

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

MINUTES

PRESENT: Grahame Nash, Jeff Bethray, Mary Heather Bethray, Rich Ellis, Jan Holloway, John Hill, Christy Job, Malcolm Mackay and Iolanda Vendrell

Apologies: Dai Howells, Howard Jacobs and Esther Whiting

Chair: Grahame Nash

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING *(these were dealt with via email to allow more time to be dedicated to the COVID-19 Response)*
Emergency Action Plan [JH]

JHo confirmed that the crew visiting from Holland, originally planned for May 28, have cancelled.

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

Committee mailing list is it complete? [?]

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.

MATTERS ARISING

Trustee Meeting

The trustee meeting took place earlier in the meeting. Little time was devoted to discussing the outcome as British Rowing gave an update shortly after the meeting had closed that superseded the trustee meeting decisions.

British Rowing Response

Discussion was had about the significant changes in the British Rowing Guidance. It was reiterated that this “is not at all a return to normal operations or club activities – only the absolute minimum necessary areas of clubs should be opened and only to facilitate access to boats and equipment.”

The British Rowing Email also added that the three major waterway authorities (Environment Agency, Canal & River Trust and Port of London Authority) have all lifted their restrictions.

The requirement from British Rowing is that the club needs to have a plan in place to support safe access to and use of equipment (e.g. boats/blades). This must follow all relevant Government guidance including hygiene and social distancing.

JH shared with the committee the plan that Marlow Rowing Club had produced.

Environment Agency Response

The British Kayaking and British Rowing both say that they have approval to be back on the water. There was a short discussion on whether recent communication from the Environment Agency was conflicting. The final conclusion was that the EA had been referring to motorboats being prohibited and not recreational boats.

Club Response

Social Distancing

JB said that the boat house can be use, the risk is not the private boats with private blades the major problem is with using club boats / who uses them / when they are used. It was reiterated numerous times that this is only for those that are competent single scullers.

JH discussed how Marlow have more stringent process in place to grade their rowers and their competencies and so can confidently say who their competent rowers are. GN raised that we would

have a good idea of the competency of the rower when they booked the boats. MM raised that perhaps it should be linked to those that have completed the capsized drill. RE thinks an assessment could be made of which members would be competent. MH will contact members if there are concerns.

MH proposed a google document with the singles and doubles listed for a week. Window opens with members allowed to book 3 slots from the window opening until the Sunday when the remaining slots can be booked. The slots would be 2 hours to allow for the cleaning before and after.

CJ and MH talked through the requirements for the Juniors. Juniors aren't allowed on the water without someone over 18. The plan would be that parents would be a slot for the Juniors and then CJ would arrange a coach for 1-1. This would meet the social distance requirements, the allowance to meet 1 person from outside of your household and the requirement that Juniors are accompanied. It was agreed that Juniors didn't need a different time to use the club as all members are required to keep their distance, regardless of age.

Members with private boats obviously don't require a slot. It was suggested by JH that private members come on the half hour or the hour in between the club slot to help keep numbers to a minimum.

Cleaning

The various touch points within the club were discussed and the cleaning of different surfaces balanced with reiterating that washing hands and not touching your face has been the more consistent government message. For example, how would the hose be washed, the taps to turn on the hose, gate locks, cleaning equipment and so on.

JB suggested adapting the guidance from Marlow and apply to Falcon. Better to use soap and water than gels and the club should put one in the toilet, by the sink and by the hose. Members will be responsible for themselves at the end of the outing – they can wash their hands when they open the club and wash their hands after. But that after they have locked up they will need to clean their own hands.

Facilities

A discussion was had about the use of the toilets and ways that they could be left opened. A vote was held for whether the facilities should be emergency use only or open. The majority were in favour for them to be closed for emergency use only.

The gym is to remain closed, although all the ergs are still on loan to members.

Safety Plan

GN will email Private Boat Owners to inform them that they will be able to return to the water this weekend. JB will change the lock on the club house to the original.

JaiH added that the plan needs to include provision that these plans can be changed at short notice.

MH asked that the plan gave a guide for when our novice rowers will be coached / reintroduction to the river. JB thinks 1-1 coaching in singles could be offered in a few weeks time.

On the assumption that the plan can be written and agreed by the trustees, the intention is that the rest of the club could return to the water by Monday.

MM asked whether there should be a requirement that if someone has symptoms within 7 days of using the club they should notify GN. This will be included in the plan.

AOB Membership

Members are not currently being chased for their membership renewal. The finances of the club was briefly touched on – the club has received £10,000 from local government and the club doesn't need to pay rates for a year.

Building Work

CJ asked about the building work. It is planned to start in July. There is a planning application for the car park for the area to be designated to Falcon. If this is passed, the club wouldn't be able to gate it or charge but would be within our control.

Boat Repairs

Red Kite is currently being repaired. All blades have been painted and the racing sweep blades have new handles.

Social Secretary

Charlotte and Georgia are sharing the role of social secretary. MH to contact Georgia and Charlotte to agree how they will share representation on the Committee, particularly attendance at meetings.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING WAS CLOSED
DATE OF NEXT MEETING
Time to be confirmed
Location to be confirmed