

ROWING CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING
27th July 2020
8pm (Online)

MINUTES

PRESENT: Grahame Nash, Jeff Bethray, Mary Heather Bethray, Georgia Dowdeswell, Dai Howells, John Hill, Christy Job and Iolanda Vendrell

APOLOGIES: Rich Ellis, Jan Holloway, Charlotte King Malcolm Mackay, Esther Whiting

GUESTS: Nick Barnett (Chairman of the club)

CHAIR: Grahame Nash

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Minutes of the last meeting approved.

UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

A few difficulties of the mailing list have been ironed out, if any member mentions that they have not been receiving club emails please could they be informed to contact MHB. EW was going to add a poster to the club house but MHB is not sure if she has been to the club to action this.

ROL is waiting on the stitching logo (Trish Nash has been liaising with the company that are producing it). Once this has been received, progress can be made on alternative Unisuits. This is ongoing. **GN has been in contact with Nick Barnett about the kayaker who is producing the stitching of the club logo.** Further update – the kayaker who was producing this unfortunately he hasn't been to the club. However, some of the pressure to get unisuits made is eased as racing is not imminent.

MATTERS ARISING & REPORTS

a) Captain Reports

Not going to report on things that will be covered by individual committee members. COVID Plans the committee has implemented have been working exceptional well. A reminder that we must keep vigilant with social distancing and hygiene. The setting up of the singles training has been a resounding success and kept Falcon members on the water in challenging times. The booking system has been most valuable and perhaps something to consider into the future as it provides useful data on boat usage.

EW is standing down from the post of membership secretary and so a replacement will be required.

GN also raised that British Rowing are considering the possibility of crew rowing.

Finally, thanks was given to those who have given time and effort to keeping Falcon on the water. Many thanks in particular are passed to MHB and JB for their fantastic work.

b) Vice Captains Report

MHB discussed the nice atmosphere at the club and that we are seeing members progressing through the singling training. It was raised whether we should organise an after rowing 'gathering' with members bringing their own drink / snack after a weekend session– Nick mentioned that this weekend the café will be back as a trial to see if it can work within the restrictions of social distancing.

MHB asked whether if you go out in a double or use the erg room (which are now allowable) – does this count as a socially distanced event? ROL mentioned the NHS guidance that with track and trace those that have been in close contact are contacted and close contact is (amongst other things) "being within 1 to 2 metres of each other for more than 15 minutes". MHB will make it clear with the booking that if you double / someone you erg with someone who then goes on to test positive for COVID-19 the other might be contacted through Track and Trace and be asked to self-isolate.

MHB also discussed the policy of keys. It was previously that you had to have been a member for a year. Discretion on this will be allowable.

JH asked more about track and trace. MHB said that BR have told us to keep records for 21 days and that the boat / erg room booking is a sufficient record. JH asked questions about who is responsible for contacting others and what was a club responsibility. Discussion was then had about who uses the records should a member test positive. Potentially, should a member notify the club that they had tested positive, it would fall to IV or MHB to provide to that member a list of all contacts they had been in close contact with at Falcon for specific dates for passing on to Track and Trace. MHB would try to contact the members involved to inform them of this. GD added that the government has a section about the return to recreational sport which says that the records should be kept for 21 days to assist with the NHS track and trace should it be needed.

There have been 6 new members since the end of lockdown. They have all been experienced rowers (although not necessarily single scullers). MH asked about whether there would be a return to learn to row. JH is looking at a course at the end of the summer, it may be smaller or in shifts / keeping groups small etc.

Reminder – the kitchen is still out of use. GN said that all the mugs should be removed from the kitchen to assist with this.

c) Head Junior Report and Cheney Report

Started the summer courses in single sculls. It has been fully booked for the first 3 weeks, with much smaller groups than normal but people seem to be enjoying it. GN thanked CJ for working under so many constraints.

d) Membership Secretary Report

EW was absent from the meeting but in advance has shared that the club has 98 adult rowers, 75 juniors. The Junior figure is higher because of the summer courses and they may not all become full members.

