

## **Falcon Rowing Committee Meeting**

Minutes (DRAFT)

26<sup>th</sup> September 2022

19:00 at Falcon Boathouse

Attending: Grahame Nash, Trish Nash, Nick Barnett, Mary Heather Bethray, Jeff Bethray, Howard Jacobs, John Hill, Iolanda Vendrell, Georgia Dowdeswell, Charlotte King, Kathryn Crossley, Melanie Elwine, Jon Crooks, Nick Kenworthy Brown, Dai Howell

1. **Apologies** (Ruth Ward, Malcolm Mackay, Rich Ellis)
2. **Welcome** (GN)
3. **Approval of Minutes of the previous FRC Meeting** (GN) Approved.
4. **Matters Arising from Minutes** (GN) Postponed until the next FRC meeting.
5. **Items for Discussion**

**Treasurer's Report** (JB) As of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022, £31.61 left for adults. Juniors have £5683 carried forward into the next financial year. From September 1, there is a dividend of £15883, which comes from total membership fees of kayakers, rack fees and rowers which are divided into thirds. 1/3 for running building, 1/3 for the building debt. 1/3 split about 60/40 between rowers and kayakers. Following from meeting with juniors, 4 of the Fennessey singles will be replaced and dynamic ergs for upstairs, from a donation (also gift aided). There were no questions following the Treasurer's report.

The followed a discussion of the rowing rules (JB), reminder that Nick Barnett had sent around rules from trustees. With retirement of Grahame, there needs to be a new election. Two people coming forward for the election of captain. Need to work on the rules for running the club, sample document based on British Rowing rules (adapted from Gloucester Rowing Club). Additional to these rules are a number of appendices: water safety, weight room rules, welfare officers, etc – all need looking at once this particular document is approved. Do we need these policies, which of these appendices are appropriate for the club, etc?

JH asked about how these rules were to be administered under the constitution and about the rights of members to vote. JB discussed the role of trustees in relation to the rowing committee. JH asked whether it was just the captaincy that was put to a vote or were other committee members similarly elected? JB stated that the captain then selected members of the committee. JH asked JB to explain how CORC ran their club leadership, who said that CORC members elected a committee. GN stated that at

Falcon, this had been a gray area in the past, that he had spoken to NB last week who explained that the Falcon trustees delegate responsibilities to both the Rowing and Kayaking Committees and there should be a transparent election of officers at an AGM. Several asides followed from various attendees, including questions about the rights of new members and juniors to vote in club elections. This discussion was then deferred to agenda item 5c.

**Social Events Report** (GD & CK) Congratulations to Charlotte and Georgia for the event on Saturday, which was a great success. Lots of help from many members. 351 tickets sold. Thanks to everyone for helping out and Keith and Mike for the food. (CK) Next event is likely to be the Christmas dinner. CK asked what can be done at the club or would people prefer to be offsite? Would juniors join adults for xmas? Or have a separate party? With or without kayakers? Caterers? Fire safety (probably the restricting element) A lower budget likely more attractive to the kayakers. JH suggested a dinner for rowers and party for the club, separate dinners and party later together CK – suggestions for the party, music, themes, etc would be welcome. Ought to first fix date for the party (JB) Agreed and discussion concluded.

**Format for Voting at the Annual General Meeting** GN stated that this agenda item was to be the main business of the meeting, not just to decide a procedure for this year but to determine the method and principles of elections for the future. In the past there had been simply a proposer, a second and then a simple show of hands. For future elections, other methods had been put forward. British Rowing guidance stipulated a ballot of all members. The purpose of the discussion was to determine how to proceed and then to set a date for the AGM. [At the time of the committee meeting, there were two candidates for Rowing Captain, John Hill and Jon Crooks, necessitating the discussion about how to run the election. Shortly after the meeting, John Hill withdrew his candidacy.]

JB began the discussion by stating that no juniors should vote, there should be a one year minimum membership requirement for paid members and that BR recommended a secret ballot. Accies and Abingdon both used an online system with success, there had also been a recommendation from a kayaker of an online voting system. There was then a discussion of various online voting solutions. The discussion tended to favour the use of online voting with the suggestion that enquiries could be made into the various solutions.

NKB asked again about the rights of juniors to vote and whether a minimum voting age of 18 or 16 could be discussed. JB opposed voting by juniors. CK, GD, and KC all spoke in favour of juniors voting and that they were legally entitled to vote in other elections and capable of assessing the strengths of candidates in the same way as adults. NKB suggested that a junior representative attend some meetings in the future. CK said that it was useful and important for juniors to have some experience of running a club and some experience of the committee. JB disagreed and stated that juniors do not have the same stake in the club as adult members, voting members ought to have experience of the club. JB pointed out that juniors do not have the same financial stake in the club that adult members do. KC stated that voting rights should not be contingent on the ability to pay, adult members can be entitled to concessions and this does not affect their voting rights.

