

## ROWING CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING

17<sup>th</sup> May 2021

1930 (Online)

### MINUTES

**1) PRESENT:** Grahame Nash, Mary Heather Bethray, Jeff Bethray, John Hill, Jan Holloway, Howard Jacobs, Christy Job, Charlotte King, Malcolm Mackay, Ruth O'Loughlin and Iolanda Vendrell

**CHAIR:** Grahame Nash

**2) APOLOGIES:** Rich Ellis, Dai Howells and Georgia Dowdeswell

#### **3) CAPTAIN'S WELCOME**

GN opened the meeting, explaining the delay to the meeting (consideration for the summer months where members may be looking to row in the evenings) and added that JB would be providing an update to the new boat house.

#### **4) MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Minutes of the last meeting approved.

#### **5) 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.

Will be covered in the agenda.

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

This has now been fixed to the pontoon. JB suggests that we need bow and stern ropes attached to the touring boats as the boats are stern launched. JHo offered to arrange for the ropes to the boats.

JH's safety action plan will be circulated to all rowers.

GN asked that the WhatThreeWords are recirculated to members in advance of the return to rowing. JH still needs the WhatThreeWords for the defib on Boat House Island. MHB to identify this on her next outing. This hasn't yet been circulated. CJ wants this to be circulated as the WhatThreeWords are needed by the coaches. JH proposed that club wise this is added to the website. MM thinks it should be circulated, it might be information that generates questions and find gaps in the members knowledge. MHB agreed with MM. The access points for emergency services and WhatThreeWords would be useful. JH will send to MM for a circulation.

GN to send a reminder to the relevant people about DBS checks.

GN to pick up with RE that the relevant people now have DBS checks in place. CJ is happy with her coaches and RE is on top of this.

A reminder of expectations will be sent with the boat booking form.

Completed.

JB will check that visors are available.

To be discussed in the meeting as new regulations have come into force.

#### **6) BR Incident Reporting (JH)**

JH discussed the importance of completing the BR Incident report. There have recently been a few issues and near misses with other clubs that should have been reported using the BR Incident Report. It is a member requirement to complete the form, the form is also sent on to the relevant parties so that issues can be resolved. If a member is not a member of BR they are still able to log as a guest. Discussion was had on how a member would know this / where they would find the link. JH will edit the safety report to include the BR incident link.

#### **7) Touring Recreational Development (JH)**

JH beginners' group will focus on sculling rather than sweep, as it is easier to move from sculling to sweep than sweep to sculling. JH is working with JHo, trialling the tourers supporting the beginners. The arrangement was already in place more informally but the trial will run for the next few months. The idea is to support those that are coming through as beginners to allow them to experience sculling and touring. JH added that it should run in parallel as the W&E session so that every other weekend on the Saturday so there is 'stable' boat outing. There will be a sign up too via the squadlist. JB is happy with this – the 10am sessions on Saturday and Sunday are club sessions and members can mix and match as is. The focus is on touring skill development rather than rowing coaching to encourage members to join and feel more comfortable in joining the longer outings. HJ raised whether having two sign ups will cause challenge, JHo and HJ discussed how they can make this work and how this is making explicit something that is already happening.

HJ asked whether there was a promo that could be done to encourage the touring outings.

## **8) Boat House Update (JB)**

JB provided an update - racking should be in place by the end of June. The parts will be delivered shortly and then there is assembly time. The expectation is to have the new boat house racked and boats moved by June. The next phase can then begin on building the next blocks.

Toilets and showers will not be completed until the end of the summer (at the earliest) and whether the building is signed off by H&S when there is only one staircase.

The flexible space won't be completed until early 2022. The way the upstairs will be split has not yet been decided.

JB is looking to have it discussed with Nick K and Nick B whether the space of the old boat house can be used for circuits if the racking is stripped out. The kayakers may want to use the same facilities.

CJ asked whether the old boat house needed to be demolished ahead of the new building being completed. JB explained that the old building can be kept in place but the boats need to be moved as there wouldn't be space to move the larger boats.

## **9) Gym Equipment (JH)**

JH has grouped with two members of the kayakers to discuss equipment in the new boat house however greater discussions on gym equipment is a little premature.

## **10) Reports – Captain's Report (GN)**

### **b. Vice Captain's Report (MH)**

Nothing to add that won't be covered by other reports.

### **c. Junior Head Coach and Cheney Report (CJ)**

CJ had circulated an email about whether Juniors needed to continue to wear masks inside the club house as it is no longer a requirement within schools.

Latest BR guidelines is that clubs may wish to review their policies on wearing of masks inside the club. GN doesn't think that the rules should change for the adults and that caution should be exercised and following a standard. The problem would arise if the adults are wearing masks and the juniors aren't. JH proposes that we move away from forcing and instead that respecting each other, away from rules to encouragement. JB recommends that we speak with the kayakers and a rule for all rather than one for adults and one for juniors. IV proposes following the general government guidance of inside the boat house. MM is also in favour of masks inside the boat house and not outside. MHB raised that this rule should be consistent across all Falcon members – GN to pick up with Nick.

