



AVON COUNTY ROWING CLUB

MINUTES

**Committee meeting held at Little Barn, Homefield Rd, Salford
Monday, 17 February 2020, at 7:30pm**

Present: Penny Senior, Jane Day, Jon Garner, Will Gray, Philippa Sondheimer, Julian Sondheimer, Carol Friend, Antony Constantinidi, Odette McCarthy, Patsy Lamb, Tim Grice, Clair Ponting, Debbie Blackmore

Apologies: Jim Dawson

Confidential Review of Disciplinary Matter:

Following a discussion of the process followed in this matter, the committee re-affirmed its full confidence in the Club Officers' integrity; in the fair and reasonable handling of the process leading to the expulsion; and in the resultant actions.

A draft response, signed by the Officers, to the email received from 15 club members expressing concern about the matter will be circulated to committee members for comment and approval before being sent.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Approved and adopted.

Update Action List (previously circulated):

- The derelict van belonging to the University has finally been removed from the site
- Chippings have been laid along the towpath
- Avon crew entries have been received for the Spring Head
- The large-size shoes we have are now fitted to footplates and are available for swapping in and out of Robin. More are required, but the supplier has none in stock.

Squad Reports (attached):

Captain and Juniors – Bath Spa have purchased two boats (4+ and 4x-), which will be racked in the West Wing. The understanding is that AVN will be able to use these boats, with prior arrangement with BSU. On that basis it was agreed that no racking or insurance fees would be charged. However, the boats remain the property of BSU and will not be included in AVN's asset list.

Beginners – No matters arising. Tim pointed out that the Swingulator, which Clair uses for beginners, is very dirty and rusting. It was covered with a tarpaulin, but it has either blown away or simply not been replaced after use.

Men – The two Vesta crews noted in the report were approved.

Penny and Jon expressed concerns about the HERR entry. Whilst the crew have an experienced Tideway cox, the rowers themselves have not yet had an outing together and a few have never competed in a head race. Their coaches have told them that the club reserves the right to pull the crew if the river/weather conditions pre-race are deemed challenging. This is a young men's crew and the individuals are keen and committed – some of them train in small boats regularly.

Ultimately, the entry was declined on the grounds of safety. HERR is the premier 8's race in the country, with crews training all season towards it. A novice crew, who have not had the opportunity to row together yet, could easily get into trouble on the Tideway. At the very least they might well get in the way of other crews, which is again a safety issue.

Jon will explain very carefully to the crew why the committee felt unable to approve the entry. The committee appreciates they will be disappointed, but HERR is an event to be worked towards over a period of months, which is unfortunately not what happened in this case.

Women – No matters arising

Boathouse Management Committee Issues: The facilities block drains have backed up due to the recent flooding. **Antony** will investigate.

Welfare: No matters arising

Safety: Due to flooding, Philippa was unable to access the boathouse to retrieve the safety incident book. Any incidents will be included in next month's report. In the meantime, we have received another BR 'Good Practice Award' for our regular reporting of safety issues.

Events:

ASH - Entries have been suspended earlier than ever before. 308 entries. Two AVN men's squad entries were not received in time and have not been included. All planning is well in hand.

BAR and AAH – nothing to report. Still no volunteer to take over AAH.

Club Dinner – was a great success. Thanks and congratulations to Jane for organising a great evening.

Finance (report attached): No matters arising

Subs (report attached): No matters arising

Admission of New Members: Erica Porter-Carter, Kieran Easdale

Any Other Business:

Antony – One of the two fallen trees on straight has been cleared. The other one will be done soon. A potential home for the two restricted singles we rarely use has been found. Penny would like to keep one, but the other one can be removed. Antony has found a new tree surgeon, who is coming to take a look at what we need done.

Philippa – Bluefriars trustees have apparently decided not to run the small boats head any longer, but have not officially let us know. Asked if anyone had heard more on this. No one has.

Julian – Has been speaking to CART about block licensing. They want to know the speed limit we require for our coaching launches. The canal speed limit is much lower than what a coaching launch requires. **Julian and Jon** will discuss, and Julian is also speaking to Stourport, who have block licensing in place.

