



# AVON COUNTY ROWING CLUB

## MINUTES

### **Committee meeting held at Saltford Rowing Centre, Saltford Monday, 2 October 2017, at 7:30pm**

**Present:** Penny Senior, Patsy Lamb, Jon Garner, Jim Dawson, Philippa Sondheimer, Julian Sondheimer, Nic Feaver, Debbie Blackmore,

**Apologies:** Helen Willcox, Antony Constantinidi, Clair Ponting

**Minutes of Last Meeting** – Approved and adopted. The item from July's minutes relating to Committee approval of national/international regatta entries was discussed again. The squad co-ordinators are responsible for directing crews towards events best suited to their skill levels, taking into account the level of competition and nature of the marshalling arrangements and course. Jon agreed that squad co-ordinators should continue to vet Tideway head entries, as both the marshalling areas and challenging courses require a certain level of expertise to avoid collision and possible injury.

**Update Action List (attached)** – The following items have been removed prior to the list being circulated:

- Safety session for parents – parent tasked to do this has left the club
- Sell Gudgeon – duplicate entry
- Trailer service – Antony has done this
- Coaches' Supper – has been organised

Further items deemed to be complete:

- Shorten yellow/brown/white sculling blades – Penny has done
- Ask BR to negotiate boat licences with CART – have asked. Reply was 'BR is aware of the issue and no further action is planned at this time'.
- Chase UBBC re crash with Dobby – The University are not going to pay for the damage.
- Head Lease – the file that Debbie had was corrupted, and has now been replaced with a readable version

### **Reports (attached)**

Captain – The two new adult boats need names. The junior 2x will be called *Nymphadora*. There was unanimous agreement that the men's boat will be called *Antony Constantinidi*. There was no consensus on the women's boat – the name put forward was *Andrew Barton*, but people wanted to have more time to think about it. Committee members were asked to email their thoughts/suggestions to Penny in the next few days, to allow any additional suggestions to be circulated before the next committee meeting.

Juniors – No matters arising

Men – The squad has grown to the point where two Sunday sessions are now required to accommodate everyone. The times are 8:30-10:00 and 10:00-12:00. Nic reports there are no coxes so she's encouraging people to get into singles, doubles/pairs and coxless fours/quads. The results at Lake Bled were excellent (as detailed in the report) with first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth places finishes – spread between four rowers.

Women – The women who competed at Bled had a great experience, which has generated interest within the squad for the 2019 event. Philippa queried whether the squad should have specific aims (ie, Vesta and WHORR crews finishing no lower than x place; qualifying a boat for Women's Henley). Discussion ensued about meeting the goals of individual crews/rowers versus setting squad goals. Julian pointed out that most of the new rowers don't know whether the events on offer would be suitable for them, making it hard for them to set goals, should they wish to do so. Nic said she feels that the club should aim to be inclusive so people keep coming back. We have some new members who've arrived from other local clubs precisely because we are not as rigidly structured and are known

for being friendly and accommodating. Ultimately it is down to the co-ordinators to steer crews towards appropriate events without necessarily setting any squad goals.

Beginners – No matters arising

**Boathouse Management Committee Issues** – Debbie suggested we install four commercial loo roll dispensers (and the loo roll to go with them) in the change room toilets. Agreed. Debbie will acquire.

Philippa raised the purchase of acoustic screens, now that we've seen the ones the Uni have offered – which are too large to transport or to fit properly against the clubroom walls when not in use. It was agreed three shorter screens that can be rolled back snugly against the walls when not in use would be very useful. Philippa will get a quote and forward it to the BMC.

The committee agreed unanimously that the track upgrade quote presented by Antony (£4530+VAT) which Philippa will pass to the BMC for approval.

**Safety** – Following the unsatisfactory attempt to have UBBC contribute to the repair of Dobby (which was rammed into by one of their eights at speed), it was agreed that far more detail is needed when recording/reporting incidents where significant damage/injury results. Where possible, it was suggested that the details be written down and that all parties involved and witnessing the event sign off. This document can form part of the BR Safety Report. This is only practical with clubs rowing out of Saltford. Julian pointed out that whilst this sounds easy to the experienced people sitting around the table, it would be rather more daunting for less experienced members.

Jon commented on the seeming reluctance of crews (from all clubs on the reach) to shout out warnings whilst on the river; and that some crews take umbrage when on the receiving end of a warning shout out. We need to encourage everyone to be more proactive (and vocal) about staying safe on the river.

