

ROWING CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING

25th March 2019

7pm at The Tree Hotel, Iffley

MINUTES

PRESENT: Grahame Nash, Jeff Bethray, Mary Heather Bethray, Rich Ellis, John Hill, Jan Holloway, Dai Howells, Christy Job, Malcolm Mackay, Vanessa Moir, Ruth O'Loughlin & Iolanda Vendrell

Apologies: Howard Jacobs, Paul Munsey

Non committee members present: Trish Nash

Chair - Grahame Nash

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.

Action: HJ will look at the sponsorship/underwriting/supporting of members to develop their coaching skills. The club would be prepared to pay 50% towards the costs of the training subject to contributing to coaching at the club.

Update: HJ to continue looking into this of members to develop their coaching skills, this includes talking to Georgia and Liza.

Update: Carried forward as HJ absent.

Action: GN to look at the toilet seats.

Update: Repairs attempted, ongoing.

Action: JB will look at the racing blade handles

Update: These have been repaired

Action: DH to have separate sessions with CJ and MH.

RE to send DH the "key" for club tweeting.

Dai updated the link

Action: GN to organise a training day for trailing loading.

Update: JB to organize the trailer loading and training. Abingdon will be the focus of this.

Action: JB to look into options of hatch covers.

Update: Carry forward to the next meeting

Action: JB has more tennis balls to split and elasticate.

Update: JB to ask club members to help complete the task.

Update: Ongoing.

Action: ROL to look at other kit providers and feedback at the next committee meeting.

Update: ROL has looked at a number of different providers but will contact other clubs to understand why they chose the provider they did. The club is also considering whether to change the logo of the club so ROL will wait for further update on this.

Update: The logo and colours will remain the same. ROL to ask the providers to send a sample unisuit for the club to look at

Action: PM to request quotations for a fan to be installed.

Update: Carry forward to the next meeting. The fire escape door is now fixed so it can be opened.

Update: cost of new fan unjustifiable in old building, CJ to seek second hand plug in one.

Update: GN to look at look at vented windows and whether the windows could be opened inwards. GN asked what CJ asked what sort of fan. CJ to bring the fan in and GN will look to get it mounted and wired in safely.

Action: whether the club should buy lights for boats. CJ to send a quote to JB.

Update: one pair of lights purchased cost £50. CJ commented their bungees needed to be longer. Agreed JB buy 2 more pairs.

Update: Lights for the boat have been bought.

Action: Erg Room Batteries purchase rechargeable batteries for the ergs. ROL to buy the batteries and send the invoice to JB.

Update: ROL made limited progress, MH & JB to assess best way forward.

Update: Decided to continue with ordinary batteries new ones supplied and fitted

Action: Welfare Officer - CJ has two new coaches and has contacted the Welfare Officer. The details of this person are not as well displayed as would be liked. There will be a second welfare officer joining shortly. GN to speak to the current Welfare Officer about the outstanding queries.

Update: DBS clearance of these 2 coaches not yet done by Welfare Officer, implication being they cannot coach independently of CJ. GN Urgently to chase.

Update: Still not complete, GN to speak to Jo on Saturday.

MATTERS ARISING REPORTS

Captain's Report (GN)

GN didn't give a separate report as all items were covered by the agenda.

Vice Captain's Report (MH)

MH and DH have gone through the website and were reminded that the social secretary post was vacant but Vanessa was already doing this 'informally', as such she has taken up the post 'formally'.

38 crews have entered in for Abingdon, 19 Adult crews.

Discussion was then had about the newly purchased boat that is the same weight range as BatHawk and Sparrowhawk - 65kg to 75kg. The boat is for Adult

Racers but CJ believed that it was agreed this could be used for Juniors at nationals. MH & JB explained that the money for that boat was out of adult subscriptions and so it isn't the case that the boat can be used by the Juniors however, it could be by request.

JB and CJ discussed how Junior membership was apportioned. CJ asked what proportion of the £18,000 club money was Juniors. At the minute, Juniors pay £300 for coaching and then their membership fees. JB gave a breakdown of how money was allocated under Lorna and explained that the Junior Membership goes into the Junior Pot.

Head Junior Coach and Cheney report (CJ)

CJ asked that the handover between the outgoing and incoming Welfare Officer is completed.

Cheney competed at the Indoor Rowing Championships and came away with 1 bronze and 2 silvers. CJ now has 18 year 7s; 10 year 8s and 9 year 9s & 10s. With a big group of year 7, CJ has asked the 8s and 9s to join Falcon instead (which is the case for the year 10s). CJ has offered them taster sessions to try and encourage the transition.

The Falcon Juniors also competed at the Indoor Rowing Championship and came away with 2 golds, 1 silver and 1 bronze. There was an incident at the JRR (which was cancelled only once the boats had been taken off the trailer and rigged. (windy day) got all the boats of the trailer, rigged) which resulted in an injury to a Junior and damage to the boat. British Rowing are looking at why the event wasn't cancelled. An insurance claim has been made for the boat but the insurers are not allowing the boat to be sent off yet. We don't know the repair time.

