

ROWING CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING  
6<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
7pm at The Sea Cadets

MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Grahame Nash, Jeff Bethray, Mary Heather Bethray, Rich Ellis, Jan Holloway, John Hill, Christy Job, Vanessa Moir, Malcolm Mackay, Esther Whiting

**Apologies:** Dai Howells, Iolanda Vendrell, Howard Jacobs, Rich Ellis

**Non committee members present:** Trish Nash

**Chair:** Grahame Nash

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.**

HJ spoke with Jenny & Liza about coaching a W8, HJ has stepped back and so the W8 doesn't exist at the moment. Previous members of the W8 are currently trailing other clubs that do have regular W8 sessions.

ROL is waiting on the stitching logo (Trish Nash has been liaising with the company that are producing it). Once this has been received, progress can be made on alternative Unisuits.

CJ has completed actions re: membership and race fees outstanding

DH had sent his report in his absence – raised here as linked to previous actions – the new race calendar and google document will be updated by the end of the week. Everyone to contact DH with items to be put on the calendar e.g. community events / races that we know we are going to. JH suggested that we populate with 12 or so races that traditionally the club attend as long as people know it isn't a guarantee. JHo to contact DH with more information about Tourers. The flag status on the website is now updated, replicating the OURC flag.

**Matters Arising (GN)**

**Reports**

**Captain's Report (GN)**

2019 saw a good year for Falcon with Junior and Senior racing and the improvement in the fleet. The intention is to build on this for 2020 and this meeting is to set the foundations for the current year. The meeting is to discuss river conditions as there have been highly dangerous conditions for the last 3 weeks and all rowing cancelled as there was a risk that GN was not prepared to take.

There was a problem with Drug users outside the club house, Oxford Environmental Health were very good at cleaning this but Police have asked that we report any future suspicious activity via 101.

**Vice Captain's Report (MH)**

In the Autumn, entered 9 regattas but 3 were cancelled. There were wins at ISIS sculls W.MasB 2x; Upper Thames Autumn Head W.MasCD 2x and 4x-; Vets 4's Head had 3 coxless quads with a win for a W.Mas D crew. There was also a win at Wycliffe Op 2x.

MH and IV are working on coordinating the regattas e.g. what is coming up / trailers. It was agreed that the dates of these target regattas would be passed to DH to be added to the Falcon Rowing calendar on the club website to reflect the club's aspiration to attend these races. This would allow members to keep their diaries open on these dates although it was not guaranteed all of these regattas would have club trailering arranged. It was noted that the trailer work needs to more support as it can be onerous.

Adults are contemplating Molesey on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

There are 9 remaining High-Visibility T-Shirts that have been designed by Georgia. The profit goes to the club fund.

The Fleet List and Blade list has been updated, but the blade list will need to be updated again as there was an agreement to buy new blades. A discussion was then held as to how these new blades should be configured and the merits of crockers / concepts. It was agreed that the current 'B' setting will be reconfigured to be inboard to 85 and CJ to set the outboard. **JB will also have a discussion over the possible grips on the new blades.** It was felt that the Concepts are more easily adjustable and so preferable for wider club use (e.g. can easily be adjusted at a regatta) but that there was support for the grips to be similar to the current Crockers.

### **Head Junior Coach and Cheney report (CJ)**

Falcon won 5 medals and 3 second places and 4 3<sup>rd</sup> places at Wycliffe.

CJ thanked VM for her help with the Junior's Christmas Party at Sea Scouts, the event should break even. CJ would like to organize an end of year party on the Meadow in July (12<sup>th</sup> July) but this may not be possible if the building work has commenced. Committee happy for the party and for alternative arrangements to be found. CJ will say if she needs any more help.

The next regatta is Northampton.

### **Membership Secretary's Report (EW)**

There are 155 rowing members, 114 adults, 41 juniors. This is slightly down from 2 years ago. EW has a better grip on the software and invoices are up to date. EW is planning on reconciling the members with the squadlist and the google group. A reminder was given that inactive on the squadlist means that the membership has not been renewed.

A discussion was had about GDPR and the google group as there are individuals on the group that are no longer members and have not given explicit consent that they wish to receive the emails. **MH, JB and EW will meet separately to discuss the tidying up.** If any club members are not receiving emails, please contact EW.

### **Treasury Report (JB)**

JB has a few outstanding payments that he will be chasing over the next week.

Funding: the club has £8495.22 in the account, but still have to pay £2500 of insurance and £1300 roughly for affiliation. From the rest, around £1400 will be spent on new blades (£350 a set). The remaining funds will be used to cover repairs until towards the end of the year.

