

ROWING CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING
14th May 2020
6pm (Online)

MINUTES

PRESENT: Grahame Nash, Jeff Bethray, Mary Heather Bethray, Georgia Dowdeswell, Rich Ellis, Dai Howells, Jan Holloway, John Hill, Howard Jacobs, Christy Job, Charlotte King, Malcolm Mackay, Esther Whiting and Iolanda Vendrell

APOLOGIES:

CHAIR: Grahame Nash

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Minutes of the last meeting approved.

UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

ROL to contact David Salvesen and has been provided with a log in for the website. We can then store the minutes online. **ROL now has access to the website to store.**

Committee mailing list is it complete. **If any member hasn't been getting club emails to let EW or MH know. EW will add to the clubhouse a notice to say if anyone hasn't got the emails to let her know.**

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. This is ongoing. **GN has been in contact with Nick Barnett about the kayaker who is producing the stitching of the club logo.**

MATTERS ARISING & REPORTS

a) Captain Reports

This will be repeated by the other sections of the club but GN briefly outlined the updates with Falcon and the lease. The last few terms are being agreed between Oxford City Council and Legal Teams, with Nick Barnett pushing for it to be finalised over the next few weeks. Negotiations have been ongoing since 2009. The lease will be for 25 years but security of tenure that gives Falcon the right to remain unless the council has a strong reason against. The lease will include the wooden land and the carpark. There is a carpark plan - Falcon have been asked to create an additional 15 spaces (far left and far right to be extended) but this still needs to be approved by the planning department. The car park will not be locked and parking charges can't be applied. Once the lease has been confirmed, the principal contractor will be appointment. The hope is that work can commence to the July / August timeframe. There will be a few months of major disruption with fencing off parts of the car park and space for boats will be tight. The plan is to build the shell of the new building whilst more funding is raised to kit it out.

JB added that the carpark will be divided up between Falcon and the local community with hopes that part may be fenced off. The building work will be coming across the car park from across the sea cadets and through the gate we have. The trees with the red crosses will be coming down and suitably fenced off.

b) Vice Captains Report

The Google Booking Doc is a joint enterprise between IV and MHB. There have been a few issues that can be improved on for next weeks. MHB has looked at usage - the first week was 36 slots book, 56 slots in the second, 72 in the third and 75 in the fourth. This week is already over 80. This didn't include Juniors. IV reminded that the bookings should be removed if the member is not requiring the boat anymore. Priority slots will need to be kept under review for example if CJ starts her summer courses. Novices seem to pairing up which helps with some of the lifting. MHB asked whether we should consider Elf Owl as no longer being race only – should we be utilising all of our assets? CJ doesn't want the boat used non-stop but there are only 2 or 3 women who would be competent enough to use

the boat and the right weight. A question was asked whether members have been honouring the captain's permission boats, which they have.

MHB has emailed those that we used to see regularly and who haven't been at the club, asking them how we can help. MM has also tried to encourage the men to take up singling.

c) Head Junior Report and Cheney Report

Cheney: Nothing to report as there have been no after school clubs.

The Junior booking is going quite well. CJ has started taking bookings for the summer course, these would be the last two weeks of July and August. The format needs to be considered as it used to be coxed quads. CJ is expecting that the interest in the summer course is likely to be lower. A discussion was had about whether CJ could leaflet houses, general feeling was that this was possible. It was raised that Jack FM are now encouraging free advertising, CJ tried last year but without success, she will try again.

JB and CJ will have a separate conversation about the Junior fund. 1-1 coaching is expensive, JB asked whether this could be upped, MHB said that more boats could be ring-fenced if necessary to allow for more Juniors per Coach.

d) Membership Secretary Report

EW shared that we have 156 rowers on the books (102 adults, 45 juniors with some to be defined).

New recruits have also been enquiring. The three that have requested membership were discussed.

e) Treasurers Report

The club has purchased a two new single sculling boats, lightest weight has arrived and in September the 75-95kg will arrive.

