

## ROWING CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021

1930 (Online)

### MINUTES

**1) PRESENT:** Grahame Nash, Mary Heather Bethray, Jeff Bethray, John Hill, Howard Jacobs, Christy Job, Malcolm Mackay, Ruth O'Loughlin

**CHAIR:** Grahame Nash

**2) APOLOGIES:** Iolanda Vendrell, Rich Ellis, Dai Howells, Charlotte King, Jan Holloway

### **3) MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Minutes of the last meeting approved.

### **4) UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING**

JB suggests that we need bow and stern ropes attached to the touring boats as the boats are stern launched. JHo offered to arrange for the ropes to the boats.

JHO has sorted the ropes out.

JH's safety action plan will be circulated to all rowers.

GN asked that the WhatThreeWords are recirculated to members in advance of the return to rowing. JH still needs the WhatThreeWords for the defib on Boat House Island

What3words for boathouse island has been provided to JH. GN raised that the club would look to have its own Defibrillator in the near future.

JB is looking to have it discussed with Nick K and Nick B whether the space of the old boat house can be used for circuits if the racking is stripped out.

The old boat house has been rearranged. The erg room has been tidied and that whole area could be tidied up and used as a training area.

**Masks;**

GN to pick up with Nick so Kayakers and Rowers aligned. JH said that we could encourage mask wearing but not impose it. The government position is now not to enforce.

Now down to personal preference. Up to the individual if they wear it, GN will share this with rowers in the next email update.

JH and JB to discuss how best to account for Radley Tank (Learn to Row)

Resolved

CJ is also exploring whether Falcon could host a Junior coaching course

The course went to Hinksey Sculling School to host at South Oxford Community Centre.

### **5) Club Membership / Racking (JH)**

Discussion was had on racking that is available within the new boat house and whether the focus should be on private individuals using it to rack private boats vs reserving it for future club purchases. JH asked for the strategic focus which would help to guide future decisions on requests to rack private boats.

The discussion began after recent applications for racking have been approved (3 in total). JB gave the rationale for accepting the recent applications. After these 3, there will be 2 further free spaces. There was also some indication that future applications are expected for a double.

JH wants there to be a process that racking is only allocated with committee involvement to make sure that the applicants are fitting with the Falcon aspirations.

GD raised that there is a difficulty in being very prescriptive – there is no right or wrong, from first come first serve vs membership for length of time vs commitment to the club.

MHB added that in the past there was a very defined number of racks for private sculls and you had to wait for the racking to become available. Question of what proportion do we want the racking to be used as private racking (committee decision not yet made). Beyond the number of racks, how would it then be administered if decisions had to be made through the committee, would this make the process too lengthy and cumbersome? JH thinks priority should be given to people who would contribute to the club. Additionally, JH thinks the committee should be involved in the membership decisions where the individual is not looking to join club activities as the club would be sharing racking / opportunities / club equipment without there being non-monetary returns.

GN's final conclusion was that we would continue as we are but contentious decisions should be brought to the committee.

## **6) Reports – Captain's Report (GN)**

Nothing to add that won't be covered by other reports.

### **b. Vice Captain's Report (MH)**

Recent races: 6 crews went to Nottingham - 3 doubles, a quad and 2 singles. There were wins for 1, 2 second places and 1 third place. 2 crews also went to Henley Masters.

Isis sculls is happening in September. It is not on BROC but MHB is asking for interest from the club.

Accies and Falcon are both encouraging crews to attend the right division for Heads, however the traditional split hasn't returned.

The boat booking form continues to work well.

### **c. Junior Head Coach and Cheney Report (CJ)**

Recent races have included Marlow, Kingston and British Championships. Falcon Juniors reached 13 out of 35. Isis sculls being targeted next.

There is also 6 weeks of booking for the Summer courses.

CJ asked if 1 hour Monday – Thursday 4-5pm Juniors could do land training in the old boat house. No objections from the committee but for courtesy **GN will check with Nick / Kayakers**. The general area will need to be sorted to make for a training area.

JB asked that the ergs are serviced as they have been sat in the dust. **GN to take this away and report back to the committee on the costs.**

**CJ will confirm ergs have been returned** from the lockdown where members were able to borrow club equipment.

### **d. Treasurer's Report (JB)**

Club account is currently sat at £9,200. The Juniors' account is sat at £8,821 with more from the summer course to come.

There are insurances due, which will be around £500/£600. There are also the costs of servicing the ergs, and another rack for sculling blades, similar to the current one which would be around £800. Additionally, 2 horse

mounting blocks (padded steps to reach higher boats) are need and may need to consider a sets of steps at £250 a set.

