



# AVON COUNTY ROWING CLUB

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE SOMERSET ROOM SALTFORD HALL, SALTFORD MONDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 7:30 PM

### 1. APOLOGIES

Robin Garton, Nick Totman, Rosie Richardson, Simon Richardson, Chris Blunt, Helen Willcox, Chris Hopper

### PRESENT

Antony Constantinidi, Philippa Sondheimer, Julian Sondheimer, Penny Senior, Debbie Blackmore, Ivor Blackmore, Len Bridges, Dave Perrington, Jo Elliott, Geoff Peattie, Albie Saunders, Chris Levan, Clair Ponting, Simon Rodway, Keith Trivett, James Dawson, Alistair Watson, Gillian Beer, Robin Leach, Lionel Cartledge, Mary Thorne, Chris Brigden

### 2. MINUTES OF AGM 2011

Moved by Robin Leach and seconded by Albie Saunders that the minutes be adopted.  
Motion carried.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

### 4. CAPTAIN'S REPORT (attached)

Point raised:

Are repairs scheduled for the first landing stage?

Response:

As soon as usage drops (when evening rowing ceases), the raft repair team will begin the work.

### 5. CO-ORDINATORS REPORTS (attached)

Beginners

Points raised:

What is our current membership and what is our capacity?

Response:

Membership has shown a healthy growth since the end of the financial year. Capacity is difficult to determine, due in part to coaching/coxing constraints, but the best estimate at the moment is circa 250.

Have the post-Olympic enquiries been from people wishing to help, or row?

Enquiries have been from people wishing to try rowing. The increased demand has been noted by senior members of the club, who have begun to lend assistance on outings and in mentoring.

Men's

The President commented on how good it was to see the men's squad growing so rapidly.

Women's

No matters arising

Juniors

No matters arising

**6. SAFETY ADVISOR'S REPORT (attached)**

Point raised that our failure to report minor incidents, whilst consistent with other clubs, does have the effect of skewing the percentages when/if a major incident has to be reported.

**7. EQUIPMENT REPORT (attached)**

No matters arising

**8. TRUSTEES REPORT (attached)**

There is a £509 surplus this year, which is consistent with previous years. Subject to final approval from all the trustees and the Duchy, £20,000 of the reserve surplus will be passed to the club for the development work. The president expressed thanks on behalf of the club for these much-needed funds.

Malcolm Pearce and John Rushton are retiring as trustees, to be replaced by James Dawson and Andrew Barton. Chris Levan will oversee our eventual transition to a Company Limited by Guarantee. Once incorporated, there will be no further requirement for a Board of Trustees.

Point raised:

Will the Duchy want any of the £20,000 back?

Response:

No. The Duchy is being enormously helpful and are fully supportive of the development plans. They are keen to see it done.

**9. TREASURER'S REPORT (attached)**

Moved by Robin Leach and seconded by Keith Trivett that the treasurer's report be adopted, with the amendment that the retained £15,537 be reallocated to the Restricted Fund. Motion carried.

Subs receipts are down slightly, but will go back up with new members now coming on stream. The forecast subs receipts for March 2013 is £24,000. We have 5/12's of that in the bank at the moment.

**10. ADOPTION OF AUDITOR**

Moved by Albie Saunders and seconded by Philippa Sondheimer that Chris Levan be appointed Auditor. Motion carried.

**11. BOATHOUSE AND SURROUNDS**

**12. DEVELOPMENTS**

The Duchy will be putting 5-6 contracts out to tender, some of which are already in progress. If the necessary ones are finalised by Monkton Head (13 October), work will begin immediately thereafter.

To get the British Rowing grant, we must have everything completed (bar the facilities block) by 31 March 2013, to coincide with British Rowing's year end. We are confident we will meet this deadline.

The Duchy is managing the build for us, through to completion, and will hand it over to us when finished. ACRC will hold the head lease, with University of Bristol and Monkton Combe School subleasing from ACRC.

The estimated total build cost is £900,000 including VAT— of which ACRC's share is £200,000 (cost allocation ratio between the three parties being Bristol Uni: 2/Monkton: 2/ACRC: 1) We have £110,000 raised/promised in grants to date, and are approaching BANES Council and corporate bodies to raise the rest. British Rowing have allocated but not promised a further grant of £60,000.

