

## **Tyne Rowing Club**

### **Annual General Meeting**

**Held at the Club premises on 24 November 2011**

**Minutes** - draft for comment as at 25-11-11

**Present:** Ian Wagstaff, Nigel Sprague, Lynne Michelson, Bill Lowry, Russell Kernahan, John Bell, Alan Denton, David Robinson (part), Ken Hardy, Martin Bell, Lindsay Miller, Tony Follows, Julian Ringer, Ian Boyd, Brian Dalkin, Dave Symes, Simon Dobson, Colin Percy, John Goddard, John Mulholland, Amy Ward, Jamie Reynolds, Chris Mace, Nick Hunsley, Dave Fuller, Mike Windle and Steve Barratt.

#### **1 Welcome and appointment of chair for meeting**

Nigel Sprague as President opened the meeting at 8.30pm and welcomed members. It was agreed that he continue as chair for the meeting as a whole.

#### **2 Apologies for absence**

Liz Bray, Chris Parsons, Dave Higgins, Martin Colquhoun, Ronald Bradbeer, Brian Armstrong, John Bolter, David Sprague, Keith Hotchkiss.

#### **3 (a) Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 18 November 2010**

Draft minutes had been circulated with the agenda. They were agreed as a correct record.

#### **4 (a) Minutes of Special General Meeting held 29 September 2011**

Draft minutes of the meeting (covering accounts for 2009-10, building works and a legacy) had been circulated with the agenda. They were agreed as a correct record.

#### **5 Report of the Committee for 2010-11**

Colin Percy as Secretary said that a partial written report had been prepared but not circulated. He would collate all written and verbal reports and circulate them after the meeting to all members.

*Running the club.* Colin outlined the year's main events from his point of view. The committee had met 11 times and discussed a broad range of issues. He asked the meeting to thank Ian Wagstaff, as Chairman for most of the year, for his work and this was agreed. Colin said that much discussion had been around major building works and he asked the meeting to thank also John Goddard and his group, now stood down, for their work. This was again agreed.

Colin said that there would be a concentration on smaller building works and repairs now until the legacy position was clear. He indicated that the issue of trustees' roles and responsibilities, e.g. in relation to the legacy money, was an issue to be looked early in 2011-12. His other main tasks in 2010-11 had been around supporting the Community Sports Cost and getting the Explore Rowing boat package in place.

Colin also reported on behalf of Liz Bray on catering income. Thanks to volunteer help and much baking, about £600 had been raised on day-to-day food (muffins, etc) and maybe £2400 on events (including the odd tombola). He asked the meeting to thank volunteers, notably Creature Dobson, and committee advisers Liz Bray (Water Safety Adviser) and Debbie Owens (Club Welfare Officer); this was agreed.

*Rowing.* Dave Symes as retiring Vice Captain (Rowing) spoke for Chris Parsons, who was recovering from a minor operation. On the men's squad, Dave spoke of a good year overall, but with ups and downs. It had been a small squad to start with but grew and progressed well to Tyne Head, when an IM2 eight was the fastest crew of the day. HoRR performance was a bit disappointing, coming in at 111th. Good performances in fours at Notts City and Met followed. Pre-qualification to Henley was not needed and the crew rowed very well in their opening race; but the opponents were the eventual winners and we were knocked out!

There was not a full report from the women's squad, other than to say that there was now good cross-over with the intermediates. It was known that they had a similar experience to the men at Henley, in their eight they lost in the first round, but to a very strong crew (the eventual losers in the final).

Alan Denton spoke on the Vets/Masters season, marked by some trials and tribulations within the squad but ending up now with renewed vigour and commitment (and lots of sculling up to the end of the LDS series) under MAB. In 2011 boats had been entered at HoRR and Vesta Vets with decent enough rows. Summer regattas saw a range of wins in an eight, fours and quads and in the autumn small boat sculling events in a quads and singles.

Nick Hunsley spoke on the Intermediates, having recently done the Level 2 coaching course and now helping them out from the launch instead of in the boats (rowing himself with the Vets). He said there was good overlap with the Vets, but also enthusiasm within the squad to put out a decent eight over the winter. There had been and a steady stream of new recruits from across the river and elsewhere.

Amy Ward talked about community rowing - principally daytime mornings. This had been a qualified success, with a steady stream of people, but not very good retention. The Explore Rowing boats were a great help, though. This needs a relaunch, she said.

For the juniors, this year had been, in contrast, a huge success with 60-odd rowers on the book now, with perhaps 45-50 training at any one time. It was the largest and fastest growing junior squad in the region. There had been strong entries at all levels regionally and nationally. The culmination of the year had been the receipt of the national Coaching Team of the Year award just the previous Saturday in London. Looking forward, she was coordinating the setting up of the Newcastle Schools Rowing Association.

