

## **Tyne Rowing Club**

### **Annual General Meeting**

**Held at the Club premises on 24 October 2013**

**Minutes** - draft for comment as at 08-11-13

**Present:** Lindsay Miller, Brian Dalkin, John Bell, John Mulholland, John Bolter, Russell Kernahan, Ronald Bradbeer, Ian Jeffery, Jerry Barker, Simon Dobson, Colin Percy, Mike Windle, Ken Hardy, Steve Barratt, Richard Purdy, Alan Denton, David Smark, David Robinson, Elena Contogiorgi-Smith, Laura Clack, Claire Hughes, Ian Wagstaff, Liz Bray, Andy Farquhar, Bill Lowry, John Goddard, Ian Boyd, Martin Bell, Dave Higgins, Chris Parsons, Tony Follows and Alex Leigh.

#### **1 Welcome and appointment of chair for meeting**

Simon Dobson as Chairman opened the meeting. He welcomed members. It was agreed that he continue as chair for the meeting as a whole.

#### **2 Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Martin Colquhoun, Guy Clack, Richard Walker-Arnott, Frank Bell, Brian Armstrong, Liz McLoughlin, Mark Evans, Sam Robinson and Annette Hames.

#### **3 Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 18 October 2012**

The draft minutes had been circulated with the agenda. They were agreed as a correct record (proposed L Miler, seconded J Mulholland).

#### **4 Report of the Committee for 2012-13**

Reports from the Chairman, the Secretary and the Water Safety Adviser had been circulated in advance and that for the Masters Squad was tabled.

Simon Dobson as Chairman of the club drew attention to the ongoing work to secure redevelopment of the old boathouse, using John Dalkin's legacy money and a hoped-for grant from Sport England, maybe £750k in total. A scheme had been drawn up by architects but at the moment was a bit expensive and was being trimmed. Procurement processes were being looked at in parallel and would allow tenders to be sought quickly once money and a design were agreed. Planning permission was being sought. The next submission to Sport England was due in mid-November with a final decision by December. In conclusion he highlighted his thanks to Colin Percy as retiring Secretary for all his work.

A question was asked about seeking money from regional charities. Simon said that other sources of money were being explored, but until the funding gap between money confirmed and the minimum scheme that met our aspirations was clear, we were holding back a little.

Richard Purdy as Water Safety Adviser spoke briefly to his report. He said that on the face of it incidents were down, but this might be because of under-

reporting (via the British Rowing online system) rather than a reduction in actual events. In response to a question, he said he would remind all members of the importance of reporting. The meeting thanked Richard for his work.

Colin Percy as retiring Secretary thanked fellow officers, committee members, advisers and volunteers for support during the year. He also thanked Liz Bray for her forbearance during this (and previous) years. He said he was glad that one of the club's previous weaknesses (in his opinion) - forward planning - was being addressed, pushed on by the need to justify and prepare applications for the redevelopment. He was also glad that our own rowing events were being picked up enthusiastically now. He looked forward to helping out at the club still and also with the Northern Rowing Council events coordination. He asked the new committee to look out for the possibly imminent regional discussion on competitions and the points system, perhaps to be abolished. The meeting thanked Colin as Secretary (and otherwise) for his efforts over the years.

## **5 Endorsement of accounts for 2012-13**

Michael Windle as Treasurer presented to the meeting the accounts for the year to 31 August 2013 (previously circulated and on the web site). The excess of income over expenditure for 2012-13 had been £13,506, compared with only £ £604 in 11-12. Stripping out one-offs, he reckoned that there had been an operating surplus of about £24,000, much of it ploughed back in to boats, blades and a new outboard motor. Subs were now showing £39k income, representing a much better hit-rate than before. He singled out the catering team for particular praise for generating good profits on our home events. The bar had also done well.

A member queried the periods used for depreciation; Michael said 20 years on the new steps and 10 years otherwise (though he had been hampered by lack of information historically in applying this). He was complimented by another member on the clarity of presentation. Michael said the club was still to claim Gift Aid on member contributions towards the two new eights and it might be cost effective to employ someone to do this. John Mulholland said he would continue to work with the Treasurer on chasing subs.

Lindsay Miller proposed and Brian Dalkin seconded a motion to endorse the accounts. This was agreed nem con. It was also agreed to reappoint Rob Watson as Independent Examiner, again with due thanks, on a motion from Lindsay Miller, seconded Ian Jeffery.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for producing the accounts in a remarkably short time again.

## **6 Membership subscription fees and other charges for calendar year 2014**

The Chairman said that the last committee meeting had agreed to recommend no increase in subscriptions and fees for calendar year 2014, in the light of likely disruption due to building works. There was some discussion about possibly agreeing an increase but not implementing it until the grant outcome was known (and other variations). However, on a motion proposed by John Goddard, seconded Laura Clack, it was agreed nem con to approve the recommendation for no increase in subs and fees for 2014. Prompted by the mention again of the

redevelopment scheme, a member said it was vital to get members as a whole to feel ownership of the proposals and the underlying business and sport plans.

## **7 Election of Officers and Committee for 2010-11**

The Chairman introduced the nominations from the outgoing committee, as per the pre-circulated papers; there were two posts without nominations - both for ordinary committee membership. Alan Denton and Steve Barratt were proposed from the floor. David Robinson proposed and Ronald Bradbeer seconded a motion to approve the list put forward by the committee plus the two further names. This was agreed nem con. The committee as agreed for 2013-14 was thus as follows:

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Chairman          | Simon Dobson  |
| Captain           | Ken Hardy   |
| Vice Captain      | Dave Higgins  |
| Vice Captain      | Graham Wheeler  |
| Treasurer         | Michael Windle  |
| Secretary         | Jerry Barker  |
| Committee Members | Steve Barratt, Elena Contogiorgi-Smith, Alan Denton, Claire Hughes, Ian Jeffery, Lynne Michelson and John Mulholland. |

## **8 Consideration of motions**

The (former) Secretary said that no motions had been submitted.

## **9 Any other business**

- (a) **Junior representation.** Alex Leigh introduced himself as the new Lead Junior Coach and then asked about representation of juniors and parents on the committee and at general meetings, noting this had been discussed at last year's AGM. The Chairman said that whilst new formal constitutional arrangements had not been put in place, the committee had fully backed and cooperated with the new junior parents committee and there was now a standing invitation for a rep from there to attend main committee meetings and speak. There was no right to vote for the rep, he acknowledged, but there were few votes as such, and the committee was generally very supportive of junior rowing. He said the committee would continue to keep the matter under review over the next year.
- (b) **Representation on Northern Rowing Council.** Laura Clack said she was willing to be a rep at the forthcoming NRC AGM. Colin said reps from the club and its affiliated events agreed already were David Robinson, Simon Dobson, John Mulholland (also nominated as Regional Water Safety Adviser) and himself (also nominated as NRC Events Coordinator).

The Captain, Ken Hardy, thanked everyone for attending and to Simon for chairing the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm (13 minutes later than in 2012). The bar remained open.

*Minutes taken by Colin Percy, Secretary (at the start of the meeting)*