

## **RICHMOND CANOE CLUB – MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017**

**Date of meeting:** Saturday 18 March 2017

**Time of meeting:** 1300

**Venue:** Richmond Canoe Club, Landsdowne Boathouse, 81-83 Petersham Road, Richmond, TW10 6UT

**Attendees:** Tom Sharpe (Chair), Mike Pigott, Jemima Johnstone, Tom Walker, Tony Waszkiewicz, Hazel Greasby, Will Abson, Peter Barnes, Sean Martin, Alison Martin, Brett Irvine Enrique Vallano, Lizzie Broughton, Mick Fegent, Guy Peters, Tanya Herwanger, Robyn von Maltzahn, Alex Flockhart, Ian Clark, Coraile Vial, Nick Edmunds, Paul Wells, Colin Greasby, Roly Lucas, Elizabeth Pearce, Mark Pearce, Nicky Bigggs, Caroline Pietsch, Clive Ferris, Clare Maciver, Neil Camp, Kevin Marsh, Roger Crawford, Mike Foster, Max Henderson, Jim Mullany, Nick Morton, Mike Webb, Thor Harley, Tony Greyson-Newman, Chris Gavin, Marcus Gohar, Jack Wilshaw and Klaudia Galucka

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### **Item 1: Apologies for absence and appointment of proxies**

1. The following members had sent apologies and appointed proxies:

<b>Apologies from</b>	<b>Proxy appointed</b>
David Leech	Marcus Gohar
Louise Phillips	Marcus Gohar
Anthony Spicer	Tom Walker
Andrei Dzyma	Coralie Vial
Elisabeth Sangouard	Coralie Vial
Shane O’Cuinn	Sean Martin
Neville Burton	Brett Irvine
Kevin de Klerk	Brett Irvine
Andrew Hunt	Klaudia Galucka
Max Muehlar	Alex Flockhart
Allyn Tan	Alex Flockhart
Sharon Waszkiewicz	<i>[no proxy appointed]</i>
Peter Hutchinson	<i>[no proxy appointed]</i>

### **Item 2: Adoption of the minutes of the AGM on 2 April 2016**

2. The minutes of the AGM on 2 April 2016 were approved. The motion was proposed by Roly Lucas and seconded by Tony Waszkiewicz.

### **Item 3: Commodore’s report**

3. See Annex A.

### **Item 4: Treasurer’s report**

- See Annex B. The Report and accounts for the year ending 31 October 2016 were approved. The motion was proposed by Roly Lucas and seconded by Klaudia Galucka.

#### **Item 5: Membership Secretary's report**

- Sean Martin explained that the Club would introduce a new membership management system shortly. This would make it easier to administer the membership process. Linked to this, there were a number of people who are still paddling regularly at Richmond who still had not renewed their membership for the 2016/17 membership year. A list of those who had not renewed would be published shortly.
- The total membership as of 17 March 2017 was 307. The breakdown was as follows:

Senior – 157	Senior 60 plus – 3
Junior – 41	Honorary Life - 9
Student – 11	Life – 21
Partner of senior – 14	Child of senior – 19
Out of port – 10	Social – 25

#### **Item 6: Membership rates for 2017/18**

- The proposed new membership rates for 2017/18 were agreed along with consequential changes to the Club's constitution. The changes to the constitution were necessary as some of the membership categories were currently defined in the constitution as half the rate of another category. Details at Annex C. Tom Sharpe clarified that the new rack fee rates applied to each member and not per family (i.e. if a senior member and a child of senior member each had a boat the cost would be £25 each boat and not £25 for one boat and £75 for the second one). Peter Barnes proposed and Roly Lucas seconded the motion

<b>Membership category</b>	<b>Current rate</b>	<b>Proposed new rate</b>
Life	£1,450	£1,850
Senior	£145	£185
Senior 60 plus	£72.50	£100
Student 18 plus	£72.50	£100
Partner of senior	£72.50	£100
Junior (under 18)	£60	£100
Social	£30	£30
Out of port	£40	£50
Child of senior	£30	£50
Rack fees	£55	1 <sup>st</sup> rack - £25 2 <sup>nd</sup> and all subsequent racks - £75

