



TYNE AMATEUR ROWING CLUB

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 17 November 2020

Draft v1 by CP as at 20-11-20 for comment

Present (the meeting was held on Zoom):

(To insert by Shelagh)

1 Welcome

- 1.1 The Chair of Trustees, John Goddard, was in the chair and welcomed members present to the meeting and ran through Zoom protocols.

2 Apologies for absence.

- 2.1 Martin Bell.

3 Minutes of AGM held on 21 November 2019 (as circulated)

- 3.1 Agreed unanimously, with one correction - date of previous AGM should have been shown as 2018 not 2019.

4 Matters arising from minutes of 21 November 2019

- 4.1 The Chair said one matter that had not happened as anticipated in the minutes was the bringing of the accounts for 2018-19 to a Special General Meeting (SGM) during 2020. Given Covid-related restrictions and the need to get the accounts to the Charity Commission quickly, it was not possible to organise an SGM. The trustees approved the accounts in mid-2020 but in lieu of an SGM circulated them to all members electronically in July seeking comments or questions. None were received. These accounts were now being brought to this meeting for further discussion under item 5.

5 To receive accounts for 2018-19 (as circulated)

- 5.1 There were no questions or discussion on the accounts and the meeting received them for information. He thanked Isabel Smales as Treasurer for help on these (and those for 2020-21, now imminent).

6 To receive report of Trustees to Charity Commission for 2019-20 (as circulated)

- 6.1 There were no questions to the trustees and no discussion. The report was received for information. The Chair thanked Liz Bray for her help in writing this report even though no longer Secretary to the trustees

7 Report of Trustees

- 7.1 As Chair of Trustees, John Goddard reported on the year past. It had been a difficult one, but progress had still been made especially before lockdown in March. A governance review early on led to more effective management of both rowing and wider club affairs, including Tyne 1852, the club's wholly owned company. He thanked Graham Wheeler, now standing down, for his work in this area. A small group of key trustees, officers and the club manager now met fortnightly to coordinate actions.
- 7.2 On first lockdown in March and the resulting loss of many expected income streams, the club took advantage of the government's furlough scheme and a £25k grant from the Council, plus benefitting from cancellation of rates. As restrictions eased gradually the club in terms of both social activities including the bar and rowing introduced excellent Covid-secure arrangements to allow both to happen again in a restricted fashion
- 7.3 The bar reopened and social events were planned with suitable social distancing. Rowing came back slowly, but just as Rutherford Head was being considered seriously recently, the second lockdown loomed and it had to be cancelled and the club shut once more. So our income stream is suffering again, though new forms of help such as a Bounce Back Loan are being looked at. He said he was very grateful for club members sticking with the club and paying subs, which helped keep things going.
- 7.4 He said he would hand over to officers and the club manager to say a bit more on some of these, but he would like to thank trustees, officers, committee members, club staff and all volunteers for all their hard work during Covid restrictions, which he hoped would pay off in 2021.

8 Management Committee Report

- 8.1 David Robinson as Chairman of the Management Committee gave a short follow-on to John Goddard's report. He said the year ahead at the time of the last AGM looked very hopeful and things went well until the door slammed shut in March! During the first lockdown whilst the club was totally shut, work on taking advantage of cash lifelines such as loans and furlough took up a lot of effort, but paid off. Discussions were taking place daily at one time.
- 8.2 Not everything was done right in retrospect, but everybody tried their hardest during the first lockdown and as restrictions eased slowly. Things were looking up and then the latest restrictions came in, cancelling Rutherford Head. So financially things are not critical at the moment, but reserves are having to be used and the year ahead will not be easy.
- 8.3 Jo Gregory as Club Manager said her report was a little different from her first a year ago. Thinks were looking very positive for 2020 and excellent progress was being made as she was getting to grips with the way the club was being run in relation to the bar, social events and other activities. Even under lockdown and in reopening afterwards, lessons were learnt in how to make the most of what we have

got, which can be applied in future. The new ordinary licence was a great help, for example in catering for passing trade - walkers and cyclists

- 8.4 It was probably coming anyway, but reopening helped us think about using the upstairs space more flexibly and day-time bookings for yoga and Pilates over the summer, for example, showed what could be done. And better links with the local community were being made both before and during Covid. Interest in non-rowing membership of the club had grown and there was now a waiting list to be dealt with once we are open again. A loyalty card scheme is ready to run.
- 8.5 She said there were lots of plans for the next year, on and off the water. She was happy where we were in the circumstances. The Chair thanked David and Jo and colleagues for their tremendous work and dedication.