HJ then asked about whether face shields are needed in the boat as a cox. JB found the face shields are problematic but face masks still required by coxes.

## **Falcon Juniors**

The beginners' course at Easter ran with 11 juniors. This made a profit and 9 juniors have subsequently joined the club.

CJ also has 1 crew entered for the National Schools Regatta and 2 crews for the scullery at the bank holiday. There is also planning for Marlow. GN wished the crews good luck.

## **Cheney**

The Cheney Treasurer would like a meeting with GN and JB to discuss the finances and racking fees and membership fees. JB added that Cheney paid £2,000 this year but their income has reduced, it has been illegal for them to come out to the club and the school has lost the members and so will need to start from scratch. The school are looking for a refund on their fees. JB feels that the club could offer a refund for 50% of the fees. CJ asked that a meeting is set up. Committee was in favour of providing a refund.

The Cheney year 8 rowing club has started again. There are only 5 currently but hoping to get a new group of year 7s to try capsized drills.

#### **d. Treasurer's Report (JB)**

We have £10,506.94 in the accounts (excluding a refund to Cheney School). There are also some repairs planned for the forthcoming year. More blades and trestles have been purchased and BR membership as a club has been purchased. Boat License costs are still an unknown, it is usually £2,500 with insurance to be paid in August. JB thinks that for next year the income may reduce as more is focused on the new boat house.

There is £9,500 in the Junior account. There will be coaches fee to be paid which will reduce this.

#### **e. Membership Secretary's Report (MM)**

Not much to report – the new document that goes to new members has been well received. JH asked whether the BR reporting should be included in the new member guide. **MM will add it is a mention with the BR link.** JB said that there is an interest in joining the club, particularly people are interested in storage.

#### **f. Touring Report (JaH)**

JHo had a Zoom meeting in April to set plans for the year. The group had two quads out to row to Abingdon (which included new rowers). There is a social this Thursday (20<sup>th</sup> May) at Medley Manor at the bottom of Port Meadow on Binsey Lane.

#### **g. Learn to Row / Safety Officer's Report (JH)**

As already covered, the Learn to Row will be based on sculling. 6/7 people have already signed up. JH will use the Radley Tank which is expensive at £60 an hour, this tank is catered for sculling. **JH and JB to discuss how best to account for this.**

Nothing else to add on Safety.

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

JB took the Arcade 2 but nearly sank as there was a split in the side, there was no report on it. Members MUST put the yellow sign on boats and then report it to the boatman so that it can be repaired. JB has made a temporary fix but will need to be sent away for repair. There is also inconsistent use of the tennis balls which need to be used to protect the boats from the racking.

JB has serviced all of the life jackets. JB has made a rack which will go up in the new boat house for the coat box, lifejackets and lights. A discussion was then had on the state of the cox boxes, and possible causes for their short battery time. HJ raised whether the cox boxes should be kept in a box that is fire resistant. JB added that there are 4 cox boxes, cabling for all of them and one with a microphone that needs replacement. JB will look at whether we need batteries. **GN asked if they are possible to be serviced. JB to look into.**

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

DH was absent. DH has contacted the person who wrote the boat house story at the start of the build to follow up.

#### **j. Men's Racing Report (MM)**

Two new coxes have joined recently and there has been some bank coaching to build skills within the crews.

#### **k. Ladies' Racing Report (IV)**

5 ladies crew have signed up for June Nottingham Regatta. There is also Henley Masters with one Falcon Quad.

MHB will flag up with IWL with members.

MHB added that the revised heads is a great success with a good relationship between the clubs.

**I. Welfare Officer's Report (RE)**

RE absent from the meeting.

**m. Social Secretaries' Report (GD / CK)**

Not a lot of opportunity for social gatherings. GD and CK caught up outside of the meeting and are talking through dates for a summer BBQ – an opportunity to take advantage of being able to socialize and celebrate the build of the new boat house.

CK spoke to Nick about the idea of having the Christmas party at the club, Nick will know more at the end of August. Looking at alternatives at The Fishes, The Perch, The Cherwell Boat House etc. JH suggested the Isis Farmhouse.

**11) Return to Rowing**

Over 100 rowing slots last week – the process of booking seems to be going well.

HJ had a discussion about whether crews could move into a Captain's permission boat. JH and JB argued that a boat doesn't limit a crew development and the request was denied.

**12) AOB**

A recent survey was circulate about coaching a Falcon which JH completed but didn't complete on behalf of the Juniors. JH suggested that CJ make contacted to include the Junior perspective. CJ is also exploring whether Falcon could host a Junior coaching course. **CJ will fill in the survey separately for Juniors.**

JH believes at some stage the club needs to consider support for coaching costs. JB has said that the club policy is to support qualifications in exchange for coaching at the club for a period of time after.

JH asked how we will communicate to members (as there are a number of different messages to be sent i.e touring / Safety Report / Booking Sheet etc), GN liked the idea that they come from the individuals to highlight who is responsible for each of the different areas.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING WAS CLOSED**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 19:30

Location: TBC

Zoom if required: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/162393573?pwd=eldQYVBIWtB1NXlBmI92dlhiN05zQT09>

Meeting ID: 162 393 573

Password: 003512