



AVON COUNTY ROWING CLUB

MINUTES

**Committee meeting held via video conferencing due to Covid-19 restrictions on travel/social-distancing
Thursday 14 May, at 8:10pm**

Unscheduled meeting held to discuss return to rowing, per British Rowing Guidelines

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

Apologies: None

British Rowing (BR) released updated guidance (<https://www.britishrowing.org/2020/05/coronavirus-covid-19-update-13-may/>) on 13 May advising that clubs may, if they wish, may now allow members to use club/shared/private boats from club facilities, subject to restrictions. The committee felt it necessary, therefore, to meet before our next scheduled meeting on 1 June to discuss a way forward.

Philippa attended a Regional Chairs Meeting immediately preceding this meeting, and reported that BR may make a statement tomorrow, and will definitely make another one next week. Safety is the priority, rather than speed, in getting people back on the water. The Regional Chairs felt that clubs should proceed with caution and perhaps wait for additional guidance. It is inevitable that any guidelines club publish will change several times, as conditions and government guidelines are updated.

The discussion points that ensued are as follows:

The University and Monkton are not rowing. Canoe Avon and Empire Dragon Boats are waiting to hear from us (Empire Dragon Boats will only boat their single canoes).

Family members from the same household may row together, most likely in doubles in AVN's case.

Club/private singles will be the most used boats, as only household members may share a double.

An online booking and signing in and out system will be needed.

Access to the facilities block and boat bays will need to be restricted to one person at a time.

Disinfecting all surfaces touched (boats, blades, trestles, keypads, door handles, gates, padlocks, etc) will have to be the sole responsibility of the users. Members will be required to bring their own cleaning materials.

The facilities block will be cleaned before anyone is allowed back.

Jon has shared Gloucester RC's checklist of steps required to safely get on and off the water (attached below), which we will tweak to our site-specific requirements. Thanks extended to Russell for sharing his work.

Only competent scullers are allowed to row, observing the normal risk assessment rules in terms of river, wind and fog conditions. We will remind people that there will be far fewer boats (and no launches) on the water to assist in the event of a capsized boat. Viruses (the boats, to be clear!) can be used.

Penny asked the squad co-ordinators to determine how many members will want to return to 1x rowing. Both Patsy and Tim estimated 10/squad, but will get exact numbers as soon as possible.

Penny thinks we can allocate a set of blades to each rower for now, which reduces the risk of infection. This will require a dedicated blade rack and some checking to ensure the blade lengths are all correct.

With the warmer weather, it is quite possible the public will start using the towpath more, with the inevitable collection of people basking on the rafts. We will have to address this as and when it happens.

Some scullers may require help getting on and off the water. If they need help, they will have to ask another member if they are prepared to assist. It's not possible to keep 2m apart when helping someone boat, so faces should be covered and heads turned away as much as possible.

Juniors will not be returning to the river at this stage unless they are accompanied by a family member from the same household who is a qualified coach.

It was decided to trial a booking system at 15-minute intervals, with two people arriving at any one time.

Members currently on a 'subs holiday' are considered full members for now. The Captain has discretion on this point (per the Constitution), and is exercising it.

Rubbish bins will be cleaned and removed from the common areas. Rowers are to take their rubbish home.

Action Items:

Patsy and Tim to provide list of members who wish to row now.

Penny will organise initial clean, and remove rubbish bins.

Penny will draft and circulate to committee a document outlining proposed guidelines for a return to the water.

Penny will design and circulate a booking form for comment.

GRC Procedures (as mentioned above):

1. On arrival on site put on gloves (working, rubber, marigold etc).
2. Open boathouse doors
3. Prep bucket, detergent, scrubbing brush
4. Blades out and scrub handles
5. Trestles out
6. Boat onto trestles
7. Wash gates, footplate adjusters, steering controls.
8. Close boathouse doors
9. Boat onto water
10. Blades in, crew in
11. Adjust feet
12. Push off
13. Gloves off
14. Row
15. Return - turn ready to land
16. Gloves on
17. Land
18. Blades out, crew out

19. Boat to trestles
20. Wash boat including gates, footplate adjusters, steering gear
21. Wash blade handles
22. Boat and blades away
23. Trestles away
24. Wash hands with gloves on
25. Close boat house doors.
26. Wash hands with gloves off - could be hand sanitizer at car/ bike.