9 Current financial position

- 9.1 The Treasurer, Isabel Smales, gave a short update on finances. The accounts for the year ending 31 August 2020 were nearly ready and would be presented to the members as soon as practical. They included 5 months of Covid related restrictions, so would obviously be showing the strain, with major loss of income. But she confirmed national and local government financial schemes already referred to had helped greatly.
- 9.2 We benefited from good cash reserves before the first lockdown, though now being called on. She confirmed subs had kept up well, but most other income streams were badly hit. On a positive note, the club had got on top of Gift Aid and she asked members to use if at all possible if donating any size of sum. The Chair asked about the Bounce Back Loan and she confirmed that in her view a sizable loan at zero interest for a year and then at only 2.5% after was worth seeking, but should be spent sparingly as safety net.
- 9.3 A member complimented Isabel and the others helping her on their work. He said that we had a great membership and that the club would recover quickly given the chance - people were itching to get back to rowing and competing. He endorsed careful use of reserves as necessary.
- 9.4 The Chair echoed these comments and thanked Isabel on behalf of the club.

10 Captain's report

- 10.1 Laura Gilbert gave her last report as Captain, as she was passing on the baton at the end of the meeting. Her report for 2019-20 would be short, she said, for obvious reasons, though the year started well with the club running Rutherford Head in 2019 and having four wins. After two more local events early in 2020, Tyne Head in February had been cancelled due to weather and BUCS Head ran a week, though in bad weather. Then it all stopped!
- 10.2 After a rapid distribution of ergs and bikes to members, coaches and other did really well in most squads in setting online once Zoom has been mastered. Some use of Zoom was more for social than for fitness purposes, but this was important too.

Eventually rowing on the water then came back slowly and was gaining momentum until once again stopped just a week ago.

- 10.3 She said that rather than dwell on current problems, she would look back with satisfaction over her three years as Captain, indeed as the first woman captain in the club's history. Senior rowing had come on hugely, with a 23rd at Head of the River for the men in 2018 and then the Jackson Trophy in 2019. The number of crews competing on the Thames reached new levels in 2019, with 3 women's eights in Women's Head, 5 men's eights in head of the River and the first women's masters crew in Vesta Vets Head.
- 10.4 At Henley Royal three men's eights entered and two qualified, 15 of 17 women entered in various crews for Women's Henley qualified and there was a record entry from the club for Henley's Masters in 2019. And even in lock down Ian Boyd broke the world record (?) at Masters H on the ergos.
- 10.5 Coming back to the present, Laura said she was leaving the club in good shape. There were a record number of active rowers, from Wednesday morning community rowing upwards. More coaches were coming through Level 2 training. Northumbria University were back with us. And there were 28 new seats (in boats) with hopefully more to come.
- 10.6 As Captain she gave her personal thanks to her Vice Captains, coaches and squad coordinators over the three years for all their work. John Goddard thanked her on behalf of the club.

11 Election of Trustees (nominations circulated)

- 11.1 The Chair thanked Graeme Wheeler who was standing down as a trustee. He referred to the list of nominations previously circulated. He said in seeking nominations it had been overlooked that the Chairman of the Committee is ex-officio a trustee, so we had one too many nominations. He said Shelagh Lombard had volunteered to step down as well, but she would act as Secretary to the trustees for the next year and her expertise would not be lost.
- 11.2 The Chair said that four trustees did not need re-election (John Goddard, David Higgins, Ben Stephens and Ian Stratford), two trustees required to be re-elected in line with the constitution (Simon Dobson and Ian Wagstaff) and had been nominated and there were five nominations as new trustees (Amy Bowman, Imogen Leigh, Alex Shaw, David Smark and John Thompson).
- 11.3 The meeting agreed the nominations nem con.

12 Election of Officers (nominations circulated)

- 12.1 The Chair thanked the following who were standing down or had stood down from the committee in addition to the Captain: Lee Dixon, Jack Hickson and Ben Robinson. He thanked them for their work and welcomed the interest in carrying on the good work by others.

- 12.2 In accordance with the circulated sheet, the Chair said the officers and ordinary members of the committee being proposed were as follows:

David Robinson	Chairman
Tom Campbell	Captain
Tom Jackson	Vice Captain
Anthony Ballantyne	Vice Captain
Olivia Campbell	Vice Captain
Isabel Smales	Treasurer
Adam Azzi	Secretary
Grace Bradley	Committee Member
Lyn Goldsmith	Committee Member
Anna Hall	Committee Member
Beth Laidlaw	Committee Member
John Mulholland	Committee Member
Colin Percy	Committee member
Jackie Whitehead	Committee Member

- 12.3 The meeting agreed the nominations nem con.

13 AOB

- 13.1 None

Shelagh Lombard, Secretary to the Trustees