

ROWING CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING

4th February 2019

7pm at The Tree Hotel, Iffley

MINUTES

PRESENT: Grahame Nash, Jeff Bethray, Rich Ellis, Mary Heather Bethray, John Hill, Jan Holloway, Dai Howells, Christy Job

Apologies: Howard Jacobs, Iolanda Vendrell & Ruth O'Loughlin

Non committee members present: Susie Smith, James Shepherd, Trish Nash

Chair - Grahame Nash

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.

Action: DH will look at adding links on our website

Update: Item removed as no longer relevant.

Action: HJ will look at the sponsorship/underwriting/supporting of members to develop their coaching skills. The club would be prepared to pay 50% towards the costs of the training subject to contributing to coaching at the club.

Update: HJ to continue looking into this of members to develop their coaching skills, this includes talking to Georgia and Liza.

Update: Carried forward as HJ absent.

Action: GN to look at the toilet seats.

Update: Repairs attempted, needs plumber consult Nick and Dave.

Action: JB will look at the racing blade handles

Update: Ongoing now urgent.

Action: MH to liaise with Ruth Ward and ask for a breakdown of the support required with a view to drumming up wider support from the Falcon Rowers.

Update: This is now in hand. MH will be bankside and new tourers are involved (Anna is helping on Friday and Virginia is helping over all three days).

Update: Jan Holloway has joined the Rowing Sub-Committee to represent the Tourers.

Update: Actions completed

Action: PM to make the change to the website re: temporary membership.

Update: Now in action.

Update: Paul to be contacted by MH

Action: GN to organise a training day. IV to contact MH about arranging a meeting for those that want to race. Update: Carry forward to the next meeting

Update: This refers to trailer loading, carry forward to the next meeting.

Action: PM to send invoices to those with outstanding fees.

Update: These were sent but there are outstanding payments not made.

Update: Paul to be contacted by MH, action completed.

Action: GN to confirm with Nick that it is not kayaking equipment. GN to also discuss with Nick who 'owns' the space. HJ to sell the cross trainer if it is a rowing piece of equipment.

Update: The Concept multi-gym is rowing equipment. Peter Hathaway to try and sell. The erg space is deemed to be joint with the kayakers.

Update: Sale achieved for £40

Action: JB to look into options of hatch covers.

Update: Carry forward to the next meeting

Action: JB has more tennis balls to split and elasticate.

Update: JB to ask club members to help complete the task.

Update: Done.

Action: ROL to look at other kit providers and feedback at the next committee meeting.

Update: ROL has looked at a number of different providers but will contact other clubs to understand why they chose the provider they did. The club is also considering whether to change the logo of the club so ROL will wait for further update on this.

Update: ROL to report to next meeting.

Action: PM to request quotations for a fan to be installed.

Update: Carry forward to the next meeting. The fire escape door is now fixed so it can be opened.

Update: cost of new fan unjustifiable in old building, CJ to seek second hand plug in one.

Action: CJ and JH to speak separately about capsized drills and whether the adults could add on to the session arrangements.

Update: CJ reported 22 year 7s completed course, but no adults.

Action: PM to send a report to CJ of which juniors owe money.

Update: Report received by CJ and chasing emails sent out. Autumn term payments complete, PM to confirm if any further payments are outstanding.

Action: JB to print the list of members who owe the club money at the end of each month and display in the club.

Update: Action unnecessary.

Action: Need to submit numbers for annual report such as how many Juniors are first aid trained, how many have coaching qualifications or leadership qualifications. CJ to find this out.

Update: Done

Action: following an incident with an 8,JH to draft an email for GN to send to Oxford University Rowing to ask the coxes to instruct the stroke to notify of any other crews.

Update: Done and acknowledged by OURC

Action: whether the club should buy lights for boats. CJ to send a quote to JB.

Update: one pair of lights purchased cost £50. CJ commented their bungees needed to be longer. Agreed JB buy 2 more pairs.

Action: Oxford Times and Oxford Mail have been notified of most of the wins. MH to remind crews to supply full names to DH and DH to look into options for the naming ceremony of the boats.

Update: Done

Action: Trailering - whether there should be a form / checklist outlining the insurance obligations. CJ thinks that there is a checklist on the British Rowing website. JH to look into this.

Update: Refer to BR safety audit for trailering; the driver is responsible for anything that falls from the trailer, the club for any boat damage. CJ to produce digital document accessible through the club website and to be sent by CJ, MH, JB, to trailer drivers at time of trailer booking.

