



AVON COUNTY ROWING CLUB

MINUTES

**Committee meeting held at Saltford Rowing Centre, Saltford
Monday, 11 December 2017, at 7:30pm**

Present: Antony Constantinidi, Will Gray, Jim Dawson, Jon Garner, Penny Senior, Nic Feaver, Clair Ponting and Helen Willcox

Apologies: Philippa Sondheimer, Julian Sondheimer, Patsy Lamb and Debbie Blackmore

Minutes of Last Meeting – approved and adopted

Update Action List (attached) – Clair is still trying to fathom out the carrier bag tax – it is proving challenging.

Reports (attached)

Captain – The swingulator does not need any special instructions before use. Boat damage was discussed again – the latest being another trashed Penny bow 'A' frame but apart from encouraging people to be more careful no-one had any ideas how to stop it.

Juniors – No matters arising

Men – No matters arising

Women – No matters arising

Beginners – No matters arising. Clair is planning dates for next years' courses

Boathouse Management Committee Issues – Work on the track under the railway tunnel will commence sometime in the new year.

The 2 new ergos in the gym have been paid for by the Boathouse Management committee.

No advance on the three 1400mm high x 1800mm wide acoustic screens purchase.

No advance on installing signage at the top gate banning unauthorized parking both in the drive and the field.

Safety

It was agreed that the pontoons just need to be pressure washed more often – definitely before the heads

RNLI Life Jackets – See safety report.

Events – Avon Autumn – See report. It was asked if breakfast could be served earlier.

Avon Spring – Entry fee will be the same for 2018. The 2019 date is 2nd March.

Bristol Avon Regatta – no news

Monkton Bluefriars – The 'What is the Future of the Monkton Head' meeting is to be scheduled for the new year.

Christmas Pudding Head – Sunday 17th – meet at 10am

Finance/Subs – Dobby & Hedwig have been repaired and paid for.

Report to Committee re subs etc December 2017

The bank statement emerges on 8th of the month so the figures below are to 8th November.

Subs

Subs "forecast" - £39,110

Subs collected - £25,105

Membership

Membership - Club 236 (target 216)

The increase from the November report (was 196) is due to the number of Bath Spa people joining; the email from Abi Shears is effectively the joiners for this committee. Of Abi's 42 people, 40 have filled in our Google form and the final two are being encouraged to do so. We are about to present Bath Spa with an invoice for the people on Abi's list at £22 per student. This takes us up to the end of 2017.

Membership - BR 150 (target 156)

There is also an apparent increase in BR registrations since the last report (was 121). This is spurious. It is not to do with Bath Spa people registering as a) their club is not yet affiliated and b) they would register as Bath Spa first club and might not mention Avon County.

The reason for the increase is that the membership list has changed from a neat pdf arranged by first club, second club etc memberships into a csv which includes all rowers who declare allegiance to Avon County, together with their ranking points under the new competition system.

GoCardless

About one quarter of members are paying via GoCardless. Few are now signing up, in spite of Penny's including the invitation to do so in every RN.

Perhaps co-ordinators could do a bit of a recruiting drive.

Philippa

Any Other Business –

Bath Spa Uni – Philippa met Dan Tinkler from Bath Spa – notes of the meeting are below. It was agreed to invite the President of the club to attend committee meetings if they would like to (Ex-officio).

Nic – can we have new blue coverings for the Croker blades? Last time these needed doing we paid someone else to do them. We will see if Bladerite do this but I know Nick is away at the moment.

Antony – Jeremy asked if the cleaners are still active! Penny advised to write them a note if they have missed something.

Jon – boat allocation/squads do we need to be more organised? Club is getting bigger so we may need to be more organised. Does the current structure work? Perhaps a job description for the co-ordinators would help – Jon & Antony to write one.

Vet coordinator was also discussed but decided it was unnecessary.

Will – asked if the defib battery was still OK and if we could have some training in its use. He also offered his services to run some kind of wine tasting evening!

Peter from UBBC would like to get some memorabilia on the walls. It hasn't been forgotten just not got around to yet.

Penny – has been trying to make the gym less of a dumping ground. The spare weights are in the under stairs cupboard. There are wipes available to clean the ergos after use. There are random things in this cupboard e.g. several bakers trays. A clear out beckons!