Odetta – the moorings at Mead Lane in Saltford have been discontinued, which will no doubt impact our reach come the warm weather. **Antony** to let the Duchy know, and get more signs ready.

Penny – BBC Panorama will be filming a piece on eating disorders in elite athletes in the facilities block on Thursday. They are interviewing a Paralympic athlete and needed an accessible sports venue.

Date and Time of Next – Monday, 30 March, 2020

Avon County Rowing Club Committee Action List

	Action	Date	Who?	Status
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	Create spare rigger rack in WW	28/7/14	JG	
Equip	Clear West Wing of unwanted items to make room for weights!	19/07/16		Started
Admin	Ensure all boats have AVNxxx numbers, including the launches	21/3/11	PSen	Started
	Swingulator monitors	14/05/18		
	Investigate water cooler for facilities block	23/07/18	PSen	
	Add blades colours to RN – which ones are which	01/10/18		
	Lights under eaves	21/01/19	AC	
	Blade rite ergo	21/01/19	PSen	
	Look at club charter		All	
	Sign on lock to warn boaters about rowing boats	24/06/19	JD	Started
	Talk to Patsy re split the load	24/06/19		Started
	CCTV signs	24/06/19		Started
	Sports dev plan – dev plan	24/06/19		Started
	Sticky out poles on UBBC pontoon thingy – ask AC	27/07/19		
	Emergency contact list - update	27/07/19	PSon	Started
	Need another AAH chair - RN	23/09/19		
	Wheel barrows chippings			Started
	West wing rejig			
	Egg head – Sun before Easter			
	Need 3 plates & 7 pairs of shoes			4 pairs done
	ACRC head entries by 16 th Feb please			

Held:

Misc	Change club to a limited company – hold for now			
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Complete or no longer needed:

	UBBC van – chase Cameron	24/06/19		It's gone!!
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Captains report:

O/S Dosh

Has come down significantly.

Insurance

Julian and I are checking through the list of equipment that we insure (still).

West Wing

Antony and Jon have been very busy in here – massive tidy out and the racking has been re-done. The Mucat has been dismantled and may be sold. Gudgen, Gemma and some wooden sculls have been collected so there is a lot more room in there now.

Equipment

The new double should be ready towards the end of February.

I have the bits but haven't yet mended Albie's speaker system.

Jon is currently checking Penny over.

Victor has had a new set of (single) rigger bolts.

Bath Spa

Are competing at BUCS head next weekend. Andy HH is taking them. They are planning to buy some boats – a coxed four and coxless quad. We probably need to discuss how this is going to work ...

Coach/cox Education:

Sue Comber passed her L2 session coach course assessment with flying colours.

Coaches

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	SPC	RYA II Powerboat
Chris Hopper					Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Penny Senior			Y 17		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Julian Sondheimer					Y	Y		Y	
Andy Mason					Y	Y		Y	Y 08
Geoff Peattie					Y			Y	Y 08
Philippa Sondheimer					Y				
Debbie Blackmore		Y 12							Y
Charlotte Hook		Y						Y	
Jon Garner		C 11							Y
Nick Dolman		C						Y	
Annette Bartlett		Y 17						Y	
Patsy Lamb		Y 17						Y	Y 15
Liz Gray	Y 17								
Ange Scott	Y 17								
Clair Ponting	Y 17								
Abi Shears	Y 17	Y 18							
Andy Haines	Y 18								Y 2018
Carol Friend	Y 18							Y	
Nick King									Y 2018
Katherine Greenhead	Y 19								
Susana Beatson	Y	R 19							
Marian Lovell	Y 19								
Jane Day	Y 19								

Odette McCarthy	Y 19								
Tabi Clarke	Y 19								
Kate Unwin	Y 19								
Sam Wood	Y 19								
Joe	Y 19								
Darrel S		Y							
Ivor Blackmore									Y 15
Abbie Rees									Y15
Rob Shaw									Y 08
Susan Comber	Y 20								

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

Results

Matters Arising

Spabie boats

Junior Coordinators Report:

Land training

Tuesdays continue to be very well attended and Thursday night attendance is also improving.

