



AVON COUNTY ROWING CLUB

MINUTES

Committee meeting held at Saltford Rowing Centre, Saltford Monday, 27 April 2015, at 7:30pm

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

Apologies: Sallyanne Lewis, Jim Dawson, Parveen Jones

Minutes of Last Meeting - approved and adopted.

Update Action List – A reminder of the racking fee will go in this week's RN. Thanks extended to Jim Dawson (in absentia) for the beautifully-made and very useful trolleys for the Explore boats.

Reports (previously circulated) –

Captain & Juniors – no matters arising

Men – Philippa wished to note Tom Scott's contribution to beginner coaching. Tom is a relatively new rower who is cheerfully donating his time to teach the current LTR intake.

Women – It was noted that 4 masters women (Philippa Sondheimer, Di Walker, Mary Thorne, Jo Elliott) had also competed in the Dart-Totnes Head, as part of a mixed crew with 4 BOARC men.

Novices – BR are pressuring us to run Explore events, despite having declined to contribute to the purchase of the boats. The consensus was that we will run them as and when we feel there is a need/desire. After a short discussion, it was also agreed to continue to recruit beginners. Suitable boat availability can probably be resolved by borrowing a UBBC or MNK 80. Hopefully the women's squad will be able to raise the small amount still needed to purchase a new 80, which would eliminate the need to borrow.

Boathouse Management Committee Issues – We agreed there is no foolproof solution to doors being left unlocked. Despite notes near the exit to the facilities block, the balcony doors still get left unlocked. And the chains on the boathouse doors are also now being left unclipped.

A member of the canoe club is preparing a quote for web cam coverage of the site.

The Uni have now provided their quote for sewage disposal, at £40,800. Antony is retesting the measurements already taken to ensure the Bodman's quote of £18,000 will meet the demand. We will then present the more sensibly-priced solution to Monkton and the Uni for approval.

A lawn mower has been purchased for the site.

Finance/Subs (previously circulated) – Julian will add three lines to future financial reports, indicating each squad's (men/women/juniors) boat purchase fundraising results to date.

Philippa will send Penny a list of sub overpayments to be applied to dosh o/s. Similarly, any sub underpayments will be added to dosh o/s and published.

Kingswood – we do not have an accurate list of rowers for whom they are paying subs. Jim and Antony have met with both Monkton and Kingswood administrators to clarify the concerns the former have about Kingswood representing itself as a 'rowing school' whilst rowing out of Saltford. Kingswood have now reclassified rowing as a recreational activity, rather than a sport, and are restricting their outings to once/week. And they are no longer going to compete. We believe this has reassured Monkton and no

further concerns will arise. Antony will keep chasing the written agreement that we should have had months ago. He believes it will be in hand by the end of this school year.

Events – Club Dinner – 9 May at Bathwick Boatman. 7:30 for 8:00 – 60 people attending.

Pubs and Clubs – 21 June. Philippa reports she has some volunteers on board for the pre-event coaching sessions and on the day.

Bath Marina Planning Application – Antony attended the meeting held to explain the marina's plans for new berths. The proposal is not at all feasible, and will make it dangerous, if not impossible, for rowing boats and other narrow boats/power craft to get through the downstream arch of the top bridge. The marina have agreed to place a buoy in the river to mark where the upstream berth will extend into the river. We will have to formally object, again, when the plans are submitted to council.

Safety & Governance – Sal is working on updating our risk assessment to reflect in detail the existing safety measures, specifically for juniors. Several months ago, parents of one of our juniors recorded complaints directly to BR about crew selection, safety and bullying. A sub-committee has been attempting to work with BR's Case Management Group to address the concerns raised. Two junior members were suspended whilst the sub-committee tried to obtain clear guidance from BR. A mediator was then appointed by BR to meet with the sub-committee and the parents involved. Before the mediator met with the sub-committee (but after he met with the parents) the two junior members resigned. The mediator reported his findings to BR on 16 April. To date, no acknowledgement or response has been forthcoming from BR.