Date and Time of Next – Monday, 29th January 2018 at 7:30pm

Avon County Rowing Club Committee Action List

	Action	Date	Who?	Status
Equip	Paint new sets of blades (rowing & sculling)	02/03/09	PL, RL	Started
Equip	Check boats – replace bits and create list of parts – ask coaches – organise checking days – need some more coaches – encourage all to check before boating	28/7/14	All	Started
Equip	Seat amnesty	28/7/14	PSen	Started
Equip	Create spare rigger rack in WW	28/7/14	?	
Equip	Create a priority list of boats to be refurbished	13/10/14	PSen	
Equip	Boats need cleaning	23/3/2015	All	
Equip	Find a new home for big buoys - sell or rehome – Hereford RC	09/05/16	DB, AC	Started
Equip	Blade painting week – add to list of jobs needing doing	6/16		
Equip	Clear West Wing of unwanted items to make room for weights!	19/07/16		
Admin	Ensure all boats have AVNxxx numbers, including the launches	21/3/11	PSen	Started
Admin	Chase subs debtors/annual subs round up	08/06/09	Psond, Psen	Started
Admin	Carrier bag tax	04/04/16	CP	Started
Admin	Moan more about dosh o/s	03/10/16	Co-ords	Started
Admin	Put gudgeon on eBay	19/06/17		
Equip	Ask bladerite re blade handle recovering	11/12/17	PSen	

Held:

Misc	Change club to a limited company – hold for now			
Misc	Sort out moorings			
Site	Rain water tank for West wing?	29/7/13	AC	

Complete or no longer needed:

Admin	Ask BR to negotiate boat licenses	03/10/16	Psond	Asked
Admin	Chase junior forms – see joiners & leavers note	13/12/16	PSen	Complete
Admin	Update kids contact list	3/04/17	PSen	Complete
	RN - Document crashes immediately in detail			Complete
	RN - Ask for help if you need it to carry boats			Complete
	RN – anyone want to do launch drivers course			Complete
	RN – bows to keep an eye out for landing stage crashing – cost			Complete
	RN – AAH profit			Complete

Captains report:

Equipment - Repair

Dobby and Hedwig have been collected after their repairs.

Antony and Jon have been busy mending a hole in Penny and several splash boards on doubles.

Penny has yet another damaged bow rigger – it looks like a ‘crashing into the raft’ injury but there is no record in the damage repair book. I have ordered another.

Will and Marcus were hit by a UBBC eight 2 weeks ago. Luckily I was just downstream so although I didn't see it happen I did see the aftermath and could testify that they were in the correct place.

Marcus's port blade was snapped and they have agreed to replace it.

Equipment – new

The swingulator is now assembled and working (without monitors at the moment). Feel free to have a play!

Odd jobs

The gym floor has been lined with the donated rubber tiles.

The ergos have been cleaned – I have put some wet wipes in the gym – please encourage people to clean the beams after use, with them.

Some of the paintwork (where the new floor meets the wall) has been tidied up.

The notices by the front gate have been cleaned.

Outstanding Dosh

My latest email has been moderately successful.

Coaches

I think this is a list of all the qualified and active coaches we have plus those that I know about that would like to qualify:

Name	L2 Session	L2 Club	L2 S&C	L3	IA	Bronze	Silver
Chris Hopper					Y	Y	Y
Penny Senior			Y 17		Y	Y	Y
Julian Sondheimer					Y	Y	
Andy Mason					Y		
Geoff Peattie					Y		
Philippa Sondheimer					Y		
Debbie Blackmore		Y 12					
Charlotte Hook		Y					
Mary Thorne		Y					
Nic Feaver			C		Y 94		
Jon Garner		C 11					
Nick Dolman		C					
Annette Bartlett		Y 17					
Patsy Lamb		C 17					
Liz Gray	Y 17						
Ange Scott	Y 17						
Clair Ponting	Y 17						
Abi Shears	Y 17						
Andy Haines	?						
Jo Elliott	?						

Key:

Y – qualified (+ year) C – did the course but hasn't qualified yet B – booked on course (+year)

Results

Avon Autumn:

W.4x- Abbie, Patsy, Ange S, Frankie

MasD.4+ Matthew, Paul, Jim, Jon, Nic

W.4+ Nic, Sallyanne, Helen, Kath, Rhi

W.MasC.8+ Lynne, Ruth, Liz, Sue C, Milly, Carol, Susan, Dawn, Patsy

Matters Arising

None

Junior Coordinators Report:**Land Training**

Land training has been well attended so far, particularly on Tuesday nights.

