

Tyne Rowing Club

Annual General Meeting

Held at the Club premises on 12 November 2009

Minutes - draft v2 as at 23-11-09

Present: Ben shorey, Laura Clack, Guy Clack, Julian MacBride. Ben Robinson, David Robinson, Graeme Wheeler, Martin Colquhoun, Dan Thirwell, Oscar Rogers, Ken Hardy, Catherine Larcombe, Richard Oakley, John Goddard, John Mulholland, Dave Higgins, Gendie Lash, Jen Woodhouse, Laura Croisdale, Kevin Corker, Jim Pitt, Liz Bray, Lindsay Miller, John Bell, Martin Bell, Ian Wagstaff, Tony Follows, Russell Kernahan, David Sprague, Keith Hotchkiss, John Bolter, John Dalkin, Bill Lowry, Celia Robbins, Tim Bunting, Ailsa Hall, Kevin Dobson, David Symes, Simon Forster, Alexandre Wilcken, Colin Percy, Chris Parsons, Nigel Sprague and others.

1 Welcome and appointment of chair for meeting

Nigel Sprague as President opened the meeting and welcomed members. It was agreed he continue as chair for the meeting as a whole. He asked the meeting to stand for a few moments in memory of member and Vice President Alan Anderson, who had died recently at the age of 100.

2 Apologies for absence

Giles Sergeant, Ronald Bradbeer, Ian Boyd, Godfrey Whitehead (regards to everyone who rowed with him in the 50s and 60s), Kenneth Hall (regards to all), Geoffrey Appleby, Derek Baty (regards to any friends around and may club go from strength to strength), Stevie Glover, Doug MacDonald, Lynne Michelson, Tony Rutter, Ian Boyd, Quentin Woolmer, Les McCabe, Chris Miller, Vanessa Gray, Martin High.

3 Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 16 October 2008

Draft minutes had been circulated with the agenda. They were agreed as a correct record. No matters arising were raised.

4 Report of the Committee for 2008-09

A written report on behalf of the Committee had been circulated with the agenda. Chris Parsons as Captain and Colin Percy as Secretary outlined the main points. Chris mentioned the successes and a few disappointments in rowing, but also the healthy state of all squads going into the 2009-10 season. He said the steps (new in 2008-09) had been a great boon to the club and thanks were due to Rich Oakley and Martin Colquhoun for their work. Both Chris and Colin mentioned the work of the outgoing Chairman, John Goddard, on both strategic club issues and on the revived Tyne Regatta. The meeting echoed these thanks.

Colin summarised progress in the running of the club, with a very active Committee having met 12 times in 12 months. He said at present all work within the Club was being done through voluntary effort and he thanked everybody who had contributed during the year. Liz Bray (Water Safety Adviser) added to her

section in the written report with a short presentation on the importance and main features of a culture of safety, with a thorough but sensible approach to managing risk. There was a brief discussion on launch training, cox training and night time rowing.

The meeting accepted the report as a whole.

5 Accounts for 2007-08 and financial report for 2008-09

Martin Colquhoun as Treasurer said that the accounts for 2007-08 were not yet finalised. He recognised this was unsatisfactory and would endeavour to bring forward not only the 2007-08 accounts but also those for 2008-09 as soon as possible at a special general meeting. He said the acquisition of Sage accounting software should help considerably in future. In answer to a question, he said the Club was solvent.

6 Amendments to the constitution

Colin Percy said that the Committee were recommending that a range of relatively minor changes to the constitution of the Club be made, as per the 'tracked changes' version circulated in advance with the agenda. Most were to bring the document up to date with the name change of the ARA to British Rowing and to accommodate changes in national guidance and rules. The wording now also recognised that most members pay monthly and that reference to annual membership in practice was not now meaningful.

Clarification on membership categories was proposed, with the main changes being abolition of the Social/associate member category and instead there being a Land Based category for active members using ergos and the 'gym' and a Parent/volunteer/helper/social category. Another change would allow the annual accounts to be brought to any general meeting, not just the annual general meeting.

Colin said that Ronald Bradbeer had suggested in very recent written comments that the role of the trustees in relation to all property of the Club (not just land) was perhaps not fully covered in the constitution. It was agreed that it was too short notice to consider the issue fully at this meeting, but that the new Committee should investigate the matter as soon as possible and bring it back to a special general meeting if necessary.

