

Bristol Gig Club.
Committee meeting.
MINUTES.
24th February 2014.
The Grain Barge.

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

Apologies: Glenn Baker.

1. Welcome and introductions:

Those present introduced themselves and Sam was welcomed in her new role of Social Secretary.

2. Minutes and matters arising:

It was agreed the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 13th January.

Allason has been able to borrow a gig from Clevedon for Friday and Sunday training.

Matt is looking into Waterloo Despatch Race, following receipt of information from Phil and Helen.

The question of placing a polytunnel in the marina, is to be pursued.

Both wooden gigs now have the same livery. Young Bristol's livery has been changed, the only condition being that no changes were made above the rubbing strake, as this design indicates who built the gig. The Young Bristol name has been retained, although the lettering may be altered to match that on the other gigs. There may still be some of the original funding available and Alf Perry is looking into this. Matt will paint the Young Bristol oar tips white, to differentiate them from the Isambard oars.

ACTION: Matt	To paint the YB oar tips white.
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3. **Fixtures:**

The top 6 events selected by crews are:

- Rame
- Swanage
- Port Isaac
- Salcombe
- Lyme Regis
- Fowey

The next 3 most popular are:

- Clovelly
- Paignton
- Bridport

Attendance at other regattas can be considered on an event-by-event basis. Mevagissey will be the "whole club" event, when all members will be expected to attend. This also coincides with the Falmouth sea shanty weekend, which could be a good social event. Mevagissey is also designated as this years CPGA event. The club may also attend the event at Hayling Island and there could be other junior and veteran events.

The club will have a presence at the harbour festival on 18th to 20th July. This is the same weekend as the PorthLeven regatta, which the club will not be attending. The committee agreed the club should be more visible at this years festival. Possibly have one of the wooden boats out of the water, as this proved very popular at the 2013 world championships. The Prince St Bridge site is ideal for access by the public, but the club should try for a higher profile, banners, collecting buckets, shanty singers and a more choreographed presence on the water. Sam will lead on this and arrange a meeting with Tony Nicholls, the Harbour Master. Sam should delegate tasks where possible and other committee members can also assist. Sam will ask Beth whether written permission has been obtained from the harbour master, regarding gig racing at this year's event.

Matt suggested the club purchase a large banner and this should be done in time for the regatta at the beginning of April.

ACTION: Matt	To provide Becky with details of retailers of banners.
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The Swanage regatta falls within the period of vet' training for Caradon and this will be an opportunity for other rowers to replace vet's in A and B crews and race at the event. It will also be a good warm-up for vet crews racing at Caradon.

The committee agreed the top 6 selected will be the club competitive events, with the next 3 being designated club days. Glenn is anxious for C, D and E crews to row and possibly 2 gigs could be taken to some regattas.

Members not attending Fowey, could take a gig to the Pill regatta, which is on the same weekend.

These suggestions will now go back to the Rowing Committee for ratification.

4. Finding a home for the gigs:

Glenn mentioned the empty building opposite the Underfall Yard. The committee felt this would not be practical unless the road was to be pedestrianized, as it would be unsafe moving the boats and kit across a busy road. The club will need to vacate Alf's loft between September and January and Allason will look into storage at All-Aboard.

ACTION: Allason	To look into the possibility of storing kit at All-Aboard.
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The alternative is for Matt to build storage racks, so kit can be stored in the compound. This would need Davina's agreement.

Matt has spoken with Paul Ville who has suggested Tim Borthwick and Gerard Ginestier may be able to assist in relation to finding a home around the harbour. There is a proposed new development at Redcliffe Wharf which the club should monitor. Allason would ask all club members to pass on any information they have regarding possible sites. The club might still have the option of using the Dutch Barn and/or dinghy park, but there is currently some debate between All-Aboard and the city council concerning the site's management.

The club should consider becoming a charity, as this could help with both fund raising and its efforts to find a home.

ACTION: Allason	To speak with Paul, Tim and Gerard re the options.
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The club has to be more proactive and find the right people to talk to in the council.

Carl is aware of a site near the Pump House Bridge that is vacant and might be worth exploring. This too would have safety implications because of its proximity to a busy road.

Becky requested the committee write to All-Aboard, thanking them for the use of their shed. A donation of £300.00 has been made to the organisation.