Results**Pangbourne**

WJ15 2X Jess, Finnola

Avon Autumn

W.J17.4x- Scarlett, Poppy, Lottie, Phoebe

BR Indoor Championships

WJ15 500m Finnola - a new British record (she also won silver in the WJ15 main event)

Matters Arising

None

Penny

ACRC Men's Squad Report 11th December 2017

Unfortunately the F4- did not race at Vet Fours Head last month and although they raced at Wallingford Eights and Fours Head in a fast time there was no Masters opposition. The MxE 8+ raced at Wallingford in Open Masters Men as there were no Mixed events and were happy to have come 4th out of the 8 men's crews.

At Avon Autumn Head Jon Barton, Matt, Paul and Jim won MasD 4+. The other 3 crews racing were also pleased with their times, but had no opposition, so an excellent day of racing, we just need to find where the opposition are racing.

Gloucester Rowing Club invited us to a friendly Time Trial on the canal on 2nd December. We sent a MasD 4- and Mas F1x, had a good morning of rowing and the hospitality afterwards made up for the grey miserable weather. We have been invited back and the invitation extended to the Women's and Junior squads.

Other than potentially going up to GRC again in January, or organising our own Time Trial at Saltford, we are not entering any events until Worcester Head in February.

We have our Uni students back for the Xmas hols and they are planning to bring their rowing friends with them.

Squad Meeting in the New Year date tbc.

Women's Squad Report, November 2017

Races

Avon Head

Several crews took part in the Avon Head Race:

WMasC 8+ Ange coxing Nichole, Jo Hunt, Brenda, Annette, Kate, Martine, Sara and Laura S
WSen 4+ Philippa coxing Charlotte, Hannah, Tanya and Chloe

With wins for the following:

WMasC 8+ Patsy coxing Dawn, Susan Comber, Carol, Milly, Ruth, Liz Gray, Sue Copperman, and Lynne.
WSen 4+ Rhi coxing Kath, Helen, Sal & Nic
WSen 4x – Abbie, Patsy, Ange S & Frankie

Wallingford

The WMasC4+ of Kath, Helen, Nic & Sal, coxed by Rhi also raced at Wallingford but didn't have matched competition. They also raced in the Mx Mas 8+.

General

Thank you to Debbie for organising a further coxing training session for January. To promote this as well as general self-reliance/turn-taking within the squad, several ladies have recently been practising their coxing skills in the explore boats with a view to moving onto the finer boats in January.

Written by: Patsy Lamb, Women's Squad Coordinator

Safety Report for Committee December 2017 Incidents 2017/8

Incidents since the November meeting

Date	Description	Report no
24.9.17	At 11:00 off rafts. Will Barbour fell out of Fang while turning.	9816
30.9.17	At 11:00 near pontoons. Shane Cameron (beginner) fell out of Jess	9818
01.10.17	At 12:04 near the "finish" sign. Involved were Nic Feather in 1x and "Tutum" narrow boat [actually wide beam] . Tutum coming around bend on wrong side, did not shout warning. Nic had to stop to avoid collision and warned Tutum to keep on correct side. Driver said "I was avoiding moored boats".	9817
25.10.17	At 12:15 near "finish" sign. Steve McCarthy fell out of Jess 1x capsize due to inexperience	9820
28.10.17	1t 10:40 by 750m marker Poppy Fraser and Jess King in Marcus Brearley. Minerva W 4x- on wrong side hit W J 2x – Poppy hit in back, back stay badly bent. Crew then went on to narrowly miss J15 2x	9819
28.10.17	11:50 200m downstream of first bridge. Tim Grice fell out of Charlotte Land capsize due to inexperience.	9821
9.11.17	Boathouse on the rack before lifting out Penny Senior. Dent in shell bottom of boat at position 7. Noted on rack before going afloat will tape over dent. Keith Trivett	Damage not safety
26.11.17	UBR eight with coaching launch on wrong side of river hit AVN junior double. Broke a scull and damaged "V" of double. Coach reported as "contribute". UBR later reported the accident online, inaccurately according to Penny, who saw it happen, and who has commented on the UBR online report.	9796 rep by UBR

Issues

Safety Audit – submitted, along with revised Safety Plan, 21 November; deadline was 27 November. We need to review it in January and add in an Emergency Plan.

Safety Alert – The Safety Alert was about checking life jackets, which we have already discussed. I have mailed the RNLI for a visit and offered 20th or 27th January (Sat morning).

Capsize Drill – As we now have 42 new students and there is a Level 2 course planned for early 2018, could we do the pre-req capsize drill at Monkton and let the students attend?