New Members – Ruth Bardell, Mike Feranec, Charlotte Williams, Ceri Lewis, Carol Baker, Rebecca Mills, Fin Mitchell, Kat Mitchell, Matthew Brown, Kate Harvey, Andrew Theban, Samantha Bennett, Darci McGuffog

Any Other Business – Antony is working on a grant application with the Mercers Company, and is speaking to Derek Walker about approaching the Medlock Foundation again for a matched funding grant. Jon Garner is looking at funding for a launch. And a small RIB has been donated to the club. It has yet to be assembled to see if it will suit our needs.

Date and Time of Next: Monday, 1 June 2015, Saltford Rowing Centre, 7:30 pm

Captains report:**Equipment - repair**

No new on George James (broken shoulder) or Get Smart – I have emailed.

Chris Hopper has 2 new sets of shoes now.

Get Smart has a huge hole in it. Does anyone know how it happened?

Rst 1X also appears to have developed a leak?

Sculling Blades

I will be ordering sculling blades in the near future. I should be able to collect at NSR. New rack may be with us within a fortnight.

I would also like to buy some row perfect sculling blade holders (the ones that mean you take any pair of blades without disturbing the rest.

Blade racks

Should be here soon.

Boat Racks

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

Explore Boats

Boats are rigged and busy! The trolleys for the doubles could do with a small adjustment to stop riggers scraping on the floor.

Results

Dart Head

WN 80

Maters Arising

Purchase of more blade racks.

Junior Coordinators Report:**Equipment**

Bellatrix (2X) has been started.

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.

JIRR

We supplied

WJ15 2X

WJ16 4X-

J14 2X

¼ of J16 8o

3/8 of WJ16 8o

Despite the windy weather, the event ran! Hurrah!

Results

Events

Matters Arising

None

Mens Squad Report:

Racing:

Head of the Dart:

MasE 8+ 30th overall, in 54.28

Bristol Avon Regatta:

Crews are aware and willing to help in other division.

IM3 4+ (Derek)

MasC 4+ (Derek)

MasD 4+ (Norstar!)

IM3 4x- (Victor)

IM3 2x (Julian Bewick)

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

Crews etc:

Young re-jig has settled and working fine, masters eight now dividing into fours.

Crew boats in use:

Saturday 8 (Derek and doubles or Penny)

Saturday 10 (Derek)

Saturday 12 (Victor)

Sunday 8 (Derek, George)

Evening outings have started.

Monday 6.30pm (experienced scullers)

Wednesday 6.30pm (Main mens session)

George, Ivor and I completed the Powerboat course and have all had a practice on the river too.

We should have two new joiners for next month: Jerry (experienced masters rower who will row with us during the week, and possibly do some coaching) and Guillaume (french man who has sculled recreationally for many years).

Other:

The rigged restricted single (the lower of the black ones) takes on a lot of water, and probably should not be used by anyone planning on doing more than a short paddle. Guillaume did two laps to the bridge and back and his bows were practically underwater, and buckets of water came out of the bow end where the tape is when we put it upside down to drain. I will put him in a different boat next time, but just so everyone is aware.

There is just one club boat that still needs an empacher slot (Fluffy). I have spoken to Will and he will do it this week. Thank you to Will for mowing the lawn too.

Matters Arising: -

Women's Report

No problems arising this month.

Head of the Dart – Congratulations to WNov E 8+ Abbie, Jess, Lottie, Grace, Lauren, Rebecca, Bethan, Laura and Patsy for winning their category.

Evening Rowing started on the 14th April for the women and so far we have had a positive turn out with 20+ people turning up to the sessions. Sal has kindly agreed to organise and run these sessions, putting together a plan to give people an opportunity to try different positions, coxing and taking responsibility for themselves. It has been an excellent start to the summer evening rowing.

Fundraising. – an email has been sent out to the women's squad to focus people's attention to how much money we need to raise in order to get another eight. We need to get a wriggle on; especially as we are sure to have more women coming our way this summer from the LTR course. Ideas have been floated and little things are being done, but more work is required.

Beginner Report April 2015
Taster Session Attendees and Beginner numbers for the March Programme

The figures so far are:

Enquiries	52
Booked in for tasters	35
Attended taster	26
Still with us	22

Progress towards the Sport England participant target so far is shown in brackets below:

	Male	Female
Aged 0 - 13	15	15
Aged 14 - 26	35 (1)	35 (5)
Aged 26+	35 (4)	35 (16)

I am hoping that use of the quads for beginner juniors at sculling club will swell these numbers.

