



## **Maidenhead Rowing Club**

### **Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 13 December 2017 at 8.00pm**

**Present:** Paul Lion (President, in the chair), Andrew Scott, Nick Steel, Laura Lion, Rob Brockwell, Stephen Janisch (Committee members) and 32 other full members.

**Apologies:** Nic Hutchins, Phelim Daniels, Sarah Archibald, Ken Bedwell, Janet Woffenden, Dylan Gomersall, John Truswell, Owen Bryant, M Steel.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, Rob Brockwell, presented the combined Maidenhead Rowing Club Accounts for the year ended 31 May 2017. He said there were a number of changes to the financial side of the club:

- A new online bank account had been opened.
- A cash-free payment system was being trialled.
- The accounts were being moved to a cloud-base system, for ease of access.

The membership of the club was up compared with the previous year and the increase in the payments received from Claires Court School had made a difference to the club's finances. Both regattas had made a profit. The club as a whole was still running at a loss but that had been reduced from £17,369 in the previous year to £4,853 in the year to May 2017.

It was proposed to increase subscription levels by 5% in order to improve the club's financial position generally and to achieve a break-even of income and expenditure.

#### **Accounts of Maidenhead Rowing Club Limited for the year ended 31 May 2017:**

The accounts having been presented by the Treasurer, their approval was adopted unanimously.

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## **Membership subscription levels:**

The new subscriptions for 2018-19 recommended were –

- Adult member: £412 (up from £393)
- Student (full time)/Under 23 member: £281 (up from £268)
- Junior member: £281 (up from £268)
- Family: £846 (up from £806)
- Adaptive: £206 (up from £196.50)
- Landrower: £204 (up from £194)
- Associate: £53.50 (up from £51)
- Cox/Coach: £43 (up from £41)
- Internal boat rack rent: £276 (up from £263)
- Internal storage: £198 (up from £189)
- External secure rack: £159 (up from £152)
- External open rack on club land: £127 (up from £121).

Approval of the new subscriptions was adopted unanimously.

## **Amendments to the Club's constitution:**

It was proposed that the first paragraph of section 8 of the constitution should be amended to read –

“A General Meeting of the Club chaired by the President or nominated Vice-President shall be held not less than once in every calendar year and be convened by the Honorary Secretary who shall give members 14 clear days written notice of the meeting together with time and place and a detailed agenda. The quorum for the meeting shall be 21 members eligible to vote.”

It was proposed that section 9 of the constitution should be amended to read –

“Nomination for the President and Officers shall be made on a form given to members by email or posted on the Club notice board 14 days prior to the meeting. Each nomination shall be proposed and seconded by Full members. Nominees must also sign to signify acceptance of the nomination. If more than one person is nominated for an office then a secret ballot will be held for that appointment and election shall be determined by a simple majority.

Approval of the amendments was adopted unanimously.

### **Safety update:**

Nick Steel gave a safety update, with slides illustrating the statistics for accidents in the year:



safety for AGM Nov  
2017.pdf

He highlighted the fact that there had been 19 collisions, reflected in the increased cost of maintenance and repairs and emphasised that this was a controllable cost. The main causes were failure to keep a proper lookout and poor navigation.

He said a new summary of the club's safety procedures had been posed outside the boathouse, including "expectations" taken from the British Rowing website. Every member was responsible for his or her own safety. Derek Cook commented that the growth of tree on the corner at Bray was a major hazard; the Environment Agency's view was that riparian owners were responsible for controlling this and a working party should deal with it, involving a professional tree surgeon. A no-overtaking rule should apply to the bend. Others said that the rule for turning above Bray Lock was to go to the white bridge, which needed re-painting, and that the river should be regarded as split into three lanes at the bend, with the centre lane not being used.

### **Regatta update:**

Keith Abbott summarised the highlights of the 2017 club regatta and presented slides:



MRC Regatta at AGM  
v2 101217.pptx

He said there had been a record number of crews entered, with a programme of 146 races that finished on time despite a pause for a thunderstorm risk. For the first time, there had been races for adaptive rowers. A fixed start from stake-boats had been re-introduced, with positive feedback. There had been an amazing selection of cakes made. The regatta had made a record profit of £3,700.

