

## **TEES ROWING CLUB (TRC)**

### **Minutes of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting**

Held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am at the River Tees Watersports Centre, The Slipway, North Shore, Stockton on Tees

**Present**(as recorded on the signing-in sheets)

Mark Benson, Nick Boyne-Cross, Dionne Dunning, Neil Dunning, Robert Enright, Steve Heath, Bob Holdsworth, Callum Holdsworth, Michelle Holdsworth, Dilwyn Jones, Chris Kenyon, Elizabeth Leigh, Iona MacLeod, Fiona Mortimer, Kate O'Sullivan (offered apologies originally), John Pattison, Lucy Radley, Len Small, Ben Summers, Louise Summers, Alan Thom, Karami Ure, Fiona Ventress.

The meeting was chaired by the Chair, Bob Holdsworth.

**Apologies received from:** Fiona Barlow, Stuart Barlow, Greg Beswick, Jo Dora, John Green, Tom Hillier, Sean Kenneally, Dick Marlow, Richard Olver, Alan Puddick, Elizabeth Puddick, David Storry, Alan Ure, John Winton, Angela Warburton, David Warburton.

**The Minutes of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting** held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2019 were received and approved at the meeting. Proposed by Neil Dunning, seconded by Mark Benson.

**There were no matters arising from the Minutes.**

**The reports from Club Officers** having been published prior to the meeting were presented for approval.

#### **Captain's Report**

Lucy Radley answered questions relating to the Captain's report, in the absence of Tom Hillier the Captain.

Dilwyn Jones commented that there had been no mention of the City Games, which had been a great success. Lucy said that this had been an oversight, and thanked all of those involved in making it a successful event.

Lucy also said that at time of writing the report, we had not had news that Callum Holdsworth and Mazyar Amini had been shortlisted for British Rowing (BR) Junior Team of 2020, which is a huge achievement. There was a spontaneous round of applause from all present.

Chris Kenyon commented that there was no mention of the thriving Para athlete's squad in the Captain's report. Lucy gave a brief overview of the status of the various athletes in this category, and agreed that this omission would be flagged with Tom Hillier to avoid a similar omission in the next Captain's report to an AGM.

With no further matters arising in relation to the Captain's report, on a proposal by Fiona Ventress, seconded by Steve Heath, the Captain's report was accepted and approved by the meeting.

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#### **Honorary Secretary's Report**

There were no matters arising from the Honorary Secretary's report. On a proposal by Steve Heath, seconded by Elizabeth Leigh, the Honorary Secretary's report was accepted and approved by the meeting.

#### **Honorary Treasurer's Report**

Questions arising from the Treasurer's report were taken by the Honorary Secretary, with some input by the Honorary Treasurer and the Honorary Treasurer elect.

Chris Kenyon commented a breakdown of the membership number by category was helpful. These were not available at the meeting. The latest figures collated are dated 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020, and are given here:

<b>Membership Type</b>	<b>Number of members (20/02/2020)</b>
Adult members	125
J13 Members	3
J18 Members	26
J18 Family Members	3
Independents	8
Distant Student	15
Off Peak	23
Social/coxing and coaching	16
As above, plus gym membership	3
Teesside University student	18
<b>Total members</b>	<b>240</b>

Chris Kenyon asked how many people are Life Members of TRC. The current list of Life Members may be found on the Tees Rowing Club website, dated 2019. No new life members have been appointed since the list was published.

Chris Kenyon asked why after a very short trial, the charge for mini-head entry, which was a useful way of raising money for the Club funds, had been dropped. The Chair explained that there had been a request by some members to remove the fee. The Committee had discussed this, and agreed by a majority of those present to remove the charges, but to review the situation after 6 months, and as such, this will be discussed in March. Stephen Heath said he was implacably opposed to re-instating the fees, Dionne Dunning said she was a strong supporter of them. Dilwyn Jones expressed a view that the river authorities may view fees as making the event worthy of a river closure. Louise Summers asked if the fees made any difference to entry numbers, and this had not been the case.

The Chair suggested that an indicative vote of the members present at the AGM, to inform the Committee's decision in March but not to be binding upon it, would be taken. 13 people voted in favour of charging a fee for mini-head entry. 5 people voted against charging a fee. A count was not taken of those abstaining or failing to raise their hands for either choice (estimated to be 5 from attendee list).

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There being no further matters arising from the Treasurer's report, on a proposal by Fiona Ventress, seconded by Lucy Radley, the report was accepted and approved by the meeting.

#### **Regatta Report**

Steve Heath thanked all who had helped towards making the Club events so successful (Regatta and Autumn Heads), and explained that the Regatta report included the LDS/SBH event. There was a round of applause.

There were no matters arising from the Regatta report, which was accepted and approved by the meeting.

#### **Report from Tees River Users Trust (TRUT)**

Ralph Pickles had asked to make a short presentation to TRC about TRUT and the increase in fees for 2020. Ralph was not present at the meeting, so Chris Kenyon offered to say a few words on his behalf, to which the Chair agreed.

Chris Kenyon said that TRUT ran the building on behalf of the user clubs, the largest one by far being TRC. There had been a large number of capital costs e.g. Boiler replacement and alarm system. In the absence of TRUT, TRC would have to complete such tasks itself. He expressed the view that some members of TRC were not appreciative of the efforts of the TRUT team.

Kate O'Sullivan expressed the view that many members of the Club were appreciative of the efforts of the team, and in particular Alan Pearce and his deputy.

**The Annual Accounts** to the financial year ending 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019 having been published prior to the meeting, were presented by the Honorary Secretary, supported by the Honorary Treasurer and the Honorary Treasurer elect.