Seol and Atlanta have been refurbished completely, there was a purchase of a new Fillipe that the club contributed £1400 towards. The next focus for the club will be on purchasing a new 8 or singles.

### **Safety Officer's Report (JH)**

There has been no rowing owing to the conditions and other parts of the country have had some terrible experiences e.g. Marlow have a very responsible approach to safety yet had a horrendous experience (see BR safety report). BR are now working closely with Marlow and are looking to the safety officers to make sure that we have centered our restrictions against how we would recover crews and equipment in the inevitable problems. One of the major issues is the speed of the stream as this takes away the element of time when trying to rectify problems. JH proposes to make high speed stream to be black flag for Falcon – no crews can go out. A discussion was had on where the line should be drawn – some clubs have a test but that didn't appear to be the approach that Falcon wants to take. However, it was acknowledge that there are still members that are unaware of the key points of the river and their common names e.g. Haystacks. **DH to make sure the map of the river is on our website. MH will also look at getting a map laminated in the clubhouse.** It was also discussed whether the kites should be taken out in 'modest' red flags, even just outside the landing stage so that crews can understand the

challenges fast streams pose on turning. JH has asked to use CORC restrictions that can be adapted for Falcon. MH also suggested that mobile phone should be in each boat although it was raised that the usefulness depends on the particular circumstances.

We are required to have an EAP (Emergency Action Plan) but JH needs to know how detailed it needs to be. **JH to explore.**

Conclusion – there could be some tuition on red flags but that the exact nature of that is still to be defined. **JH is to complete a plan of action on how to proceed for further discussion.**  
**If in doubt, don't go out.**

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

Covered in the opening

GN raised that there doesn't seem to be much press coverage in the local mail. CJ commented that large group photographs seem to have a better acceptance rate.

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

Most has been covered elsewhere (new Fillipe / Seol and Atlanta Refurbishments). Batleur now has a bow ball and **JB to look at repairing the Red Kite** as there is possibly water in the ingress. There is now have 1 boat rigged as a permanent pair (with the option to re-rig as a double when required).

#### **Coaching Report (All)**

Nothing to report. There are 5 that want to continue from JH's beginner course and will be coming down to the club post Christmas. JB is away for 2 weekends so alternative coaching is to be arranged.

#### **Men's Racing (MM)**

MM thanked the coaches for their support. The crew are racing at Northampton.

#### **Women's Racing (IV)**

Covered. IV will try and identify regattas and try to fix trailing early.

#### **Learn to Row Report (JH)**

JH has booked the next course for the 4/4. The latest group are being moved into the W&E as they meet the required standard.

#### **Touring Report (JHo)**

Owing to the weather, there has been limited rowing lately. The tourers have the Head of the Dart planned for April (18<sup>th</sup>) but the crew for this race hasn't quite formed yet. There was a brief get together pre-christmas to talk about plans which include a day trip to France. JHo also attended the coaching forum run by Caroline and John Turnball from British Rowing.

There are a crew for Holland visiting in May which coincides with 8s week. **JHo and MH to arrange logistics.**

#### **Social Report (VM)**

74 people attended the Christmas Dinner, the committee noted that the food was good but that the sound levels were slightly problematic and there was no guarantee of the side room should we wish to use the same location next year. A discussion was had about other colleges who have smaller dining rooms but the cost of this was unknown - **VM to start looking at this now.** VM was considering another quiz, possibly at the Sea Scouts or the bowling club. More information on this to follow.

#### **River Safety**

Covered

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **W&E Sessions (JH)**

Request that more experience rowers take part in the W&E sessions. JHo is happy (on behalf of the tourers) to help with the sculling experience. **JB to contact Suzy to see if they would be happy to volunteer** coaching from the bank on occasion. DH also offered to help with navigating locks.

### **Location**

The location of the committee meetings has had to change after The Tree was taken over by another restaurant. **JB to make a donation for the room used in the Sea Cadets.**

### **Committee Mailing List**

There was some confusion of who was on the committee mailing list. **MH to check.**

There was a request that Nick Worthy-Brown (Coach) is added to the membership list as it would benefit him to understand the announcements. **EW to explore.**

### **Minutes**

The storing of the minutes was discussed with additional clarity awaiting on where the minutes should be stored e.g. in a physical or electronic location. **ROL to contact MH about the google group as this could be used to hold the minutes.** It was noted that the committee reserves the right to have discussions that are sensitive and – in those circumstances – not released to the wider club members.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING WAS CLOSED  
DATE OF NEXT MEETING  
9<sup>th</sup> March 2020 @ 7pm**

**Location to be confirmed**