The date of the 2018 regatta had been fixed for 11 August.

### **Captain's review of year:**

The outgoing Captain, Jim Hotchin, thanked the Club Committee and Rowing Committee who had taken the workload off him when he had been unwell during the year. He reviewed the club's year:

- Jono Clegg had organised a boot camp which had had a good impact.
- Crews from the club had again competed at the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston, USA.
- The juniors had competed at the inter-regional regatta and internationally, winning medals, with more medals won at the national championships, and had competed at Henley Women's and Henley Royal Regattas (the boys' quad reaching the semi-final of the Fawley Cup).
- The senior men's crew had got to the Thursday at Henley.
- Natalie had won a gold medal at the indoor rowing championships.
- The recreation squad was growing in numbers: there had been 25 at their Christmas lunch.
- The adaptive rowing programme had been launched.
- More new members had continued to join through the L2R programme.
- Derek Cook had celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> year as a member of the club.
- Club time trials had been held on several occasions and were very successful.
- Several new boats had been purchased and old ones disposed of.
- The weights room had been overhauled.
- Maintenance and repair costs had been reduced but there was still £6,000 of avoidable expenditure on boat repairs.
- The EFA system logging the use of boats had produced helpful data that led to a reduction in outboard motor servicing costs, as well as assisting in decisions on what to sell and buy.

He wanted to thank Tom Jost, Eric Sims and James Hanson for their assistance to him as Captain.

Lastly, he drew the meeting's attention to the Objects of the club in its constitution, including rowing and good fellowship.

The President thanked Jim for his service as Captain and presented him with a portrait on behalf of the club.

### **Questions and answers:**

The President invited questions from the floor, including –

- Karon Phillips raised the issue of coaching. She felt that members received little or no coaching in rowing but would be better at rowing if they did. Surely coaching for all could be organised? She would ask the Committee to consider this. Laura Lion said there was consensus among local clubs about the provision of paid coaching. Jim Hotchin said he understood Marlow RC had a budget of £80,000 pa for coaching, which was met by contributions of £60 pw from parents of junior members. Karon said her view was that coaching should be for all; she would approach the Thames \regional Rowing Council for assistance for clubs that could not afford professional coaches. Marcus Richards commented that the legacy of Jono Clegg's involvement showed that continuous coaching was not necessary.
- Karon also felt that more use should be made of the club during the week. For example, there could be support from local GP surgeries for indoor rowing sessions for the over-55's. She would ask the Committee to consider this, too.

### **Election of officers:**

The President invited offers from members to be appointed to membership of the club Committee. Andrew Scott said that nominations had only been received for four positions, members who were willing to continue on the Committee –

- Chairman: himself;
- Treasurer: Rob Brockwell;
- Secretary: Stephen Janisch;
- Premises Officer: Dylan Gomersall.

The meeting unanimously agreed to the appointment of the above as members of the Committee for 2018/19.

Andrew said there were two vacancies –

- Captain: Jim Hotchin was retiring;
- Commercial Officer: Laura Lion was also retiring.

Presentations were made to Jim and Laura as an appreciation of their service as Committee members.

Andrew said that it was proposed to spend two months producing a revised definition of the role of captain, including chairmanship of the Rowing Committee. Anyone interested in helping with this, or in acting as captain, should contact him.

Laura said that the role of commercial officer was quite simple, consisting of overseeing those who performed separate roles as illustrated on her slides:



Volunteering  
Opportunities 2017.ppt

Andrew explained that the Safety Officer was appointed by the Committee rather than by this meeting. Nick Steel would be leaving in order to concentrate on his new role as captain of the adaptive rowing squad. Nick agreed to continue as safety officer until a replacement was found. It was an important role that needed to be filled.

Andrew invited members to email the Committee if they had any suggestions about filling these roles or to discuss what was involved and how they might help. He proposed that the roles of Captain and Commercial Officer be held over for the time being and an Extraordinary General Meeting be held after three months to approve new appointments to them. The meeting unanimously agreed to this proposal.

The meeting ended at 9.53pm.