Christ’s College Boat Club

Minutes – Steering Committee Meeting – Saturday 23rd April 2016

Present

Emily Gray Women’s Captain

Paul Verhaak Senior Treasurer

Rebecca Pitcaithly Development Office

Tom Swallow Blades’ Representative

Robin Kerr Boathouse Redevelopment

Bill Aldridge Blades’ Coxswain

Richard Batley Fellows’ Representative

Simon Martin Alumnus Member

Andy Clucas Junior Treasurer

Tom Chess Captain of Boats

Kate Hurst Boathouse Manager

Bex Masters Secretary

Apologies

David Ball Bursar

George Lord Publicity Officer

Karthik Tadinada Chairman

Richard Tynan Webmaster

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

Apologies were received from David Ball (Bursar), George Lord (Publicity Officer), Richard Tynan (Webmaster) and Karthik Tadinada (Chairman). In **KT’s** absence, Bill Aldridge kindly agreed to chair the meeting.

Points from the previous meeting were discussed. **TS** enquired as to whether any progress had been made with the Crustaceans webpage. **BM** will ask **RT** to update and liaise with **TS.**

**Action: BM** to talk to **RT**

Several committee members commented that it would be nice to see more frequent updates to the website. **BA** requested at least a couple of race reports a term, and encouraged the Captains to continue to send out Bumps reports. **TC** and **EG** were keen to improve this and will work with **RT** to ensure the website is up to date.

**Action: TC, EG and RT** to post race reports, crew lists and bumps reports regularly

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

1. Boathouse Manager’s Report

**KH** reported that the fleet is in good condition and she has been working on storage plans for the boathouse redevelopment. She has recently visited St Neots to review the proposed storage facilities there. **KH** clarified the current plan, which is for all the boats, aside from VIIIs, to go into storage, and for land training equipment to be housed in College.

**PV** enquired as to whether any of the boats were due for a refurbishment. **KH** reported that the ‘Beagle’ is currently away being refurbished, and that one of the men’s boats will be due to go away next year.

1. Captains’ Reports on Lent Term 2016

**TC** described the performance of the Men’s Club in Lent Term 2016. He was pleased with M1, who competed in several races throughout term and bumped up one place. M1 had one novice who made the transition into the first boat, and should have a promising crew for Mays.

**TC** was enthusiastic about M2’s results; the boat was comprised entirely of novices, and despite being bumped on the first 3 days, they turned it around and bumped back on the last day, and then bumped up again as sandwich boat back into the second division. **TC** reported that although there were not enough rowers to make a full M3, this crew did manage to enter a race.

**TC** is hopeful there will be 3 crews entered in the May bumps, along with the Rugby boat.

**EG** reported on the progress of the Women’s Club. She was pleased with the term overall, with W1 in particular committing to training and competing in several races. She and **KH** felt that by bumps the crew was rowing very well together. W1 held their headship station on Day 1, however were being chased by bigger and faster crews and were unfortunately bumped on the subsequent days. **EG** felt that the crew’s fitness and strength was lacking compared to their strong technique. The crew also managed to race in Women’s Head on the Tideway.

**EG** also spoke about W2, who were a fairly inexperienced crew and did not do as much training as she had hoped. **EG** reported that there should be more senior rowers returning for Mays which will help build W2. The committee also discussed how there had been some communication issues between coaches and crews, resulting in financial losses. **BA** enquired as to whether measures had been put in place to ensure this won’t happen in the future, and **EG** reassured that the communication had been resolved.

**EG** reported that the Women’s Club will be entering 3 boats to the May bumps, with a W3 comprised of current rowers, graduate novices and members of the Hippolytans society.

The committee discussed whether increased academic pressure on students is influencing recruitment of rowers. **EG** felt this pressure was more from individuals rather than from the College. **TC** and **BM** mentioned that the Club has kept a record of rowers’ exam results for several years.

**Action: BM** to pass exam information to **RB**

**BA** enquired about training camp plans for next year. **TC** and **EG** felt that this year was an anomaly and that the plan would be to go to France again.

1. Financial review

**AC** directed the committee to his financial report. He reported that the Nottingham training camp has now been entirely paid for, and he is still awaiting payment from a couple of students. **AC** also reported that the JCR contribution to training camp will be the same proportion of funding as for previous camps. **AC** reported that the target income for equipment hire has already been met this year. He stated that the club is well within budget, aside from transport, as the club has been attending a number of off-Cam races. **BA**  suggested the budget be adjusted to reflect this.

