



# AVON COUNTY ROWING CLUB

## MINUTES

### **Committee meeting held at Saltford Rowing Centre, Saltford Monday, 13 July 2015, at 7:30pm**

**Present:** Penny Senior, Debbie Blackmore, Julian Sondheimer, Philippa Sondheimer, Antony Constantinidi, Clair Ponting, Parveen Jones, Helen Willcox

**Apologies:** Sallyanne Lewis, Jim Dawson

**Minutes of Last Meeting** - approved and adopted.

**Update Action List** – Antony to have a look at bow speaker connection in Robin Leach.

**Reports (previously circulated) –**

Captain & Juniors – The Committee approved the following entries for the British Junior Championships: Molly Churchman/Carla May/Bria Keen/Ellie McCormack (WJ16 4X); Molly Churchman/Bria Keen (WJ15 2X); Carla May (WJ16 1X)

Men – No matters arising

Women – No matters arising

Novices – Penny to provide Philippa with data for junior usage of Explore Boats (re Sport England reporting)

**Boathouse Management Committee Issues** –The budget for YE15 was roughly correct, with slight line item variances. The maintenance reserve is a bit short, but the committee fully expects to recoup the shortfall in YE16. The budget for the new financial year has been agreed.

The alarm is now in use.

**Safety & Governance** – Work is ongoing on the completion of the Safety Plan.

We have still had no communication from BR regarding the alleged governance issue. It appears the mediator has failed to produce the required written report subsequent to the April mediation meeting. Philippa is now going to write the report, present it to the mediator for signature, and submit it to BR.

**Events** – Regatta – agreed to schedule the 2016 and 2017 regattas for the fortnight after Evesham.

Duchy Event – The Duchy have asked us to have two 'stewards' on site on 11 September for an event they are hosting. We will ask Canoe Avon if they are interested. If not, Debbie and Ivor have volunteered.

150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Helen will be organising the event. Debbie to ask Keith Trevett to organize a display of club memorabilia.

Saltford Festival – the organisers have complained to us about the St John's Ambulance invoice, despite having approved the quote before the event. They have asked us to contribute more money to cover the cost. The committee declined to do so, opting instead to let the organisers keep the £80 they should have collected and forwarded to us from two of the pub teams, assuming they are able to collect it. We couldn't.

Avon Autumn – several committee positions need to be filled. We need to reinforce (via RN) that every adult in the club needs to contribute time and/or expertise to our events and the general running of the club.

**Finance/Subs (previously circulated)** – Kingswood have terminated their rowing programme, effective at the end of the current term. This will have a detrimental effect on our membership statistics, although we are accepting Kingswood students as Avon members, as and when they inquire.

It was unanimously agreed to propose the following subs increases at the AGM:

| <b>Membership Category</b>   | <b>Old Rate (pcm)</b> | <b>New Rate (pcm)</b> |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Adults                       | 20                    | 22                    |
| Full Time Education Students | 9                     | 11                    |
| Vacation Students            | 30 (for the summer)   | No change             |
| Coaching                     | 4                     | 5                     |
| Rack Rent (per seat)         | 4                     | 5                     |

Further agreed to ask members to consider a 'Voluntary Boat Levy' addition to their monthly subs, which they can assign to the boat fund of their choice – with £10 pcm as a suggested guide. These voluntary additions to subs are eligible for Gift Aid.

There was some doubt expressed that a voluntary donation on top of a sub increase would generate much revenue. We will review this next year, and consider increasing subs again if it has not proved successful.

Penny to determine cost of a new 80. We will then let the squads know exactly how much more money needs to be raised for an 8.

**New Members** – Jeremy Poupard, Rachael Mines, Abigail Shears, Emma Ogden, Ella Cumpson, Ella Goodland, Olivia Massey, Freya Money, Ollie Pryde, Finnola Stratton, Anastasia Fox.

**Any Other Business** – AGM date changed to Saturday, 12 September at 12:00pm

Need to put a note in RN that at least 1 person/crew needs to have keys and the alarm password.

Fishers are taking up more and more of the river, with poorly-visible structures projecting into the river.

We must speak to the member who has been teaching beginners to scull (often using our newest boats!), outside the established LTR programme.

Debbie to arrange for a 'No Dogs Allowed' sign. Moncton and the Uni have bylaws that forbid dogs in their buildings. And many of our members are not dog lovers.

Helen to get the bike racks sorted. Members are putting their bikes in the boathouse, making it awkward to get the 8's out.

Members of the public have been asking us if they can launch canoes/kayaks from our site. We do not allow non-members to boat from our site, however compelling their plea.

**Date and Time of Next:** Monday, 21 September, Saltford Rowing Centre

## **Captains report:**

### **Equipment - repair**

George James and Get Smart have both been repaired and collected. I can't find GS's fourth rigger (the one that was trashed) – it will need replacing but we need the pin & swivel etc from it. While it is being sorted it can be rigged as a pair.

