

## ROWING CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING

4<sup>th</sup> October 2021

1930 (Boat House)

### MINUTES

**1) PRESENT:** Mary Heather Bethray, Jeff Bethray, Georgia Dowdesdell, John Hill, Dai Howells, Howard Jacobs, Christy Job, Charlotte King, Malcolm Mackay, Ruth O'Loughlin, Iolanda Vendrell

**CHAIR:** Mary Heather Bethray

**2) APOLOGIES:** Grahame Nash, Rich Ellis, Jan Holloway

**3) NON-COMMITTEE PRESENT:** Jon Crooks, Hannah Hughes

#### **4) MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Minutes of the last meeting approved.

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

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.

No objections.

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.

This has been completed. JH queried the service as one of ergs was not fully repaired. JB asked for a repair notice to be added to the erg that is broken.

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

JB to look at whether private racked boat would be willing to move which would allow for the Swift.

Purchase of the new single – 50% for the juniors is completed and christened Pel's Owl. The boat is now on the fleet list and is Captain and Head Coach permission.

There is a shortage of sculling blades... JB will buy 4 sets.

4 set of new blades are ordered but not yet delivered.

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.

Mini Cox Box on ordered and 2 mini for repair – sent off and repaired and one needs a new headset. The missing cox box has arrived. Club now has 3.

GN to make contact with RE.

GN has contacted with RE, he continues as welfare officer.

The wider action plan is ready to go, awaiting for committee approval. Edits has been suggested and they have been made. MHB explained to the group the purpose of the document. JH added that this is a requirement from British Rowing. MM raised the strategic document, to be followed up.

HJ thanked JB for fixing the ergs and cox boxes.

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

GN was absent but sent apologies in advance. GN wanted to thank HJ for getting the W8s back on the water. HJ added thanks to MHB and MM for supporting the endeavor.

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

Nothing in particular to cover that isn't covered in other reports. The Isis discussions, led by Caitlin, offer a good opportunity for all clubs to be talking. JH recently attended the meeting.

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

Cheney has restarted with year 8s and year 9s. A small number of year 7 students might need to come down to Falcon to break even. The pandemic has decimated the group so CJ is starting from scratch. The summer courses generated £8,609.92 in profit and 20 new members. CJ also thanked MM for sending out over 120 invoices. In terms of racing, there were 11 wins at Isis sculls and quality 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places.

11 of the older Juniors have recently completed the British rowing coaching course. CJ is now paying these Juniors for their role in supporting the coaching.

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

The figures reported were up to the 31<sup>st</sup> August.

The Juniors currently have £10,200 with Coaching fees still to be deducted.

The Adults have £2,348.98 left from last year.

For the forthcoming year, £14,000 will be allocated from the pot (general fund) that the kayakers and rowers divide up. This is the same approach as the last few years. JB then shared that from the general fund the money needed to run the building, insurance etc is taken and then a small amount divided out to the kayakers and rowers. In time there is an aspiration that this will become more scientific to reflect the different membership fees and membership numbers.

Still to be paid out are River Licenses. There are also degrees of repairs and conditioning. Sea Eagle is due to be refurbished as it was last serviced 7 years ago.

CJ asked if Sanity and Poacher could be sold. CJ said Sanity can't be used as every time it is used it is problematic. CJ asked if it could be replaced if it can't be sold. A discussion was had on whether we would look to replace with a second hand boat, but CJ added that we have enough Tamara / Sabrina level of boat. CJ would like to replace Sanity with a boat that can be raced (looking at size of Fish Owl 95kg as Juniors can't use Fish Owl (Adults only)). It was felt that currently the club has two heavy weight boats and that is enough. CJ is willing to contribute half the cost of Fish Owl in exchange for use of the boat. The committee agreed.

Discussion was then had on what boat the club needs, **CJ, JB and MHB will take this discussion offline about future boat that will be shared 50/50.**

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

There are 148 adult members including learn to row. There have been 30 new joiners between August 2020 and August 2021 excluding learn to row. 14 joined from the most recent learn to row course.

There have been 13 that have not renewed.

GD asked if we know when the drop off point is from learn to row so that the club can focus interactions with members at these critical moments. JH believes that as touring is increasingly offered, more from the learn to row are likely to continue with the club. A discussion was then had on the different statistics the club would like on membership i.e. entire length of service. MM isn't sure how to pull the data from SAGE. **JB and MHB will support MM.**

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

JaH absent from the meeting however his report was circulated in advance and read by JH:

“8 Falcon rowers attended the National Tour (early September, from Henley to Weybridge) which we believe is the highest attendance ever. John H has circulated an excellent report on the tour. Of special note a few Falcons stepped up as new boat captains, which is encouraging for future longer outings.

We are monitoring TVERL plans and may involve Falcon tourers in TVERL activities on an ad-hoc basis (such as the Desborough Challenge) There are currently no plans to host or organise an event ourselves.

I acknowledge that touring numbers (for regular tourers) have been low over the summer, and this may be because I have not been available due to other rowing commitments during high summer. In order to avoid a lull in touring activity during the summer going forward, I will (A) Identify a handful of Touring Captains (B) Make sure that one of these people agrees and is nominated to cover each Saturday – within reason (C) Define the role of a Touring Captain

We had 5 out recently for an extended trip to St Edwards, although we did have a few more late enquiries.

We are planning to row to Abingdon RC soon, and for Abingdon RC row our boat back – we would like to know whether our insurance allows this.

We are looking at dates for a club-wide trip to St Edwards. The school has suggested October 23<sup>rd</sup> to arrive at 12.30 (other times are busy) – could Jeff confirm this date is OK?”

