

ROWING CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING

5th August 2019

7pm at The Tree Hotel, Iffley

MINUTES

Present: Grahame Nash, Jeff Bethray, Mary Heather Bethray, Howard Jacobs, Jan Holloway, John Hill, Christy Job, Vanessa Moir, Malcolm Mackay, Ruth O'Loughlin & Iolanda Vendrell

Non committee members present: Trish Nash, Laura Swan

Apologies: Paul Munsey, Rich Ellis, Dai Howells

Chair: Grahame Nash

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Action: HJ to speak with Liza and Jenny Griffiths re coaching W8 and report to next meeting.

Update: All had been contacted as well as Georgia Dowdeswell and Malcolm Mackay. Falcon would pay 50% of the course fees on condition that the individual gave 1 years coaching effort back to the club after qualifying.

Update: MH to report to next meeting who has signed up.

Action: GN to look at the toilet seats; these were found to be not worth repairing.

Update: ongoing. (taken under AOB)

Action: trailing loading JB will oversee training at each regatta as necessary.

Update: Ongoing

Action: ROL to look at other kit providers; colours will remain the same. Samples were reviewed at Abingdon. The favourite was to use JL (through CrewRoom) but the official club crest is not of a high enough quality for them to use.

Update: ROL awaiting provision of the official club crest in digital format. GN to take to the GMC.

Action: Fan now in erg room needs certified electrician to check it before installation, GN to speak with Nick B.

Update: Ongoing

GN reported seeing the ergs on the lawn and was concerned this leads to excessive wear and tear. CJ said there was not enough space in erg room for relay racing but if it was raining the e boat bay was used. JH suggested use of yoga mats under the ergs if taken outside, this was agreed. Noted the door must be secured afterwards.

Action: CJ noted it was a requirement that the club should have a poster displayed showing the Welfare officer's photo and contact point. GN to remind Jo about both issues.

Update: Done

Action: JB to look at the rudder of Harrier. Wiring now better, lock nut added to point where steering wires cross but foot plate comes loose at toe during every outing as it's very difficult to tighten.

Update: JB to look at it and note it is racked on 2 chocks at stern end.

Action: The Committee was asked whether we still wanted a Christmas Meal?, ideally we don't want a separate meal to the kayakers. VM to pick this up and design a plan.

Update: VM had not yet been able to establish clearly what type of event was wanted by the members and it seemed the kayakers were reluctant to take the lead in organizing it although it was their turn to. VM had looked into several venue possibilities; the Isis Farm house was the right size but had not been a popular idea. PM suggested the Tap Social on Botely rd, CJ suggested hiring a hall and members bringing food to share, street food was another idea. Actions to make suggestions of venues to VM and GN to raise at next GMC.

Update: The decision had been taken to go with a sit down meal at Branca. GN reported 50 potential reservations to date. The Kayakers would discuss it at their imminent meeting.

MATTERS ARISING REPORTS

Captain's Report (GN)

The rowing and racing reports are to be covered during the meeting except to mention the great effort by Georgia and Sophie raising over £1000 towards the new boathouse rowing the length of the non tidal Thames.

GN also mentioned the great effort put in by Keith and Jo with the pig roast which also raised over £1000 towards the project.

Next week we have a new touring boat arriving showing our continued support for touring rowing.

There will be a 150 year article to be published in the Oxford Times/Mail.

GN repeated his thanks for all the continued support and effort all give to Falcon, as without this the club would not exist.

Vice Captain's Report (MH)

MH discussed the entries for the forthcoming CORC regatta: 14 adult crews for Saturday and 12 for the Sunday. It is predominately a mixture of singles and doubles - as such this event will test the fleet as pretty much every single and double has been entered. There may also be a case for the club to purchase another single of men's weight.

There was a win for the 4x at Henley Masters.

Susie has introduced another name for the coach. The club now has the greatest number of adults having private coaching in a mixture of crews. There is ongoing interest and Susie has undertaken to source new coaches. It was also raised that the evening and weekenders need more coaching support. There are also three of our own members who we were interested in doing the coaching course.

MH also thanked HJ and CJ for trailering to Henley T&Vs. A discussion was had on the merits of crews putting down a trailer deposit and the club had had more enquiries for trailer space that would have been available had crews not dropped out. HJ worried that an up front payment may then cause more an obligation on the club to provide a trailer which isn't always possible when plans change last minute.