**Care and Allocation of Equipment** – Care: Nic commented on the damage done to hulls by gates left open and not enough attention paid when lifting boats on and off racks. She felt the beginners being handed off to the squads were not taught to handle fine boats properly. Both Philippa and Penny pointed out that, regardless of what the beginners say weeks later, they most certainly are taught how to step in and out of fine boats and how to carefully get them on and off racks. The fact is that people simply forget a lot of what they are shown. Penny also pointed out that boat damage is certainly not exclusively caused by beginners. It was agreed that all of us need to continue to observe and remind people (beginners and otherwise) how to treat the equipment with care and respect.

Allocation: Nic proposed all boats be recategorised for use by weight and crew experience, rather than the existing designations of men/women/juniors. She does not want the men's boats being used by women, beginners and juniors because there have been times when men's boats have been either unavailable to the men or have been damaged by others. Penny said that the men's 8 is very rarely used by anyone other than men; that the two men's 4+'s are only used by the women if both Albie and JH are in use. Patsy checks before using any men/junior boats. There was no decision to recategorise boat allocation.

**Boat Purchase – Men's 4 Riggers** – The minutes of May 17, which were circulated and approved, were disputed. Jim, Jon, Nic and Antony believe the decision on the night was to buy both sweep and sculling riggers. Penny and Debbie remember the discussion differently. Penny's preference is to buy the boat/rigger combination we need, rather than buy both types of riggers and change the rig back and forth depending on which crew is using it that week. She suggested fitting Victor's sweep riggers to the new boat, if the ultimate decision is to use it for sweep, and return Victor to a quad permanently.

Penny made the point that, whilst the club used to buy convertible boats when it had far less money and far fewer boats, this is no longer the case. We can, for example, now afford to buy two boats where we would formerly have had to make do with one that did double/triple duty.

The problem of the Janousek boats on the racks not fitting the men in terms of being able to get their legs down was raised again. This has been addressed by ordering a design modification for the new (and future) boats.

The final decision was to purchase sweep riggers for the new boat, in addition to the sculling ones already ordered. Victor will also be used as a convertible boat.

Debbie asked if there was much competition at Novice/IM3 lever for a 4-. Evidently there is, although not at local events.

Also minuted in May was Nic looking into acquiring two second-hand hwt singles for the men. This is ongoing.

### **Events –**

Men's Squad Time Trials – Proposed to run in December, January, February and April on Sunday mornings. Nic will determine dates, which don't need to be approved by the Committee. The course will be upstream from the bottom bridge, to the sluice, and back to the bottom bridge. Philippa commented that it will present a good opportunity to train new timekeepers for our events.

Avon Autumn – Have had first planning meeting. Everything proceeding to plan, although British Red Cross are being a bit difficult about confirming attendance.

Monkton Bluefriars – Matt Wells is no longer at MNK and the replacement is not involved in the race at all. Julian Bewick has been ill, so Jim has taken over as race manager. He reported that we can expect very little help from MNK and are, as always, short of helpers. Given that AVN are effectively running the whole thing, Debbie queried whether there had been any discussion about the size of the contribution the Trust plans to return to AVN. Jim will let us know.

**Bath Spa Uni** – Abi Shears has emailed her plans for handling the intake of newbies to Penny and some of the coaches. This raised some concern about what commitment they expect from us. Penny has been guiding Abi (who has little experience in club management) through the stages of getting a club up and running. It is quite unlikely any of the new intake will get out of Explore boats any time soon. But it will be made clear, when required, what fine boats they will be allowed to use.

**Finance/Subs (attached)** – no matters arising

**New Members** – Full: Clare Crossley, Shane Cameron, Hugh Kenyon, Catherine Neary, Wendy Prince, Christine Wright, Elizabeth Thallon, Emma Vincent, Steven McCarthy, Jacqueline Walker, Victoria Legge, Pip Burrows, Kieran Mulvaney, Pete Morris, Daniel Prescott, Frankie Tuck, Joanne Hunt

Junior: Finley Feaver, Imogen Scott, Megan Cooper, Ellie Sweet

### **Any Other Business –**

Nic Feaver – would like to revert to squad co-ordinators doing the AGM results list. Said there were errors that had been pointed out but not corrected.

There is a new member who would like to 'store' his erg in our gym, and who is happy for it to be used by everyone.

Philippa Sondheimer – Is resigning as BMC secretary, so will no longer be co-ordinating the calendar of events/meetings.