JH has a number of learn to row who are interested in touring. A discussion was then had on the best way to make Touring more accessible and to limit unnecessary confusion with W&E, such as whether everyone should be added to both squadlist or just have one squadlist.

**JH is to make contact with JaH to look at how best to incorporate the captains into the W&E.**

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

There have been a couple of instances recently that raise the topic of whether we should have backstays on singles and doubles. This is a topic to be returned to.

Over the next 2 / 3 weeks the learn to row course will finish.

JH is also restarting live circuits. JH asked if this could be shared with members, with part of the cost of circuits being given to the Boat House. The committee were happy with that.

JH is looking to renew his DBS.

A small discussion was then had on the Men's squad, as there are 4/5 men who are looking to progress.

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

There are a number of repairs ongoing. Buzzard needs to repair to the fin and JB needs to order minor spares but nothing major.

CJ asked that if Batleur (which is being stored outside) can be moved to under the tin roof. JB discussed the boats that are currently stored outside. JB agreed that Batleur can be moved.

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

**DH to pick up with MM to add the what3words to the website.**

The committee email addresses need to be changed to Falcon Boat Club. This change needs to coincide with the website being updated. **DH to pick up with David.**

A discussion was then had on the drawbacks of the current website (which is perhaps not the most user friendly). However, CJ raised that the benefits of the current website is that she is able to update it with the information needed for summer courses and fees. CK asked whether the website could include the boat house. **DH to pick up with GN and Nick.**

The general signage around the club house is limited. GN has proposed Falcon Boat House on the front once the building is completed. JH thinks we may also have more signage on the side at some point in the future.

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

Dave has helped the crew. There is also more volunteer coach input. At this point the men's crew are using a quad. There may be more coxes looking to join the club too. There was a brief discussion about the volunteer coxes need to manage their own time so they aren't over used.

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

At Isis sculls there were 2 doubles and 3 singles entered. 1 double won and 1 single came a very close 2<sup>nd</sup>. IV has put a calendar out to see which events the club can target. In order for this to work, will be looking for rotation on the organizing the trailer to share the administration. This also allows the new crews to be supported on best practice.

JH raised Isis Winter League, ORBC are going to discuss what level of crews they are looking for. The event is usually around the end of October / November.

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

RE absent from the meeting. CJ has a lot of new coaches and has submitted their name to RE and Jo to be DBS checked.

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

CK and GD have chatted about Christmas. They will **double check with Nick**, the builder and JB as to whether or not the upstairs will realistically be ready. JB thinks unlikely. The second option would be a whole club event (including the kayakers) or if just rowers - what the numbers might look like (that will dictate the space required). One option would be Frilford Heath Golf Club – 3 course £32 and can take up to 120 people. The distance may put people off. Looking at Friday evening 3<sup>rd</sup> December. MHB asked if the two would get feedback from Nick on kayakers.

For future, once the space is open upstairs we could look to have an event bringing together the kayakers and rowers. The committee is supportive of having a combined Christmas but are prepared for a rowing only Christmas this year and then have an event in the new year.

### **7) Pronouns on membership (MM)**

The current membership forms asks male or female. To be inclusive, asking gender should be reconsidered. Discussion was then had on whether we should have male / female / prefer not to say, how this would interact with British Racing requirements, and what this information would be used for. Hannah added that asking pronouns would avoid any awkwardness, and the form should also mention that when it comes to racing to speak to a coach. **Hannah to support MM with the wording and Hannah to explore Sport England / British Rowing. DH to also look to add to the website to show our inclusivity.**

### **8) Membership limit (JH)**

Over the weekend, particularly Sunday, the landing stage is very congested. JH asked if we need to schedule more slots. JH thinks that the start of the WE should be pulled forward so that they are on the water as soon as the last boat go past from heads. Committee agreed. MH also added that Heads is not currently running to time, with a thought that perhaps the slowest boats should be going first in each division.

Also needs to be **more liaison with kayakers about the use of the pontoons.**

From membership enquiries – no evidence that people are trying to join because of the new boat house. The enquiries are steady. JH wants to know when to run another learn to row. Committee agreed should be run in spring.

MHB thinks we should look at the outside racking again in the new year when the building has completed with a view to creating more spaces for private singles. Lack of available racking is becoming a significant factor in limiting recruitment of experienced rowers who have moved to the area as quite a few already own boats

CJ is running a beginning course in the October half term.

### **9) Captain's Permission**

Discussion was had on ways to protect the fleet, particularly Captain's permission boats. CJ has overall view of all the members in the juniors. However, GN doesn't have that for the adults. If people are not interested in their performance then they shouldn't be interested in the Captain's permission boats. **Committee to give this some additional thought**. The new booking system allows to identify misuse too – Captain's permission for one boat doesn't grant access to all Captain's permission boats.

#### **10) AOB**

HJ now has Women's rowing development squad up and running. JH will be running equivalent sculling sessions on Sundays. A "**Women's Dev Squad**" item is to be added as an agenda point going forward.

Kit – **ROL to refresh the JL order**, including looking at whether there is a requirement for minimum numbers.

JH to run some sculling sessions on Sundays. £2,700 given from JH to the club for the learn to the row course.

Cheney –JB added that it is the time of year to bill Cheney. Last year, the bill was reduced to £1000 rather than the normal £2000 as a result of COVID. The student numbers are still down. CJ needs 22 children to break even and currently has 5. CJ suggests **JB to bill the school as normal**.

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

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 19:30

Location: Boat House