Chris Hopper has 4 new sets of shoes now, as does Unity.

No-one has owned up to the damage to Snow White but it has been mended by Monkton.

Antony as mended the Rst 1X.

The double virus needs mending – the downside of transporting it by trolley is that the ends get bashed – which they cannot take – so it has developed a leak.

### **Sculling Blades**

8 pairs of sculling blades have been collected (4 womens (blue handles) 4 mens (green handles). Carol has volunteered to paint them. 4 more pairs (juniors) are on order. I want to sort out the private sculls as there are some that don't appear to be used and are not labeled ...

### **Blade racks**

New blade rack has been installed (and filled up). RP rack (8 pairs) also on order.

### **Boat Racks**

We need to get a few more racks up in the boathouse – and to fix the ones we already have.

### **Results**

## **Matters Arising**

## **Junior Coordinators Report:**

### **Equipment**

Bellatrix is almost ready.

### **Newbies**

Friday Sculling Club is in full swing. Plenty of help so far and a steady stream of newbies

Sunday scullers have also started.

### **Henley Womens**

We are planning on sending a WJ16 4X- to Womens Henley this year.

### **Results**

Evesham – we won some stuff

BAS – ditto

NSR – we won WJ15 2X, 3<sup>rd</sup> in WJ16 2X, 6<sup>th</sup> in WJ16 1X

### **Events**

### **Matters Arising**

Permission for WJ16 4X to race at HWR.

Mens Squad Report:

### **Racing:**

Bristol Avon Regatta:  
MasD 8+: dsq

Hereford Regatta:  
IM3 2x: George and Ollie

Looking ahead we hope to race Llandaff, Gloucester and the Masters eight are aiming for the Great Ouse Marathon in September.

### **Crews etc:**

We seem to be thin on the ground, Saturday rowing has more or less stopped. We have 3 new beginner men. Because of availability there has never been more than 2 beginners at a time. They have rowed in fours and eights with more experienced rowers, their main outing is on Sundays at 8.30. Some of last years beginners who have been without a regular crew have migrated to Sunday mornings as well.

### **Matters Arising: -**

#### Women's Report

No problems arising this month.

Head of the Dart – apologies for not mentioning this in my last report, but congratulations to Philippa, Di, Mary and Jo (and Julian for coxing) for completing the Head of the Dart with Bradford on Avon. Nice to see clubs combining, but hopefully next year we can send two women's eights.

Bristol Avon Regatta - Congratulations to WNov E 8+ Abbie, Jess, Lottie, Grace, Lauren, Rebecca, Bethan, Laura and Patsy for winning their category and to WMas C 4+ Sal, Kath, Helen Nic and Abbie winning also.

Everyone had a jolly day at the regatta, but some of the feedback is that it didn't feel as smooth and rower focused as usual and the with regards to the helping rota, suggestions have come in for a clearing up team jobs to be assigned. Lots of people did help throughout the day even though they weren't assigned jobs and have said they would have stayed, but perhaps there needs to be a definite split in set up and clear up people, so the same people aren't there all day.

Another suggestion is the set up of catering for tea and coffee and Bacon butties first thing would be much appreciated from those travelling a distance or turning up early to help. These are just suggestions I am feeding back.

25th May Women's Squad Sculling Day - Organised and run by Debbie, with Jo and Parveen. Huge thanks to you from everyone who took part and me; I understand it was a great day and has inspired some of the women to do more single sculling.

Fitting in the new LTR Novice women is slowly getting there, trying to keep them in the explore quads until 21st June and then will try to move them into fine boats. People's timetables are interesting, but we seem to have at least a solid quad/four.

Fundraising - still more work is required, but slowly creeping!!

**Beginner Report June 2015**  
**March Programme - final numbers**

The final figures are:

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| Enquiries                    | 52 |
| Booked in for tasters        | 35 |
| Attended taster              | 26 |
| Continued after taster       | 22 |
| Handed over to co-ordinators | 16 |

Of the six who dropped out mid-session, three have said they would like to join the May group ( Antonia, Julian, Rebecca ), two said they were too busy ( Daisy, Nigel ) and one just vanished.

Twenty-four sessions were offered. A couple of people did 12 and a few did 10.

I am keeping records for SE so I know that the programme devoured 122 man-hours of coaching or helping ( i.e. being in a beginner boat ). This was delivered by four stalwarts ( 10 hours plus ) and 21 others ( some of whom just sat in a boat for an hour - but we couldn't have done it without them ).

**May Programme**

To set this up, I included on the list:

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| People who had enquired for March but not replied | 10                      |
| People who booked on in March but did not come    | 13 ( inc some friends ) |
| People who dropped out of March                   | 6                       |
| New enquiries                                     | 35                      |

We had 22 takers for the May tasters, all from the new enquiries group, including four "friends and family". So the drop-outs are not worth the effort of pursuing them.

