

MOLESEY BOAT CLUB

MINUTES of MEETING on July 5th 2017

Ted	Bates	07951 638516	Ben	Pugh	07729 249329
Magnus	Burbanks - Safety	07734 682543	Bill	Raspin - Chair	07880 602305
Patrice	Bevan	07552 219922	Neil	Richardson – Mem Sec	07966 754529
Mike	Gardiner - Treasurer	07785 776253	Gabby	Rodriguez – Dep Capt	07990 884269
Adam	Heayberd	07723 037819	Moe	Sbihi - Captain	
Jon	Higgs	07941 337525	Richard	Steed - Hon Sec	07956 359685
Ian	Knight	07860 200829	Paul	Thorpe	07966 035462
Luke	Moon - Dep Captain	07933 157603	David	Porteus - President	Attending

1. Apologies: M Sbihi, L Moon, B Raspin, A Heayberd, G Rodriguez, Patrice Bevan, D Porteus.

Discussion about the Bar Group's report. BP said that the estimated prices quoted in the previous bar revue report were from Thames Rowing Club.

JH asked whether the 13 hours quoted in the Bar Group's report as typical for organising an event, were as a whole or per day? At the moment he would be surprised of the time taken to manage events takes more than a standard working week.

BP said that the 13 hours relates to a Saturday, ie the day of the event.

NR said that we need to rationalise the two reports and get committee approval.

TB said that the Bar Group were not told that the original review was taking place. He acknowledged that: 1) the existing booking system is not working as well as it should do. The time taken for responses to enquiries must be improved. However Rachel does not think that using a professional booker is a good idea; 2) within the Bar Group, half of them think that we should be paying for marketing rather than paying for bookings.

TB said that he has been in discussion with a local restaurateur about taking the first floor on a professional basis but the figures and proposals for rent, etc have not been finalised yet. Initially he thinks it could be attractive to the club and he has circulated the proposals to the committee but we will have to wait for further information.

TB reported that the bar has had a much better month in June than before. This is the time of year when we catch up on the year.

NR asked if we could have more information about bookings; we need to know where we need to improve things – stock levels etc. TB said all that information was in the last circular, but MG is coming up with really good reports so TB has stopped providing that information over the last 3 months or so.

MG: the key is to increase turnover and at the moment we're not doing that.

TB: until recently we were spending nothing on advertising. Google Ads were a waste of time. For some reason MBC doesn't come up when you google "wedding function rooms in Molesey".

IK said TB has previously made the statement that they don't respond to calls as quickly as they should do. Surely the first step is to focus on that issue before tackling anything else. At the moment we are not doing that.

BP: what's the next step?

NR said we need to distil the two reports into one and come up with a flow chart.

BP: I am more annoyed that we paid someone else £395 for a report which wasn't done properly.

NR: if it had been done by anyone else it wouldn't have been acceptable – it had to fit into a time scale. I agree to handle the next step.

Action: NR to distil the two reports into one and lay out a proposed course of action on which the committee can vote.

TB: we on the Bar Group are willing to carry on and work to improve what we are doing whilst this revue takes place.

TB asked if there was a list of proposed works that he could see. He was told that there is a list which was presented to the committee at the June meeting.

TB pointed out that the ceiling heaters have already been removed so the Club Room will be inadequately heated in the winter. IK said that BR is currently looking into the heating of the clubhouse. He explained that the old ceiling heaters were a fire risk and had melted some of the ceiling varnish.

MG said that a draft budget was agreed at the last committee meeting so the works have already commenced.

IK asked when will beer come out of a beer tap at the bar rather than a cider tap. TB replied that the beer seems to be coming out of the cider tap perfectly satisfactorily. Cider is not available at the bar so there is no danger of confusion. IK said why have a cider tap then? TB said he'd look into it.

IK said that just before HRR, NR had to go to the supermarket to buy crisps and nuts because none were available at the bar. Are there any plans properly to stock the bar?

TB replied that he has been busy with HRR and MAR so had not had a chance to replenish the stocks of crisps, etc.

IK: just before HRR he discovered that TB and Dick Knight had removed statutory safety notices from the bay doors at the front of the club. He eventually found some of them in rubbish bins from where he salvaged them. He put some back up but some are currently in the coaches' office. Why did this happen?

TB said that DK took down the safety notices so that he could paint the bay doors and for some reason he did not put them back.

IK said that TB was the committee member supervising the works and he should have ensured that the notices were put back.

Main agenda

Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising. Proposed IK; seconded JH.

4. Sub-groups:

Treasurer

Julie Freshwater, Bill Raspin, Mike Gardiner

MG reported as follows.

Income

We have invoiced for the sale of the Empacher Harry Pickett 2 to Leicester University for £13,300.

Cash flow

We now have sufficient cash in our general and bar current accounts to take us to the end of the financial year on 31st August.

We spend, typically, £20,000 per month excluding large one off items so (allowing for £5,000 for our Surrey Playing Fields loan and £7,000 VAT on the new boat) we need £50,000 for the remainder of the year. The deposit account balance of £44,958 represents the advance payments of the HP grant from BR for the next financial year. Payments have been received for the period up to September 2018.

Budgets

A copy of the draft budget for next year is attached. It is the same as that presented to last month's meeting, but is sent again particularly for new committee members. No information has been provided by the bar and hall hire group.

Because we have one less full time coach, and membership income and rowing centre income has increased, and we have a contribution from WHS, the position next year is rather better than this year. The provisional budget therefore includes an allowance for repairs to the front of the clubhouse and also to the hall.

