – 2 coaches attended

Coach NB conference – hosted in Fredericton – 4 coaches attended

### **Athlete Development:**

A second goal for RNBA Performance was to get back into the CSC training group, and to get into the Canada Games Training Group program as well. These were both achieved. A trial run at being part of Row to Podium was also done.

Athlete ID events – 2 Canada Games 2017 information meetings, 4 Row to Podium testing sessions, 4 school presentations, attended school rowing team practices at 6 schools in 2015, regular development practices at both clubs, attending 2 crossfit competitions, talking to anyone and everyone about rowing in every possible situation.

## **Motion**

It was moved by Donna Bliss and seconded by Aaron Trafton that all reports filed be accepted. Carried Unanimously

## **7. Long Term Service Awards**

The following individuals were given Awards for their long and outstanding service to rowing in New Brunswick and Canada

### **Dolores Young - 40 Years,**

#### **Athlete**

1. 1976 & 1984 Summer Olympics
2. Royal Canadian Henley (1980,81, 82) - 1st
3. World Championships: Essen, Germany - 3rd

#### **Coach**

Kingston, Brockville, Toronto, Winnipeg, New Brunswick

### **Charles Thornton - 20 Years**

#### **Umpire**

91 Sanctioned events

CURC, Henley, Speed Orders, National Team trials, Ho4B

2006 RCA President's Award

## **8. Other Business**

The President reported on his attendance at the Rowing Canada Annual General Meeting. He indicated there were many excellent sessions, including:

- Sessions on new coaching development pathways
- Sessions on new Regatta systems for 2018, which will apply to all clubs
- Sessions on fundraising, which were attended by Dolores Young

The President further reported that meetings would have to be held soon to review a new MOU regarding the High Performance Coaching Position. He noted as well that it was time to focus on planning for the next Canada Games. Finally he President reported that the Eastern Canadian Games are considering the inclusion of Rowing as an exhibition sport in 2017.

### **Motion**

It was moved by Sean Moore and seconded by Donna Bliss that the meeting be adjourned.  
Motion carried