

**Newhaven Gig Rowing Club Committee Meeting
Wednesday 5th September 2018
NGRC Club House, Newhaven**



Minutes

Attendees:

Nikki Tweedie, Chloe Sands, Caroline Dean, Rachel Beardsworth, Mark Beaumont, Daniel Wittenberg, Rhiannon Williams, Andy Siese, Isabel Allen.

Apologies: Dexter Allen, Mark Syrett.

Action and Decision Table:

| Actions | | |
|---|--|-----------------|
| <u>Responsible</u> | <u>Detail</u> | <u>Deadline</u> |
| Rachel Beardsworth | To look into getting 3-4 large fenders. | ASAP |
| Rachel Beardsworth | To put a post on the website to let people know about nominations for subsidised membership and promote that NRG have provided the funds to do this. | Oct 18 |
| Fundraising Team | To put together a plan for having duties included in the membership. | End 2018 |
| Dexter Allen/ Nikki Tweedie | To discuss the role of Captains and put forward individuals they think should take on this role. | Oct 18 |
| Caroline Dean | To look into issue of members possibly not receiving refunds they should have. | Oct 18 |
| Decisions | | |
| Membership will not be increased this year. | | |
| Junior rows will cost £3 per row with no membership cost initially. | | |

1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 Apologies noted as above.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Action Review

2.1 Minutes of the previous committee meeting were agreed to be a correct record.

2.2 Outstanding actions were discussed and the Action Log was updated.

3. Finance Update

3.1 The following financial updates were provided:

- Bank balance at £2500.
- £700 from T-shirt sales and Waterbourne fundraising.
- £365 has been paid to Mark Syrett for the dollies. Steel and wheels have been purchased and there may be some further costs. Anne from the CPGA suggested using swimming pool matting for bottom of the slip way and large fenders to roll boat out on.

ACTION: RB to look into getting 3-4 large fenders.

3.2 There has been a problem accessing the row dough balance so no further updates could be provided. The issue is being dealt with.

4. Bids to Purchase Amelie

4.1 Bids have been submitted for tools and maintenance. Item carried forward to next meeting.

5. Membership

5.1 The fundraising team have suggested raising membership by £10-15 per year for adults due to the need to raise additional income to break even and to ensure we are self-sustaining and not overly reliant on grants and skills of others to bring in enough money.

5.2 There were varying views on whether this was the right thing to do or the right time to do it. It would also come close to the time when Seven Stars would be returned so we would be back to having one boat so there was concern about the offer reducing but the membership cost increasing. Others are of the view that for what we offer, it is very cheap currently so a small increase should be welcomed.

5.3 There was the suggestion that as a club, we should communicate better to our members that the row payments don't cover the operational costs and

that we could have a minimum membership fee per month but if people can afford more they could donate through Just Giving.

DECISION: Membership will not be increased this year.

- 5.4 All were in favour of better communication, via the website, that we need more income if we are to cover our operational costs and that if people can afford to pay a bit more then they can donate.
- 5.5 Trustees have been discussing people they would like to put forward for the subsidised memberships and suggest that the names remain anonymous to the committee which was agreed. Trustees have been approached by both people that are homeless as well as people currently rowing that are finding it difficult to afford to continue.

ACTION: RB to put a post on the website to let people know about nominations for subsidised membership and promote that NRG have provided the funds to do this.

6. Duties in Membership

- 6.1 Discussion took place around whether duties should be included in the membership, with the cost of membership remaining the same. It was thought that this is a good idea to help give people a place and allows willing people to be more comfortable and able to help out.
- 6.2 It will be difficult to ensure that everyone carries out the duties they are expected to but the overall aim here is to try and increase the numbers of people who participate and provide a platform to help with encouraging this. Duty Man is an application that sits on the webpage and lists all duties and it was suggested something like this could be used.
- 6.3 It was agreed that this should be taken forward but a full plan is required before anything is finalised.

ACTION: Fundraising Team to put together a plan for having duties included in the membership.

7. Standing Item: Junior Rowing

- 7.1 Junior rowing is now very close to realisation with the DBS checks coming through.
- 7.2 Discussion took place around the structure of membership for juniors. It was agreed that the row price should coincide with the adult cost of £3 per row. This cost is very reasonable considering the offer and it would also ensure that junior rows are given a fair distribution of slots with the adults as both would bring in the same income to the club.

- 7.3 It was decided that membership should be thought through further and that junior rows should initially be pay per row with no membership cost. This can then be considered based on feedback received. But it should be made clear from the start that there will be a membership cost for juniors in the near future to ensure people's expectations are aligned with the club's.
- 7.4 A small junior meeting should be held to get feedback from the rowers which can help feed into the membership pricing structure. An adult could also attend to help facilitate discussion.

DECISION: Junior rows will cost £3 per row with no membership cost initially.

8. Maintenance

- 8.1 Need to confirm how long Amelie can be kept inside as this will dictate the rest of the details for the maintenance.

9. Racing

- 9.1 The following points about Waterbourne were raised:
- Waterbourne has been delayed until July 2019.
 - Planning needs to commence a year ahead to ensure there is enough time to sort everything out – so planning need to start immediately.
 - The gig calendar has races from early spring, throughout the summer, so 3 date options can be sent to the CPGA so they can build their calendar on this.
- 9.2 There is a wider issue about what the club will be doing in terms of racing for the coming year. People really want to start training now so this is a priority issue. We need to be clear that we aren't at the stage where coaches will be selecting elite crews to race at events but if there is a particular race people want to attend they should be able to get a crew together and train.
- 9.3 It was suggested that a meeting should be held for those who wish to race to attend and discuss which events they would like to compete in. Attendees should research the races beforehand, work out costs etc., and bring this information to the meeting. This should all be collated and then it should be up to someone (e.g. a coach) to work out the logistics and make the final decision on which events will be attended.
- 9.4 Realistically there are only so many event each crew and boat can actually attend as many are in locations that are very difficult to get to and some will only allow for one crew to row. Some races allow for many crews to race with only one boat, so these would be better as more people could be involved in one event.

- 9.5 It was discussed as to whether there is the desire to move away from the social rowing aspect into more of a competitive club. If so then male and female captains would be required in order to drive this forward and put together strong crews to compete. Being a Captain is a role independent of any other so it would have to be someone that isn't already a cox, for example, as it is a large role and would have oversight for the entire club.

ACTION: DA and NT to discuss the role of Captains and put forward individuals they think should take on this role.

10. Christmas

- 10.1 RB will be organising this.

11. Publicity

- 11.1 Great River Race crews have purchased 2 flags for the club.

12. Coxing

- 12.1 Due to running out of time in the meeting NT advised she would communicate about this via email.
- 12.2 Coxes need to re-take the first aid course as the current certificate will be expiring soon.

13. AOB

- 13.1 Certain members have concerns they have not received refunds they were entitled to.

ACTION: CD to look into issue of members possibly not receiving refunds they should have.

Date of Next Meeting: To be Confirmed – October.