CJ is sending the Abingdon list to JB, CJ asked JB to pay the entry whilst waiting for the Parent Permission. This should be confirmed shortly.

A discussion was had about Junior boat usage. Harrier fits the Juniors better than Falcon but Harrier has a few problems with the rudder. It is not believed to cause any issues as the Juniors use the boats at different times to the adults. **JB to look at the rudder.**

Racing Team's Report

HJ was absent for the meeting.

Membership Secretary's Report (PM)

MH is considering whether the off peak membership should be still available? When this category of membership was introduced the greatest pressure on boat usage was in the evenings and at weekends. However patterns of useage have changed with a significant proportion of members rowing during "off Peak times. Thus it is potentially harder to justify offering a membership category at a lower rate even than student/unemployed especially given the pressure on rowing funds. The committee agreed that "Off Peak" rate was no longer justified and should be discontinued

The fleet is still being used but it is difficult to monitor and has potentially harder to justify. This would be implemented on the renewal date for the individuals. We have to inform the AGM but it is the Rowing Committee's decision. All agreed to remove the off peak membership.

The Committee was asked whether we still wanted a Christmas Meal? **VM to pick this up and design a plan**, ideally we don't want a separate meal to the kayakers.

Treasury Report (JB)

JB is the Treasurer.

After the purchase of BlackHawk, JB has paid £1071 for boat licenses which included the Juniors so there is £5000 remaining. We also have a grant application going through.

Most people have paid membership up to date and a few people have been taken off the boating lists. We still need to pay for the insurance and boat repairs and haven't yet received the £125 from CORC Quiz but we have received the £112 from the bucket which is being gift-aided.

The two singles were sold for £1034 and JB is currently trying to sell one of the old doubles - Peter has someone looking at it this week. JB also plans to sell the quad in the far compound.

Safety Officer's Report (JH)

JH is trying to find access to last year's water safety audit as this has to be completed by 4th April.

A discussion was had over whether the club needed to register with 'Club Hub' and how this differed from British Rowing and other memberships that are required for racing. **RE will reply to the email he received** to understand more about the implications of not registering with Club Hub.

Publicity Officer's Report (DH)

DH has started going through the website, beginning with the adults. He also wants to highlight the touring as this is currently an embedded document. JaH to become the contact. A Touring email address will also be created.

Minutes are only available if you log onto the website.

Any adult wins to be sent to DH to help with publicity.

DH will catch up with CJ to update the Junior section of the website.

PM to add MM, VM and JaH to the rowing committee email group.

Boatman's Report (JB)

JH has donated a few lifejackets as spares. They have been converted to manual pull rather than automatic.

The University Boatman has repaired Seoul. He will repair the Hull when he is back from holiday.

SparrowHawk has had new runners fitted.

JB is going to paint the tressels with club colours for Abingdon.

TN raised that more care needs to be taken with Peregrine as they have often found that the rigger is sat on the floor. **GN to ask how much it would be to get the tressel made up.**

IV asked that everyone checks the shoes before taking the boats out / or reporting it. As a reminder, spare screws are found in the cupboard.

A discussion was then had about the toolbox as both the adult and Junior toolboxes have been decimated. It was agreed that it was reasonable that adults carry basic tools for themselves but there was more debate about what was reasonable for the Juniors. The pros and cons of padlocked tool boxes were discussed, with CJ to decide how best to manage this for the Juniors.

Coaching Report (All)

JH would like to renew permission for private coaching. JH would like to note that the £10 membership is passed on to the club. There were no objections to this arrangement

Learn to Row Report (JH)

The next course is starting 6/7 and 13/14 April. So far there are 15 people signed, ideally need another 5 although JH is confident.

Touring Report (JaH)

There have been a limited number of outings since last time - few incidental reasons, practicing for the head of the dart so haven't had crews out on a Saturday. However, there is still plenty of interest and no concerns have been raised. The tourers continue to use the Charles Stanley boats and are establishing relationships with Goring.

JaH is also looking at a few French events, some on the internal waterways, some on the sea.

There was a discussion about how members understand more about the tourers. RE mentioned that a few people have raised that they are interested in touring but when they look at the squad list they don't see anyone. JaH doesn't have access to squad list (**JH to set this up to allow JaH to create lists on the Squad List**)

JB mentioned plans of the lake district tours.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Boat House Project

Nick told the committee that the plans have gone in for planning permission. Generally there are positive comments on the review, however there are a couple of negatives. If anyone is wishing to make comments, it would be helpful if the comments could mention the design of the building itself. The Iffley Fields Association is negative and Oxford Preservation Trust have said that they are disappointed that they weren't consulted with.