JH raised the question of voting rights for the development squads, most of whom would not be able to vote if there was a one-year minimum membership requirement. JH relayed that he had heard from development squad members that they would feel frustrated and disappointed if they were not allowed to vote. Representatives from the development squads present also expressed that they did not feel it was fair to have a minimum period of membership for voting eligibility.

JB stated that because of administrative constraints, it would be too time consuming to be able to generate a list of eligible voters without imposing a one-year minimum, particularly considering the election was to be held soon. JH asked why and if there was any work-around.

NKB asked if this meant rowing age 16 (J16, which included some 15 yr olds who would be turning 16 in the racing year) or only those with a calendar age of 16 at the time of the election. JB stated age 16, not racing age. The committee agreed.

GN suggested that the committee vote on the requirements for eligibility for voting at the AGM.

Proposal – MHB – everyone who is a paid member (member in good standing) over the age of 16, one year of membership on day of election.

There was then a discussion about when the 12 month period should start. ME believed that if it was from the date of joining (ie paying membership fees) about half of the development squad would be excluded. JH asked if the 12 months should begin when a member started on the Learn to Row course,

which would then include most of the development squad. After some discussion, it was agreed that the 12 months should begin at the LTR course. GD stated that she felt a member in good standing should be allowed to vote regardless of the length of membership. HJ agreed.

DH proposed that if the 12 month period was because of an administrative constraint as JB suggested, could this be revisited for future elections, as it seemed some committee members wanted to extend the vote but understood that in the time remaining before the election, it might be too difficult. This was agreed. The question remained about the date of the invoice or the date of the course JH. It was agreed that the first day of the course was a fair start date.

GN asked that the proposal previously raised by MHB be restated. KC said that the committee was voting on whether to approve voting by all members in good standing, who had joined the club at least 12 months earlier and were 16 or older.

The committee voted by a show of hands. 7 members voted Yes, 1 voted No and there was 1 abstention.

GN then discussed the candidates for the captaincy. Two members who are contested the position of captain. JH and JC each need to do a 'pitch' which will be emailed to the members. Who you are and why you would like to be captain, with a picture. Email to be sent to NKB to be forwarded to the juniors.

Need to now put out a notice of the AGM (JH – trust needs 14 days' notice) Contestants' pitch needs to go out promptly. Need to have a voting window. MHB suggested presentations and then everyone votes via an app, whether they are in person or online. NKB suggested paper ballots could be used, ballot box in person?

There was a discussion on general levels of members' engagement and voting. MHB suggested that people who are not present should be allowed to vote and this was agreed. NKB said that he could collect juniors votes and estimated that approx. 15-20 aged 16 and above who would be eligible to vote.

GN said that regardless of the method, either the app or the monkey survey, to be decided very quickly. Candidate platforms to be circulated by email. Agreed that 4 days voting window, opens at the end of the meeting on Saturday, closes at 2pm on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Posters up for notification in the club. Opportunity to meet candidates at AGM, followed by AGM of the whole club AGM in November.

Email issues with google groups. Malcolm has checked the emails but there was still some question about whether this was working. Agreed that this was an ongoing issue.

**6. AOB**

NKB said that he was evaluating squad management software, Ludum. Could be considered by the rowing membership. Can also feedback once there is some experience of use. Paid trial next April for Silver level. Bronze level is free. MHB and NKB should all communications from the club come through NKB? Yes. Add emails for all parents? Some suggestion that this could not be done. Ask David Salvesen. Forwarded to the google groups for now.

JH raised the topic of circuit sessions. Negotiated with kayakers and the juniors. Andy Munro's coaching fees of £500 to be proposed. JB said that the club usually agreed to pay half. JH said that he would argue for the full amount.

HJ – ergs? Space? How many can be accommodated with space available. RP3s are arriving this week, 6 ergs and 4 RP3s. Some partitioning is expected to be installed. Ergs could also be set up in the bays. JB provisional use only for some training. Building still has not been signed over so use is limited.

GN had an email today from Malcolm, who thinks he would find it difficult to continue in the role of Membership Secretary, should look to find someone to take on these responsibilities.

**7. Date & Location of AGM (date of the next FRC meeting can be set at the AGM)** October 22 at 1pm at the Boathouse.

**8. Meeting Close**