

Champion of the Thames (Cambridge) Rowing Club Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, 2 October 2018
The Boathouse, Chesterton Road, Cambridge 8.30 pm

Minutes

Present: Charlotte Anderson, Robert Andrews, Andrew Ardley, Helen Axworthy, Elaine Bennett, Keith Benton, Daniel Blackburn, Lynda Borg, Rowan Burnstein, Colin Christy, Emma Christy, Helen Christy, Lynn Clift, Julie Conder, Sarah Corcoran, Michel von Czettritz und Neuhaus, John Deakin, Gemma Eastham, Andrew Gould, Denis Howlett, Charlotte James, Alice Kinna, Sara Kinna, Ian Knights, David Levien, Naomi Linklater, Amrei Loose, Shaun McCabe, Beth Midgley, Steve Millar, Carole Mills, Laura Neild, Rachel Newell, Bonney O'Hanlon, Bryan O'Regan, Trish Reed, Vikki Roberts, Maura Rutter, Samantha Sherratt, Tim Seru, Matt Simpson, Tony Stevens, Rowan Sugden, John Tasker, Peter Twitchett (Chair), Sam Venn, David Watson, Nigel Woodcock, Geraint Wyn Story

1. **Apologies:** Louise Affleck, John Anderson, Nicky Anderson, Jen Bromley, Kathy Haynes, Anna-Louise Lawrence, Jane Levien, Anne Merricks, Denise Williams
2. **The meeting paused for one minute in silence to remember Brian Ellis, President of the club, who died during the year. Our thoughts are with his family.**
3. **Approval of minutes the Annual General Meeting held on 7 November 2017:**
Approved.
4. **Committee reports**
 - Women's Captain (Sara Kinna): Sara gave a verbal report on behalf of the women's crews. Sara received a report from inductees who confirmed that they were enjoying rowing. There are 6 crews rowing including a Junior crew. Sara is looking forward to a new captain coming and confirmed that she and Anne Merricks will be standing down. Thanks were given by Pete Twitchett on behalf of the Club to Sara and Anne for all their hard work as Women's Captains.
 - Men's Captain (Michel von Czettritz und Neuhaus): Michel gave a verbal report. He reported that the men entered 7 Bumps crews; Head of the River where they got to the highest ever placing for Champs men; 100 km race; and were 2 seconds short of a record on Ouse Marathon. There are currently 5 men's crews. Michel confirmed he will be standing down. Thanks were given to Michel on behalf of the Club.
 - Sculling Captain (Carole Mills): Submitted a written report. Carole reported that the scullers have entered many races and brought home plenty of pots and medals from 10 off-Cam events. It was great to have sweep rowers at some of these events and it

is fantastic to have two new trailer drivers (Bryan and Andrew Gould) to support our off-Cam efforts this year. Many thanks to Trish Reed and Helen Axworthy who have continued to help with towing. Thanks also to Julie who always patiently and efficiently sorts all of the money. Also to Pete Twitchett for use of the Emma trailer. We had a great response to the 'Learn to scull' courses and the course in August was full and gave us eight new scullers so we now have 12 people learning and can't take on any more until some of them can scull independently. There are already people for the next course which will probably be in the spring. Sculling is very intensive in terms of coaching especially in the early stages when every sculler needs close watching and guiding. Many thanks to William, Helen Axworthy, Louise, Denise and Gemma who have all helped Steve, Trish and I with sculling school making it possible for us to get the new scullers out at least once a week and sometimes more. The organisation of sculling at Champs is very much a team effort and Steve and Trish contribute to everything so very many thanks to them both. It has also been really helpful to have use of Charlotte Allen's LW1x and the new Double. Racking space and budget permitting, the scullers would like another mid weight 1x as there are only two boats but lots of scullers in the 75-85 kg range. The sculling kit is very well used, well looked after by the scullers and patiently maintained by Pete – very many thanks to all.

- Treasurer (John Tasker): John submitted a written report. He reported that the highlights of the year were:
 - Membership up by 28%, with subs increasing to just under £29,000
 - Purchase of a new double scull
 - The Champs 8s Head continues to make a healthy profit, £5411 this year.
 - Another profit from the Bumps - £544. (£200 fines taken out.)
 - A small highlight – our racking fees are reduced by £1256 due to the move of some boats to CRA Logan's Way. We also received a small refund from Clare.However, down points were:
 - Three boats were damaged resulting in some quite large claims which are all settled now. It is hoped the insurance premiums won't be adversely affected.
 - The Junior Scullers Head had to be cancelled due to extreme weather conditions, so we made a small loss.

No increase in subscriptions is recommended this year. Accounts and budget are submitted and they include a provision for a single scull and a men's IV. The coaching budget has been increased to £1000 for the year. Thanks recorded to Jen Bromley for her fantastic contribution.

- Rowing Development Officer (vacant): Matthew Fenech has left the club so no report.
- Membership Officer (Louise Affleck): Submitted a written report by email (as unable to attend). Louise reported that Champs has approximately 127 full members (up by 20 on last year) (inductees are not included), this number has increased since 2017 due to our successful Inductee training programmes. A survey of the other Cam Rowing Clubs Senior Membership fees shows that Champs fees are appropriate at

£20 per month. Louise recommended that the Club should maintain Membership fees as they are. Also that the Annual Membership fee should be scrapped, instead switching everybody (Juniors and Seniors) to monthly Standing Order payments, giving members flexibility and easing administration. The rates would therefore be: Seniors £20/month, Juniors £9/month. Agreed.

Gez asked if the membership system be amended so that the web site dashboard show you as a member even if only paying monthly. Dan, William and Denis to investigate.