## **Item 7: Election of honorary members**

8. The current holders of the following positions and their successors were nominated for reappointment as honorary members of Richmond Canoe Club until the 2017 AGM (without voting rights):
  - Recreation officer of the PLA (Darren Knight)
  - MP for Richmond Park (Sarah Olney MP)
  - Captains of Twickenham Rowing Club (Mel Mercer and Paul Wood-Robinson)
  - Group Scout leader – Petersham and Ham Sea Scouts (Karin Noble)
  - Official in charge of Thames Young Mariners
  - Chairman of Edge (Edge Progressive paddling – operating Kew Bridge Canoe Club)
  - Captain - Twickenham Sailing Club
  - Chairman of Blade House Residents Committee – Matt Grimes
  
9. The following who have given long service to the club are nominated for reappointment as honorary memberships without voting rights:
  - Peter Davey
  - Wendy Dodson
  - Ramsey Gohar
  - Brian Greenaway
  - Doug Parnham
  - Trevor Wetherall
  - Roxanne Dunne
  
10. The following who have given long service to the club are nominated for reappointment as honorary members with full voting rights:
  - Peter Barnes
  - Hazel Greasby

## **Item 8: Election of the Committee**

11. Tom Sharpe explained that Hazel Greasby, Brett Irvine, Laura Poblete and Kasia Jendrusinka were not standing for re-election to the Committee. He thanked them all for their contributions over the past year(s). The proposed Committee for 2017 was also smaller than the 2016 one with no Social Secretary, Publicity Secretary or Racing Secretary. The work of these post holders would be split up amongst other Club members, for example Brett Irvine will act as Team Leader for the first Nottingham sprint regatta of the season. In response to a question, Tom Sharpe confirmed that the Commodore, Treasurer and Secretary were the only Committee posts required by the Club's constitution. Finally, Klaudia Galucka would also act as a point of contact for organizing non-racing Club trips. Klaudia explained she was thinking of organizing a Club entry for the Great River Race, a trip to the

Llangollen canal in the summer and the Glasgow to Edinburgh race in September.

12. The following members were elected to the Committee for 2017. The motion was proposed by Hazel Greasby and seconded by Alex Flockhart.

Position	Post holder
Commodore	Tom Sharpe
Vice Commodore	Tony Waszkiewicz
Treasurer	Guy Peters
Secretary	Mike Pigott
Membership Secretary	Sean Martin
Rear Commodore	Klaudia Galucka
Marathon Secretary	Will Abson
Coaching Representative Elite	Nick Garner
Coaching Representative Novice	Jemima Johnson
House Steward	Enrique Vallano
Harbour Master	Tom Walker
Boathouse Secretary	Peter Barnes

#### Item 9: Division six winter night padding

13. Mike Pigott, on behalf of Anthony Spicer, asked whether the Club could do more to support coached night paddling sessions for members who were marathon division six standard. As, at the moment, there was no organised session for this group but there were sessions for higher and lower divisions. The following points were raised in discussion:

- There were sessions for division six standard paddlers in the mornings throughout winter.
- Members of division six standard could organise their own sessions, they did not necessarily need a coach.
- There *should* be a coached division six evening session if the Club had organised similar sessions for all other divisions.
- The Club's primary responsibility was the safety of its members. If there were to be any self-organised sessions (rather than coached ones) by division six members they needed to be properly supported.

Summing up, Tom Sharpe said he would ask Nick Garner, as the Elite Coaching Representative on the Committee, to investigate this further.