The revised constitution as per the circulated tracked changes version was agreed unanimously (and thus with a clear two thirds majority) subject to:

- the addition of 'at off-peak times' at the end of section 3.2.4 on Land Based Members;
- the addition of 'For junior members, a counter signature from a parent or guardian will be required.' at the end of section 3.4 on the membership application process; and
- any necessary corrections to numbering.

7 Membership fees

Chris Parsons and Colin Percy presented the Committee's recommendations for increases in fees and boat storage charges, as per the paper circulated in advance with the agenda. They said that the current fees barely covered day to

day running costs (including boat and building repairs). There had not been an increase for many years, they said. After discussion, the fees and charges as recommended by the Committee and as in the papers circulated with the agenda beforehand were agreed, with the added proviso that Land Based Members be further qualified as 'off peak'. The table of fees and charges as agreed with a small number of votes against was:

Category	Per year £	Per month £
Entrance fee	None	None
Life member	None	None
Full member - rowing	270.00	22.50
Full member - rowing (full time student)	135.00	11.25
Full member - rowing (unwaged)	135.00	11.25
Full member - rowing (off peak)	135.00	11.25
Land based member (off peak)	54.00	4.50
Junior member aged 14-17	120.00	10.00
Junior member aged under 14	60.00	5.00
Temporary - to vary depending on activity	N/A	N/A
Parent/volunteer/helper/social	12.00	1.00
Boat storage per seat per year	135.00	11.25

8 Election of Officers and Committee for 2009-10

The following were agreed as officers and committee members for 2009-10, having been nominated by the outgoing committee as per the paper circulated with the agenda beforehand or as nominated and seconded at the meeting (shown by *).

Chairman	Ian Wagstaff
Captain	Chris Parsons
Vice Captain	Laura Gilbert
Vice Captain	Dave Symes
Treasurer	Martin Colquhoun
Secretary	Colin Percy
Members	Laura Croisdale, Si Forster, Ailsa Hall *, Julian MacBride, Lynne Michelson *, John Mulholland.

A vote of thanks to the outgoing Committee was proposed and agreed, particularly in relation those not standing again: John Goddard (outgoing Chairman), Ian Boyd (outgoing Vice Chairman), Gendie Lash, Giles Sergeant and Gary Pringle (outgoing Committee members).

9 Election of Trustee

John Goddard was nominated and seconded. This was agreed unanimously.

10 Consideration of motions

Colin Percy said that he had received no motions with the appropriate number of counter signatures. However, the Committee had received and discussed five draft motions from Russell Kernahan and these had been circulated in advance with recommendations from the Committee on action with the agenda.

The Committee had recommended in writing in the papers circulated in advance that the first suggestion, to offer honorary membership to Kieren Emery and Will Fletcher, be supported but that this be extended to the other two members of the Wyfold Challenge Cup winning crew at Henley Royal Regatta in 2008, James Harris and Stuart McCluskey. After discussion it was agreed to offer honorary membership to all four.

The Committee had recommended in the papers circulated that the other four matters be dealt with as follows:

- (a) an annual club membership card be produced - to be considered at the next Committee meeting;
- (b) a social committee be established - the Committee supported this in principle, but it was up to the first Committee after the AGM to decide on 'who does what' and how;
- (c) the Committee should recognise that not all members are 'online' and to ensure that all members receive a copy of all papers sent by email to the members generally - this was already being dealt with and the Secretary had recently undertaken a postal survey of all members without an email address to see what they wanted to receive; and
- (d) coaches expenses be covered and memberships fees of coaches be waived in certain circumstance - the Committee considered this was being done already.

The meeting agreed to note these comments by the Committee.

11 Appointment of independent examiner of the accounts

The meeting agreed to defer this item until the special general meeting referred to under item 5 to consider the annual accounts for 2007-08 and 2008-09.

12 Any other competent business

No matters had been notified. The President said that if the meeting agreed, he would like to nominate David Robinson as a new Vice President, there being a vacancy. This was seconded and agreed unanimously. A motion of thanks from the floor to the chair was agreed.

The meeting closed about 9.30pm.

Minutes taken by Colin Percy, Secretary.