

CCBC Steering Committee Meeting

Lent 2018

Present:

Karthik Tadinada	Chairman
Caitlin Hogan-Lloyd	Captain of Boats & Women's Captain
Anton Nilsson	Men's Captain
Adam Atkinson	Secretary
Miriam Apsley	Junior Treasurer
Kate Hurst	Boathouse Manager
Rebecca Pitcaithly	Development Office
Richard Batley	Fellows' Representative
Simon Martin	Alumnus Member
Bill Aldridge	Blades Representative
Twm Stone	Webmaster

Apologies:

Robin Kerr	Boathouse Redevelopment
Paul Verhaak	Senior Treasurer

1. Minutes of the last meeting; Apologies and Actions Arising

Apologies were received from Robin Kerr, who also stated he would no longer be attending Steering Committee meetings now the boathouse redevelopment project has been completed and the club has moved home.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

2. Chairman's Report

KT opened the meeting by welcoming back **KH**, and queried in what capacity **KH** had returned. **KH** said she was starting with eight sessions per week and playing it by ear regarding manageability/pain etc. **KT** commented on the good foundation from Michaelmas term, with good results in Fairbairns for all crews; made even more impressive given the difficulties during term.

3. Financial Review

MA began with discussions about training camp in Aiguebelette, for which no invoices had been received from the lake so final cost tbc. Costs to the club increased, with fewer students but a larger coach. The insurance seemed to be quite high this term. **MA** thought this to be due to new items such as the Men's Filippi VIII (John Milton) and the new Stampfli quad. **KT** queried if the club is still financially healthy, to which **MA** responded it is.

4. Captains' Reports on Michaelmas 2017 and Plans for Lent.

CHL reported that W1 had a tricky term with multiple injuries and illnesses meaning a lack of consistent crew. Other difficulties included adjustment to a new coach (Stephen Matthews) as **KH** was unavailable, as well as a lack of experienced cox. Despite this **CHL** thought the boat came together well by the end of term, with a general positive feeling within the crew. **CHL** hoped to have a W1 set for this term by the end of week one.

KT queried the numbers of novices continuing on to Lent term. **CHL** reported that not as many women as men; most of NW1 were to continue and would make up this term's W2, who all know each other and get on well. A captain had been appointed for that crew. **CHL** added that most of the girls from the mixed VIII, namely two grads and another novice, none of which were that keen anyway. **CHL** commended the LBCs on their work last term, and highlighted the good atmosphere among the novices. **CHL** also noted that there was a party in the new boathouse the day before the meeting which went very well.

AN reported difficulties from Michaelmas being the loss of seniors from M1, meaning M1 being made up mostly of former M2 rowers. Despite the jump the crew got settled very quickly and got some good results. Alister was patient and helpful throughout the term. **AN** added there was an M2 last term, but with varying commitment levels leading to 2-3 sessions per week, but that most of these rowers would be continuing. **KH** commented that there had not yet been a Michaelmas M2 in her time as boathouse manager. **AN** echoed **CHL**'s sentiments regarding the work of the LBCs, adding that most of the male novices were to continue to Lent term, giving us five men's boats, four of which had already been settled.

KT clarified that NM2 had a better time than NM1 in Fairbairns, and queried what the Captains think caused that. The Captains thought this was due to the NM2 crew all being undergraduates who were very committed to the crew, as well as really good friends. **KT** highlighted this and noted that it is worth choosing rowers based on their commitment rather than talent in the initial stages, because it means people will turn up and the result is a better boat.

KT moved the discussion to men's coaching, noting that **KH** is back. **KH** reported that she would be coaching M2, Alister continuing to coach M1. Andy Foster was to return to coach M3b and M4. The Captains added that the coxing situation is the main problem at the moment, with only 4-5 coxes for at least 7 boats. **KH** commended the coxes for managing to share the extra boats out and noted it was going well despite the shortage. **CHL** added the coxes seemed keen to help.

KT asked if there had been any afternoon outings. **AN** reported that there were too many graduate students in the boat who are unable to make afternoon sessions due to work commitments, adding that they even struggled to do evening land sessions. **KT** then asked if any evening outings could be done this term as lighting gets a little later - **AN** said this was unlikely due to grads, and lighting restricting both how early and late they would be able to boat respectively. **KT** concluded by saying it is more useful to go in the afternoon even if it means shortening the outing. **AN** finished by saying that both M1 and W1 were doing both Saturday and Sunday outings to reduce morning outings to only two per week.

