

Bristol Gig Club.

MINUTES.

9th April 2014.

The Grain Barge.

Present: Allason Hunt(Chair), Matt Randall, Dan Kennedy, Glenn Baker, Sam Fawcett, Carl Bowen, Helen Hambly, Becky Bailey, Phil Gingell.

Apologies: Guy Osborne.

1. Welcome and introductions:

Those present introduced themselves.

2. Minutes and matters arising:

It was agreed the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 24th February 2014.

Matt will resend the link regarding banners to Becky.

ACTION: Matt

To resend link to Becky.

Allason will speak with both Davina and All-Aboard regarding storage of kit. Possibly club could purchase half-container to go into marina compound.

ACTION: Allason

To speak with Davina and All-Aboard.

Dan confirmed Kingsweston House booked for 11th October. Now looking to book entertainment and will then promote event. Will work with small team, Sam, Becky and Claire Teasdale.

Quiz has been cancelled and Sam will ask Tom to remove mention of this from website.

ACTION: Sam	To ask Tom to remove quiz from website.
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Possibly arrange new date on a Thursday evening and cancel rowing so all crews can be represented. Between 60-80 people will need to attend to make the event worthwhile. A venue that does not charge would be preferable. The Royal Navy Volunteer may be an option, alternatively Sam could try to find a scout hut and the club could provide its own drinks.

ACTION: Sam	To look for a venue for the quiz.
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Any member knowing of a possible venue can contact Sam.

The press did attend the regatta, but there is minimal coverage with a short piece and photograph in The Post. Glenn advised there was coverage on 2 local radio stations.

Becky has provided Helen with an inventory of kit owned by the club.

Allason has spoken with Martin Downey regarding clashes with Bristol Rowing Club boats. Matt advised that, unfortunately, 2 further incidents have occurred. Aerial have a policy of no un-coxed boats going out after dark and it would be interesting to know if Bristol have such a rule. Sam was in a gig involved with a Bristol boat which was un-coxed. Allason will arrange another meeting with Martins and the H&S officers from both clubs. It would be best to make every effort to resolve the matter amicably. Carl suggested that all crews take a horn out with them to warn of the gigs presence.

ACTION: Allason	To arrange a meeting with Bristol and advise Martin that gigs will be carrying horns in future.
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Information about payment of the additional Scillies charge will go into the next up-date.

Payment for the Scillies house will be sorted out soon and information about camping slots will go into the next up-date.

Ergos are being used, should be booked through the Google calendar. Glenn feels more trainers are needed, ideally 2 per crew. Can All-Aboard be asked to provide another training session? Matt will speak to them.

ACTION: Matt	To speak with All-Aboard about another training session.
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Sam has received complaints from members tagged on Face Book. Something will go into the up-date asking people not to tag other members.

Tom Gough has taken on the task of uploading pictures onto the club Face Book page.

3. **Officers reports:**

Bosun;

Isambard has now gone for shipping to the Scillies and Tim Edwards has arranged to collect Isis. There is currently no-one to bring her back. Matt should be able to do this and will loan Helen's car. The insurance on Isis has been arranged at an additional cost of £63.00.

Young Bristol will leave on 18th April and Becky will arrange for minor repairs to be carried out before then. Becky is also replacing any damaged leathers and will take a supply with her to the Scillies.

The trailers have been serviced by Wayne, who has done an excellent job. Tim Edwards received the thanks of the committee for organising this.

Treasurer;

The club has some £13,000 in its account at the moment. The club membership is now over 100.

The club holds a stock of kit valued at around £900 and Helen needs to speak with Steph about clearing this.

ACTION: Helen	To speak with Steph about kit stock.
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Youth kit cost £831, so a little more than the £750 sponsorship obtained from Crediton Dairies. Carl advised the juniors were very pleased with the new kit.

Polly Richards raised £273 by doing a sponsored swim and was thanked by the committee. An official “thank you” will go into the next up-date.

Helen is putting together a comprehensive list of the club’s Assets for insurance purposes. She will circulate this, for comment or amendment, once it’s completed.

The regatta raised around £1,600. £715 came from the sell of food, the raffle and Ergos raised almost £300 and the merchandise sold well, but there is quite a lot left. All-Aboard gave the club a discount of £200 on the cost of safety boats, which came in at £425, which is to be split with the hospice. The club will pay this and then recover 50% from the hospice. There are costs still to pay, some of the food for example, but the net profit should be £200-300. The cost of the mugs and bags was £680 and the remaining merchandise can be sold at other events, the harbour festival, quiz etc.

Youth;

Crews are doing well and had a good regatta, integrating well with the club in general. They have decided to have the hospice as their charity.

The input of Sarah and Sue has been invaluable. The parents are becoming more involved and Carl and his team are looking to enter youth crews in as many regattas as possible.

There is an ambition to improve the youth page on the website.

After Easter, All-Aboard will be launching the mixed water sport evenings, held on Thursdays. Whilst this will not impact on the club's use of the gigs, it does give another opportunity for young people to get involved with rowing.

Carl is working with some older young people from Clifton College, but they may not have the time to engage very much with the club. There are also links with adult trainers, thanks to Matt, that may lead to something.

Allason pointed out only 4 youth members were shown as joining the club and Carl confirmed Sue was looking into this. Helen thought more than 4 had paid and up-to-date lists would be produced shortly.

Carl is hopeful the youth rowers will row with other crews after the Scillies and Glenn thought there would be many opportunities for them to do so.

It was agreed a youth newsletter would be produced from time to time and the parents would be included in the mailing list for the club weekly up-date.

Social Secretary;

The club will hold a summer bar-b-q, possibly in Becky's garden. It is possible Alf Perry will invite the club to his summer bar-b-q too.