Nick discussed the finances of the plans. We have £450,000 in the bank and a bit more in pledges. However, we don't know how much it will cost as the planning permission hasn't been finalized so we don't know materials / changes to the design etc. Estimates have varied between £800,000 to £1.5 million (this is for the full build) but the idea is potentially to have a phased build - build the shell and then kit it out. The question is how to reach that sort of amount. There is a small fundraising committee that have been putting in for Grants such as the high sheriff / the lieutenant and Nick has been meeting with the Councillors (such as for healthy oxford).

The ox-clean is run by Sir Clive Booth (used to be chancellor of Brookes) who wrote a letter of support for the building.

The planners have requested more information - tree survey, air quality survey and a traffic survey, however Nick believes we don't fall into this category where it is required so will clarify.

Nick ran through a list of grants and trusts that they have been applying to (The Lord Leiuant PF Trusts, Peter Harrison, Sports England, Persiman Homes etc) but that applying is difficult because some require planning permission and others you can't apply to until you have started to build. The applications also require a written a club brochure / a history of the club which focuses on disability kayaking , Cheney-rowing, Juniors and letters of support from different groups (Oxford Blind / Dragon Fly association / Scouts).

Nick asked that we are up to date with our Welfare / Safeguarding / DBS and policies are up to date. Sports England funding require that our safeguarding policies are in place. CJ attended a safeguarding course yesterday in Nottingham.

If this boathouse plan doesn't work there will need to be a discussion about what would need doing - the water supply isn't good enough, sewers aren't good enough, gas supply comes via the scouts etc. The general view was that once the costings has been determined if provides something solid to get behind.

Oxford Brookes

At a meeting with Lord Leiuant, the possibility of funding from Oxford Brookes was raised. The Governor of Brookes sits on a huge budget and there has been mention that Brookes would like a presence on the Isis. Discussions are still to be had but it looks like an offer of £500,000 could be made. Nick would like to

meet with the Head of sport / Chancellor / Vice Chancellors etc to discuss further but would like to define the red lines.

There is some history with Brookes, JB has said that Brookes have not taken care of kit and have not integrated into the club. The original relationship with the club was storing 8s but we had the space and under the new plans we wouldn't. It was also discussed that the brookes elites train at Wallingford so what is the purpose of them wanting space on the ISIS? How would they integrate with the club? JB worries that they would want to take control. GN asked if **Nick would be happy to have the meeting, and feedback.**

CJ said that for Brookes funding they need to have a learn to row, so it could be that they are looking for their Fresher's course. JH has said that the coaching team at Brookes, he suggested John Allan who runs their initial rowing, he is enthusiastic, dedicated but doesn't have the infrastructure and that this could be a way of building capacity within the club. JH had thought they could show commitment and competitiveness but that £.5 million might bring politics. JH offered to attend the meeting too.

CJ asked about kayaking, Nick said that Brookes don't have any kayaking but most people are interested in rowing. MH mentioned concerns about boat capacity - our boats are already spread out over hours and concern over how much the fleet could cope with increased demand. Nick also looked at the coaching scheme and the students don't have the opportunity to coach which could be available in the new gym. Agreed that Nick will investigate, GN said that he has concerned about the pressure but JH doesn't want it to be too exclusive and we would need to be well organized.

Nick will also talk to Dover Brookes school & the University of Oxford.

Car Park

The car park will be become pay and display but we don't know when and it isn't clear that Oxford City Council understand that permits would be difficult. IV mentioned that some places offer three hours free or whether it could be free in evenings and weekends. Nick will continue discussions.

150 Year Celebrations

This year is the club's 150 anniversary and this shouldn't go unnoticed. 13th July have plans with Keith & Jo making a hog roast but looking for other ideas to mark the occasion - ideas have included getting 150 boats on the water (is it possible / do we want to) and boating 2019 miles in a day (between Iffley and Folley). The Sea Cadets are happy to join in the celebrations. Whilst plans are ongoing, please keep the date in the diary.

Kayak Hub

JB asked Nick to outline the kayak hub (membership they are going through). A membership form is filled in which needs to be input to the sage software, however this doesn't auto-populate. The Kayakers are looking to bring in software to help with this process. They are also looking at how they invoice.

There are 250 members and need to find a way to help the process when different people have different membership start dates. IV asked why the year doesn't start at a certain point and people pay the pro-rata amount to bring everyone in line. Nick raised that this was also being looked at.

Social Secretary

VM discussed the joint quiz with CORC, well attended by us rather than CORC. The next focus is on the 13th July. Plans are also being developed for possible Bonfire Night and possible monthly events. JaH and TN mentioned the possibility of private hire of The Folly Boats if this was of interest. Finally, also looking at events for Eights Week.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING WAS CLOSED

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

20th May 2019 @ 7pm

THE TREE HOTEL, IFFLEY