The Secretary outlined key points arising from the accounts, including the need for the revaluation of the assets, which had reversed a change made in 2018. The assets are now based on a cost base valuation as they were in previous years. This was the first step of a two-stage process which will complete over the next financial year. The second step will be to complete a review of all assets to ensure the valuation is based on a detailed asset register.

Neil Dunning asked for clarification on changes in income and expenditure. It was explained that TRUT charges had increased, and that the Club had reached the end of a Sport England revenue grant that had paid for things such as boat refurbishment, LTR and Coaching courses.

The Chair thanked all those who had put so much effort in to preparation of the accounts, including Roger Brisley.

On a proposal by Louise Summers, seconded by Iona MacLeod, the accounts were accepted and approved by the meeting.

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### Membership fees for 2020-2021

The Honorary Treasurer proposed an increase in the Club fees. The main reasons were the increase in TRUT fees and the small loss for the last financial year (before the transfer of monies from the Regatta account. The meeting was also reminded that there had been no increase in fees for the last three years. The suggested fees, by membership category, are as follows:

Membership Category	Fees proposed for 2020-2021. (£/month)
Adult members	30.00
J13 Members	15.00
J18 Members	22.00
J18 Family members	22.00
Independents	30.00
Distant Student	13.00
Off Peak	18.50
Social/coxing and coaching	5.00
As above, plus gym membership	15.00
Teesside University student	22.00

It was explained that the larger increase for Juniors and Students is to gradually move them towards parity with adult membership fees, as they use the club resources just as much as the adults, and many rowing clubs have already implemented such changes.

Neil Dunning asked for the amount that the increase in annual income would generate. This data was not available at the meeting. *[Using the February membership figures given above, the annual amount generated by the increase will be of the order of £3264. This will cover the increase in TRUT charges.]*

Dilwyn Jones expressed a concern that increasing junior fees may be incompatible with the Club's Community Amateur Sports Club status.

On a proposal by Steve Heath, seconded by Neil Dunning, the revised subscription structure for 2020-2021 was accepted and approved by the meeting.

**Election of Officers and other Committee Members.** Nominations for the majority of positions had been published prior to the meeting, with notice from Mark Benson to stand down as Honorary Treasurer, Nick Boyne-Cross as Honorary Secretary, Alan Puddick as Safety Adviser, and also, Chair of the LDS/SBH event (the latter is not a Committee position) and Louise Summers as an Ordinary Member. A vacancy for Equipment Manager which arose at the 2019 AGM and covered by Lucy Radley since June, remains open. The Chair thanked all the retiring Officers and Committee members for their efforts on behalf of the Club. There was a round of applause.

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The following were the only candidates, who had agreed to continue in their role prior to the meeting and who were elected without opposition, after a proposal by Dilwyn Jones, seconded by Elizabeth Leigh.

President	Neil Dunning
Chair	Bob Holdsworth
Captain	Tom Hillier
Vice-Captain	Greg Beswick
Vice-Captain	Lucy Radley
Publicity Officer	Lucy Radley
Assistant Treasurer	Fiona Ventress
Assistant Secretary	Karami Ure
Coaching Co-Ordinator	Stephen Leigh
Ordinary Member	Richard Olver
Ordinary Member	Louise Summers

Louise Summers was the only candidate for Treasurer, nominated by Tom Hillier and seconded by Nick Boyne-Cross. She was elected by an almost unanimous show of hands.

Angela Warburton was the only candidate for Secretary, nominated by Tom Hillier and seconded by David Warburton. She was elected by an almost unanimous show of hands.

There were no nominations for the posts of Safety Advisor, a critical club role, or Equipment Manager and so both remained vacant.

Fiona Mortimer offered to stand for election as an Ordinary member. She was proposed by Iona MacLeod, seconded by Dionne Dunning, and was elected by an almost unanimous show of hands.

The Chair highlighted that TRC cannot run events in the absence of a Safety Adviser, while the on-going reluctance of anyone to come forward as Equipment Manager remains a concern. Lucy Radley highlighted that it is not necessary to be able to fix boats yourself for the latter role: there is a good team in support of this. The task, as she does it, is one of co-ordination and work prioritisation. Nick Boyne-Cross highlighted that in the absence of a Safety Adviser, the Secretary is responsible for providing the Safety adviser cover.

The new Treasurer introduced herself to the club membership and adumbrated her credentials for the role by way of a brief career history. A short statement from the new Secretary was read out to the club members by the Chair.

Helen Westcott's appointment to the role of Club Welfare Officer during 2019-2020 was highlighted and the Chair expressed his thanks to her on behalf of the Club for taking on this role.

**Confirmation of the Tees RC Representative on the TRUT Board.** Dick Marlow was confirmed as Tees RC Representative on TRUT.

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**Appointment of Auditors for 2019-2020.** Baldwins (formerly S V Bye and Co), Chartered Accountants have offered to continue to act for Tees RC as the Club's Auditors, at a charge of approximately £600. Discussion highlighted that this is probably less than commercial rates. The meeting confirmed their appointment, proposed by Iona MacLeod, seconded by Len Small.

**AOB**

Iona MacLeod asked if the Committee could consider increasing the number of boats that were sized for smaller, mainly female rowers.

Kate O'Sullivan asked if the Committee were looking at whether the Regatta would run in May in light of the Coronavirus. It was confirmed that the Regatta team were keeping a close eye on things. *[A few days after the meeting, Steve Heath confirmed that the Regatta had been postponed indefinitely.]*

**The meeting closed at 11.40am.**

NBC/Feb 2020