ACTION: Allason	To speak with Alf about his Underfall bar-b-q.
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The harbour festival will clash with the regatta at Port Isaac. The committee agreed the festival should be prioritised and Glenn will bring this forward at the next rowing committee meeting. Sam is in regular contact with the Harbour Master in order to maximise the clubs presence. The event organisers, Richmond Event Management, are not good at responding to e-mails, but Sam will keep them in the loop too.

ACTION: Glenn	To bring forward question of attending Fowey at next rowing committee meeting.
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The committee agreed to have one wooden boat and Brigstowe on the water and a wooden gig on land as a focal point for the public.

Possibly registering the club as a charity, which would assist in fund raising, was again discussed.

Health & Safety;

Becky confirmed all life jackets had now been checked.

Matt reiterated the importance of reporting all clashes, or near misses, occurring on the water.

Matt will arrange a session on navigation and harbour rules for all potential and current cox's. This session will be compulsory for all cox's who have not already received such training.

ACTION: Matt	To organise cox training session.
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Rowing Captain;

Will be moving to a one boat calendar from 16th April. Erg' training needs to be booked on calendar and sessions should not be booked in batches. Matt will clarify with Steve Evans, what slots are currently free. Someone who has been on the Ergo training, must attend each session.

ACTION: Matt	To check with Steve Evans on availability of Ergos.
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From 16th April there will be 2 sessions per week for each crew. Glenn and Wendy are organising slots and will utilise Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday where possible. A novice session will have to be dropped from the Saturday schedule, but the 2 youth sessions will remain. It appears sessions will need to run from 7:00am to around 6:00pm. There is currently little rowing done during the Sunday open sessions. Glenn accepted some crews will not be happy with their allocated slots, but this will only be for some 3 weeks.

The father of one of the youth rowers has 2 crews wanting to do the Harbourside Challenge. This would be on a week evening, so there would be no club rowing on that night. The hospice too are pushing the challenge as one of its corporate events. London and Victoria have also expressed interest and may have 3 crews, twice a day for 2 days.

Andy Littler has asked if Land & Water could borrow Brigstowe for a long charity row. The committee agreed in principal, but there should be a charge for training at £5.00 per head and a minimum number of sessions agreed.

Andy Connell, who is taking a level 2 coaching course through All-Aboard, has enquired about using Brigstowe on 6 Sundays to coach novice rowers as part of this qualification. The committee agreed, subject to Andy joining the club as a cox at the usual fee of £10.00. Andy should also be briefed on club rowing requirements and styles.

The contract for the new GRP gig has been signed. Allason will speak with Steve about time scales.

ACTION: Allason	To speak with Steve about delivery dates for the new gig.
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The current e-mail list only has 81 address's listed. Helen has provided Guy with up to date of fees paid, so this list should now be up-to-date.

A Rowing Committee meeting will be held shortly.

Members interested in attending Caradon Vet's should put their names forward before the Scillies. Crews can then be selected after the championships and training in these crews can commence. Crews for other up-coming regattas can also be chosen, Swanage and Mevagissey being before Caradon, Salcombe just afterwards. Members can not row in different crews at both Caradon and one of the other regattas, although Mevagissey is an all-club event anyway. Crews for other events will be selected on a regatta by regatta basis.

Glenn advised some people have dropped out of Scillies crews and this needs addressing. He hopes to be able to name final crews and confirm which boats and kit they will be using shortly. Names of club members looking for rows with other clubs and pleas for people to fill Bristol boats, will also be circulated.

Fund raising/Sponsorship;

Stu, from The Orchard, is happy with the suggestion of a 3 year sponsorship deal for Brigstowe, at £2,000 per year. He will, however, need to discuss this with partners St. Austell. The club will need to look at how branded alcohol sponsorship is provided, in view of the use of the gigs by youth rowers.

Dan is looking into the possibility of sponsorship from other local business'. He is also discussing with contacts the advantages of the club becoming a charity. Dan is preparing a sponsorship presentation, which he will share with the committee.

Scillies t-shirts are to be ordered and something will go into this weeks up-date asking members wanting one of these to pay £18.00 into Dan's account. Dan will then pay Alex King. The club will make £3.00 per item.

Membership Secretary;

A report has been circulated.

The current membership is over 100, not 87 as indicated and fees seem to have been paid on time. There are still fees to collect and it should be remembered non-members can not row.

Glenn reiterated there is no vet's co-ordinator, co-ordinators for selected crews should only be communicating with their own crew. Anything to go to other groups can go onto the weekly up-date. There are open crew co-ordinators for those members not attending the Scillies.

4. Learning from the regatta:

The committee expressed its thanks to Glenn and his team for making the regatta such a great success.

Glenn agreed it went well, but next year boats will be assigned to specific races and crews. Clubs will be asked to bring 2 sets of oars and rowers will only be allowed to row for one crew at the event. All this is designed to avoid the delays seen at this years regatta. A pool of cox's will be put together, so people aren't coxing the race immediately before theirs.

Allason asked whether a generator might be hired for next year, but Glenn thought this would cause problems as the site is residential. Carl suggested Sky Loom's electric supply might be used. Whatever is decided, Allason asked that the power supply is available early in the day.

Carl pointed out the first race was delayed for some time, apparently because of problems with the starter boat. Glenn believes this can be solved by using our own starter boat next year.

Dan felt the event went well, but more could be made of the marketing opportunities next year.

Becky agreed both the day and evening social were a great success. Although crews were assigned various tasks, possibly more needed to go into planning next year's event. Glenn advised he would like to call an all-club meeting well in advance of the event, to formalise plans and allocate tasks.

There has been positive feedback from the hospice, their corporate clients and other clubs attending. Clevedon have intimated they would like to put on some kind of joint event at some stage.

5. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 21st May, 6:00pm at The Grain Barge.