Of the 22, 17 showed up ( one is still to come. Or not ). So the 50% rule is alive and well.

**Sport England**

Progress towards the Sport England participant target so far is shown below; the progress is in brackets next to the relevant target.

|              | Male      | Female    |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| Aged 0 - 13  | 15 ( 3 )  | 15 ( 3 )  |
| Aged 14 - 26 | 35 ( 2 )  | 35 ( 9 )  |
| Aged 26+     | 35 ( 11 ) | 35 ( 28 ) |

The above includes the March and May tasters, some junior outings and the team from the Jolly Sailor.

**Helpers**

Although on paper there are lots of beginner coaches who have been through a briefing, availability is very limited. But Will and Debra have joined the helping/coaching team of Philippa, Julian, Jo, Clair and Tommo.

### **Saltford Festival River Day**

I have applied to CART.

The pub teams have been very slow to recruit and respond to the detailed offer of training. One team ( Jolly ) has had two outings, one ( Bird ) has had one and the third ( Saltford Sports ) is scheduled for 1st June. The fourth ( Riverside ) has not materialised yet. We have had a meeting of an impromptu committee of ACRC people who have said they will help on the day, and listed tasks and people to do things.

### **Explore Events**

I think this has gone away, but it might have morphed into a meeting on WAGS priorities.

### **Issues for Committee - do we agree?**

I am never doing this Pubs and Clubs thing again - not in this form. But 21st June is a good target date for a finale/race for the March course. So I think we should run an Explore event next year. Our boats and Gloucester's boats ( and possibly Ariel's but the Ariel LTR man has not followed up my invitation to come and look at our boats )and open only to WAGS clubs.

Three courses is one too many. The first one should start in March and have its finale on 21st June in the Explore event. The second one should start in July and have its finale at Upton. There is no third course. The coaches need a break and the co-ordinators would have less load and the usage of the Explore boats would be easier to schedule.

| AVON COUNTY ROWING CLUB   |               |                           |                               |                |
|---|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Financial Report for Committee Meeting on<br>1 June 2015  |               |                           |                               |                |
|   |               | This report<br>(01/06/15) | Previous report<br>(27/04/15) | Change         |
| <b>1. BANK BALANCE</b>  |               |                           |                               |                |
|   | Interest rate |                           |                               |                |
| Current account - General   |               | 10,346                    | 10,852                        | (506)          |
| Current account - Captain   |               | 4,360                     | 3,607                         | 753            |
| Deposit account   | 0.05%         | 948                       | 948                           | 0              |
| 100 Club account  |               | 5,046                     | 5,046                         | 0              |
| CAF Cash account  |               | 1,092                     | 8,571                         | (7,479)        |
| CAF Gold account  | 0.15%         | 199                       | 1,199                         | (1,000)        |
| Virgin Money account  | 1.00%         | 17,433                    | 17,346                        | 86             |
| CAF 90 day notice account   | 0.75%         | 574                       | 574                           | 0              |
| <b>Total in bank</b>  |               | <b>39,997</b>             | <b>48,143</b>                 | <b>(8,146)</b> |
| General excludes subs standing order receipts since 08/05/15  |               |                           |                               |                |
| There are also accounts for ACRC events: HSBC (all except Bristol Avon Regatta), NatWest (Bristol Avon Regatta) |               |                           |                               |                |
| Debtors: Entries & gym/landtraining   |               | 1,377                     | 1,229                         | 148            |
| Debtors: Kit  |               | 294                       | 529                           | (235)          |
| <b>Total entries &amp; kit debtors</b>  |               | <b>1,671</b>              | <b>1,758</b>                  | <b>(87)</b>    |
| Debts incurred before 01/04/12 excluded.  |               |                           |                               |                |
| <b>2. MAJOR INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE ITEMS SINCE LAST REPORT</b>  |               |                           |                               |                |
| (excluding normal routine items)  |               |                           | Amount                        |                |
| oars (8 sets Concept2)  |               |                           | 3,760                         |                |
| repair G James  |               |                           | 420                           |                |
| ACRC share hair & hand dryers etc Jan 15  |               |                           | 855                           |                |
| manufacture of trailer for Mucat - final payment  |               |                           | 340                           |                |
| 3 pop-up gazebos  |               |                           | 390                           |                |
| Rowperfect scull rack   |               |                           | 325                           |                |
| junior 2x   |               |                           | 5,989                         |                |
| <b>3. IMPENDING MAJOR EXPENDITURE/INCOME</b>  |               |                           |                               |                |
|   |               |                           | Amount                        |                |
| oars (4 sets)   |               |                           | 2,000                         |                |
| cox box   |               |                           | ??                            |                |
| <b>4. FINANCIAL ISSUES</b>  |               |                           |                               |                |