Head Junior Coach and Cheney report (CJ)

JUNIOR RACE RESULTS

- National Schools Regatta
 - 24th of 62 J15 4x+ Alex Siswick Toby Stephenson Kyran Ramsurrun Yussuf Selim Max Ebner
- Monmouth Regatta (written up in the Oxford Mail)
 - 1st of 5 J14 2x Louis Garden Sam Tyler
 - 1st of 3 J18 1x Seb Siswick
 - 2nd of 7 WJ15 2x Megan Tadesse Anisha Tennant

- Marlow Town Regatta
 - 1st of 8 J15 1x Div C Max Ebner
 - 1st of 9 J14 4x+ Div B Alex Siswick Joe Sell Valentino Dawson Louis Garden Sam Tyler
 - 1st of 6 J15 4x+ Div B Alex Siswick Toby Stephenson Oliver Fletcher Yussuf Selim Max Ebner
 - 2nd of 8 Open 1x Seb Siswick
 - 3rd of 9 J14 2x Div A Louis Garden Sam Tyler
- British Rowing Junior Championships
 - 9th of 63 J18 1x Seb Siswick
 - 9th of 23 J14 4x+ Sam Tyler Louis Garden Peter Crossley Joe Sell Will Fletcher
 - 18th of 21 J15 4x+ Kyran Ramsurrun Louis Garden Ollie Fletcher Yussuf Selim Will Fletcher
 - 31st of 43 J15 2x Kyran Ramsurrun Yussuf Selim
- Omnium J14 1x
 - 21st of 63 Joe Sell
 - 35th of 63 Peter Crossley
 - 38th of 63 Sam Tyler
 - 48th of 63 Louis Garden

70 juniors signed up for the summer course including 6 Cheney Juniors. PM is being quick to invoice so that those who have dropped out have paid - CJ expressed her thanks for PM assistance in this.

JH asked how many Cheney are on the water. None in the summer but in term time, 30 on paper but about 20 turn up.

JB raised that there are CORC entries but that these haven't been finalized - the deadline is the 8th, CJ will confirm on the 7th. CJ and JB then discussed a refund that is outstanding from a previous race.

Membership Secretary's Report (PM)

We have 138 rowing members. 96 adults, 39 juniors, 3 juniors whose parents are members.

PM had asked the committee to clarify the membership categories. The decision for the categories was:

Adult Membership £250 - **stays**

Unemployed or Student £170 - **removing the unemployed (keeping the student) and adding the discretionary statement.**

Junior (Under 18) Membership £125 - **changing to £225 and £200 1st September and 1st February**

Junior Under 18 Membership (parent a member) - **for 'uncoached' Juniors it is £125**

Junior Coaching £100 per term - **removed (incorporated into the fees)**

Active Qualified Coach or Cox £40 - **stays**

There was a discussion about the Junior fees and whether this should be increased to include the coaching fees giving 2 installments. This was agreed. A discussion was had on the membership of any Junior that is not being coached e.g being coached by a parent rather than through the arranged coaching. It was agreed that the fee should be £125 - removing the reduction for having a parent that is a member.

PM has had an application for membership asking for unemployed / retired membership.

Committee agreed that retired is not unemployed and doesn't warrant a discount. A discussion was also had on the wording that Academicals use along the lines of "if you are facing financial hardship we can work with you...". It was agreed that whilst such wording wouldn't be published online, the committee held the discretion to offer discounted membership to those who are facing particular financial challenges. There was a discussion on the definition of student e.g. only unfunded undergraduates etc but it was felt that this would place an unnecessary administrative burden on PM.

JB said it was too difficult to raise monthly and daily memberships. It was agreed that JH could continue to charge £10 for equipment hire. JH had previously thought that the £10 was for insurance and that this isn't the case. If the person is attending club events then they need to go through the club accounts. It was agreed that we wouldn't advertised monthly membership.

JHo said that one of the benefits of touring is that people can drop by and tour only for a day and that this is reciprocal. It is the essence of touring that you have a daily membership. There was a discussion about how we should balance the administration / inclusive nature of the club / fairness to core members. GN suggested that we keep the monthly membership but that we hold it is discretionary if the core coaches can accommodate them. All were in agreements.

The website won't mention discretionary membership but it will be available.

Finally, PM has been asked about the membership to cover both rowing and kayaking. It would be useful to know what the fees should be.

Kayak Membership Fees are:

Adult Membership: £130

Unemployed or Student: £95

Children added to Membership: 1st@£40, 2nd@£30, 3rd@£20, 4th+@ £10 each.

Family Membership £250 - Two adults and any number of children

Junior (Under 18) Membership: £80

Active Coach Qualified: £45

Open canoe (May to October only) £50

Para Canoe (May to October) only with compulsory buddy (Buddy goes free) £50

PM suggests that Kayakers pay the difference between the two and that rowers have kayak membership included. It was agreed that Kayakers might require a fee to be paid e.g for the administration of adding a member. JH suggested that there is a transition fee and that the kayakers pay the top up to rowing membership costs.

GN will talk to Nick to seek agreement

Membership software

The kayakers have set up their own web-based software. It gives us the opportunity to revamp ours. **PM is going to redo the rowing form** and proposed that we cut out information that we don't need such as Date of birth, next of kin, sex, etc.

CJ suggested that Date of Birth would be needed for identifying junior and adults. Next of kin for emergencies. Change sex to gender but include a prefer not to say. This is necessary so that we can report on the diversity of the club.

Treasury Report (JB)

There is £14,111.60 in the account but this isn't quite reflective of the situation. £10,000 is for the new boat and the club needs to purchase 4 sets of blade. There is also a couple of grand of boat insurances to be paid but there is enough to last until the end of the year. JH is also making a contribution to the club [from the learn to row course](#).