#### Item 10: Blade House re-development proposal

14. Tom Sharpe outlined the proposal move most the paddling machines from the Clubhouse to a newly built mezzanine floor in the Blade House boatshed. The boat racking in Blade House would also be changed into a 'pigeon hole' style. These changes would increase the free space in the Clubhouse and give more boat racks in the Blade House. The following points were raised in discussion:

- How will the changes affect the residents of Blade House?
- How many paddling machines would the mezzanine floor hold?
- Has the freeholder for Blade House been contacted about the proposal?
- Would the new mezzanine floor have adequate ventilation, heating, light and a means of keeping the rats out? Would it be a closed box or an open structure?
- If the costs of the project escalated beyond the expected £40,000 would the Committee come back to the membership, through an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), to get approval to proceed?
- Would the proposal be controlled by building regulations?
- There will be child safeguarding issues to consider.
- Would the new pigeon hole racking system allow easy access the boats behind the concrete pillars between the doors?

15. In response, Tom Sharpe explained that he was seeking the AGM's support for the proposal, to allow the Committee to do further work and begin spending money. He did not know the answers to some of the questions – but this would be part of the next stage of the project. The Committee would oversee it and he would keep members updated on progress. He asked members to vote on:

- whether they wanted the Committee to do further work on the proposal and bring back a more developed plan (including details about heating, lighting, ventilation etc.) to an EGM for approval; or
- whether they were content to endorse the proposal as it stood and for the Committee to take further decisions (on behalf of the Club members).

16. The outcome of the vote was 23 votes in favour of an EGM and 26 votes in favour of the Committee taking further decisions.

### **Item 11: Any Other Business**

17. Coraile Vial said she had responded to the PLA consultation about the Code of Practice for Paddling on the Tidal Thames. Tom Sharpe explained that the PLA had replied to the Club's response to the consultation and he was arranging a meeting with the PLA to discuss further. He reminded Club members about the importance of keeping to the right of the river and avoiding other river users.

18. Hazel Greasby proposed that John Warren be re-appointed to audit the Club's accounts. Sean Martin seconded the proposal. The meeting agreed the motion.

Mike Pigott  
Secretary

## **ANNEX A – Commodore’s report**

As I look back over the last 12 months there is one thing that stands out to be remembered, and that is the tragic passing of Jeff Lindsay. It was clear to see the impact Jeff made on the club by the number of members that attended his funeral, and Jeff’s family clearly recognised the importance of the club to him. We will remember him for a long time.

Meanwhile, our core purpose of racing continues to progress at Richmond Canoe Club. Internationally there is growing representation from our members in all types of racing: in sprint and marathon, seniors and juniors, our kayaks and canoes are racing at the highest level of international competition. Domestically, the races attended by our members span the whole country from Fowey in Cornwall to the Glasgow to Edinburg Challenge in Scotland. The Hasler series saw 511 races completed by Richmond paddlers with some people racking up 10 events in one season.

Aside from racing there is a lot going on for members training at the club. The adult novice courses proved popular once again and have given us a new group of members who have integrated well into the club. Novice junior coaching has also developed strongly with a new sub-committee organising and delivering introductory sessions for young paddlers having their first try at the sport. Morning sessions on the water are proving more popular than ever and we have even introduced the new phenomenon of kayak spinning thanks to Mick Fegent!

Our advanced juniors have been coached to their high achievements through a joint effort between Marcus Gohar and Gabor Szeltner, both British Canoeing employees. Unfortunately both of them will shortly be made redundant following a review of British Canoeing coaching positions and a withdrawal of funding from clubs. Both coaches have contributed far more than their contracted hours, and volunteer much of their time in the same way that so many other members of the club do. The coaching team are currently working out how we will be able to maintain the high standards we have set ourselves without the coaching support from British Canoeing.

As we all know the club coaches bring the training sessions to life, and the club recognise the importance of coaches to our overall success. So far we have had a couple of technique master classes aimed specifically at coaches to help them pass on advice to everyone in the groups they train. There will be more of these ‘coach to coach’ sessions running as we go through the season.