The accounts stand at £6,500 but from that we have various payments to make including insurance and EA.

JHi asked how it would work if a member has the extension of 3 months (see email to club members). JB explained that this would be a club lose - it is a gesture to our members as they haven't been able to take advantage of the club. The default is to invoice on time unless the member ask for the extension. DH asked whether there should be a window in which to ask for the extension. A further email will be sent out with a deadline.

f) Safety Officer's Report

BR has asked as part of our annual audit a safety emergency action plan – which should give a concise version of what should happen in worst case scenario. It will be one document which would need to be accessible online.

Safety Assessment for Single Sculls

JH had put together a list of things that should be checked that a sculler is of achieving. JH thinks there should be a fixed list for the club. Is this something the committee would agree to? In principle yes, but JB doesn't think they have anyone who is near to the capability at this stage.

There are 21 who are learning to scull. Would be good to have other members of the club bank ride who would be willing to give their time. GN to send out a circular.

COVID-19

GN raised that at times the cleanliness had been lax – for example switching between boats without cleaning. GN asked whether there should be another memo sent out to remind people. JB hasn't noticed the same problem. CJ has said to her Juniors that the boat can stay on the landing stage but the person leaving it must clean and the person getting in must clean with a new bucket.

MH talked about the newly allowed expanded Household bubble, which can include a person living alone joining another household, and whether members meeting this criteria would now be allowed to double if they were also both members of Falcon. MH wants to propose that this is acceptable. The latest update from BR didn't include this, but the bubble amendment post dates the BR update. All agreed that as long as the bubble created happened to have a double partnership within it, then it was not a problem.

g) Publicity Officer's Report

Nothing to update. Thanks to CJ for taking the notice off the site that the club was closed. DH asked whether we wanted to add anything with our plans for the future. GN said that perhaps we should and asked DH to put something together. JH has said we need to be cautious about attracting people who have never rowed before, a group rowing is one thing but singles from scratch would be a challenge. Discussion was had about what we should say and whether there is a maximum capacity on the fleet.

h) Boatman Report

New boat will be going online shortly, just waiting for the stickers. 60-75kg single to be stored outside. Jabberwock is possibly going to the university boat man because of the problems at the backstay.

Tawny and Barn Owl still have a small leakage that can't be found. There may come a time where they take the boat away to find the leak, at the moment the hatch covers are being left open. JH asked if there was a boat that swift could loan but JB thinks they have been sold.

A conversation was then held about a request by a non-member a rack temporarily. CJ would consider a pro-rata fee but there is no rack available and it would have to be stored on trestles.

i) Coaching Report

HJ is supporting JB and helping on a Wednesday evening with a couple of rowers. He is working to the skill set that JH supplied.

j) Touring Report

A number of the tourers had a trip to France booked but that has been cancelled.

Suggestions that there may be a touring walk along the rowing and talk about the navigational markers and the lock procedures. JH thinks it's a great and constructive idea and helps to keep things together.

AOB

Social Report

Charlotte and Georgia have taken on the role of social secretary. CK touched on the Falcon Christmas Party but it depends on what government guidance is. There is also the possibility of a re-opening party when social distancing is further relaxed. GN asked if there were any online events that could be done online.

Capsize drills

JH asked whether any of the boats could be used for capsize drills. JB has been looking at an old boat that doesn't have a footplate. The last capsize drill resulted in a boat that needed a repair so is reluctant to use the current fleet.

Area around the club

JB raised that if there are people who aren't part of the club using the land, members should tell them that they are on private land. People shouldn't be coming through, sitting have a picnic, and using the landing stage for their own inflatables. The sea scouts have a public landing stage which can be accessed without coming through the Falcon meadow.

River Conditions

Note that snakes (possibly Adders) have been spotted 'swimming' in the river.

MM asked about whether there had been an update on the Environment Agency. As yet, no.

Date of the next meeting, end of July.- last Monday in July. Monday 27th July.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING WAS CLOSED

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 27th July

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

Meeting ID: 162 393 573

Password: 003512