Points raised: Will new development be on mains sewage?	Responses: No. The cost was prohibitive.
Are there no tenders back yet, given the intended start date in mid-October?	Selection on the demolition tender is underway.
What are the arrangements for rowing during the build?	The committee is doing its best to minimise disruption. The Duchy has offered us storage space in Newton St Loe, and we may be able to trailer from there, depending on access during construction. Minerva RC have offered us racking for an 8, a 4 (possibly two 4's), and 2 singles. We are also working on trying to move the newer boatshed downstream past the derelict boathouse.
Can we run our Head in the spring?	Every attempt will be made to make that possible.
What is the University doing about rowing during the build?	We don't know. They may opt to store some boats with ours at Newton St Loe.
Could we have earlier access to at least the boathouse if the contractors sign off early?	We hope so.
Will the Duchy impose their choice of landscaping plants/shrubs?	The Duchy will ask us what we want, which will be in keeping with indigenous flora.
What kind of publicity is planned for the opening?	We are chasing Sir Steve Redgrave at the minute. Other options include Helen Glover (Minerva RC Olympian) and Steve Williams (Monkton alumnus and Olympic rower).
Concern about losing all the post-Olympic taster session people when the building starts	We are doing our best to minimise disruption. The Duchy are also lending us space for land training/erg sessions.
Thanks expressed to the President for his hard work getting the development project off the ground.	

**13. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Because insufficient notice was given regarding proposed amendments, a working party will be formed to prepare proposed constitutional changes to the Committee and presented to the club at an Extraordinary General Meeting tentatively scheduled for the end of November 2012.

A rule change regarding refusal of membership and subsequent appeal process will be presented to the Committee at a subsequent committee meeting.

**14. REPORTS FROM ACRC EVENTS AND JOINT EVENTS**

Avon County Head of River (attached)

A fantastic event this year. Next year's date is 2 March 2013, and we will make every attempt to run it, building works notwithstanding.

### Bristol Avon Regatta

We fielded a record number of entries this year, due in part to other regatta cancellations. A profit of £2,000 was reported, including catering revenues. We hired the site out to the Dragon Boat regatta the following day, for a fee of £1,000, with an additional £942 profit from catering realised. At time of writing it is unclear whether the Dragon Boats will return this year. Approval will be required from the owners of Saltford Marina.

### **15. MEMBERSHIP, SUBSCRIPTIONS AND CHARGES**

There will be no increase in subscriptions this year. We hope to keep them static for 2-3 years, given the increase in membership, but will need to review periodically as we see what our new running costs are, post-development.

### **16. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE**

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NOMINEE</u>	<u>PROPOSER</u>	<u>SECONDER</u>
President	Antony Constantinidi	James Dawson	Robin Leach
Captain	Penny Senior	Julian Sondheimer	Geoff Peattie
Treasurer	Antony Constantinidi	Clair Ponting	Alistair Watson
Secretary	Debbie Blackmore	Jo Elliott	Polly Hart
Mens' Co-Ordinator	Ivor Blackmore	Simon Rodway	Philippa Sondheimer
Womens'/Beginners' Co-Ordinator	Philippa Sondheimer	Patsy Lamb	Vicky Perry
Juniors' Co-Ordinator	Penny Senior	Julian Sondheimer	Geoff Peattie
Safety Advisor	Ian Vickery	Lionel Cartledge	Keith Trivett
Welfare Officer	Shay Brennan	Debbie Blackmore	Mary Thorne
Committee Members	Julian Sondheimer	Simon Rodway	Claire Mounty
	Chris Brigden	Chris Hopper	Debbie Blackmore
	James Dawson	Chris Brigden	Alistair Watson
	Helen Willcox	Philippa Sondheimer	Robin Leach
	Clair Ponting	Keith Trivett	Antony Constantinidi

All motions carried.

### **17. ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENTS**

Nominees: Andrew Barton, Julian Bewick, Chris Blunt, Lionel Cartledge, Janet Cooper, Tony Daniel, Graham Hockley, Chris Hopper, Nick Johnson, Robin Leach, Christopher Levan, Angus Palmer, Geoff Peattie, Rosie Richardson, Simon Richardson, Penny Senior, Philippa Sondheimer, Nick Totman, Keith Trivett, Paula Weeks, Malcolm Wilkins, Keith Saunders, Clair Ponting.

There being no additional nominations, Antony Constantinidi proposed and Penny Senior seconded the nomination of the above-noted Vice Presidents. Motion carried.

The sad passing this year of Marcus Brearley, a former Vice President, was noted by the president.

### **18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**MEETING CONCLUDED 8:50 PM**