Action: Erg Room Batteries purchase rechargeable batteries for the ergs. ROL to buy the batteries and send the invoice to JB.

Update: ROL made limited progress, MH & JB to assess best way forward.

Action: Cleaning Rota - MH asked for a sign to be displayed showing whether it was Rowers or Kayakers month to clean. GN to take this to Nick to arrange.

Update: Done

Action: Welfare Officer - CJ has two new coaches and has contacted the Welfare Officer. The details of this person are not as well displayed as would be liked. There will be a second welfare officer joining shortly. GN to speak to the current Welfare Officer about the outstanding queries.

Update: DBS clearance of these 2 coaches not yet done by Welfare Officer, implication being they cannot coach independently of CJ. GN Urgently to chase.

SPECIAL REPORT ON CLUB HOUSE FUND RAISING

James Shepherd, a Falcon kayaker and member of the club house Fund Raising Group (FRG), gave a short presentation to update the Committee on the FRG's

activity. Club House 150 was to be launched in March, being the 150th anniversary of the clubs foundation. The aim was to raise £1.5m. The FRG's role was to apply for grants and the group had particular experience of this, but they would need help from members as there would be many applications to write. They were working on ideas for events including a quiz night, hog roast and Hassler, more suggestions were sought. Other fund raising included "Easy fund raising" for on line purchases (refer to PM's circulate email) which already had 28 members. This is a total club efforts and one or 2 more rowers with special skills/expertise were needed; noted that rowers Georgia Dowdeswell and Vanessa Moir were already involved. Also identify Junior parents with relevant expertise, the kayakers are using mentoring for juniors making their own applications which is useful experience to list on C.Vs.

JH commented that £1.5m seemed overwhelming and it needed to be presented in small chunks to motivate fund raising activity among members. JS Said club already has £ 0.5m and aiming grants to make big steps. All sizes of contributions would be celebrated. JB pointed out that rowers monthly contributions to the boat house fund had brought in £2300 in Gift Aid last year alone.

GN thanked JS for coming and his presentation to the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING REPORTS

Report from Captain (GN) -

All matters would be covered under other items on the Agenda.

Report from Vice-Captain (MH) -

Reported that HJ had sent an update on the Women's development 8. Laura had motivated the participants and Saturday and Thursday sessions were going well. They had a list of target regattas; Abingdon, Henley T&V (which HJ offered to manage trailering), Oxford royal and were interested in hearing of other ones being targeted by the adults.

JH raised the need for the men (racers and weekenders) to have a representative on the committee. All agreed this was desirable. **MH to liase with the men to find a volunteer who would be willing and representative.**

Report from Junior Head Coach (CJ):

Cheney Falcon-

There were 17 new year 7s, and 15 Year 8s and Year 9s making a total of 32 members. The cox-coaching was being done mostly by the Year 9s. The wooden

octuplet had been sold and replaced by a plastic one. Three parents were writing a letter to Nick Barnett for use in boat house fund raising.

JH asked what was the water safety audit status of Cheney? **CJ to forward safety papers to JH, all of which had been passed by BR.**

Falcon Juniors-

The juniors had notable success at the most recent two regattas they had entered, Burway and Northampton (full results on attached sheet)

JB tabled a summary of the junior accounts form September 2018 (copy attached). JB raised concerns about the unsustainable costs of the current high coach: junior ratio. This resulted directly from the special needs of the 2 adaptive rowers (Lorna had originally taken on 5). JB suggested 3 solutions one of which was to move the adaptive coaching costs from the junior to the adult side of the club. This would have the advantages of not disrupting the routine and training of these specific individuals, the club would be seen to honour its obligations having taken them on as beginners and it would be helpful when making in grant applications. This was agreed as the best way forward for now and the committee must formulate a policy for future recruitment. **JB to arrange this change in accounting.**

As a lot of juniors had left during the transition between Lorna and CJ's leadership due to their differing styles, it was essential to up the numbers recruited from the summer courses this year. CJ asked if £80 could be spent on printing 500 leaflets for the summer courses and the committee agreed. **CJ to send an article to the Oxford Mail publicising the courses and ask for it to be included without a fee.**

Racing Team's Report -

Report given under Vice-Captain's.

Report from Membership Secretaries (PM) -

None. **MH to ask PM to submit report to next meeting.**

Report from Safety Officer (JH) -

JH had struggled to complete the club safety audit and submit it to BR on time in November. Correspondence ensued and now it is in Club Hub as in hand and BR apparently is ok that JH expects to complete it soon. RE urged all the committee members to take an active interest in Club Hub as it was likely to very soon start to play a major role in the way we interact with BR. JH requested an up to date copy of the club fleet and private boats. **MH to supply these.**

Report from Publicity (DH)-

There had been no luck in getting the boat naming ceremony into the papers but the photos would be used on the Falcon web site. The winning Vet's head 4x- win had got into the paper.