Philippa
1 Dec 2017

Incidents since the AGM Report i.e. since 31 July 2017

Date	Description	Reported online by club
13.8.17	09:50 alongside Tutum (wide beamed boat). Lister (LTR) in Virus. Frightened of hitting Tutum, got close, took left hand behind and let go of blade, tried to catch blade, lurched and fell in. Swam back to pontoons, got back in and continued session.	9373 29/9
15.8.17	Top of straight. Tristan McCarthy in Fang fell in (beginner)	9372
15.8.17	Regatta finish. Laura Morris in Hedwig. Fell in turning round (beginner)	9374
24.8.17	08:30 half way up straight between 500 and 750. Antony Constantinidi and Russell Thornton in Storm vs MIN W2x in Juturna. MIN travelling downstream along railway side bank – head on – no warning.	9376 29/9
30.8.17	13:50 opposite rafts. Jonah Willits in Norbert fell in doing roll ups	9378
31.8.17	At 11:00 opposite rafts. Henry Bennett in MNK 1x fell in doing drills	9380
1.9.17	am opposite rafts. Poppy Fraser in Sharon fell in doing drills	9384
1.9.17	Opposite rafts. Will Hall-Haines in Errol fell out doing drills	9385
10.9.17	11:15 Imogen Clements (novice) in Hedwig and Nat Gunning in Charlotte Land. Imogen on wrong side of river trying to correct her position. Nat came past and his blade ran over Hedwig's bow and broke off splashboard. No other damage.	9379 29/9
10.9.17	At 10:45 at rafts. Harriet Argent and Eleanor Hawkins capsized while getting into Unity. No damage or injury.	9386
12.9.17	200m upstream of boathouse. Barge turned into path of eight. Stroke blade under barge, Cox (Sal Lewis) jumped out to avoid getting hit. No damage.	9382
24.9.17	09:30, 400m up straight. Robin Wood in Keith Trivett (2-) and Debbie Blackmore in Crabbe (2x). Alongside collision with pair proceeding upstream and double down. Pair on bow side of double. Crabbe slightly damaged bow... Illegible	9383 29/9

Avon Autumn 2017

Committee Report – December 2017

The accounts are not yet finalised, however the dividend will be between £2500-2700. This is down from last year, partly because we had fewer eights competing and partly because most fixed costs have risen and we opted not to share the Alide hire cost with the University.

The Inspecting Umpire's Report was very positive, including a compliment about the efficiency with which Control Commission and boating was handled.

With the contribution of willing volunteers from MNK, BOARC and a several non-members we had just enough helpers to fill all jobs. And, for the first time ever, there were no 'no-shows'!

Washup comments are still being collected, including some valuable input from Penny (Safety Adviser) relating to getting the short course started with less faffing; and Julian (Results) relating to preventing user error with watches/Webscorer.

Many adult members who did not race spent the day helping, which was greatly appreciated. Strong messages to the junior parents and women's squad resulted in several parents and 100% of the racing women doing a full shift. 50% of the racing men did a full shift.

Bath Spa Progress

Abi and I met Dan Tinkler of the Bath Spa SU on Thursday 30th Nov .

Points to note:

I have delivered an invoice for 42 people for £22 each. One of the 42 students has not yet completed his Google form.

We will invoice again in January at £55 for each of the students still rowing.

Next academic year, the University will only be accepting full year memberships (which will obviously be a bigger up front commitment for the students) so we might either need a different financial set up or get fewer rowers.

We shall need to amend our Google forms for GDPR, which we will need to do anyway.

The university policy is to have a member of staff as the secretary of each student club. This means that the application for affiliation to BR, which Abi had completed, needs to go round again. It will be completed by the SU and mailed to me and Abi.

The Bath Spa model constitution will be used for the new club. It just needs to add in the name of the rowing club, its aims and its colours. Again this will be mailed and when we have this and the application, the forms can go off for the necessary Regional signatures and then to BR. (Bath Spa are looking at the model. It specifies that the quorum for an AGM is half the membership plus one so there are not many AGMs! But that is not our problem.)

All financial transactions with Bath Spa members need to go through the SU. This will not be onerous; Abi will deal online with their kit and race fees so there will only be small payments like trailing fees for which we will invoice the SU. We shall never know nor need to know what they actually charge the students!

Next year, all being well, there should be a subsidy from the SU to the club. If it starts buying equipment and wanting to store it, and when it starts wanting to take boats and be trailed to BUCS events, we shall have to work things out.

I think it would be a good idea to invite the Bath Spa President, ex officio, onto the Avon County committee.

Philippa