KT then moved on to asking about the social side of the club, noting that this term Lent Bumps arrive quickly so any socials need to be planned asap. **AN** reported there had been socials though they were difficulties with numbers. **CHL** and **TS** both reported that the novices loved the day at Peterborough, though **KH** noted this year saw infinitely better weather than the usual cold and rain. **CHL** and **AA** asked about the budget available for socials, having been asked for clarification by the social secretaries. **MA** explained the budget was to be used mainly for the admin required for Boat Club Dinner, such as printing menus and paying any deposits for events that are self funded, for example paying a deposit on glassware for a cocktail evening. **MA** explained the budget was not to be spent on food or drink, other than the BBQs at the start of the year and at the AGM.

5. Boathouse Manager's Report

KH began by outlining the progress of moving back in to the boathouse, which happened the evening before Fairbairns. There were still some builders on site, and there were issues with the doors to the boat bays and workshop being difficult to open and lock properly. There was not yet internet access. All the boats had been brought back from storage in St Neots, and now the next task was to organise how and where to display all the rowing memorabilia, as the redevelopment had not increased the amount of wall space available. **RP** added that there would be three new plaques coming to be displayed in the boathouse. One for the two headship crews, one about William Blyth, and one about major donors to the redevelopment. **KH** then moved on to discuss the Mays crew name boards. The women's crews used to be displayed in the women's changing rooms, but the men's were displayed

in communal areas, a disparity that **KH** would like to fix. **KT** added that in displaying memorabilia, donors should be prioritised if there is not enough space everything. **TS** stated that there is more space in the two changing rooms than before.

KH moved on to discuss the use of the boathouse, saying that the students were settling in well. **KT** asked about how the new racking works and **KH** explained that while there have been no problems with the Vllls bay, the IVs bay is difficult to use due to it being quite cramped. **KT** then queried if we had the car access as previously arranged, to which **KH** responded that we do, and that loading the trailer is much easier as a result.

KH then moved to discuss the new gym equipment, stating that there had been quotes provided, but these had been quite high and so it would be better to source this from multiple providers. **KH** added that the current equipment was still perfectly functional, and that the new equipment would simply be an upgrade. **KH** then noted that eight new ergs brings the total to 16, allowing two crews to warm up simultaneously before a morning session. The increased number of ergs will also generate more income. **MA** queried if X-Press would be renting the ergs, and **KH** responded that they needed to be contacted about this. **KH** added that St Mary's had been in touch about renting the gym and the ergs at 3pm during the week. As this would almost never coincide with Christ's members wanting to use the gym this was agreed to be a good idea. **BA** queried the price for this; **KT** suggested start at £100 per hour, since St Mary's is a private school and does not pay for a coach per session, and to negotiate with them from there. **KH** then discussed the new quad, which the club took possession of one week after moving back in to the boathouse. The quad was then taken on training camp to Aigubelette. **KH** added that while the name was to be confirmed, the ceremony would be combined with the naming of the new men's Filippi VIII (John Milton) and the official boathouse opening.

Action: AA to find photos of the men's VIII from May Bumps 2017.

Action: RP to check if OF sent a photo to the donor.

KH then informed the committee of the loss of the bow section of Bill Windham (Janousek 2nd/3rd men's VIII) on the way back from training camp in France. As outlined in her written report, it was believed to have gone missing somewhere between Reims and Calais. **KH** did not think it would have fallen off the trailer during transport as all ties were checked multiple times by both students and herself, and were checked at various points on the journey. **KH** had contacted Cam Conservators to inform them as it had one of their registration stickers on. **KT** noted it would have made a lot of noise and disruption to traffic behind so it was most likely taken off. **KT** then queried if **KH** had heard from Janousek regarding a quote

for a replacement bow section. **KH** explained that Janousek were happy to pick up the stern section and that it would cost approximately £10,000 for a new bow section. **KH** had spoken to the insurers; the boat was insured for £12,000-15,000. **KH** explained her opinion was that a new bow section should be bought, as Bill Windham is the nicest Janousek VIII in the CCBC fleet. **KH** added it may be worth spending some money to refurbish the stern section to match with the new bow section. **KH** concluded by adding buying a second hand whole boat would have to be looked into to check if worthwhile compared to paying for the new bow.

