

ROWING CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING

23rd January 2023

7:30pm at the Boathouse

MINUTES

PRESENT: Nick Barnett, Laura Fortuna, Tim Baker, Jon Crooks, Charlotte King, Jeff Bethray, Mary Heather Bethray, John Hill, Claire Parker, Dai Howell, Iolanda Vendrell, Peter Crossley, Ruth Percy, Ruth Ward & Kathryn Crossley

APOLOGIES: Georgia Dowdeswell, Elisabet Vilaplana

NEXT MEETING: March 27, 2023 7:30 pm at the Boathouse

CHAIR: Jon Crooks

WELCOME: (JC) Welcome and introduction of Tim Baker, a new member of the committee who will be working on outreach. Noted that TB has a Level 2 BR coaching qualification and worked with outreach at his previous club in Cambridge.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Headings were read out for comments. JH asked for correction of the spelling of Andy Munro's name (no 'e'). The rest of the minutes were approved without further additions or corrections.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: Seb Siswick's (former Falcon junior member) 1x has not yet been sold. JB reported that he had been offered several items from a previous member, including ties, badges, etc.

1. REPORTS:

- a. **Vice-Captain's Report** (MHB) 6 more inquiries, 2 taster sessions, 2 joined. JH asked why the other four didn't join, MHB said that some people consider membership over a longer horizon, most people who don't join are primarily interested in FRC because of rack space and sometimes because they are unsure that there will be a crew for them. Plan for future regattas is starting to take shape, there are some entries already for Maidstone.
- b. **Social Secretaries' Report** (GD / CK) No updates from the previous meeting.
- c. **Junior Head Coach** (NK-B) Northampton Head was cancelled, about 92 percent signed up to race. Meeting with juniors held over the weekend to discuss parent volunteers and general parent participation.

- d. **Junior Captain's Report** (PAC) Good turnout and enthusiasm from juniors. Concerns about logistical arrangements for coaching, need a critical mass of parents who are willing to participate. There is some enthusiasm although some questions remain about how much time it will take to set up this system. Concern about having a structured training programme and a racing calendar.
- e. **Treasurer's Report** (JB) Adults 15806.86 in account, out of this, there are still some remaining expenses, the largest of these are the boat registrations £1500, BR £1500, and there will be some expenditure on boat repairs. Some discussion about the practicalities of members' payments for trips to Dorney, JB would like these to be paid the same way members usually pay for regattas - one person collecting the money for Dorney rather than the club receiving several separate payments. Juniors' invoices will come in February, currently £1101 against about £2k expenses, invoices go out in February for 2nd 200x50 juniors. There will be a shortfall, which could be made up against summer coaching. It also might have to come out of adult general membership. The particulars of the juniors' finances were discussed, JC explained that parents have been asked to help out because of the shortfall in coaching money, some funds (about £2500) from adults will be required to cover expenditures up to June. Anything over this amount will be treated as a loan and covered out of the revenue from the summer courses. For planning purposes, about £5750 came in from summer 2021 courses. The club continues to look for other sources of funding, there is a general concern about draining the rowing fund in this way. Breaking even is not practical as this would not allow for new equipment. JC reiterated that junior rowing is a fundamental objective of the club.
- f. **Membership Secretary's Report** (LF) LF -Reports that she has sent some invoices successfully, membership has recently been mostly quiet. Invoicing of LTR graduates, but will wait until the end of Feb because of the poor weather (flooding, etc). Juniors will also be invoiced, still navigating the complexities of the systems and learning how these work. CP asked for clarification on where do BR emails to the club go? JB BR is asking whether or not someone is a member, the club confirms this to accept BR membership, JB manages these inquiries.
- g. **Touring Report** (RW) planning meeting scheduled for tomorrow, lots scheduled in the diary both nationally and regionally. After meeting, will coordinate with MHB about

regatta calendar. MHB said it was helpful to keep trailer scheduling in mind, still need to work on club calendar, touring, adults and juniors. MHB added that BR has publicized some dates, asked if these will these be publicized with tourers. RW yes, also noted that in March there is a Leander touring dinner with BR.

- h. **Talent Development Coach (JH)** Andy has finished coaching and now working on practicals; wants to work on corporate days and things like general development for the club. Looking forward to working with Tim on enterprise development, not just athletes. No other specific items.
- i. **Outreach:** (TB) TB has a visit next week to Fulham Reach boat club to discuss outreach. Wants to think further about what outreach means, who is the club trying to reach, budgeting, club capacity and goals. Also would like to understand a bit about the decision-making process within the club. NB noted there was no mission statement for the club, lots of good work in outreach in the past and this is a core objective for the club; one of the canoeists leads a Renault corporate day, need to give this a bit of thought, generated £1500-1600 for the club. JC visit from Fulham Reach, rowing club comprised of local school children. Local authority with 14 state schools, might have some useful suggestions for funding. also going to be a core objective of BR
- j. **Boatman's Report: (JB)** There are 3 further training sculls coming in Feb, these will be named and numbered and added to the list. Harrier has had some work, Falcon still needs some work to be a coxless 4. Most of the demand is in 2x, there is also an ancient 8 that might need a look soon. Nick said there was little in the open weight sweep – nothing in the 85+ kg category – his category. JC said that the number of men in 85+ category is relatively low and there is little rack space – several challenges. Hard to make room for many new boats.
- k. **Water Safety Advisor's Report (CP):** water safety, review of documents sent around. Working with JH to take over in the spring. Had training in basic and advanced risk assessment online. Worked on documentation and made specific changes accordingly. Could the poster be useful club-wide? These need to be put on the website. Still several items outstanding from the audit and audit was contingent on these being done. Backstays on boats? All 2x and 4x except Peregrine have the backstays. Need to figure out what is going on with this boat? Currently working to create club safety policy and safety rules, which will also be circulated. Also working on induction documents, with