Colin Percy said that adult Learn to Row in summer 2011 had seen 16 participating, with about six currently continuing and others hopefully returning in

the spring or summer (or in college holidays). This group - the new Novice squad - plus some people coming from other L2R course elsewhere was now about 10 strong and would develop over the winter with Durham SBH in February as the possible first race. He said the adult L2R plus about 35 on the junior L2R course had brought in about £2400 in income.

*Safety.* John Mulholland spoke briefly for Liz Bray on safety. He picked out key points and asked that people read the full report when circulated. There had been 28 reported incidents involving the club, though as always he and Liz suspected quite a few more had gone unreported. John mentioned an issue he had raised nationally, i.e. the dangers of boats without backstays in head-to-head collisions. Finally he said that Liz was willing to stand down if another volunteer as Water Safety Adviser came forward - see the Chairman or Secretary before the December committee meeting.

*Conclusion.* The meeting noted the report as a whole. The Chairman asked the meeting to thank the Captain, squad coordinators, coaches, the WSA and all volunteers for their efforts. This was agreed, with applause.

## 6 Membership subscription fees for 2011-12

Colin introduced the paper on subscriptions that had been circulated in advance with the agenda. He said the proposed increase in subs for full members was about 6%, from £23.50 a month to £25.00. The rate for full concessions was increased rather more percentage-wise, i.e. from £12.25 to £20.00 a month, given that most such members were attending many times a week. The overall charges to juniors were up significantly as well, though reflecting the introduction of a coaching supplement already agreed in September 2011. The committee would always look at hardship cases sympathetically, he said.

In reply to a question Colin said he thought subs might be about 50% of income and should cover ordinary club running costs with a bit left over (though a backlog of building repairs existed). Regatta and other income made up the other 50% and could go on equipment. A member said that event income could not be guaranteed. The point was made by a number of members that the club seemed poor at forward budgeting and was thus unable to plan ahead well. A proper boat replacement programme, for example, was almost impossible. There was also discussion around apparent lack of hard information available to the committee on the success in collecting subs. The chair asked that the new treasurer and the rest of the committee take these messages on board urgently.

Ian Wagstaff proposed and Martin Bell seconded a motion that the following table of subs and fees (as previously circulated with the agenda) be agreed. This motion was carried *nem con*.

<b>Membership or fee category</b>	<b>Per month</b>	<b>Per year</b>
Entrance fee	-	-
Life and honorary member (non-rowing) *	-	-
Full member - rowing	£25.00	£300.00
Full member - rowing (full time student)	£20.00	£240.00
Full member - rowing (unwaged)	£20.00	£240.00

Full member - rowing (off peak)	£12.50	£150.00
Land based member (off peak)	£6.00	£72.00
Junior member - aged 14-17 **	£20.00	£240.00
Junior member - aged under 14 ***	£12.00	£144.00
Temporary - varies, but based on above	-	-
Parent/volunteer helper/social	£1.00	£12.00
Boat racking (rent per seat)	£12.50	£150.00

\* A life or honorary member who rows pays the appropriate full member rate.

\*\* £20 a month comprises £12 subs and £8 coaching supplement

\*\*\* £12 a month comprises £6 subs and £6 coaching supplement

## 7 Election of Officers and Committee for 2010-11

On a motion proposed by John Goddard and seconded by Martin Bell, the meeting agreed the following as officers and committee members for 2011-12, having been nominated by the outgoing committee as per the paper circulated with the agenda beforehand or as proposed at the meeting (shown by \*).

Chairman	Simon Dobson
Captain	Chris Parsons
Vice Captain (Rowing)	Laura Clack
Vice Captain (Boats)	Mark Child *
Treasurer	Michael Windle
Secretary	Colin Percy
Members	Steve Barratt *, Martin Colquhoun, Alan Denton, Julian MacBride, Lynne Michelson, John Mulholland and Dave Symes.

A vote of thanks to past committee members, particularly those standing down (and with particular mention for Laura Clack as retiring VC Boats and Martin Colquhoun as retiring Treasurer), was proposed and agreed. Simon Dobson made a short speech about the role of Chairman as he saw it, on the one hand reflecting the views of the wider membership at committee and other meetings and on the other hand reminding members as to their responsibilities within a club that ran on volunteer effort.

## 8 Consideration of motions

Colin said no motions had been submitted.

## 9 Any other business

John Mulholland reminded the meeting that the club needed to get umpires trained up and qualified. We were currently very poor in providing umpires.

A vote of thanks to the President, Nigel Sprague, for his efficient and even handed chairing of the meeting was proposed by Bill Lowry and agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.37pm (exactly as in 2010). The bar remained open.

*Minutes taken by Colin Percy, Secretary*