On the Junior side there is £5,714. There is the income for the summer course but the coaches haven't yet been paid. CJ believes this will generate £1500. There is also £40 a month to be spent on adaptive rowing.

There are some minor repairs to be made but otherwise it is ok.

Safety Officer's Report (JH)

GN had asked JH to report incidents to the committee. Two incidents that occurred (July and June) Falcon are mentioned but not our dispatch. As such JH has had to escalate to the regional safety officer to get access.

JH has spoken to the general safety officer Alex about what is required from the rowing side that is different to kayaking. **JH will prepare this before the end of the month before the GMC.**

Publicity Officer's Report (DH)

Apologies from DH

Boatman's Report (JB)

There are new singles racks in the compound nearest the car park. There have been donations of carpet that are going under the singles to prevent weed growth.

JB has created his own cupboard with a lock. There will be some tools that will be made available to the club - care should be taken to return the tools after use. There will also be some useful things such as shoe screws.

Tressels have moved in the club and there new yellow labels to put over a broken boat - please can all member use and get into the habit of reporting any damage to a boat either to jeffb@oxfordbusiness.co.uk or frcc.boatman@gmail.com.

JH raised the limited success with chargers. JB said that all the chargers work, three mini chargers and one fat round charge but care needs to be taken to make sure they haven't been pulled out.

It is also noted that there is currently only one rate meter for adults - a reminder to all members that they need to be returned to the adults box (by the cox boxes). The Junior rate meters are pink and the adults are yellow.

Coaching Report (All)

MM discussed the problem they have experienced with the men's racing group as the numbers are tending to fluctuate and people are leaving. The reasons for leaving vary between work/transient nature of Oxford and leaving for another club (one has left for CORC and 3 have gone to Academicals). The men also have limited bow steering capabilities which has been restrictive. People have volunteered coaching but it isn't clear that at this time it would be the best use of the volunteers' time. MM is proposing that the focus is on doubles and into entering races and using Nick as paid coaching support. JH asked if there is anything that the committee can do to help. CJ raised possible Junior parents that want to race so that could help. MH said there would be merit in getting the support of the volunteers because observations are always good. CJ will introduce the parents to MM. HJ raised whether the club could help them with additional water outings during club sessions. HJ offered to help with support too.

Learn to Row Report (JH)

The course costs £150, £10 is paid as gift aid to the club. From that Falcon gets membership for 3 months. JH is in discussion with Radley about 'Boat Camp' which would use the erg room, gym and tank. JH has 25 people who are coming through the course, JH is on leave next week and this course will finish in September. The next course will start at the end of September and already has interest.

Touring Report (JHo)

There has been an outing most weekends, either to Sandford or Port Meadow. This is still on an informal basis.

GN went to Lithuania and there is also a lakes tour in a few weeks.

JHo went to Switzerland and rowed there. Most of the time the crew composition centred around existing clubs and was a very successful trip.

There is a new touring boat being order. JHo is keen that an impact is made with this. JB suggested that JHo looks out for a small trailer. They are selling for around £300 but JHo isn't sure they are better than the trailer we already have (if it fits). JHo asked for support to get the Red Kite to the trailer as a test. VM asked if there were any longer trips planned. There is a social planned for September that will also help with navigations. Discussion around how this is also good for the club promotions, JB will pencil in some dates.

Social Report (VM)

The last day of Eights raised £500 which was also gift aided. There is a plan to repeat next year too.

VM is also planning a pub evening towards the end of August / Early September.

Keith and Jo were also talking about bonfire night. More information to follow.

AOB

MH asked whether the club brochure for 150 year is it going to reach completion? It gave the purpose of Falcon over 2 sides of A4. This was also completed to be both rowing and kayaking. **GN to take to the GMC.** CJ has found that the printed documents she has for the junior course have been very successful.

Following on from this, it was asked that **PM adds to the membership form a statement that photos may be taken and can be used for promotional material.**

JB raised that they will be a big boat clean in September to go through all of the boats and check for damages etc. **This will be organized.**

JB gave an update on the boathouse project. We now have planning permission. Still have the lease to agree which will include the wood and negotiations are ongoing with regards to the car park. There will now be stages of test drilling to see if there needs to be piling and a census on what type of build e.g. steel or block and then it will go out to tender as soon as possible. Cautionary note - the site will go right in the middle of the meadow so there will be restricted space for a year or so. The club are looking at an additional landing stages for kayakers, giving the rowers the solid concrete stage. The trailer should still be ok. The bike racks might still stay but not guaranteed. Also, whilst Sport England refused the application (Nick is dealing with these and is applying for more grants), the club has been fortunate in club donations such as Georgia and Sophie's row and the pig roast.

A discussion was the held on the name of the club as this is a topic that may come up at the GMC. The rowing committee supported the idea of 'The Falcon Boat Club' which was the original name of the club.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING WAS CLOSED

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

21st October 2019 @ 7pm

THE TREE HOTEL, IFFLEY