ACTION: Allason	To write to All-Aboard, on behalf of the club, thanking them for the use of the shed.
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Jasper will need paying for the work he has done on Young Bristol.

5. **Social Secretary:**

Matt requested that, where possible, events are advertised some time in advance and venues are not changed.

Dan feels his role is more strategic, finding sponsorship, identifying marketing opportunities etc. Sam should lead on the organisation of events and Dan will be happy to support her in fund raising efforts. Sam agreed this approach is the right one.

Dan suggested Kingsweston House as a possible venue for a major fund raising effort. Although the venue is some way from the city, it is easy to get to and travel might be included in the ticket price. The event would be open to family and friends with a ticket price of around £20/25. Dan will liaise with Sam and look at dates in early June.

ACTION: Dan	To check on availability of venue.
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Sam is considering arranging a pub quiz to raise funds to off-set the cost of shipping to the Scillies. Try for a date in April and use The Orchard as the venue if possible.

ACTION: Dan	To speak with Stu about holding a quiz at The Orchard.
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Sam and Dan will also need to speak with Glenn about the regatta on 5th April, as this will be a real opportunity to raise funds.

ACTION: Sam/Dan	To liaise with Glenn re regatta.
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Regarding the end of season dinner, this needs to take place before the AGM in November. A buffet is preferable to a formal meal and Sam will investigate various possibilities. It can be expensive to book venues at that time of year and Sam will bear this in mind when looking at different locations.

Sam would like to organise something for new rowers and have some kind of contingency plan for times when regattas are cancelled.

Allason reminded Sam the committee was there to help and she should never feel isolated.

6. **Officers reports:**

Bosun;

The re-painting of Young Bristol is almost complete, at a charge of around £700. Hopefully she can be turned on 1st March and put back in the water following some minor repair work.

Matt has made some more cover supports, which now require lacquering. These can be measured at any time and the new cover can then be produced. Land and Water are meeting the cost and a cheque has been received. Matt asked that the new supports be treated with some care, as they are a new product.

Possibly, with both boats back on the water and in their new livery, this would be a good photo opportunity. Try to get The Post, local TV and radio to attend a launch event. Becky will pursue this, but may ask Sara to assist if it becomes too technical.

ACTION: Becky	To contact local media re re-launch of gigs.
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Becky has ordered 2 sets of new blue and white seats from Gigass. The total invoice will be for £450.00, but this includes the cost of seats and toe-straps ordered by members. The new seats will be fitted by the manufacturer whilst the gigs are going down to Cornwall for shipping to the Scillies.

Matt is currently refurbishing the ladies macons and Ian Ingram will be taking on general oar maintenance. Ian may also be prepared to stand for the post of bosun at the next AGM.

Membership;

Only 37 people have currently paid their 2014 membership fee. An e-mail needs to be sent reminding members the fee is due and a re-joining fee will be charged if payment is not received by 28th February. New log-on details will only be released to members who have paid the annual fee.

ACTION: Allason	To send e-mail re fees.
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There is a list of 2014 members in the committee area on Google. Matt is still having problems accessing this area and Becky will go through the access protocol with him. Guy will include the junior members on this site, which is secure. Details obtained from the skills audit are also given. When sending "all-club" e-mails the 2013 list should be used at the moment.

Youth;

Sue Smith's help with administration has been a real help. Sarah Gosling and Becky too have been a great asset. Rowing on Saturday has meant the youngsters have been coxed by different people, which has helped them progress.

Some of the juniors are attending the sea rowing session to be held in Weymouth.

From 27th February, Carl will be working with young people from South Gloucestershire College. Being 17, they could row in senior crews, but will be treated as juniors at the moment. Carl will work with them for 6 weeks and hopefully, some of them will then stay with the club.

Fund-raising/sponsorship;

Dan is chasing Crediton Dairy for the youth sponsorship promised. It is anticipated this will be in by the end of April.

Dan has spoken with Bath Ales and Hargreaves Lansdown, regarding club sponsorship, so far without any result. Burges Salmon, Carillion and Crest Nicholson are other possibilities. Orchard Pig have expressed an interest and Dan is arranging a meeting with them.