references to the rules etc. CP noted that the gym is not included in these – she is only working on water safety. CP asked if the club keeps track of who is first aid trained? The subject of the first aid box was raised, CP is looking after this now. JB reminded everyone that there is one downstairs and possibly one upstairs. CK suggested that there also needs to be one in the kitchen. The discussion of general safety continued. CP asked if the club assesses people's ability to swim? The audit does not allow the club to just have people self-assess. Discussion of the summary of BR requirements and concluded that it is not acceptable for club rowers to self-certify. Should the club pursue booking sessions at the university for this? To be discussed further at subsequent meetings. Does the club assess bow and cox steering competency? This also needs discussion, as well as capsize training. NKB added that there are different assessments of capsize drills, not clear which one BR requires. NK-B said that an A3 safety document has already been circulated. Working with an A6 that can be taken on a boat. JH – needs to be coordination between all of these to determine a new member induction process.

- l. Publicity Officer: (DH)** No update from last time, JB need to update website. MHB Who is in charge of updating the website? JC Probably a good idea to review the website generally. MHB would like to go through this with DH.
- m. Men's Development: (JH/SL)** – Some people are at a racing standard and likely to move to adult independent racing. Small set remaining, 6 people to continue working. Once people reach a racing standard, less support provided for coaching from the club. Successful trip to Dorney.
- n. Independent Racing Coordinator's Report: (IV)** 40 people on the list for emails. Sent a spreadsheet with a survey for races to gauge interest. Some interest for Maidenstone.
- o. Women's Development Rowing (ME, RP)** Radley tank session over the weekend, core group of about 10 and some subs. Probably about 14 active, with 6-10 at a session.
- p. Captain's Report: (JC)** Associate membership, took to the trustees and was not approved. On hold for now. Safety posters and documents that have been circulated have been approved, no concerns raised at the meeting. None noted via email. Junior squad, need to consider how are the summer courses marketed? Summer half term only, not in the easter half term. Sam Jenks suggested putting these up on school notice boards. Need to have the website up to date. Suggestions and ideas welcome for the advertising? JH – banner on balcony and car park? Ideas to be sent to JC and NKB. Need

to consider the club's finances generally, there isn't much spare for new equipment. What are the limits/capacity of boat club membership – could add 30 members would yield about 30 k, when the loan is paid off (20k annually, 4 yrs left on the loan); estimates that this would yield about 30-45k annually. JB number of members 1/3 split between kayakers and rowers, proportionally based on membership percentages. NB should also think about grants, sport England grants; questions about whether these types of orgs will fund equipment. JC said that there were concerns about income long term, need to plan for moderate growth in membership and other sources of income; this year might be early for corporate 8s. There will be a facilities committee, DS will be on the committee (attending, not leading) The committee is to manage the site development. Changes to the site will go through this committee, provides a centralized point for decisions. Clubhouse update, estimated that early March for completion. Mirrors to be installed variously, including in the erg area. Improvements to concept 2s plan to have 8. Kayakers to be allowed to use ergs, working on a plan to facilitate this. Booking systems still take preference and these are still limited to rowers. Fobs – rowers have about 70 percent and juniors are less. Assume that everyone who wants a fob already has one. Kayakers have fewer. Still considering when to transition to the fobs, deadline likely to be extended another month. JB for people who need temporary access, LTR, etc. codes will be issued and then deleted. JC still discussing this as well. Some differences between kayakers and rowers. JH said that the same issues apply to people coming for circuits, a code that works only for the time circuits are held. JC reminded the committee that the Asian community events are coming up – last year was erging and kayaking. 29th of April or 6th of May. Rowing should be offered, probably touring boats and maybe 8s. Need volunteers for this. Georgia to lead. OxClean also coming up, the club has taken part in this in previous years 3-5 March or 10-12 March, led on kayak side. Will ask for volunteers for this too. JC reported a visit from Italian club Roma, also interest from Turin, looking at scheduling an outing through JH – hosting rather than for income. JC reported that the Rowing Constitution plan has been presented to the trustees. Draft version exists, taken from BR guidelines – from JB. JC to review this draft and the review copy will be sent to the whole membership for comment by January 30. After comments have been returned March 15, this will become a 3rd draft which will then go to the rowing committee. The final draft (4th) will

go to the trustees for their approval. After the approval by the trustees, this will go on the website. NKB asked if it will be circulated to juniors? PAC said that junior members, particularly vice captains and captains will be interested.

2. **AOB:** NK-B volunteers wanted for junior coaching. CP – is there a list of certified coaches within the club membership? Should have one, also for other coaches to have access to. First aid list as well. LF – should also ask about defibrillator training... JB – should also encourage members to take up first aid courses. PAC said that juniors would also be interested in this. JH – throw line training as well, should have a comprehensive list of these rather than asking several times.

JH – Trailer coordination, how is this organized, discussion about how this starts and how it moves forward. MHB – trailers only tend to be full for junior regattas. Lengthy discussion about trailers, coordination and racing.

With no further items for discussion, the meeting was closed.

Notes from members about draft minutes added 27/3/23 – JB noted that Seb Siswick's 1x is still for sale. LF noted that the men's and women's development squads have merged into a single development squad, Ruth Percy will be one of the contacts for this group.