

ROWING CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING

25th July 2022

7:30pm at Falcon Boathouse

DRAFT MINUTES

PRESENT: Grahame Nash, Georgia Dowdeswell, Charlotte King, Jeff Bethray, John Hill, Dai Howells, Malcolm Mackay, Mary Heather Bethray

APOLOGIES: Ruth Ward, Iolanda Vendrell, Rich Ellis, Christy Job, Howard Jacobs & Kathyne Crossley

Chair - Grahame Nash

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING : Minutes of previous meeting approved and archived.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Welfare officer (RE, GN) RE will be moving away from Oxford, the club needs to appoint a new welfare officer. GN to circulate a job description. **Still to be obtained from RE.**

Weights (JH) Clarification provided, weights were purchased through the club and are for the use of rowers as well as kayakers. JH reported that guidelines have been agreed but there was ongoing work to define what qualifications were needed to be able to use the free weights unsupervised, and a booking system needed to be devised. At present no adult should use the gym equipment on their own. **Members would be informed of the guidelines for usage and “training qualification” needed for use of free weights as soon as possible. Aim to implement booking system.**

Junior Head Coach (GN) Nick Kenworthy-Brown had been appointed and would take over from CJ at the end of August. There would be a transition phase during that month. **GN intended to write to the current Juniors’ parents to inform them and would obtain the relevant emailing list from CJ or MM.**

Touring day at Goring (RW) RW proposed hiring 4xs from Goring on 3rd or 4th September. **It was confirmed these dates were fine and RW should go ahead RW.**
Club calendar and racing survey (IV &DH) IV had conducted a survey of the Adult Independent Racers (AIR) interest in upcoming races. **Club calendar to be discussed again at next meeting IV & DH.**

List of Trailer drivers. Agreed there was no need for this.

Future social events signup sheets. To be circulated to gauge interest in these events (GD & CK).

REPORTS AND MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Treasurer's Report (JB) -There had been a donation of £3300 from the recent Learn to Row courses. The Rowing account currently held £8000. Two new sets of tall steps and four pairs of Concept sculling blades (initially for adult use) had been purchased and would be delivered soon.

Membership and Racking Fees (JB)

Leading on from the discussion about fee increases at the previous meeting, JB summarised the estimated costs associated with the new boat house. The total income of the club was divided into thirds; 1/3rd for running the club, 1/3rd to pay off cost associated with building the new boat house including loan and 1/3rd for the rowing and Kayaking sections to spend on kit etc. The latter portion was divided according to the percentage of membership fees (including racking) contributed by each section and set by membership numbers on 31st August. The estimated annual running costs of the club in the new boat house was £24000, there was also £20000 to pay off part of the loan. Membership and racking fees had not increased in the last 5 years but the associated costs such as boat licencing had. Falcon fees were now considerably lower than at other comparable clubs in the region. The Falcon Trustees had already approved a review of the fees. There was a continual demand for more racking for singles and construction of another outdoor rack for an additional six singles was planned. Discussion of the appropriate level of fee increase followed. The fees would be set as:

Adult Membership	£295
Student Membership	£180
Junior Membership	£125 (remains the same)
Junior coaching fee	£300 (remains the same)
Rowing Coach/Cox	£50

Racking

Single Inside	£150
Single Outside	£140
Double Inside	£260
Double Outside	£220

GN to send email to all rowing members giving the background to need to increase fees and detailing the new amounts. DH to update the fees information on the Falcon website.

Boathouse Grand Opening (GD & CK)- There had been a meeting of the organising team the previous week. Plans were advancing well and all the main elements were booked. The Party would run from 4 -10pm, with the official opening and speeches, followed by food and then live music. There was discussion around some of the detailed logistics and use of the various spaces within the new boat house. A new more vibrant poster design would be printed for display around the site. Tickets will be issued and be purchasable only by members. Limits to eligibility to attend beyond members and their partners were discussed but not decided as the maximum capacity for the event had not yet been established. It was hoped there would be capacity for Falcon Alumni to be included. Use of parking on the Sea Scouts field had been obtained and the Kayakers were going to provide a carpark marshal. The intention was for the event to be cashless. **Volunteers would be needed to help with the event CK & GD to circulate a sign-up list after the next team meeting.**

Discussion about special guests. It was hoped the deputy Lord Lieutenant would attend and cut the ribbon. JH had been in contact with Nick Barnet regarding the task he had been set to find a relevant Olympian. Those he had approached were unable to attend. GD explained that the idea had evolved into asking a few people with personal involvement in Falcon to make short speeches. They would be representative of the various sections of the club. Details of who would speak to propose toasts, welcome guest etc were discussed. **DH to look into the press opportunities for the event. It was agreed JH could invite a former graduate of Falcon Learn to Row who has gone on to row the Atlantic to be a speaker.**

GD & CK enquired if anyone could source a marquee as a donation for the event. **JH to ask Marlow RC if there 's is available for 24th Sept and at what cost.**

GN on behalf of the Committee thanked GD and CK for all the work they had done so far concerning the party which promised to be a wonderful evening.

Boatman's Report- JB reported that he had installed a goose scarer by the pontoon. The tall steps were purchased to help members retrieve boats off the higher racks in the boat house following problems for some wanting to use Bat Hawk. JB proposed that following increasing demand by both adult and junior members for use of the existing heavy weight double (Bateleur) another such double should be purchased. There was an ex-demo one currently available costing £14500. This could be purchased using the £8000 left in this year's rowing fund and by depleting next years. The boat would be racked where Bat hawk is currently which would move to the rack vacated by moving Sparrow Hawk outside. MM asked what restrictions would apply to the new double? JB said none except not beginners. Agreed **JB to further investigate what heavy weight doubles were available for purchase and to buy one if it was suitable.**

A.O.B

IV's report on was read out by MHB. The committee noted the win at Henley Master's for the Falcon W.Mas E 4x-.

The Juniors results from the [British Rowing Junior Championships \(ML\)](#) had been circulated to the committee previously. Christy was congratulated for the excellent results and the outstanding achievement of WJ15 1x Lena Wood winning bronze.

GN there would be a presentation of a gift to CJ at the Opening Party to mark her retirement from running Falcon Juniors.

JH requested that Andy Munro be allowed to occasionally coach non members in Falcon boats because he has been giving a significant amount of free coaching time to members. Agreed **JH to inform Andy that this was approved and remind him to book out any boats he used.**

There being no other business, the meeting was concluded.

Next meeting to be held on 13th September at 7:00pm (subject to GN being available) at Falcon Boat House

Subsequently changed to Monday 26th September

