

ROWING CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING
7th September 2020
8pm (Online)

MINUTES

PRESENT: Grahame Nash, Jan Holloway, John Hill, Howard Jacobs, Christy Job, Charlotte King, Malcolm Mackay, Ruth O'Loughlin, Iolanda Vendrell

APOLOGIES: Jeff Bethray, Mary Heather Bethray, Georgia Dowdeswell, Rich Ellis, Dai Howells and Esther Whiting.

CHAIR: Grahame Nash

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Minutes of the last meeting approved.

UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

MATTERS ARISING & REPORTS

a) Captain Reports

Since the last meeting, there has been a few delays as there has been some toing and froing on the car park (with issues arising from the original planning permission to tarmac the carpark). The club build work is now back on track with work beginning on Thursday 11th September with trees being felled. The question of the car park is still outstanding.

GN clarified that 8s are permitted but awaiting demand.

On Wednesday 10th September, there will be a meeting with Sport England to determine whether Falcon will be given a grant towards the build. Trish Nash and Nick Barnett are getting information ready for the website and adding details around Touring.

b) Vice Captain's Report (MH)

MHB is absent with nothing much to be reported.

The boat and erg booking system has continued to work well.

There is a regatta in Weybridge in mid-October. MHB is looking at whether there may be trailer space. Possibly 3 or 4 singles interested in racing. There is a new trailer booking form too.

There is 'unofficial' Heads running, with a large Falcon presence. JH will make contact with CORC to understand intentions of starting more formally.

MHB continues to have queries from possible new members.

Finally, MHB reported that there have been some experiences of poor steering – particularly from Accies, and asked how best to deal with this without wanting to cause friction. JH suggested responding to a CORC Safety Officer who had previously raised a circular, with a more general message asking to reinforce the role of a bank rider who should be taking note of not just their boat but their surroundings. **JH will send a message.**

c) Head Junior Coach and Cheney report (CJ)

Cheney Rowers are not rowing this half term as the focus is on academic work and there are no after school clubs.

Falcon Juniors – 21 courses with 85 participants were run over the summer, generating £8000 profit which was better than anticipated. CJ asked if the committee would approve an additional course in October (as there have been requests for new courses). The course would run provided that the river isn't on red boards and wouldn't interfere with the majority of the adult rowers. All were in favour.

There are currently 55 junior memberships, some more are joining and some are leaving.

A brief discussion was then had about the Junior coaches who have their details circulated to adult members and whether each coach should be discussed ahead of circulation. JH discussed the merits of the coaches communicating amongst themselves. JH will make contact with the new coach.

d) Membership Secretary's Report (EW / MM)

EW is standing down. All the practicalities are with JB and MM. The latest figures 92 Adult Rowers and 60 Junior (depending on the source). MM added that there are 2 SAGE accounts and switching from one to

the other will take time as the members transfer from one to the other only on renewal. The old account has a few outstanding invoices. MM has 55 invoices active for Juniors, 34 renewals and 22 new members.

JB proposed that the membership fees remain the same for the next year. MM agreed.

e) Treasury Report (JB)

JB was absent but had shared with GN an overview.

New financial year and due to the change of the company we are now Falcon Boat Club. At the end of the FY have £159.87, Juniors have £9,608.76. Those sums transfer to the new financial year and will wait and see what the trustees allocate the Rowers.

JB will be invoicing Cheney for Racking.

The new single will be paid for in the new financial year.

Juniors will supplement their income with coaching fees.

f) Safety Officer's Report (JH)

JH is working with David (Kayaking) to compile the safeguarding documentation. The Kayaking version is thorough and there are some areas that need to be amended to suit Rowers. It is in hand - David and Nick are happy with the approach being taken.

The Emergency Action Plan is to be presented to British Rowing, but JH is still working through exactly what is required.

g) Publicity Officer's Report (DH)

DH sent his apologies.

CJ was able to get the Junior training on the Jack-tivities page, which has been attempted every year for the last 3 years.

GN would like to get publicity with the new boat house. **GN to discuss with DH.**

h) Boatman's Report (JB)

JB absent. From the single training, some are now venturing out on their own. JB will start taking 8s out again in October.

JH is providing Red Kite sculling.

i) Coaching Report (All)

Covered elsewhere.

JH is about to send out an invitation to a beginners learn to row course to begin the end of this month / start of October. JH thinks that it will be smaller groups in Kites rather than tank visits and that the course will take longer to complete. If the numbers warrant the incorporation of an 8 then so be it, but otherwise it will be more sculling / stable boats.

If anyone is interested in learn to row, they need to contact JH directly.

JH has had specific enquiries from college rowers. There are some colleges who are able to determine whether to row independently – does the club think there will be club benefits to have college rowers? This would be income generating for the club but would require the club equipment. GN suggested that JH contacts JB. HJ thinks if this is an income generating then doesn't see a problem. JH has a sense of what he wants to do but wants committee approval. GN said to see what interest is there. This would be mid week mid day.

JaH raised fixed seat rowing which is suitable for more elderly rowers. This would fit with the inclusivity of the club and our Sport England commitment. JH is not sure why we are not following this up. It would be an extension of our reach. There have been successes in other locations. GN thinks that this needs to be pursued. HJ raised that perhaps during renovation works would perhaps not be the best time. The idea was positive with ActiveOxfordshire. GN asked that JaH send a proposal to GN (and the committee) and we'll give it consideration.

HJ added that the single training has been going well. Looking at quads and 4s on a Sunday.

j) Touring Report (JaH)

Been out in a touring quad. Ruth Ward and JaH met and are looking at using the Charles Stanley boats at Goring for a larger outing.

JH raised an AOB about the pathways to Touring. There have been constructive conversations about how ex-beginners who deliberately learn skills for Red-Kites. This would also help beginners who could learn to single scull with snail kites without having to use the racing singles. JH asked whether the club would be receptive to buying floats. JaH added that this model works well for other clubs too. HJ agrees that floats would be beneficial, particularly for those who are progressing from snail kite to racing shells. Floats can be raised so that they become less and less 'stable'. This is to be rolled forward until the club has money. **JH will also contact CORC to see if they can be trialed.** JaH also suggested that we try a coastal rowing boats.

k) Social Report (GD / CK)

GD and CK have spoken about a Christmas Party. We are restricted by number limitations – options are to postpone to January or cancel. GN asked the committee whether it should be cancelled. Committee all agreed that it should be cancelled and instead look at an Easter party.

AOB

MM has completed an email for new members. **He will send round the committee** and asked for feedback.

GN also raised that there is now a fogging machine. Extra tool to protect the club against COVID.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING WAS CLOSED

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 2nd November 8pm

Location: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/162393573?pwd=eldQYVBIWtB1NXIBMi92dlhiN05zQT09>

Meeting ID: 162 393 573

Password: 003512