As well as putting effort into developing our coaches the club is also investing in the facilities we enjoy. 10 years ago the club was lucky to get the clubhouse we are in today, but its condition has gradually deteriorated since then. We are now putting some money into bringing our facilities back up to date, including major work in the changing rooms and showers, replacing all the lights in the main clubhouse and painting the stairwell down to the boatshed. There is definitely more we need to do, but hopefully you are starting to see the result of a few member’s efforts. I am grateful to Lucy and Kam who have taken on the task of decorating the clubhouse with recent photos of club members as well as refurbishing the old ones that were in

the galley. I'm told this will not become a rogue's gallery, but Lucy is still trying to convince me how we are going to fit more than 50 pictures on the walls! The next exciting project will be the Blade House development, which we will be discussing shortly.

Looking forward to the coming season, the main event for the club is the Hasler Final which we will be hosting in September. Last time the Final was here we not only put on a well-run event but also won the club Hasler competition, I hope we can match that standard this year. This sort of event is great for the club to be able to host, Richmond is considered a top club by the racing community and that is something I am very pleased to see.

One of the privileges of the Commodore is being able to give an award at each AGM. Fortunately for me the decision of who to give this year's award was an easy one. It has been said many times that this club runs on the effort put in by volunteers, and one person has set a phenomenal benchmark for this. Having been Commodore for only two years I barely consider myself worthy of giving this award to someone who has served as a continuous committee member for longer than my whole lifetime. Hazel Greasby has kept an eye on the club's accounts for the last 28 years, and has steered us to the extremely healthy financial position the club is in today. I will now hand over to Sean Martin, who had 10 years' experience as Commodore to say a few words.

## **ANNEX B – Treasurer’s report**

Accounts for the year ending October 2016 have been available to members in advance of the meeting.

On the Balance sheet on page 4 the cash at bank figure is a reduced figure to the previous year because during the year the Club made the purchase of the small boathouse. Within this figure of £110,695 is the sum in the Eric Allen legacy account of £35,036 which is a restricted fund for expenditure on juniors and junior equipment.

Page 9 of the Accounts details our Income & Expenditure for the year. Income from Subs and Racks has increased. The Race/Regatta figure is a net figure and in the previous year reflected the high expenditure on the Hasler final but is now showing a net income again. Profit of £823 on the Galley is disappointingly low; three Rear Commodores during the year ending October 2016 reflect what a difficult job this is. Out of interest I advise that Galley profit in 2012 was £5401 and in 2013 £3047, so the Galley can produce a useful income. The purchase of the small boathouse is not shown here but is shown on page 8 as an increase (£27,000) in our Tangible assets and will be depreciated over a period of years.

On the Expenditure side we have lost our 100% discretionary rate relief; during the council financial year ending March 2017 we will have paid £389; this amount will increase slightly on a sliding scale over a period of five years. Fortunately we will still be receiving a large discretionary rate relief. Heat and Light expenditure is much lower than the previous year – British Gas reissued bills going back a couple of years and this has resulted in the reduced expenditure. The Repairs and Renewals figure includes the fire alarm system and the painting etc to the balcony doors. Professional fees are the legal fees on the purchase of the small boathouse.

I am standing down as Treasurer after 28 years and I am pleased to say that as I stand down the Club is in a healthy financial position.



## ANNEX C – changes to the constitution agreed

(a) Full Membership categories

- (i) **Adult Membership.** Shall be open to all persons aged 18 years of age or over. A discount will be offered to any person aged 60 years of age or over at the time of election or at the start of a membership year (1<sup>st</sup> November)
- (ii) **Life Membership.** Open to any person aged 18 years or over who agrees to pay a fee equivalent to 10 times the annual rate of full membership at the time of election. A life member shall have the rights of a full member.
- (iii) **Family Membership.** Shall be open to a spouse or partner of a full member. Children up to the age of 18 years on the day of membership will also be eligible for the family membership fee but shall be considered junior members and not full members.
- (iv) **Student Membership.** Shall be open to any person aged 18 years or over who is a full time student and can produce an NUS card or an equivalent form of student status identification.