GB Pathway

Finnola managed to improve on her first 5k ergo (19:04). She will be racing at Boston next weekend. She will be doubling on the Sunday with a girl from Hinksey Sculling Club.

Newbies 2020

Starting to plan for these now. We will start local kids off after half term at Sculling Club on Friday afternoons, and others around Easter time.

Results

Matters Arising

None

BEGINNERS' REPORT – FEB 2020

Now operational again we have 26 booked in so far for the taster sessions taking place on 1 March (fees coming in). Some couldn't make the date and have therefore been put into the very small taster in advance of the Summer Course in May. Advert is now live on the website advising 'very limited availability now'. Maximum numbers for taster day are between 28-32. Max numbers for Spring will be 24, on a first come first served basis. The rest will hold over until Summer.

I had wanted to run a workshop for those who hadn't helped before but the weather hasn't really been too conducive of late!! Will see if we can do it this Sunday. I have coaches/helpers on standby for 1 March as

well as many of 2019 beginners to help move the newbies between workshops on taster day, talk to them and eat cake.

We do have one very tall gentleman attending who is 6ft 9. There is no way he will fit in a virus unless we remove some of his legs so I propose to use the double virus with an experienced rower in the boat with him so that he is able to take part in this workshop.

Diversity is doing well again this year - ages range from 23-65, we have 3 beginners who appear to be of Spanish descent, an Indian lady has deferred to Summer. Currently have 9 men - all around MasE except 2 - 1 who doesn't qualify for Mas yet and 1 early 30s.

The grouping of the sessions is working well again by age sex and height - without too much effort!

The workshops will be:

Paperwork, introductions and tour of the boathouse (Clair)

25 mins of very basic erg training (Will)

20 mins on swingulator

1 hour in one of the 2 stable fours (most of this time will be teaching them to get in, demo of stroke and the difference between sides/numbers - if the crew gets between 250-500m they will be doing better than expected). (Mark Peacock & A N Other)

50 mins of viruses - each virus coach will have 2 people per session to divide the time between (Philippa, Julian & 2 others)

10 mins of stretching then tea & cake.

MENS' SQUAD REPORT

The Men's Squad activities since the start of the New Year have focussed on selecting and training three crews for events on the Tideway on the w/e 22/23 March.

We have booked boating and trailer spaces at the Civil Service Club and have provisionally entered three crews. We would like to seek the Committee's formal approval for the entries:

HORR: Open	Vet's Head: Masters F:	Vet's Head: Masters E:
Boat: Penny Senior	Boat: Penny Senior	Boat: Robin Leach
Cox: Joe Sellers (BSU)	Cox: Hugh Spaughton (CUWBC)	Cox: Clair Ponting
Will Griffiths	Russell Thornton	Giles Elliot
Gian Luca Bruno	Antony Constantinidi	Ian Derbyshire
Mark Peacock	Chris Roach	Fergus Hawkins
Mark Nielan	Andy Davies	Patrick Magee
Rory Worsman	Will Gray	Tim Grice
Ben Dilloway	Jim Dawson	Rob Shaw
David Skaife	Jon Garner	Ian Bellamy
Louis Pallett-Smith	Mike Carter	Simon Rodway

HORR Open: Most of this crew have been rowing for less than a year. However, they have a CRI of 22 which meets the criteria for entry as an Open crew. Their cox, Joe Sessions, is an experienced Tideway cox. They are fully committed to training and racing although their race preparation has been hampered by the cancellation of Worcester Head. However, they are entered in the Open category at Gloucester Head.

Vet's Head: Masters F: This crew has a CRO of 490 and the majority have the crew have raced on the Tideway several times. Hugh Spaughton is an experienced Tideway cox and coxed Cambridge in the 2019 Women's Boat Race.

Vet's Head: Masters E: This crew has a CRI of 36 although the majority have several years of rowing experience. Clair has not coxed on the Tideway before but has put a lot of work into preparing for the race in the past few months under the guidance of Andy Mason. Like the Open crew they were unable to race at Worcester but are entered for Gloucester.

Other Races:

We currently have two eights and a 4+ entered for Avon Spring Head.