Wondered if night rowing could now be more feasible with the new technology for bike lighting. Philippa will ask Minerva how they handle their night time outings.

Patsy Lamb – Wanted to know if there is a trailer going to Wycliffe SBH (Yes) and City of Bristol (No).

Jim Dawson – confirmed that Antony is taking the Eton in for servicing on Thursday. Coolant issues.

Penny Senior – Millfield School are selling a two-seat sweep Singulator and are asking £2500. Penny offered £1000, which was rejected. Committee agreed it would be a welcome coaching tool, to be kept on the boathouse balcony, with a suitable cover, for AVN use only. Penny to offer £2000. We can apply for a WAGS grant up to a maximum of £1000.

**Date and Time of Next – Monday, 6 November 2017 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 mended	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		
Equip	Shorten all yellow/white/brown sculling blades	19/06/17	PSen	
Equip	Look at Snow White	19/06/17	AC	Started
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	Ask BR to negotiate boat licenses	03/10/16	Psond	Asked
Admin	Look through new members list and sort out muddles	03/10/16	CP, PSen	Started
Admin	Chase junior forms – see joiners & leavers note	13/12/16	PSen	
Admin	Update kids contact list	3/04/17	PSen	Started
Admin	Put gudgeon on eBay	19/06/17		
Admin	Chase UBBC re crash	19/06/17	PSen, AC	Started
Admin	Be more severe about insurance	19/06/17	JS	
	Talk to UBBC re newbies			
	Ask if there is a plasterer in club?			
	Head lease?			

### 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:

Safety	Organise a safety session for parents	09/05/16	Pascale	
Equip	Get trailers serviced – not needed	19/06/17	AC	
Equip	Sell Gudgeon – advertise at ASH	19/10/15	DB	Started
	Write reports for AGM			Complete
	Coaches supper		DB	Organised

## Captains report:

### Equipment - Repair

The broken women's scull (red/white/blue) has been repaired and the original 'Project Oarsome' macon sculls have all been re-sleeved. The broken Dreher scull is more difficult as Dreher are impossible to get hold of to get spares so Nick is going to see if he can mend the head rather than replace it.

Snow White has been repaired but has since got a problem with its shoulder which is now being looked at.

Albie and Penny have both had new amplifier/rate wiring at the cox's end of the boat.

There are problems with the Eton engine too.

### Equipment – new

The 3 boats have all been ordered and are in production.

### Outstanding Dosh

Still over £2000 outstanding, sigh.

### 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		C 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

#### World Masters Rowing Champs

E2- Jon and Russel

### Matters Arising

None

## **Junior Coordinators Report:**

### **Newbies**

Trying to sort out those that have actually joined and those that have decided not to (but don't have the courtesy to mention it).

### **Technical sculling camp**

This was very much enjoyed by those that attended.

I may run another camp at half term.

### **Capsize drill**

This was reasonably well attended – thanks to all who helped.

### **End of Season Duck race and barbeque – September 30<sup>th</sup>**

This was great fun and a good fund raiser (almost £700 raised).

## **Results**

### **Matters Arising**

None

## **ACRC Men's Squad Report 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017**

Stourport Regatta all the way back in August saw Jon G and Russell T win E2-. Will, Bob, Mike D and Mike C with Kieran coxing E4+ made it to the final with a good row in their heat.

Wow Wow WOW! FISA Masters in Bled were a fantastic end to the regatta season with Jon G and Russell winning E2-. Antony and Russell both came 2<sup>nd</sup> in their F1x finals. Russell T, Antony, Jim and Jon G came 3<sup>rd</sup> in F4x-. Antony and Russell t came 4<sup>th</sup> in F2x. Jim came 5<sup>th</sup> in H1x and in their F4- they came 6<sup>th</sup>. A wonderful set of results for ACRC, the Boys did us proud.

Next stop on the way to World Domination by Russell, Antony, Jim and Jon G with the rest of the squad hopefully following their lead, will be Worcester SB Head, Monkton Bluefriars and the Pairs Head all this Month.

Most of the guys who want to race, and turn up to squad sessions, are in crews now. The Beginners are enjoying improving their rowing and sculling and we have had a few experienced rowers from other clubs swell our ranks, so all looking rosy for the Head Season. We just need younger boats for greater crew weight than the club currently has....

## **Women's Squad Report, August & September 2017**

### **Races**

Philippa, Fiona, Ruth and Jo H represented Avon County Women's Squad at Bled this year, in a quad and double. There was very positive feedback regarding their experience and aspirations are already in gear for World Masters 2019.