Dan has spoken with Stu about sponsorship from The Orchard, which is still on the table. Stu has suggested a joint sponsorship with Tribute and Dan will need to discuss this with him. Dan will keep the committee informed.

A brief has been put to Alex King for the design of Scillies t-shirts. There are 2 versions, a general club design and one that will be crew specific. Dan is waiting for a costing and is looking to make a profit of around £3/4 per shirt.

Treasurer;

Helen will provide an interim report at the end of March. Without fund-raising the club would lose around £1,000 per year.

For insurance purposes, Helen needs an inventory of kit owned by the club. Becky can provide this.

ACTION: Becky	To provide an inventory of kit owned by the club.
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Social Secretary;

The Bishop and Wolf has been booked for the Scillies meal.

Health & Safety;

Matt was pleased with rowers attitude during the period of very bad weather.

All outstanding risk assessments have been completed.

Matt has checked the life jackets and cannot find any service dates on the canisters. Becky can change them and will show Matt how to do this.

There have been a few clashes with City of Bristol boats over the past few weeks. It seems clear their rowers are not obeying harbour rules and Allason will discuss this with Martin Downey. Any such incident should be reported to Matt.

ACTION: Allason	To speak with Martin Downey re recent clashes.
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There will be a navigation briefing for all cox's once the membership list has been finalised.

Rowing Captain(given by Allason);

Third gig obtained for Scillies weekend and another 2 for Friday.

Selection review went ahead on 23rd February and new rowing calendar will operate from 1st March. Weekday slots will now rotate, as this is thought to be fairer. Friday and Sunday slots will be available on a first come, first served basis.

There are currently 17 people signed up for Weymouth sea rowing session.

Licence for Bristol Regatta has been submitted and Glenn will be contacting the club with details and requests for assistance in due course.

7. Any other business:

There was a lengthy discussion about the cost of the Scillies. The committee agreed the club would continue to meet the cost of attending the championships and the usual race fee of £10.00 would be charged. However as a third gig was being hired, at a total cost of around £1,000, an additional £20.00 would be collected to offset this expense. With 39 people attending the championships this would raise an additional £780. The usual cost of attending the event is covered by fees collected over the season., but this does mean the club cannot put cash aside to cover contingencies, such as the purchase of anew boat. In the circumstances the committee decided that from 2015, members attending the championships would have to contribute more towards the costs.

ACTION: Allason	To draft notice to club advising of additional Scillies charge.
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Matt brought up the question of Scillies accomadation. As this was the 25th year the championships had been held, there had been a lot of interest in attending. Some clubs have had to withdraw in view of the lack of accomadation, so other boats may become available. The clubs difficulty is that, at this time, only 50% of the men's A and B crews have accomadation. An "all club" e-mail had been sent advising that the club would not be purchasing camping slots in 2014, but not all members can recall seeing this. Allason will check with Sam Donati, who is co-ordinating accomadation in the house, to ascertain what space is available. It might be that people wishing to camp will have to find slots off the main island, apparently there is space on St Agnes.

ACTION: Allason	To check with Sam D on house accomadation.
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Whilst the club and committee will do what it can to help people going to the Scillies to find accomadation, there must also be an element of personal responsibility.

Becky confirmed All-Aboard now has its 6 ergos and will run training sessions on the 12th and 19th March. The idea is for one person from each crew to attend and then become training co-ordinator for that crew. There is also other training space in the building. The committee agreed to take advantage of this opportunity and Becky will advise Steve Evans accordingly. Allason will draft a notice to be sent to club members.

ACTION: Becky	To contact Steve re training.
Allason	To draft notice to club.

The committee agreed that Glenn, as Rowing Captain, would be responsible for the weekly up-date, which should be sent in the name of the club committee.

Sam will take control of the clubs Face Book and Twitter accounts. Tom Gough will continue to maintain the club website.

ACTION: Allason	To discuss clubs social media protocol with Beth.
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Matt queried the ownership of the club's URL. Sarah Gosling was looking into this some time ago and may have the answer. Tom Gough is responsible for populating the site and anything for publishing should go to him. The committee is unaware of any problems regarding publishing on the site and hopes Tom would feed back if he had any difficulties.

8. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 9th April, 6:00pm at The Grain Barge.