Eleven sessions have been offered and people have done an average of four sessions.

On Sunday 29th only seven people were interested enough to brave the 30mph winds and the rain and have a go in a Virus on Swan Lake! It was very muddy and it would have been good to get a couple of pallets off the bonfire to stand on/launch from. But we managed.

On Easter Monday afternoon we had eleven beginners and got out an Explore quad and an Explore four for the first time.

Helpers

Although on paper there are lots of beginner coaches who have been through a briefing, availability is quite limited. We have not cracked this one yet! BUT it is less urgent now that beginners are in quads.

Equipment

All the Explore boats are now rigged. The cradles for the Explore quads are wonderful.

We have sorted out the best way to launch the quads and they are being used every beginner session.

The doubles are also being used by the beginners, as well as by the men at 08:30 on Saturdays, and by less experienced juniors and adults.

All four boats need AVN numbers and names.

Saltford Festival River Day

This is beginning to take shape and will be great fun. The safety and insurance aspects are on the way. Nevertheless it will still require 16 man-hours of training for the pub crews (and that is only the coxes) and a considerable amount of help on the day to ensure that everything runs at least vaguely on time.

We have nine beginners who want to race.

Explore Events

I have fended off demands by British Rowing that we run an Explore event in 2015 as we do not need one for our own beginners and are busy enough already, although I am disappointed that we are not offering Explore events at Bristol Avon. Perhaps next year we can do so, and also use our 21st June date as a local Explore event.

We have now been asked if we can lend our boats to the "events" which BR has "arranged".

They are:

21st June - no, our boats will be busy at our own "Community Explore " event and so will we

18th July - no, we shall be in Scotland and our beginners are not programmed to go over to Waterlands on that weekend

30th Aug - only if we are going to Gloucester and there is room on the trailer and GLR want them

14 Sep - no, because there is no point holding a WAGS event one day after Upton, which is pleasant, established and which we go to.

May beginners

Tasters for the next batch of beginners probably need to start the weekend after the regatta. We have 13 new enquiries plus some people who dropped out of the March course but might come back.

By then we shall have offered the March beginners 23 sessions and a capsized drill and should be handing over our 22 (max) people (16 women and six men) to the squad co-ordinators.

Issues for Committee

Should we be running an Explore event?

Still worrying about the lack of new sculling blades - eight sets.

Are we still happy to run three beginner courses per year? Can we cope with the people who emerge? Should we have two longer courses so the people are more advanced when they emerge? Should we have a beginner-free year?

AVON COUNTY ROWING CLUB							
Financial Report for Committee Meeting on 27 April 2015							
1. BANK BALANCE			This report (27/04/15)	Previous report (23/03/15)	Change		
	Interest rate						
Current account - General			10,852	18,071	(7,220)		
Current account - Captain			3,607	3,607	0		
Deposit account	0.05%		948	948	0		
100 Club account			5,046	4,826	220		
CAF Cash account			8,571	1,229	7,342		
CAF Gold account	0.15%		1,199	1,199	0		
Virgin Money account	1.00%		17,346	17,346	0		
CAF 90 day notice account	0.75%		574	572	1		
Total in bank			48,143	47,799	344		
General excludes subs standing order receipts since 08/04/15							
There are also accounts for ACRC events: HSBC (all except Bristol Avon Regatta), NatWest (Bristol Avon Regatta)							
Debtors: Entries & gym/landtraining			1,229	1,731	(502)		
Debtors: Kit			529	523	6		
Total entries & kit debtors			1,758	2,254	(496)		
Debts incurred before 01/04/12 excluded. JIRR 2015 excluded							
2. MAJOR INCOME & EXPENDITURE ITEMS SINCE LAST REPORT							
(excluding normal routine items)							
				Amount			
Rudkin design (additional sculling blade racks, 3 sliding arms)					1,928		
BOATHOUSE DEVELOPMENT							
Stone King - legal fees up to 20/03/15					405		
3. IMPENDING MAJOR EXPENDITURE/INCOME							
				Amount			
oars (Explore grant commits ACRC to spend c 2400 on beginner oars)					??		
cox box					??		
manufacture of trailer for Mucat - final payment					250		
spend donation for junior 2x					5,244		
4. FINANCIAL ISSUES							

