

## MINUTES

Annual General Meeting of RowNB

February 10, 2017

Attendance:

Executive:

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

Staff:

Chantelle Hanley, High Performance Coach  
Krista Steeves, Canada Games Team Manager

Government Representative:

Jamie Shanks

Public Attendees:

Peter Seyfforth  
Geoff Holloway  
Tim Sears  
Roger Tremblay

### **1. Meeting Called to Order**

#### **Motions**

It was moved by Roger Tremblay and seconded by Aaron Trafton that the reading of the minutes of the 2016 AGM be waived as they had been circulated. Motion Carried.

It was moved by Krista Steeves and seconded by Sean Moore that the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting be adopted. Motion Carried.

## **2. President's Report**

Some years Mother Nature is a great partner and other years she seems to treat New Brunswick Rowers with contempt. 2016 was a year that she treated us well. While it was not always perfect, the ice was out of the river system early in the spring and for both major events in the province, the spring High School Regatta and the Head of the 4 Bridges, the conditions were perfect.

2016 was a year of continuing the implementation of the 4-year strategic plan with an extra focus on coach development and umpire development.

An Umpire clinic was held in Fredericton and 7 new associate umpires graduated. Five of these are based out of Fredericton and 2 out of Saint John. This adds to the 4 Umpires currently in the province.

To support our umpires, RNBA also began the Umpire Assistance Program, which provides a small subsidy to umpires and associate umpires in the province to travel to regattas away from their home club. A number of umpires and associates participated in this program in 2016.

Coach development is another area of focus of the strategic plan. RNBA partnered with both Rowing Canada Aviron (RCA) and the Government of New Brunswick (GNB) to offer Learn to Row (LTR) Facilitator and Evaluator Training. Martin George and Mike Purcer, both of RCA, visited Saint John in September to offer an LTR coaching course with 2 key goals; The first was to train interested LTR candidates. The second, and more important focus, was to develop LTR Learning Facilitators and Coach Evaluators. These are the individuals that teach the LTR coaching course and evaluate candidates who become certified LTR coaches. Three individuals completed the training and will soon complete all the requirements to become fully certified Learning Facilitators and Coach Evaluators.

As President I attended the RCA AGM and National Coaching Conference in February 2016. RNBA was fortunate to receive a grant from the Sport and Recreation branch of the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture. This grant was part of the Department's Sport 4 Life initiatives and allowed us to support a coach from each rowing club to attend the conference. Here the coaches were introduced to the updated Athlete Development Pathways - Rowing Canada Aviron's Learn Term Athlete Development model.

I also recently returned from the 2017 World Rowing and Rowing Canada Coaches conference with our Canada Games Head Coach and Assistant Coach / Boatman. At the Rowing Canada Award's gala several of our members received special recognition. Donna Bliss received Umpire of the Year. Long Term Service recognition was given to Chris Flood for 35 years of service to the sport, Donna Bliss for 15 years service and Robert O'Connell for 15 years service.

This past year saw the formation of the Canadian Rowing Hall of Fame, where New Brunswick's own World Champions, the Paris Crew, were part of the initial class of inductees.

2017 promises to be an exciting year, with several exciting anniversaries occurring. Not only is Canada turning 150 years old but we also celebrate the 150 anniversary of Canada's first World

Champions - The Paris Crew from Saint John. Additionally in 2017 the Canada Games turn 50. Once again New Brunswick will send a strong team of rowers to this event. These athletes will follow in a strong tradition of a sport that has produced 25% of all medals New Brunswick has won at a Canada Summer Games.

Finally an organization is only as good as the people in it. As President I am very fortunate to work with a talented group of individuals that make up the RNBA board. Their knowledge and experience continues to serve the rowing community of New Brunswick very well. Thank you all for your time and commitment to the rowing community in New Brunswick.

Sadly The composition of our board will change somewhat as our treasurer Sean Moore is stepping down. Sean has been an integral part of the organization over the last few years and on behalf of the rest of the board we thank him for his time and contribution to rowing in New Brunswick. I wish the best of luck and success to all of our coaches, athletes and officials in 2017.

### **3. Financial Report**

Readers should note that the attached financial documents are for discussion purposes only. As of the date of this meeting they have not been reviewed by our accountants.

The Treasurer reported that we are on a sound financial footing and projected to be able to meet all expenses.

There was a brief discussion regarding Canada Games funding and the possibility of sharing boat transportation costs with the other Atlantic Provinces.

### **4. Provincial Coach Report**

On a Provincial level, FRC and KRC continue to support the role of the NB HP Coach and in terms of Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) improved results amongst athletes has been noticeable with a marked increase in terms of ambitions, aspirations and level of competitions now attended.

In the past year, athletes from New Brunswick have attended over 30 different camps, trials, school or university events or races during the spring, summer and fall with a number of new members also tasting the race environment for the first time. In the on-water season, spanning 30 weeks (200 days), athletes have been on the move for more than 65 days – or every 4th day. Boats and athletes have travelled well over 20,000 road kilometres and raced an estimated 80,000+ km, taking into account multiple entries at heads and regattas.

