

MOLESEY BOAT CLUB

MINUTES of MEETING on March 1st 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
John	Moon – Vice Captain	07480 678578	Nigel	Underwood	07713 137275
Luke	Moon - Dep Captain	07933 157603	David	Porteus - President	Attending

1. **Apologies:** M Sbihi, P Bevan, J Moon, G Rodriguez, P Thorpe, A Heayberd.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Minutes for the February 2016 meeting were reviewed and agreed after some discussion about proposed amendments from TB. Proposed JH, seconded NR. 6 for the minutes and 1 against.

3. Special items

3.1. None.

Action Points from previous meeting:

Molesey Masters RC bank account to be renamed – TB said that he has changed the name to Molesey Masters because it is too complicated to close it down due to standing orders, etc. He was asked to change the name from anything to do with Molesey or Masters to avoid confusion with MBC and agreed.

Items 1 and 2: dealt with.

Item 3 from the TRRC recommendations: TB asked isn't there supposed to be a check list circulated about trips by groups? IK said yes it hasn't been done yet but it is in hand, due to a bereavement and the coaching situation.

Item 4: the second paper is due out. TB said that he is happy with the first one.

Item 5: carried forward.

Items 6 and 7: no action required.

Item 8: MG's new by law to be put on the website.

Item 9: review to be put on the website.

Critical Dates:

The committee minutes pre 2014 which were on the previous website have been lost unless any members have kept them. TB said that he had a lot of them.

TB's proposals re the Club management to be discussed at the April meeting.

Fund raising and Sponsorship: BR to start up again the review process of the bar and function room.

AGM and SGM timings: discussion about how to make them more accessible to more club members. Should we make sandwiches available? **Action:** IK to speak to the coaches.

Registering of boats on BR website: NR carrying forward.

4. Sub-groups:

Treasurer

Julie Freshwater, Bill Raspin, Mike Gardiner

MG circulated and presented a paper about the current financial situation at the club as follows:

Budget

At this time of the year, the cash situation is OK, but much of our expenditure is over the summer months. In the deposit account we are holding the advance payment by BR of out 2017/18 grant, and the proceeds of the insurance claim on Scott Rennie

An updated budget estimate for 2016/17 is attached, taking account of known changes up to the end of January 2017. The main changes relate to income headings (see below), where membership income is strong but there are concerns in other areas. On the expenditure side, I have assumed lower coaching costs. Overall, we are projecting a small surplus before allowing for boat purchases and sales, and before any allowance for major repairs to the clubhouse.

Areas of concern

There are several areas where we need to take action to protect or enhance our income, and I suggest the Committee might like to review these. They are:

1. Ensuring that we are able to deliver rowing courses for both juniors and adults, and delivering corporate days. There are proposals being worked up to provide sufficient capacity
2. Reversing the decline in bar and hall hire income.
3. Any action to work on sponsorship.
4. Billing the hosted schools and Surrey using the new agreement – this is under way and should be done shortly.

BR proposed that action being taken regarding these areas to be discussed under the various sub groups.

Bank balances

The bank balances at 28th February are shown below.

General £40,673.26

Bar £16,883.95

General deposit £68,624.48

New building 0

Henley £1,859.58

Junior donations £1,226.23

Membership/Insurance

Neil Richardson, Richard Steed

NR reported that there are still quite a few social members who haven't paid their subs yet. He is going to circulate the list to the Committee so that we can chase people we know. He is in the process of auditing our entry on the BR website.

IK suggested that Eric Scruby should be given life membership because of the hard work he has done for the club over the years. It was agreed. **Action:** RS to write to Eric to tell him.

IK said that there is an issue with non-member coxes, coxing crews. They should be sent emails acknowledging that they are coxing with the permission of the Committee, so that they and the club are covered in the event of an accident.

DP: a template should be circulated to the relevant parties.

IK said that there was a minor accident at Molesey Head and the club got a message from BR asking why we had not reported it. It turned out that most of the crew concerned were not members of BR.

TB said that they were rowing in the head as a special dispensation from the race committee of the head, to celebrate Martin Denny's 60 years of coxing.