The Falcon website needed a major cull and renewal of material. **DH to have separate sessions with CJ and MH.**
RE to send DH the “key” for club tweeting.

Boatman’s Report (JB) and Setting of Fleet Spending Priorities-

JB tabled a list summarising the fleet of Falcon Boats (copy attached). He wanted to look at the longer term needs of the rowers and form a plan of purchasing priorities. JB had annotated this list with his suggestions for the committee to consider. His suggestions were based on his knowledge of the state of repair and usage of the different boats, but had also been informed by input from other coaches and the quantitative analysis of “Falcon Rowing Activity for 2018” compiled by MH and tabled at the meeting(copy attached) .

Quads- This category is a heavily used by all sections of the members. They are in high demand by experienced scullers, especially for women’s racing with now 3 experienced regular crews and several who will develop over the coming year. The men have at least 2 independent race crews. There are several experienced non race crews with regular weekly outings. There is a pressing need to replace one the old and worn 4x- with a modern mid weight boat to relieve the pressure on Merlin and make available a good quality boat to all experienced scullers. JB proposed replace 414 Falcon (70-80 kg) with new boat for 60- 75 kg approx. cost £13200

Doubles - These were nearly all in high demand. JH enquired whether the restrictions on Bathawks’ use were being observed. MH said that the requirement for Captain’s permission was honoured but the restricted use for racing and it’s immediate preparation had not been. This was partly due to the pressure of use on the Wintech 2xs but also there appeared to be no will amongst the rowers concerned to implement this policy where practicable, she had suggested lifting this part of the restriction to be fair to all. JB suggestion was to replace one of the older Aylings (70-85 kg) with a new 2x, and retain the other one as a valuable training boat.

Singles- The needs of members were now reasonably well covered by the fleet with the recent addition of Lil’s light weight racing Elf owl (60 kg). This purchase had been partly funded by selling Blackie and the old wooden Rother valley.

Eights- These are essential to Learn to Row and Weekenders’ sessions, also that the club could offer a men’s and a women’s racing eight. Of the three, 803 Sea Eagle (80kg) was in constant use. It requires new speakers. A viable back up option was needed should 803 be put out of action. JB recommended refurbishment of 802 Blowfeld estimated cost £300-400 and eventual replacement. JH said 802 is too heavy for the type of person now joining his Learn to row courses so , if needed it should become a men’s boat.

Tour Boats- The two Red Kites are heavily used by Learn to Row and Juniors and are showing significant signs of wear. The Touring side of Falcon is resurgent and appeals to many from Weekenders, especially women. There would be great benefit to be had from adding a new Swift 4x+ / 4+ for adults only, touring, touring racing and for weekenders sessions as a teaching boat for sculling and sweep oar to bring on novices. The Swift is much lighter than the RK4 so much more manageable for launching by a range of crew types. Cost from £7800 ex VAT and would need someone to spearhead fund raising specifically for this.

Discussion -GN asked the committee to consider the priority order for spending on the fleet over the next few years. JB said there was £13000 (includes loan to Juniors) available to spend this year and estimated £600 should be set aside for repairs. Also the cost of annual licence renewals had to be deducted. Some funds would be raised from sales of unwanted boats. JH asked what the membership wanted the focus to be on. GN read out the Club's stated aims and objectives, which can be summarised as being a community based and inclusive club. JH felt it was about rowers' development and this should be the focus of the spending priorities. Before this was discussed further, presentation on a request for a specific boat purchase was made to the committee

Request for Boat Purchase- GN had received a request from Susie Smith (SS) for the club to purchase a second hand Filippi 2x ex world 2015 crew weight 59-65kg for £7400. GN invited Susie to make her presentation to the committee. SS had been a member of Falcon for a great many years and was racing regularly at an increasingly competitive level in crews with several other Falcon women's masters and achieving good results. SS felt that these crews had now reached a point where the quality of the 2x available (ie the Wintechs) at Falcon compared to the competitors was now the major factor influencing the results of these races. Falcon therefore needed a lighter weight racing 2x which this Filippi would satisfy. It would also be of value to the Falcon Juniors. SS felt that the wins by the club's women's masters were an important element in gaining publicity and this addition to the 2x fleet would help attract and retain new highly experienced members. SS suggested possible ways of funding the purchase through loans or grants if it could not be purchased outright.

