

FINAL Minutes FRC Meeting

Held September 17, 2024

7:30pm at the Boathouse

Attending: JC, MHB, JB, JH, LF, IV, PM, TB, SL, KPC

Apologies: CK, RW, CP, DM

Date of Next Meeting: December 10, 2024 at 7pm (*note that the time is changed from the usual 7:30pm*)

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Approved

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

- An update was provided about the proposed lottery funding and account, this is ongoing as a separate account would be required to hold lottery funds and this would need to be arranged in advance of moving forward with the lottery proposal.
- It was noted that during the summer, Simon Ross (junior parent volunteer) had taken over the invoicing and payment reminders for the junior summer programme, which significantly improved the process.
- The issue of the club car park has been pushed back at planning meetings and no further progress has been made.
- Club admin was discussed and again, it was agreed that rowing needed some type of platform for this, likely to be ClubHub. **TB to work with LF and see where the gaps are in terms of functionality.** Plan is to migrate club onto this by April 2025. MHB asked about data protection/privacy and SquadList – specifically why are birth dates displayed? Can this be changed? **JC to look into concealing personal data.**
- Winter training in the event of extended red flag – **Collette to draft a plan for what to do if the river is closed for an extended period of time?** Rowing away from Oxford – plan for trailers and boats. Usual winter training together with kayakers
- Reminders to take additional safeguarding training through BR. PM explained that if the course is taken, it's a separate action to upload the certificate for this. **JC to send members a reminder for this.**
- Boat club clean up day – SL asked for a reminder to stop using WD40 on runners; JH asked for tp for cleaning runners. Agreed that when there is a river closure a boat cleaning day is scheduled. **This was done.** Reminder of boat checklist, checking shoes, etc. **JB and JC to consider sending a reminder on these.**

Reports:

[Note: for this meeting, in the interest of efficiency it was agreed in advance that a different approach to the format would be trialled in which all members read reports in advance and discussion during the meeting focused on specific questions, items for discussion with a view to reaching a decision or the presentation of new information]

Captain's Report (JC): As sent in advance

Vice Captain's Report (MHB): JH would like to see race results attributed to members, MHB said that this is usually because there's a question about individual recognition. JC is there a season summary of race results? Discussion followed about where does racing sit in the club? JC results are communicated in the newsletter, but this isn't happening. MHB suggested that race results might be

motivational for other members and this is a reason for sharing the information. Decided that this will be left up to the boat/squad captains.

Should we ask someone to publish newsletter? Should we have a person who is in charge of communications? JC should we have a FRC comms email? Agreed that JC would add this email address.

Treasurer's Report (JB): About £18k this year for trustees' sum. Barge insurance has paid for damage to Snowy Owl about £500. Fees to be kept the same as last year, except for rack fees which can be increased to cover the increased EA fees for boat registration. Agreed that this will be increased by £20 from end of September. MHB asked if should the students' membership fees be continued? It was agreed that this category of membership would be continued but is now to be called a young person's membership so those not in FE are included – LF and JC to make these changes.

Junior Programme Report (JC): JC reported that during the transition from NKB to a new Juniors' Head Coach, juniors' fees will be increased so that the full cost of coaching fees is paid by the parents. Fees to go up by £50 this year. It is hoped that Sam Jenks, who is acting as interim coach will consider taking over the role, she has her level 2 coaching certificate. The conclusion of NKB's contract was discussed, that the trustees decided his contract could not be renewed as he would be away from Oxford from August for an extended period. TB asked do all juniors get the same level of service for their membership fees? Should juniors have a racing squad? This was discussed but no decision was reached.

JC noted that the Junior Head Coach position had been readvertised to be a more inclusive coach – more responsive to the rest of the club. This would include monthly meeting with the head coach and better communication, particularly around the use of boats that are jointly used by juniors and adults.

Membership Report (LF): LF was asked how many current (paid-up) members – 167.

Water Safety Officer (CP): Papers submitted in advance were approved by a vote of the committee.

Welfare Officer (PM): It was asked whether juniors could row with adults in mixed boats to gain additional experience? JC, CP and PM to discuss this further.

Boatman's Report (JB): Decision to purchase new nelo 4x and 2x for 18,500. Falcon is leaving. Need to buy new 'racing' blades and cox boxes as the cox boxes are often out of commission. This was discussed at length, as well as the need for more sculling blades. It was discussed whether the blades just be captain's permission rather than racing? Cox boxes are perpetually out of commission, need to identify a solution, the general unreliability of cox boxes was discussed at length.