NR asked if they weren't BR members, surely they couldn't race. MG explained that they weren't racing, although their time was taken. The reason that the incident was not reported to BR was that no-one in the crew had realized that the boats had hit each other.

DP: the safety advisor should be warning that all incidents should be reported in an accident book. There were 4 deaths in rowing races in the UK last year, all heart related.

NR: I have asked Patrice to add an encouragement in the next Boathouse Bulletin to encourage club members to join BR.

IK: we should encourage all active rowers at the club to be members of BR.

Action: encourage more members to join BR.

Critical Dates: invoice BR. Done.

Pay EA licenses. In hand, NR and MG are dealing with this.

Surrey Playing fields loan: paid by direct debit.

Coaches' review: IK is discussing with BR.

Rowing

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

IK reported that the Squad trials have gone well. Holly is the top young girl - Hudson have given her a sculling boat on permanent loan. There's also a clutch of boys coming through.

BP reported that Franz has been put on gardening leave as from Monday. The first coaching session with the squad happened on Tuesday and there was a 'positive vibe'.

The women's group went to Bruges and were 1st, 2nd and 5th.

John Parker and Charles Bowman organized a small sculling head on Sunday with refreshments after, which went very well – 20 boats took part, including boats from Weybridge and Walton.

The Explore Group won their last race. They want to do a 'splash and dash' regatta at the club.

IK reported that someone has cut the spoons off 8 old blades that were at the club, and were to be used by the Explore group. Nobody knew anything about it. LM rang his contact at Surrey Univ and he said that it was definitely not them, they have had their own presentation blades made.

Action: IK to investigate further.

TB and Dickie Knight have been sweeping out the boat bays but this is causing problems because they are moving riggers so the coaches can't find them when they need them, which is causing confusion. TB replied that the riggers have been lying around for ages and looking a mess, which IK agreed with. IK said that boat bays 5 and 6 are the responsibility of the performance group, who need to take responsibility for the tidiness of their bays. IK asked TB for his support in keeping to the game plan, which TB agreed to.

IK reported that it is looking as if the Easter courses for Explore rowers may not happen due to a shortage of coaches (because they will be at camps, etc). The likelihood of the summer courses going ahead is better. Helen Brown will be doing more of the coaching by then. NR said that he has a waiting list of 30 names to do Explore courses. IK said that by April we should be able to get the courses going again. The medium term plan is to take the admin away from Helen Taylor so she can concentrate on coaching.

IK said that John Parker is no longer involved in organizing corporate days. However Simon Kay and BR are trying to get Octagon to commit to doing one.

John Parker and Charles Bowman have been reviewing the green fleet with a view to getting rid of boats that are being under-utilized. CB has bought a pair (with his own money) which will be available for the use of the masters men, so the club will insure it.

BR explained that it is essential that all rowers wear kit with the ISPS Handa logo on, even though their sponsorship officially expired last autumn, they may well renew it. We will be in a better position to get it renewed if they see their logo on racing kit which are in photographs that we send them.

Club Hire and Bar

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

TB reported that the bar has turned over £22,000 for the first 6 months of our year. He is not happy about some discrepancies between the figures till in to the till, which is often different to the money actually in the till. Last month it was £96 down; the previous month £125 down. BR asked if this was recent. TB said that the till is £225 down over 6 months. TB said there are not enough volunteers to run functions and his team have agreed not to advertise for functions until the club is in a position to deal with functions.

Re the bar staff agency that we are using, we have had one no show and one that turned up 3 hours late. TB said that he is working on getting two more event managers and one more permanent bar worker. The club room needs to be repainted, the kitchen kept cleaner, the floor revarnished. These days rowing is taking place all through Saturdays and Sundays, so rowers are always walking through the club room, which disrupts functions, including girls using the women's showers. Christiana Hoad is not around as much as she used to be now she has two young children therefore the bar and pipework is not checked as often as it was. Pat Sinnott is reluctantly being trained up to look after things. TB is the only person around these days to solve problems when they crop up.

BR asked how much we make out of an evening event. TB said that we get £550 from hall hire, plus £500/£750 out of the bar: sometimes as much as £1,500 from an event.