JB added that there have already been a few members who are not renewing and another 9 who are being chased.

e) Treasurers Report

JB began with apologies to CJ for the last meeting when he suggested that the Junior account was lower than it was. This was a reporting error with how coaching was being categorised. After the last coaching, the account stood at £3200. The adult - following the boat purchases – stands at £1200. The insurance is still to be paid for. However, from the funding point of view, may be eligible for a cut in September from the annual division of funds.

f) Safety Officer's Report

JH is continuing his work on his emergency action plan. BR had been chasing for it.

JH asked how the committee felt about Nick (coach) signing people off for single sculling. There were no concerns about this.

g) Publicity Officer's Report

There has been limited publicity at the moment – as it had previously been discussed that if we were promoting ourselves we needed to know what it was we could offer new members. GN asked Nick if there should be publicity about the new build (a discussion was then had about engaging with our neighbours). JH felt that we should promote what we will be doing as soon as we can and possibly targeted (perhaps even to colleges). JH will update his website with the learn to row details and pass on to DH.

h) Boatman Report

Nothing much to report. Snail Kite is to be repaired as the foot plate has cracked but it is still usable. A lot of the singles have new shoes. 107 is taped and at some point will need a repair, but again is still usable.

i) Coaching Report

Covered in other reports.

j) Touring Report

JHo was not present. No touring to report although a small party went for their Sunday walk which was enjoyed. Some of the new single scullers have also expressed an interest in touring.

k) Social Report

Nothing to add although at the next meeting discussions for the Christmas celebration will begin. JB suggested that Jazz could be run outside once the fencing has been put in. It was agreed this was an idea to come back to.

AOB

Nick – Boathouse update

Nick is still in discussions with the Council about the lease. Meeting last week with the solicitors and surveyor, the wording is almost complete just waiting for the final version of what is within our lease. As it stands, it will be a 25 year lease, £7000 per annum rent, and will include the car park and wooded area. There is a car park management plan, the car park will be eventually divided - 35 spaces for Falcon only which can possibly be locked. For a new building there has to be a certain number of spaces (hence this number). The car park will also be extended into the far left and far right corners by removing some of the shrubbery and gravelling. There will be no overnight parking but it won't be locked at night.

There is also a 'Community Use' agreement with the Council which says that we will work with community groups and schools. This is part of the negotiation with the rent but is also part of the ethos of the club.

Within the lease, there will be a security of tenure - after the 25 years we can carry on with the lease unless the Council has an overriding reason. Nick also raised that we need to take this opportunity to get closer with our local neighbours. There have been parties and drugs in the car park which has led to complaints to the club from locals. The hope is that the lease will be signed this week which leads into the general plans for the building – the plan is to start the build on September 2nd which is a little delayed. A principle architect and a health and safety advisor have been appointed, as have the principle builders. There was a requirement for Site Managers course and first aid training to be undertaken which has delayed things. Also, once the lease is signed, a letter will go to the local residents with the details of the builders and offering them the opportunity to come to the club and see the plans.

A tree surgeon will shortly remove 14 -22 trees.

Nick has been to speak to the Sea Scouts who would be keen to have a better relationship with the club. The Sea Cadets are aware of the clubs plans as the trucks will have access to Falcon through the Sea Cadet car park via a temporary road that cuts across the corner of their land.

The club insurance is up for renewal so more is being built into it.

Nick put in a sport England application 6 months ago. During COVID they stopped looking at applications. He received an email today to say that they will be reviewing applications again. They would want to see our safeguarding policy. The current safeguarding policy is from British Canoeing. Nick asked if there is someone from the Rowing side that could check that it covers the rowing side too. JH will look at this.

Jo Long is currently the safeguarding officer for the club. There are a couple of courses that would need to take it on from the rowing side. JB asked whether there is a Junior parent, CJ had passed these details on to Jo already. Nick to follow up. GD raised a safeguarding course that she saw from BR which may be suitable.

The first phase of the build was discussed, with a reminder that phase 1 is not the complete building. The first phase will see the changing rooms and storage for rowing boats built with metal storage for kayaks. Then the old building will be knocked down and phase 2 will start.

Finally, Nick reminded the rowing committee that the risk assessment needs to be a live document to reflect the changes to BR (for double rowing etc). GN suggested that there should be addendums to the rowing guide. GN to do this.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING WAS CLOSED

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 7th September

Location: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/162393573?pwd=eldQYVBIWtB1NXIBMi92dIhiN05zQT09>

Meeting ID: 162 393 573

Password: 003512