Touring: No discussion beyond RW's report, but MHB wanted it to be noted that there were lots of nice comments about the support provided on the club's stretch of the river.

Talent Development and LTR (JH): SL noted that LTR is not publicized as associated with the club - needs to look like a Falcon endeavour rather than JH working out of Falcon. Important to communicate that this is the 'best place to develop your rowing' plans to do updates towards marketing on the club website. Branding, etc. DM, DS and TB are looking into this. TB pathways for rowing should be made clearer. JC agreed that we need a better marketing front end to the website. LF do we need a social media person? IV it's a question of club capacity as well. The longstanding question of a membership maximum or even an 'ideal' number of members was discussed, it was generally agreed that the current level was about right.

MDS (SL): SL is stepping down, JH is taking over. How does ambition and inclusivity work within this system, SL discussion of tensions inherent in this system. MHB how is equipment allocated? For regattas, it's the fastest crew when two or more crews want to use the same boat at the same time, but this is not the case outside of racing.

WDS – nothing additional

AIR (IV): Nothing beyond the report submitted in advance of the meeting.

Outreach (TB): Oxford open doors about 20 visitors; consultation strategy comments in the next two weeks. Then extended to the wider club for comment, TB would like the membership to vote on this plan at an AGM. Then to be presented to the trust for agreement. End of three years, hoping to get in three schools. Equipment needs – tends to require coxed stable quads. JB – adaptive junior rowing? Is there the coaching capacity? Generally, how will coaching be arranged? TB to meet someone from Oxford Brookes, for the time being this is being kept separate from the junior coach.

Launching the internal fundraising? Small lottery requires a separate business account to run this. Possibly requires a separate legal entity for fundraising.

Launch event to start programme at the start of November – looking for a special guest, discussion of possible candidates to invite. TB reminded the committee that he would like to set a date for a whole club open day next year, this was postponed and to be discussed at a later meeting.

AOB

Are we democratic enough as a club? After some discussion, it was agreed that club positions would be reaffirmed each year. At the end of November each year the committee will be re-elected; if anyone wants to stand for a position then they have to nominate themselves. If no one puts themselves forward, then the roles stay the same. It was also mentioned that in nearly every case, there is only one candidate for a position. TB are the interests of most club rowers being represented in the committee? MHB asked if specific people could be invited to improve representation on the committee – ie, can new attendees be invited, which was agreed. For example a parent representative for the Juniors like the current parent volunteer admin?

Boat plan Juniors to get more access to boats especially for hwt boats. Juniors to use vulture, as captain's permission. Juniors also need more hwt 2x. new nelo, refurbished bataleur, to buy one new 2x (85-90 kg) or 2 used. Should be bow rigged £7400 lead time of 16 weeks. Can also buy a 2nd hand hwt 2x about 4k for general availability. This was agreed by the committee.

LF says there is also pressure on boats during WDS sessions. JB – can also get a new set of riggers for Pandion.

TB Still outstanding issue of boats for junior outreach – stable 4x. It was agreed that the main issue here is the lack of an obvious space to put this boat and this issue was deferred for the time being.

JC Goshawk and Athena – if we need more 4 capacity, we need to replace this boat? Should these boats be replaced and what with? Merlin and Harrier? Do they get refurbished?

Proposed need for 8 more sets of sculling blades (£4800) – this was agreed by the committee.

New RP3s are unaffordable (2500) and noisy, probably not going to purchase more this year. JC proposed and the committee agreed to buy 4 more secondhand C2s with sliders (£400 a piece) All but JB voted for this – JB did not want sliders.

SL proposed and the committee agreed to purchase a leg press for the weight room, assuming that there is the money available. Vote is yes in favor of the leg press, except JB who voted no.

MHB advocated for the importance of buying more sculling blades. JB says a life jacket is missing, JH to offer some of his life jackets.

Café: Running café on Sundays. 9:30-11:30 staffed by volunteers, need 10-15 people who can help out with this. IV do we need food safety handling? Training is not onerous. JB purchasing of food and money? Matthew and Sarah to help with this. Move to cashless to reduce admin. **JC to send an email sign up for café volunteers.** JB Keith and Jo made 14,500 last year from the café, the committee's appreciation for all their hard work was recorded.

Towpath closures coming up: **JC to send around a link to Mark Seal's document. Need to decide as a club how much we want to be involved in this issue.**

LTR Regatta/Event (JH): both City and Accies have accepted an invitation to have some sort of LTR event, like a regatta. It was agreed that this is a good idea and that Falcon will host this next October.