The women's squad didn't attend Stourport in August.

Congratulations to the women who culminated their Learn to Row experience by racing at Upton (reflected in Beginner's report).

A quad, coxed quad, and coxed four (possibly two) are entering Monkton.

## General

The squad meeting was well attended. Crews have/are being formed for the head season ahead. Land training has started but will only run on a Tuesday this year. Some but not all blades were painted...before we ran out of paint/drying opportunities.

Some of the women have asked about a boat maintenance course...is this possible?

Written by: Patsy Lamb, Women's Squad Coordinator

## Report of the Beginner Coordinator, Clair Ponting October 2017

Since the last meeting, and as reported at the AGM on Saturday, one of the 3 crews I took to Upton Regatta on 10 September won - in dramatic style. We made headlines in the local news where more was made of our win rather than the winners of the main event due to the first final finishing in a deadheat and re-row which we managed to win by half a length. So congrats goes to Steve, Tim, Pete and Emma coxed by Kieran.

The other 2 crews of all ladies really enjoyed themselves and whilst some were disappointed with the results they were (and so was I) very pleased with their performances which have been captured on video (by one of our supporters) if anyone is interested in viewing it.

Maybe I will go back to Upton after all next year - see if we can win!!!

Having handed over 7 men and 8 women to their coordinators last weekend I'm going into my fallow time of year. That said I'm getting 2-3 enquiries a week for courses so it looks like we should be able to run 3 sessions next year, if I organise it correctly and the Coordinators can cope with numbers being handed over at the end of it.

During my downtime from the LTR between now and January I will be able to update my info sheets for the website, plan for the 3 sessions next year and recruit my helpers. Will look to market the courses on the website around beginning of January.

I will also send emails to all those on the 'waiting list' to cleanse the list from those not interested so that we are Data Protection compliant when the new regulations come in around April 2018. This email will need to state that 'if we haven't heard from them by x date, they will be removed from our database of those interested in rowing so that we are complaint with new Data Protection Regulations'. So that we don't fall foul of the rules we have to ask everyone to opt out of receiving information, as I understand it but I know in the coming weeks I'm having a training course on the subject so will know more about what is involved. I believe that as a membership organisation we have to contact all those who we have details for and ask them if they wish to remain on our database - again I will know more shortly as with a membership of 4000 at work it will affect us greatly soon. What this space.



**Clair Ponting**  
**2 October 2017**

**Safety Report for Committee October 2017**  
**Incidents 2017/8**

Incidents since the AGM Report i.e. since 31 July 2107

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

**Issues**

The Safety Alert on 5<sup>th</sup> September was about collisions and I asked for it to be circulated via RN.

The new adults had the Safety briefing (inc discussion of capsized poster ) on 2 September.

Philippa ( 28 Sep 2017 )

AVON COUNTY ROWING CLUB							
Financial Report for Committee Meeting on 2 October 2017							
1. BANK BALANCE			This report (02/10/17)	Previous report (31/07/17)	Change		
		Interest rate					
Current account - General			45,284	41,057	4,226		
Current account - Captain			4,491	4,436	55		
Deposit account		0.03%	949	949	0		
100 Club account			1,054	1,054	0		
CAF Cash account			6,243	7,341	(1,098)		
CAF Gold account		0.05%	777	777	0		
Virgin Money account		0.50%	17,717	17,717	0		
<b>Total in bank</b>			<b>76,517</b>	<b>73,333</b>	<b>3,184</b>		
General excludes subs standing order receipts since 08/09/17							
There are also accounts for ACRC events: HSBC (all except Bristol Avon Regatta), NatWest (Bristol Avon Regatta)							
Debtors: Entries & gym/landtraining			1,136	2,984	(1,848)		
Debtors: Kit			425	715	(290)		
<b>Total entries &amp; kit debtors</b>			<b>1,560</b>	<b>3,698</b>	<b>(2,138)</b>		
2. MAJOR INCOME & EXPENDITURE ITEMS SINCE LAST REPORT							
(excluding normal routine items)							
				Amount			
BAR 17 dividend (for Boat Funds) (incl catering profit)				(3,500)	income		
3. IMPENDING MAJOR EXPENDITURE/INCOME							
				Amount			
Boats (W4x-, M4x-, J2x)				32,843			
Renovations to oars				1,000	estimate		
oars (4 sets Junior sculling)				2,000			
				35,843			
4. FINANCIAL ISSUES							