6. Blades, Fellows and Crustaceans Report

BA summarised his report which covered Fairbairns in which 5 alumni crews were entered. **BA** described the event held in the new boathouse after Fairbairns for the alumni, which all enjoyed greatly. **BA** hoped such an event could happen again in the future, though logistics would be more difficult with the gym equipment and the ergs having been moved in. **BA** outlined the plan for the coming term, namely entering Head of the Cam (four crews planned currently, 3 mens, 1 womens). Regarding funds, £500 had been donated to the club thus far. **BA** concluded by asking for regular newsletters to keep the alumni well informed of the results achieved by the club, and by thanking the club and **KH** for the support this term. **KT** echoed **BA** in that regular reports should continue.

RB updated the committee on the activities of the Fellows' boat, which had been inactive this term due to other commitments. **RB** hoped that the Fellows' boat would enter the Winter League.

7. Boathouse Naming Ceremony

RP informed the committee that a date had been fixed for the ceremony, 19th May 2018, and that major donors and important guests had made their arrangements so this could no longer be changed. The time was yet to be confirmed. The ceremony will combine the opening of the boathouse with the naming of the new VIII and IVx. **RP** added that in the evening there would be a dinner for the Blyth family and the McGregor family in college, but this would not be open to all alumni. **MA** had been in contact with Grace McGregor to make sure she was aware of the ceremony and the date. **RP** suggested there could be another event in the boathouse for all students and alumni, perhaps similar to the hog roast had by the alumni after Fairbairns. **BA** queried the naming event, checking if it would be open to alumni and the college community; **AA** asked if the ceremony would be open to any member of college, rather than just those involved with the boat club. **RP** clarified that there would be no rowing at the event, and that the event is indeed open to any member of college. **BA** suggested that the event could be used to publicise the Blades

Regatta. **KH** queried where the funding for these events would come from. **RP** explained the funding would come from the Development Office as the events at Fairbairns were funded by the club and the alumni.

SM added it would be good to invite all past boatmen and boatwomen. **RK** was very keen for the architects to be invited, including Julius Bland. **RP** added that the previous master, Frank Kelly, was already on the invite list.

Action: SM to provide list of past boatmen & boatwomen to RP.

8. Website Update

TS updated the committee on the progress of the new website, which was now functional. **TS** informed the committee that there were a large number of items on the previous website that were broken, and thus the old website had lost a large amount of functionality. While the new website may not have the full functionality of the old website, it is possible to provide photos, crew lists, race reports and make accounts for members.

TS also updated the committee on the progress of making a new erg booker. The previous booker was a standalone webpage which broke at the same time as the club website as both were hosted by the Student Run Computing Facility. **TS** added that there is a plug-in for the new website that could be used, but **AN** pointed out the potential issues with this, being that it is not possible to control who makes bookings as it only requires a name. **KT** suggested that it could require authentication via a Google or Facebook account. **MA** noted that the Darwin Society website uses Raven authentication. Both **KH** and **MA** agreed that the new erg booker should be able to produce data to use for billing clubs renting our equipment. **KT** added that outsourcing this would not be a good solution as it requires very detailed specifications to work properly.

TS noted that the current system does work, but is not secure. **TS** suggested using Google Docs for the time being, but locking the sheet so nobody can delete another user's booking. **KT** suggested checking with Trinity as their website apparently works very well.

9. AOB

The extension of training camp subsidy to those trialling university for the boat clubs. **KT** added that he would like it to be retroactive for the current year. All were in agreement. **KH** queried the logistics of this, and suggested it could be done via the college bills.

Action: KT and MA to liaise about reimbursing triallists for this year.

Action: Captains to forward any requests to the Treasurer.

Rental of the gym by local schools was discussed during the Boathouse Manager's report. It was agreed that this would be a good idea if during the afternoon and not interfering with the club training schedule.

The loss of sponsorship from TwoTwoFive was discussed, and who should be approached as a replacement. **KT** queried the level of sponsorship, which was £4500pa. **KT** suggested approaching local new technology companies, such as Featurespace and Darktrace. **KT** explained that sponsorship aids companies to hire more employees, and thus we would offer putting their company name in front of the whole river. **KT** added that £5000pa would be a sensible amount to ask for, as that is the amount for a recruiter to recruit 2 or 3 people. **CHL** queried who should be responsible for this task, as there is no elected Publicity Officer on the current committee. **KT** and **RP** agreed to liaise regarding arranging which companies to contact, and to then get in touch with the captains as it would be better for such correspondence about sponsorship to come from students rather than the Development Office.

Action: KT to speak to his boss regarding potential sponsorship of CCBC by Featurespace.