BR asked if this is a sustainable model going forward bearing in mind the difficulty in getting volunteers. TB said yes. There are no external bookings in February or March. There were £1,253 worth of functions in January. There were two in October; one in November and three in December.

BR said we're way below budget and it's very unlikely we will catch up this year as weddings and parties are booked at least 3-12 months in advance..

TB said that the other option is to pay someone to run things but we're having a bad patch at the moment.

JH told TB that he doesn't have enough support.

BP said that, based on what he has observed, we need a steward. When TB is away we have problems as there is nobody to show potential bookers around. We're losing business these days because the people running the bar and function room are volunteers and people expect an immediate answer if they ring or email about booking the club.

TB asked how we are going to afford a steward, we don't have enough income.

BR said that the review process was started in June last year but was interrupted due to the various enquiries. We must restart it. We're already heading for the end of the financial year. We ought to talk to some professionals.

TB said that he has got to carry on doing what he is doing.

BR said that it is vital that we pick up the review again as we must arrest the decline in this important income stream.

Action: TB to continue to get volunteers to run functions.
BR and PB to resume the Hall Hire review and report at the next meeting.

Fund-Raising and Sponsorship

Bill Raspin

BR said that he has already talked about trying to persuade Octagon to do a corporate day. He is also putting together a flyer for potential sponsors.

Rowing Centre

Bill Raspin, Ian Knight

BR has put a flyer out purely to attract schools, those with special needs and community groups for taster sessions.

Re the crew room, we have finished the coaches' office. BR and IK are going with Steve Parsons to an office building in the City to pick up some office furniture that is available. The physio room is finished. The TV is being fitted in the crew room on Thursday. A microwave, kettle and toaster have been ordered. IK has donated a dining room table. NR has put up some bike racks at the rear.

TB pointed out that Molesey Regatta has paid £720 for the TV, for which they were thanked.

Premises

Richard Steed, Ian Knight, Bill Raspin

IK said that Roy Mumford is taking leadership in installing the new racking, which will be arranged so that we can erect the marquee more easily for functions. Some existing racks will have to be moved as part of the process. A notice will be sent out shortly to get volunteers to help with this.

John Parker is responsible for the workshop. Martin Denny's crew for bay 2.

Communications

IK is talking to PB about putting information in the next BH Bulletin.

Social Group

NU asked what sort of event do we want for the annual dinner in November. Do we want it to be held in the club room, or in a marquee and the rowing centre? The former costs about £1,800, whereas the latter about £5,000. However we can get more guests into a combined marquee/rowing centre do. Much discussion and it was agreed that the dinner last year was a great success but involved a great deal of work. BR said that last year 'ticked the boxes' although there could have been more masters there. MG pointed out that there was a major fund raising dinner a month or so beforehand, so some masters probably didn't want to go to both. It was decided that NU is going to report further to the committee at the next meeting, when a decision will be made.

There is a plan to make the Henley Fundraiser more of a club event. NU is discussing it with Phil Bourginon. They are looking at getting the whole club in boats for a pageant, which hasn't been done since 2000. Crews representing the club at HRR would do a row past. Jonathan Steel is involved with the organization but he is presently still recovering from a knee operation.

DP reported that there are no dates yet for the next President's Dinner.

Agreed date of the annual dinner to be 11th November.

Safety

Magnus Burbanks, Jon Higgs, Mike Gardiner, Ian Knight

Nothing to report.

Welfare

Nothing to report.

AOB: NR asked what racks are allocated to universities and schools. BR said that the new agreements will itemize which boats, lockers, gazebos, etc they are allowed to use.

TB reported that with JH's help the sign writing is up to date. JM said that there are 18 errors in the signs on the landing.

BP reported that the club website is now under PB's control.

IK said that GR is organizing a leaving do for Franz. All the committee are encouraged to attend. BP said that all communication with Franz is to be through him.

IK said that a monthly open mike session with the squad is being proposed to improve communication between

the committee and the squad.

Meeting ended 22:05

Meetings take place first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.	5 April 2017	3 May 2017	7 June 2017	5 July 2017	AGM tbd July 2017
Note –					

Richard Steed, Hon. Secretary

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Secretary@moleseyboatclub.org