



# AVON COUNTY ROWING CLUB

## MINUTES FOR ACRC COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at Solo Cottage, Stockwood Vale, Keynsham, BS31 2AW

On Monday, 31 October 2011

**Present:** Penny Senior (PSen), Debbie Blackmore (DB), Ian Vickery (IV), Chris Brigden (CB), Jim Dawson (JD), Clair Ponting (CP), Antony Constantinidi (AC), Philippa Sondheimer (PS), Julian Sondheimer (JS)

**Apologies:** Simon North (SN)

### **ACTION OWNER**

#### **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The following new members' names were omitted from July minutes: Naomi Manning, Helen Wilcox, Patsy Lamb, Vicki Perry, Paul Cox, Andy Savin.

Minutes approved and adopted

#### **ACTION LIST**

Safety meeting with other clubs on the reach is necessary. IV to liaise with Alistair to get contact information and arrange meeting **IV**

Still need help with boat checking.

Sweep blade racks need repair. AC to take a look and determine what's required. **AC**

Potholes continue to be a problem, particularly under the bridge. Decided to proceed with a temporary fix again, and repair more permanently (possibly hiring a JCB to scrape and compact the surface) when the proposed construction work is completed. IV to speak with Chris Blunt re temporary fix. **IV**

No serious arrears to report on subs.

#### **CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

AC to obtain a quote for a new launch engine **AC**

PSen to determine if Simon Wilson is going to run a coxing course. If not, Penny will run one in a few weeks (once the uni coxes have had a chance to get some mileage on the water) **PSen**



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## **MEN**

Discussion about how to provide coaching for novice men. Agreed that getting out with more experienced rowers at the Sunday 8:30 veteran's session is one solution. The newer men will have to be encouraged to join those sessions, as they won't necessarily know when they are competent enough to fit in. JS will make sure they know when they're ready, and will suggest they come along at 8:30 in addition to the normal 10:30 outing. **JS**

JS explained how the Sunday JTU sessions are organised, and CB will stay on and join in when possible.

## **WOMEN**

PS to approach Sarah Harris of WAGS re coaching assistance for our IM3 rowers, as we are struggling to provide a clear progression for people once they win their novices. **PS**

## **JUNIORS**

Nothing to add to previously-circulated report

## **NOVICE**

PS to speak at WAGS conference about what the club is doing to achieve the targets set by BR for new rowers. **PS**

Agreed to proceed with charging new members the £5 BR registration fee at the time they join ACRC **PS**

Changes/proposals to the induction course have been deferred until we have reviewed the Safety Plan

Learn to Row course to be changed from sweep to sculling on a trial basis – many of the people interested in LTR have been sweep rowing for weeks by the time we have enough people to run an LTR course. It was felt that offering sculling instead of sweep would provide better value for their money.

Agreed to proceed with SurveyMonkey survey aimed at people who started then left – a 'where did you go' survey. **PS**

If Saltford Festival is on again next year, we'll approach WAGS for help in organising a pubs/clubs event, using 2 borrowed Explore quads. Agreed that getting local companies to field crews is a good idea – it's very successful at Bewdley. PS to continue trying to confirm whether or not the Festival is on for 2012, and to talk to Bewdley about how they run their event. **PS**



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## **SAFETY/WELFARE**

No reports

## **CLUB DEVELOPMENT/LEASE**

AC has met with Bristol Uni CFO and there is now agreement regarding the structure of the project. ACRC to take a new head lease with the Duchy and grant two sub-leases to the Uni and Monkton.

There will be a three-way management agreement on the operation of the site, a draft of which has been initiated.

Monkton are happy with the situation to date. The Uni is meeting 1 November to discuss. Evidently the Uni need to comply with EU procurement rules, which could present unforeseen complications.

There is an all-party meeting scheduled for 14 November. The Uni know that all boxes must be ticked by that date in order for the 31 March 2012 British Rowing deadline to be achieved.

Tree conservation orders are now complete and the planning application is being resubmitted.

JS asked to whom the new buildings will belong. AC replied that each of the three parties will own a share of the buildings, and that an agreement setting out the relevant percentages remains to be finalised.

## **FUNDRAISING**

Discussed having a party on site, preferably at a milestone event (eg, when planning acceptance is granted). Good opportunity to explain development progress to date, and to ask members for donations.

Local businesses to be approached, and we need to amass more photos to include in a presentation to these businesses.

JD and AC have been working on lottery applications and will need additional statistics from PS and PSen

**JD, AC,  
PS,  
PSen**

PSen pointed out that all grant monies come with conditions and volumes of paperwork to complete, with no guarantee of success. She feels we have many members who will contribute to the building works, once they know what's needed.

Agreed we need to nail down the amount of money required before launching any type of appeal. Our share is approximately £200k, we have £50k in the bank, so need at least another £150K.



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CP wondered if it was time to resurrect the fundraising committee, and it was agreed we should. CP to contact members and get the ball rolling. **CP**

AC raised the issue of what info is in cyberspace about the club. How do we find out, how do we vet it and, if necessary, how do we delete the information that is not helpful for grant applications. AC to provide 'key words' to search for, and PSen to put a request in weekly rowing notices for a volunteer to take on this task. **AC PSen**

## **FINANCE**

Need to keep pressure on 'dosh owing' people, although the amount is coming down. **PSen**

## **EVENTS**

Head – 25 February. Helpers will be recruited after Christmas. First head committee meeting is 14 November. All in hand.

Regatta – 19 May 2012. Queen's Jubilee caused conflicts re dates, so we are clashing with Worcester, but 1 week before Monmouth and 2 weeks before Nat Schools.

Social – Attendance at two recent social events was disappointing. This might change once we have a meeting room, but until then 'social' will be removed from the agenda, and from our planning.

## **BOATHOUSE AND SITE**

Agreed to proceed with extending the riverside concrete walkway towards the marina and add a fourth raft and a slipway. IV to discuss materials required with Chris Blunt. 20 Nov set as date to do the preliminary work (sinking poles, etc). 26/27 Nov set as working party dates for filling the bank with sandbags. Critical to get finished before our February head race. **IV**

Club to do the work (with any offers of help from Uni students gratefully accepted) and we will ask the Uni to contribute towards the purchase of the raft.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

New members added are Annie Noble (LTR), Francesca Davies (LTR), Shona Tudor (full), Vivienne Tucker (full), Bethan Harker (LTR), Angela Ellis (full), Annabella Grant (jnr), Amy Speed (jnr) and Annabelle Davis (jnr)



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## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Albie Saunders - Feel we need to mark the end of Albie's tenure as President. Decided to present him with a blade, which PSen will source, and have a presentation and reception (marquee, wine, cheese) on site at the Christmas Pudding Head. **PSen**

David Langston, entered as Avon County RC, won the Rowers' Revenge Triathlon on 2 October. It is a 2k ergo, 12k bike ride and 3.75 k run. He did it in 55mins 15 secs which was about 20 min faster than the next person.

Bristol Dragon Boats – want to use 200-500M of our stretch from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm for a regatta in May. Agreed to offer them 20 May, the day after our regatta, to capitalise on the tents still being up. We will offer catering if they want it. AC to ask what they were paying on the Docks so we can decide what to charge. **AC**

Christmas Pudding Head – date confirmed as 18 December

## **NEXT MEETING**

Monday, 28 November 2011

7:30pm at Solo Cottage, Stockwood Vale, Keynsham, BS31 2AW