Other Issues:

Trying to prepare three crews for the Tideway has put significant pressure on boats. The squad has been very grateful for the use of Robin Leach, together with replacement shoes. However, if the current level of interest in racing continues into the regatta season, the need for a second men's eight will become more urgent.

Women's Squad Report, February 2020

Races

Stourport Winter Head- we entered three 8's and a mixed quad (with some doubling up). Despite the rain, the race was enjoyed by all.

Win for WSen8+ Marian Lovell coxing Abbie Rees, Patsy Lamb, Angela Scott, Katherine Greenhead, Hannah Teague, Jane Day, Chloe Penman and Frankie Tuck.

Worcester Main Head – *Unfortunately cancelled*

Next races – Avon Spring Head and WEHORR

General Matters

We have merged the two land training sessions on a Tuesday evening and are now just running the one session at 6pm. The session is still fairly well attended but there were fewer ladies coming to the later session, making it unfeasible to continue.

Written by: Patsy Lamb, Women's Squad Coordinator

Membership and Subs Report for February 2020

Note: The financial information below is based on the membership spreadsheet dated 8th February (the day the bank statement is published) and the membership information is based on the situation at 17th February – the date of writing.

Membership

The membership is as follows:

Membership type	No of Members
Full	130
Coach/non rowing	3
Student	6
Vac Student	18 (some getting a bit elderly by now??)
Junior	38
Taster only	17
LTR taster + course	0
Junior family membership 1 parent	4
Junior family membership 2 parents	2
Bath Spa	28
Non Bath Spa leavers this FY	67
Total excl leavers and inc Bath Spa	246

Subs etc Income

There are 3 categories of regular income from non-Bath-Spa members:

- Subs and rack rent income – if everyone who is currently a member stays and pays for the whole year (unlikely!) the income would be just over £46,000, which includes £2142 rack rent. Money collected to date is about £37,000.
- Some people (actually 5) make a monthly donation toward a boat fund. Money raised in a whole year would be £600.
- Donors – These are people who don't row any more and have left their standing orders running in order to make a donation to the club. This runs at about £100 per month (although two of the donors are racking boats) so £1200 per year.

Bath Spa are invoiced for each student per month for October to May inclusive. For FY 2019/20 this amounts to £550 for April and May 2019 plus £2106 for October 2019 to March 2020.

GoCardless

We now take over £3500 per month in subs via GoCardless. Continuing the process of removing people who have left, hoping this protects their data. They sent me a totally useless survey so I have sent them my comments anyway. These related to their search function, bulk updating of plans and production of useful statements for accounts.

Philippa Sondheimer, Membership Secretary

AVON COUNTY ROWING CLUB					
Financial Report for Committee Meeting on 17 February 2020					
		This report (17/02/20)		Previous report (13/01/20)	Change
1. BANK BALANCE					
	Interest rate				
Current account - General		68,498		56,476	12,022
Current account - Captain		0	CLOSED	1,726	(1,726)
Deposit account	0.20%	0	CLOSED	953	(953)
100 Club account		0	CLOSED	1,289	(1,289)
CAF Cash account		1,048		1,213	(165)
CAF Gold account	0.15%	78		78	0
Virgin Money account	0.75%	17,996		17,996	0
Total in bank		87,620		79,731	7,889
General excludes subs standing order receipts since 09/02/20					
There are also accounts for ACRC events: HSBC (all), NatWest (Bristol Avon Regatta)					
Debtors: Entries & gym/landtraining		842		1,577	(735)
Debtors: Kit		229		398	(169)
Total entries & kit debtors		1,071		1,975	(904)
2. MAJOR INCOME & EXPENDITURE ITEMS SINCE LAST REPORT					
(excluding normal routine items)				Amount	
AAH 19 dividend				3,000	income
Bath Spa subs for academic year 19/20				2,688	income
Falmouth rowers				330	income
Dinner payment				2,275	
Racking west wing				566	
3. IMPENDING MAJOR EXPENDITURE/INCOME					
				Amount	
2x 75kg				9,083	
4. FINANCIAL ISSUES					
The HSBC Captain's, 100 Club and deposit accounts are no longer needed. They were closed on 06/02/20 and the contents transferred to the General account.					