The High Performance Committee had a busy year of drafting, editing, and creating solid RNBA selection documents for the Performance Group, for Canada Games 2017, for National

Championships, and for the Hampstead Camp. The committee worked very well together and I would like to thank Barb Dugas, Tracey Fraser and Donna Bliss for their excellent support in 2016.

The Performance Group has been very active. Melanie Hamel joined the group in May 2016 but had to withdraw due to long term injury in September. Tara Gowan joined the group in September. Dana Durnford withdrew from the group in October recognizing that she did not have National Team rowing aspirations and did not want to take resources away from other athletes, even though she was meeting the commitment criteria and the performance standards. Julia Hill and Caroline Grant did not meet the required standards and moved out of the performance group into the Canada Games Group. Jess Chouinard, Jennifer Clarke, and Ian Morrison remain stable members of the Performance Group. RBC Training Ground results sent two names through to rowing. One was already in the novice program at UNB and the other has chosen to continue high performance in another sport, while just doing weekly technical erg sessions for rowing at a future date. Although no one from the performance group made the jump into a national team camp in 2016, they fulfilled or exceeded the strength & performance targets set. New targets have been set for 2017 and regular training continues.

To conclude, the NB rowing competitive program grew in 2016 along with expectations from all members; however, the expectations often outstrip the ability of the clubs, RNBA and it's resources: more coaching, more blades, more boats, more support equipment, more facilities = More Planning for 2017!

## **5. 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)
- Tracy McGrath, KRC
- Barb Dugas, FRC
- Chantelle Hanley, HP Coach

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. Chantelle and VP High Performance met 4 times in addition. Chantelle's coaching was divided between athletes at both club's on an agreed upon schedule, after discussion by the Full Committee and approval of the two Clubs.

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 seen change over the year as athletes leave the program, while others join. Meetings and time lines have been established looking ahead to the Canada Games in 2017.

Selection Criteria has been established for each of the National Regattas and local camps. This information, as well as training plans, is now available on the RNBA website.

Areas of Focus:

- Communication with athletes, parents and Club coaches
- Recruitment and Retention of HP athletes
- Balancing coaching requirements in a coaching household

Congratulations to Chantelle in her dedication to the sport, the athletes and their personal achievements under her direction. Looking forward to success in 2017.

The HP Committee for 2017 will include Donna Bliss, Chair, Shelley Swift, FRC and KRC member to be determined, as well as Chantelle. Special thanks to Barb Dugas and Tracy McGrath for their commitment to the Committee this year.

## **6. Umpires Report**

Current New Brunswick Umpires are:

- Donna Bliss L3,
  - Charles Thornton L3
  - Hap Stelling L3
  - Roger Tremblay L4
- One NB umpire has retired: Tom May

New Brunswick Associate Umpire (active):

- Mike Casey

New Brunswick Associate Umpires

Since the training course held in the spring of 2016:

John Oxley, Craig Jollymore, Jeff Rankin, Dreama Galbraith, Barb Dugas, David Clarke, Peter Seyffarth

Course was given by Roger Tremblay (Clinician - L4) with the assistance of Donna Bliss and Hap Stelling (refresher).

Regattas Officiated this year:

- New Brunswick Indoor Championships, Fredericton
  - Nova Scotia Sprints, Dartmouth
  - NRC / Canada Cup, Burnaby
  - Head of Four Bridges, Fredericton
  - Atlantic Championships, Lochaber (Antigonish)
  - Head of the Charles, Boston
  - Really Chili, Dartmouth
  - Canadian University Rowing Championship, Welland
- Out of Province Umpire participation in NB Regattas:

- Head of Four Bridges – Joan Backman, Lesley Griffiths

RNBA has initiated a refund application to NB Umpires. (\$80 for travel outside the province, \$40 for travel inside, but not at your own club, for a maximum pay out of \$120 per calendar year.) The application requires the signature of the CU for the attended Regatta. A few umpires have taken advantage of the program in 2016.

Respectfully submitted by: Roger Tremblay and Donna Bliss

## **7. Rowing Canada Updates**

The following updates from Rowing Canada were discussed:

- New Registration System. Under the new system athletes will pay a per seat fee for each race event.
- Responsible Coaching Movement. Protocols are being developed to govern interactions between coaches and athletes, to protect both. Rowing NB will communicate with the clubs.
- Concussion Protocols. Rowing coaches and clubs must be prepared to deal with athletes recovering from concussions. While rowing is a low risk sport, it is an attractive options for athletes moving from other sports due to concussions.

## **8. Election of New Officers.**

Aaron Trafton's term as V-P Finance/Admin expired. He re-offered for a further term. Sean Moore resigned as Treasurer, Katherine Grant was nominated to succeed him. Aaron and Catharine were elected by acclamation.

## **9. Adjournment**

Moved by Aaron, seconded by Sean, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion Carried.