JH said that there was still a massive gap between the skills and aspirations of the vast majority of members and SS's crew. Her achievements could inspire and encourage others to improve but very few members would benefit directly from this purchase. MH had contacted all the women racers (excluding novice) inviting them to say if they had any views on the spending priority for boats. There had been 4 written replies and a further 5 verbal answers. They were unanimous in suggesting the need to relieve pressure on the 2x, and several also referred to need for another good 4x- and for a 2x mid weight convertible to 2+ with rudder. None wanted the new boat(s) to be highly restricted in use but rather to be available to all experienced rowers. GN thanked SS and asked her to leave the room so the committee could deliberate and vote on the proposals.

Setting of spending priorities- GN reminded the committee that funds were constrained and decisions on purchasing priorities had to be made on behalf of all rowing members. RE said that the most pressure of use was on the mid weight 2x Sparrow Hawk. It was used by men and women both race and non-race crews and , with, Bathawk use restricted to experienced racers only, it was difficult to find times when the boat was available. MH agreed this was so and that this was also the view of those that replied to her enquiry (see above). MH reminded the committee that just less than half the membership never raced and that their needs must be considered on an equal basis to the racers. It was this section that had not directly seen their needs addressed by the recent purchases and whom would benefit from having access to a new quad.

GN asked the committee to vote on JB's proposed order of priorities. The majority were in favour of reversing the top two making the buying of a 2x the first priority, the quad second. GN then asked for a vote on what 2x this should be, Susie's proposed Filippe or another Wintech equivalent to Sparrow Hawk (60-75 kg) 2x/2+ convertible. There was a majority of 5:1 in favour of the Wintech. **GN to inform SS by email immediately after the meeting that her proposal had been defeated.**

Coaching Report (All)-

JB reported that he and RE were taking Saturday Weekender sessions but that he needed volunteer s for Sundays.

Report from Learn to Row Coach (JH) -

JH said that his next course was starting later than usual so it came just after the Boat Race and participants could watch a recording of the race together. Already had 7 paid up and expected the final numbers to be 20-25. **JH to liaise with CJ to avoid clashes in use of club boats/kit.**

Report from Tourers (JaH) -

JaH said that the Tourers had been getting out regularly on Saturdays. They had had successful meeting in January to plan the special touring activities for the coming year. They agreed to have occasional longer day outings throughout the year. These will be organised on an ad-hoc basis via the touring group emails and can be suggested by anyone in the group.

Following the successful October outing in Goring they agreed we should take advantage again of the Charles Stanley boats, but we have no specific dates planned.

Planning a longer tour to Eynsham on March 23rd and to Benson on June 1st to celebrate Tim's return to rowing. This will require trailering back, and will be open to everyone at Falcon. **JaH to will liaise with JB on this.**

Ruth Ward outlined British Rowing National Touring plans for 2019, and has subsequently emailed the Tourers.; the National Touring dinner will take place at Leander on Saturday 2nd March, several Falcons are planning to attend. Also a number of members are planning to attend National Touring events.

A Falcon 4x+ crew are planning to compete in the Head of The Dart on April 13, and have planned training outings each week on Sundays.

Following this seasons successful Goring Gap Boat Club's 'Santa Row' Falcon tourers would add this to their plans (December 23rd 2019)
GN thanked Jan for taking on the representation of the Tourers and congratulated him on the reinvigorated sate of the group. The committee were interested to learn about the visit to the new Goring club house and wished to continue to develop good relations with them. **JaH to bring forward proposal for invitation to reciprocate their hospitality.**
JH needs to know planned usage of RK 4 because of this Lear to Row. **JH and JaH to liaise.**

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Erg Demonstrations - Falcon had been invited by Oxford County Council to take part in a Half term a Road Show to increase engagement for our public consultation on The Oxfordshire Plan which prioritises health and wellbeing. Over half term, Falcon is being asked to supply an Erg and someone to man it. Agreed JB and MH would do 19th Feb (Wantage &Farringdon), Naomi and Christy would do 22nd Feb (Bicester & Summertown). **CJ to liaise with Naomi.**

Pig Roast – The pop up Cafe was proposing a club Hog Roast on 13 July, was this date OK for the rowers? Confirmed this was fine.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING WAS CLOSED

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

25 th March 2019 @ 7pm

THE TREE HOTEL, IFFLEY

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MATTERS ARISING

REPORTS

Report from Captain (GN) -