

ROWING CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING

11th January 2021

1830 (Online)

MINUTES

PRESENT: Grahame Nash, Mary Heather Bethray, Jeff Bethray, Rich Ellis, Dai Howells, John Hill, Charlotte King, Malcolm Mackay, Ruth O'Loughlin and Iolanda Vendrell

Nick Barnett

CHAIR: Grahame Nash

1) APOLOGIES: Jan Holloway, Christy Job, Howard Jacobs, and Georgia Dowdeswell

2) CAPTAIN'S WELCOME

GN opened the meeting and highlighted that there would not be much to discuss. He also suggested a change to the agenda to focus on three points: Membership Fees (JB), Emergency Plan (JH) and the Falcon Vision Document.

3) MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Minutes of the last meeting approved.

4) UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

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 and JaH are continuing to look at the pathways

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

The email had yet to be circulated, MM to send on shortly. MHB is also exploring whether there are things we can give to new members on joining.

MM has now completed and made some amendments

DH to liaise with Nick to discuss possibilities on publicity

The two are continuing to work on this

CJ asked if there was anything that could be done as the grass bank is very slippery and a few people have fallen.

Nick is going to speak to the builders to see if there is anything that can be done.

This is now resolved, the area before the landing stage has now been covered with gravel.

JB asked whether we could look at a roller for the touring boat on the landing stage. GN will look into this.

GN has done some research on fixed rollers but none seem appropriate. JB was looking for a moveable roller rather than a fixed. GN will speak to his handy man to look at having something made.

5) Reports - Review of the past year (GN)

GN's report covered in the welcome

a. Vice Captain's Report (MH)

Nothing to report.

b. Junior Head Coach and Cheney Report (CJ)

CJ was absent from the meeting.

c. Treasurer's Report (JB)

JB reported that there is currently £13,000 in the rowers account and £8,800 in the Juniors. JB raised a matter regarding the Membership fees for this current year. For the Junior side, he suggested to reduce coaching fees in February. On the adult side, as not much rowing has been allowed in the last few months (with lockdowns in

November and now), JB suggested that the membership invoicing for each member (based on the starting day) is pushed back by 3 months. JH asked whether we could receive some help from the government. JB mentioned might be possible to make a grant application.

The proposals were agreed and **JB will liaise with MM to action this in SAGE.**

d. Membership Secretary's Report (MM)

Nothing to add. There are a handful of outstanding membership fees from late last year but JB's new approach will address that.

e. Touring Report (JaH)

JaH was absent from the meeting.

f. Learn to Row / Safety Officer's Report (JH)

JH would recommend that every member has a version of the safety action plan on their phone. The plan has been replicated from CORC. JH has been using the WhatThreeWords app and JH is recommending that everyone who is using the river downloads it. JH had a few outstanding questions on where fire extinguishers are (and which boat house they are in) to make the final changes to the document. **This will be circulated to all rowers.**

g. Boatman's Report (JB)

JB announced that four new sets of sculling blades arrive in December.

JB has also completed some repairs to Merlin that lives outside and is awaiting an update from CJ for the two owls and the junior quad that were sent away for refurbishment. However, no particular urgency at this stage.

h. Publicity Officer's Report (DH)

Nothing to report.

i. Men's Racing Report (MM)

Nothing to report.

j. Ladies' Racing Report (IV)

Nothing to report.

k. Welfare Officer's Report (RE)

RE reminded the committee that some of the DBS checks may have lapsed. RE is not able to check as he has to destroy the documentation once the DBS check has been completed. Previously agreed that all coaches to be DBS checked, however, this may only apply if the coach would ever be responsible for the juniors.

GN to send a reminder to the relevant people.

l. Social Secretaries' Report (GD / CK)

CK attended as social secretary. Nothing to report currently but hoping that in the Summer could look at a club house opening event. There is also a suggestion of a sponsored tag team event of the navigable sections of the Thames on the longest day of the year, but more research is required.

6) AOB

a. Managing the Lockdown

GN thinks it is important that we keep the members updated regularly, even if they are aware of the rules themselves. GN asked if there is anything we should do to keep members involved during this isolation period. JH thinks that updating and headline themes on the new build would be a good idea.

b. Falcon Vision Document

GN talked about the Falcon Vision Document that was produced for Nick and Sport England. This is not suitable in its current format to be passed around to members. IV and MM are working together to get a document suitable for sharing with members.

c. Chairman Update

The new boat house narrowly missed being flooded during the high water.

Last week the builders put down a brick block flooring and connected the sewers and prepared to connect the building to the electricity. Next Monday (18th) there are 6 trucks coming with concrete slabs that will form the floor of the first floor. They need to close three quarters of the car park to do this. When the crane is here, the steels will be put in place too. The timber has been ordered for the joists, and should be coming by the end of next week. NB highlighted that the price of timber has gone up by 40%, although an alternative has been found that has had less of an increase. The building will be clad in concrete.

NB has been putting together the information for a Sport England loan application. We have to put together a report that covers what the need is and who the club will be working with. The application needs to include things we are considering and realistic so wanted to hold a discussion about what we can propose. Some elements are more kayaking focused and some more rowing focussed.

NB is proposing that we look for another satellite school. JB discussed the arrangement with Cheney – they pay for the racking and they pay for the coach but otherwise there are no particular outgoings from the club. There are no problems with when the school use the facilities too. However, another school would need to pick a different day. The school would also need to provide their own equipment – but could in theory work with Cheney to come to some arrangement.

Sport England have a focus on increasing diversity (Gender, Ethnicity, Socio-demographic and disability). NB is exploring contacts and relationships that can be built to support this focus. JH also raised the London Otters who are a LGBT+ rowing group who may be a useful contact to reach out to.

NB is also exploring Brookes and their sports coaching degree. JH raised that he already has 2 people who have coaching at Brookes that want to get involved in rowing.

The Oxford Paddlers for Life have a dragon boat kept at the pub at Iffley which may make more sense to be based out of Falcon. This wouldn't necessarily be an income stream but NB is keen to have a package of links with the local community.

NB is also in discussion with a sports therapist about using the space. There was a short discussion about what the set up would look like in terms of employment / vs renting a space and the insurance implications. The group are keen that the focus should be water based facilities as the space could be easily be filled with other activities that don't have this focus.

JH also raised that the owner of a local Indian restaurant has a Bangladeshi boat that is being refurbished and he is very active in organising events.

Finally, NB informed the committee that there have been some more generous private donations, which combined with the Sport England loan would mean that the shell of phase 2 could be completed.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING WAS CLOSED

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 1st March 18:30

Location: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/162393573?pwd=eldQYVBIWtB1NXlBMi92dHhN05zQT09>

Meeting ID: 162 393 573

Password: 003512