I will be glad to discuss the details and a final decision will need to be made by next year's committee

Expenditure

I attach a listing of expenditure for the period 1 June to 30 June. A grant of £3,250 was made to the crews competing at Henley and will come out of the Henley fund balance when your treasurer has done the

necessary transfers between the fund and the general account. The total raised by the Henley Fund this year is £4459 with some further tax recovery to come

Bank balances

The bank balances at 30st June 2017 are shown below.

General	£42,921.89
Bar	19,432.87
General deposit	44,958.33
New building	0
Henley	2,789.58
Junior donations	1,226.23

MG reminded the committee that Newby Crouch, our former accountants, have merged with another firm who he doesn't think will do the job very well, so we need to find a new firm more suited to our needs.

Membership/Insurance

Neil Richardson, Richard Steed

NR reported that he had sent round a report to the committee earlier in the day. It is important that all members see a process and understand what is expected of them vis a vis payment of subs and rack rents. Quite a few members currently think that if they get no demand from the club then they have no obligation to pay.

NR said that a lot of these issues will be solved by 'membermojo' which he will be putting on the club website in the next few days. In the first instance he will be asking all committee members to put their personal information on it when it goes live.

JH: new data protection legislation will be coming into effect shortly – how will the new membership system relate to that?

NR: I don't know I'm looking into it.

NR: social members are gradually allowing their membership to lapse. There are two types of social member: 1) people who live locally and think that being a social member is a good idea, and 2) past members of the club who keep social membership due to loyalty to the club. The only way we find out that they have lapsed is when they're sent an invoice and they don't respond. The problem is that they don't really get much out of being social members. NR is currently going through the names of social members to make sure their email addresses are on mail-chimp so they get the newsletters.

The chasing of rack rents is going well. NR asked if he has committee approval to keep chasing members for historic non-payment of rack rents? It was agreed that he does.

IK: we have bought padlocks, why can't we just padlock the boats where the rent hasn't been paid? I have no sympathy for people who actively avoid paying their subs or rack rents.

PT: if someone hasn't paid his rack rent after several months then we have no sympathy for them. Will things be easier in the new club year or will we have to go through the same process again?

NR: things will definitely be better in the new year – we are not going to let it drift.

PT: Neil please give me the information, we can put it on google forms and within a day we'll have the info we need.

NR said it is in hand. He also mentioned that WHS are delighted with their new sculling blade racks which have been attached to the rear of the rowing centre on the far side.

Critical Dates:

None available.

Rowing

Moe Sibih, Jon Higgs, Paul Thorpe, Phil Bourguignon, Helen Taylor, Ben Pugh

PT reported that MS won the Stewards at HRR. The MBC women's eight had a good row against the Dutch national eight. The eight won senior eights at Women's Henley. IK said this is a major achievement for the women's squad; it's the equivalent to having a club crew racing in the Grand.

There are various junior and U23 trials going on at the moment. The Club had a good Marlow Regatta.

Stewart, a new coach has come to the club and has helped us enormously. A discussion was had about his payment package and it agreed to offer him a full time post.

Action: MG and PT to sort out the new coach's contract.

NR asked if we are disappointed with our performance at HRR?

PT replied that, overall we are happy with our performance. We could have put out a stronger Thames Cup eight but we were targeting intermediate and senior events after two wins in the club events in recent years.

BP raised the subject of the proposed block insurance policy to cover club rowers on camp. He said that the boy who got a punctured lung after a bike accident on camp in France last year ended up with a hospital bill of £130,000.

NR: travel insurance is the responsibility of each individual.

RS reported to the committee that Towergate, our brokers, have given us a quote of £1,500 as premium for a proposed block policy which we could recoup from the rowers concerned. The policy would exclude the Leg-Ends going to Head of the Charles in the US.

MG: we need to do more research on the subject, particularly what membership of BR covers us for.

Action: MG to research the subject further.

Club Hire and Bar

Ted Bates, Christiana Hoad, Rachel Pugh, Chris Daley, Britt Bates

RS reported that in accordance with the committee's instructions he has spoken to Jacqui of Moving Body, the lady who runs a pilates school in the old crew room. After discussion with RS, TB has already given her the go ahead for an extension to her tenancy agreement from September to December, which is subject to a 2 month rolling break clause. Jacqui currently pays £15 per hour and she is adamant that she cannot pay more. RS has done some research into the subject of pilates rents and £15 seems to be about the going rate for the facilities we provide.

There was a discussion about whether the rent generated justifies the inconvenience of the pilates classes and it was decided that on balance it does not.

Action: RS to speak to the pilates lady to give her 2 months' notice of the termination of her agreement.

Fund-Raising and Sponsorship

Bill Raspin

Nothing to report.

Rowing Centre

Bill Raspin, Ian Knight

Nothing to report.

Premises

Richard Steed, Ian Knight, Bill Raspin

IK reported that the window bars, ceiling heaters and fairy lights have been removed from the club room, as agreed at the June committee meeting.

Communications

BP reported that Franz has transferred ownership of the administration of the club website but not of the website itself.

Action: BP to sort out the ownership of the website issue.

Social Group

RS reported that Richard Phelps has agreed to be our after dinner speaker at the annual dinner in October.

Safety

Magnus Burbanks, Jon Higgs, Mike Gardiner, Ian Knight

Nothing.

Welfare

IK reported that the cox of our Thames Cup eight was the subject of some twitter abuse by a former crew mate of his at KRC. As soon as it was brought to the attention of the KRC captain, he dealt with it promptly and it the abusive tweet was removed. Also the person responsible for the KRC twitter feed apologized.

AOB RS said for the record that he should declare that he had been a guest of Towergate Insurance for lunch at Remenham during HRR.

Meeting ended 21:45

Meetings take place first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.	5 July 2017	2 August 2017	6 September 2017	4 October 2017	1 November 2017
Note –					

Richard Steed, Hon. Secretary

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Secretary@moleseyboatclub.org