**Action: PV and AC** to update transport budget

**BA** drew the attention of the committee to a large sum of money in the club account. **AC** explained that this was contingency money, but that the sum has grown over recent years. The committee agreed that it would be wise to decide upon a plan of how to spend some of this money. **KH** suggested purchasing a truck for trailering to off-Cam races. **EG** mentioned how it could be put towards future training camps. **RP** commented that it would be useful to have a timeline for planned purchases. **RK** stressed that as the next meeting will not be in October, members of the committee should meet prior to the meeting and draw up suggestions.

**Action: KH, KT, TC, EG** and new captains to meet and discuss options.

1. Boathouse Redevelopment

**DB** was unable to attend the meeting, and provided a written report on the boathouse redevelopment. He reported that good progress was now being made on the outstanding planning matters.

**KH** informed the committee that the current plan is for the VIIIs to be stored at Trinity Hall boathouse. She also suggested that some of the money discussed above could be spent on improving the temporary facilities.

**RK** informed the committee that he has drafted an update on the boathouse for the club website. He is waiting for confirmation of the agreement before publicising this further. **RK** also mentioned that there have been a couple of minor changes to the proposed design.

1. Committee Elections Arrangements

**KT** had requested this be discussed at the meeting, to ensure smooth transition to the new student committee. **BM** reported that the elections are due to be held on 8th May, and positions have been advertised to the club. **EG** and **TC** have been having conversations with potential applicants. They reported that around half of the current 1st boats will be continuing next year.

1. Committee Handover Arrangements

This item was covered in the discussion above.

1. Blades, Crustaceans and Fellows’ Report

**RB** provided an update on the activity of the Fellows’ Boat. He reported they have been out on the river twice a week, and competed in the Winter League races as well as Head of the Cam. He was pleased there is more enthusiasm within the crew, and hopes they will race in the Town Bumps. **KH** reiterated her offer to coach whenever required.

**BA** directed the committee to his report on the Blades and Crustaceans. The ’78 crew in particular have been very involved; they have recently raced in Vesta Veterans. Special commendations were given to **TS** who won a pot whilst coxing. **BA** also reported on the success of the Head of the Cam, with 6 alumni crews entered. He suggested this become the focal alumni event in the future, and raised the possibility of booking a meal in College. **SM** offered to continue to coordinate the involvement of the ‘young alumni’, and will be supported by **LG** who will represent the women’s side.

The committee then discussed the upcoming Blades Regatta, currently scheduled for September 2016. **RP** stated that ‘Save the Dates’ have been sent out, but no formal invitations. **BA** suggested that the event be postponed for a year until the boathouse redevelopment has happened. Others felt that holding the Regatta during the development would encourage interest and could be a final fundraising push. **KH** reported that logistically it is possible to run the Regatta this year; she has permission from Queens’ to use their boathouse. The committee agreed that regardless of the Regatta there should be an event for the opening of the new boathouse. It was agreed that the Regatta should go ahead as planned this year.

**RK** raised the issue of Blades subscriptions and encouraging some members to donate more. **BA** offered to approach those who have rowed at Head of the Cam. **SM** advised caution when approaching some of the younger alumni. The committee felt it would be beneficial to organise an event aimed at all ages of alumni and current students.

**Action: BA** to chase HoC rowers

**RP** reminded the committee of the deal that was instigated last year, with graduating students signing up to donate £5/month in return for a free dinner. **TC** and **EG** would like to repeat this again.

**Action: BM** to liaise with Development Office re new graduate subscriptions

1. Sponsorship and Publicity

**GL** was unable to attend the meeting, but had reported to committee members that he has recently secured renewal of the sponsorship contract with TwoTwoFive. The agreement is for £4500 each year, for two years.

**BA** enquired as to whether we are continuing to engage with TwoTwoFive sufficiently. **BM** stated she will check with **GL** but believes he keeps in regular contact.

1. AOB

**RP** announced that the May Bumps picnic will be on Saturday 11th June and will be a hog roast. She highlighted how it would be good to have a large turnout of students and their families. She encouraged the committee to promote the picnic to students; it will be on the college meal booking system.

**Action:** student committee members to promote May bumps picnic

There was no further additional business.

Date of next meeting – early October; to be confirmed by next committee.