The club is also looking into another 70-85kg single as Barn Owl and Tawny are overused.

Looking at prices now, there is a choice of a Swift but it is bow rigged (rigger behind the seat, not in-front) made of aluminum which costs £3,950. It would be difficult to extract from storage because of the set up. The other option is a Wintech, 'normal' rigged at £4,200.

CJ asked if the Juniors could use this boat. MHB – the Juniors are part of the demand on the boat (but used appropriately for the need). CJ offered to pay 50% of the boat so that the Juniors can use it. The committee agreed. **JB to look at whether private racked boat would be willing to move which would allow for the Swift.**

There is a shortage of sculling blades, discussion was had on how many and which ones. OarSport have varying prices - Swift have lighter versions of the ones in the touring boat that are cheaper, however these are not competitive blades. CJ raised that the concept2 are more expensive but easier to adjust. **JB will buy 4 sets.**

There is a Mini cox box on order but was lost in transit (being replaced). The two minis that we have that aren't currently charging. **JB will send them off for repair.**

#### **e. Membership Secretary's Report (MM)**

GN and MHB have discussed that the BR website is out of date. GN has amended the officer of the clubs but it is out of date from the membership list. MM can now access the club hub to edit the membership on the club hub.

There are currently 110 adult members including learn to row, a few returners and a few new members since the club opened.

#### **f. Touring Report (JaH)**

JaH absent from the meeting.

JH added that JaH has just sorted out some outings on squad list. JaH and JH have also discussed that next week the learn to row will finish and the hand over between Learn to Row and Squadlist will begin.

#### **g. Learn to Row / Safety Officer's Report (JH)**

Nothing else to add on Safety.

JB asked about the floats. Until they have been tested on JHs own boat, there is no update.

MM to circulate the safety report.

JH shared with the committee that he is reluctant to start a learn to row course and circuits as he has a 4 week trip coming up (date to be confirmed). Instead, he is considering a small short course.

JH also raised that he is interested in the Wintech intermediate boats, which might be the most people want to row in. This will be something to consider for next summer.

#### **h. Boatman's Report (JB)**

JB talked through the set up in the new boat house, everything has its place:

Life jackets - wall on hooks.

Limited numbers of spares - on racks (e.g. screws / washers).

Alternative riggers (that belong to boats that can be rigged multiple ways - hanging on the wall

JB is looking for a container to store rigger bags. JB asked CJ if he can hang the Cheney bags.

Discussion was had as JB would like to rig a coxless 4 (Falcon). CJ added that Falcon is a useful boat to teach steering for a coxless quad. CJ is happy for the boat to rigged when there is a demand.

JB also sold the old riggers for £50 worth of aluminum.

Osprey has been rigged as sweep but there is a need for a coxed quad. There will still be the options for Osprey to be rigged as sweep if needed but the default state will be coxed quad.

**i. Publicity Officer's Report (DH)**

DH was absent.

GN asked if we are getting enough publicity.

**j. Men's Racing Report (MM)**

The long-standing cox for the Men's crew has left a few weeks ago, so there is a lull with little appetite to work towards races. More enthusiasm for doubles

HJ noted that there are reasonable numbers on a Tuesday. MM is bow steering for a quad.

**k. Ladies' Racing Report (IV)**

IV absent.

HJ asked about Isis Winter League and expectations on marshalling. JH gave guidance that there is usually an expectation that those who compete will marshal.

**l. Welfare Officer's Report (RE)**

RE absent from the meeting.

GN to make contact.

**m. Social Secretaries' Report (GD / CK)**

Successful BBQ last month. A few receipts to be lodged. CK and GD are discussing the options of autumn gatherings and Christmas. Kayakers were glad to have been invited and for cross club events. GN thanked GD for the BBQ.

JB added that £111 was made on the raffle which was gift aided. £1170 taken for the BBQ itself and then CK has lodged expenses. The profit will also be gift aided.

CK and GD have divided a few locations for the Christmas party to explore. They have also asked the Nicks whether the top of the building will be available for something.

**7) AOB**

JH is involved in a cross party committee to consider equipping the gym. Anything that goes in there will need to meet safety services. The cost of equipping the gym would be c.£10,000.

On Thursday there is the Olympic event, practicing every Olympic discipline. The pop up café is organizing a BBQ. JB will also run a WE event after it.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING WAS CLOSED**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 19:30

Location: TBC

Zoom if required: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/162393573?pwd=eldQYVBIWtB1NXlBMi92dlhiN05zQT09>

Meeting ID: 162 393 573

Password: 003512