- CRA Representative (Beth Midgley): Beth had nothing to report.
- Safety Officer (Sam Venn): Sam submitted a written report. Sam reported that the safety audit will be completed. A 'Rowing in the dark' information leaflet will be circulated in due course. Capsize drills booked for December. Thanks to Trish for helping and to everyone who helped with marshalling Champs Head and the Bumps. The Committee thanked Sam for all his work.
- Welfare Officer (Anna-Louise Lawrence): Unable to attend but she submitted a written report. She reported that we currently have 10 coaches with DBS checks who are involved in coxing, coaching or rowing with crews with junior members. There have been no welfare matters of concern that have been brought to her attention. If there is anyone who does not have a Champs DBS (even if you already have one from your work or other sports clubs) and needs to set up an online disclosure, please contact her. Note that the process is very quick and efficient. The Committee thanked Anna-Louise for her work.
- Communications Officer (Denis Howlett): Denis gave a verbal report. Denis suggested splitting the role in two – part technical and part straightforward communications. Denis is working hard to make the web site is secure; needs to add a note regarding cookies. Various problems need sorting regarding technical issues. Agreed that these should be discussed at next committee meeting once assistant(s) in role. Thanks to Denis for all his work.
- Race Float Secretary (Julie Conder): Julie submitted a written report. Julie thanked everyone who worked hard to ensure that all the money was collected in for Bumps this year. She thanked the captains, boat organisers and rowers for paying. She noted that running the race floats system continues to be a challenge. There is a lot of work going on behind the scenes to make sure it all works and is kept up to date. She reminded boat organisers to enter their crewlists on the Google online spreadsheets every time they race and rowers to check their race float accounts online regularly, and top them up when necessary. Thanks to Tony Stevens for his work on race entries; thanks to Julie for all her work on race floats.

- Coxing Development Officer (Geraint Wyn Story): Gez submitted a written report. He reported that he had trained and briefed all coxes and coordinated them to ensure that there is regular communication. Also there's a new coxing area on the web site. Other ideas for the future – have twice yearly meeting with coxes and annual. Gez has been training some new coxes – 2 courses: one intense, one over a few months. Used BRA notes, etc. 7 started; 5 remaining. Gez will continue to train coxes. Thanks to Gez from the Committee.
- Inductions Officer (Amrei Loose): Amrei gave a verbal report. She reported that it has been a good year with lots of inductees. She gave special thanks to all of those who have helped with the inductee process and hopes to have some new faces for the next round. Amrei confirmed that she is happy to stand again.
- Social Secretary (Bonney O'Hanlon): Bonney submitted a written report. Bonney noted that the first event under her office as social secretary was a gathering at the Haymakers pub after the Christmas Head. Also that we had a successful week of Bumps events, with organised activities on the Tuesday (club gathering at the Champion of the Thames pub), Wednesday (burger van at Clare Boathouse) and Friday (Bumps Supper at the Hilton Doubletree). All three nights had a good turnout with members of almost all crews attending. The catering worked well, with a few adjustments on timing next year to account for anyone marshalling in M1 and W1 divisions. She noted that we are welcome back to the Doubletree next year if we'd like, and it has proved to be a reliable venue once again for us. Bonney announced that the Club will have a Prize Giving supper this year for the annual awards and pre-Christmas social on Saturday 10th November. Catherine Stewart has kindly offered to host the event at her house in Girton, with supper and drinks at a cost of £20. It is hoped that this will provide a lively and sociable format for the prize giving, and encourage as many people as possible to come along. The Committee extended their thanks to Bonney for all her work on the social functions. **Bonney asked for boat organisers to ask their crews regarding kit orders in the next week or so.**

5. Subscriptions

There was some discussion about increasing subscriptions to allow for more coaching. It was also suggested that a plan for coaching be put together by a new Rowing Development Officer. Pete then asked if Charlotte Anderson would be prepared to stand and she agreed. (See election of new officers below.)

It was agreed to keep subs the same for the moment and each crew pay more for coaching as appropriate. Keith Benton pointed out that there was a code for 'coaching' in the club about 10 years ago.

6. Constitution

John Tasker suggested some minor changes be made to the Constitution (the document was shown via projector). Changes included: monthly standing order rather than annual subs, list of officers amended to reflect the current Committee

line up, year-end account date amended, etc. It was agreed to move forward with the redrafted Constitution. Thanks to John Tasker for his work on the Constitution.

7. Election of members and officers

The following Committee members and Club officers were re-elected to their roles:

Chairman	Pete Twitchett
Treasurer	John Tasker
Secretary	Maura Rutter
Welfare Officer	Anna-Louise Lawrence
Equipment Officer	Peter Twitchett
Membership Officer	Louise Affleck
Race Float Secretary	Julie Conder
Event Entries Organiser	Tony Stevens
Sculling Captain	Carole Mills
Coxing Development Officer	Geraint Wyn Story
Safety Officer	Sam Venn
Induction Officer	Amrei Loose
Social Secretary	Bonney O'Hanlon
CRA Representative	Beth Midgley
Web Master	Denis Howlett

The following Committee members and Club officers were elected to their new roles:

Women's Captain	Trish Reed
Men's Captain	Bryan O'Regan
Rowing Development Officer	Charlotte Anderson
Communications Officers	Johnny Curtis and Charlotte James

Thanks were expressed to those stepping down or no longer in post: Michel von Czettritz und Neuhaus (Men's Captain), Sara Kinna and Anne Merricks (Joint Women's Captains), Matthew Fenech (Rowing Development Officer) and Greg Brown (Social Secretary).

Any other business

- President – queried by Rowan Burnstein – honorary position. **Keith Benton appointed as President.**
- Pete Twitchett – Thanked Nigel and Andrew at Clare for their ongoing support without which the Club could not survive.

Meeting closed at 9.50 pm.