

Teign Scullers (RTRC Sculling Section)

Members' Meeting

19:30-21:30, Wednesday 9th October 2019 at Coombe Cellars

Minutes

In attendance:

Gordon Yeates, Lucy Bufton, Andy Darkin, Mark Kodolanyi, Mark Eastman, Mike Cullen, Alan Gillespie, Carole Atkinson, Marjorie Roome, Alex Pugh, Sally Livett.

Apologies for Absence:

Zane Steers, Wendy Blackburn, Kathy Phillips, Jackie Forte, Katherine Yeo, Brian Cort, Adam Livett.

Approval of draft minutes of previous meetings:

The draft minutes were approved.

1. Election/re-election of Club Officers for the next year

The following officers/roles were agreed:

- **Chair:** Gordon Yeates. Gordon indicated that he would be seeking to step down as Chair next year. It was agreed that he should therefore be shadowed or deputised in his role as our **representative on the RTRC Committee** before that happens.
- **Captain:** Carole Atkinson takes over as Captain from Mark Kodolanyi.
- **Coach:** Mark Eastman.
- **Secretary:** Marjorie Roome.
- **Safety:** Marjorie Roome (under Simon Coe at RTRC).
- **Welfare contact:** Carole Atkinson (under Mandy Davis at RTRC).
- **WEARA Rep:** Carole Atkinson, replacing Alan Gillespie.
- **Coastal Rep.** Andy Darkin will continue but would welcome a suitable volunteer to replace him.
- **Juniors:** Sally Livett and Wendy Blackburn.
- **Boats/Trailers:** Andy Darkin.
- **Boat Maintenance:** Zane Steers was suggested for this and has agreed to help.
- **Financial monitoring:** Sally Livett.

2. Club Outings

We agreed that we should 'fill in' those dates where the tides prevent us having a fine boat outing at Coombe Cellars with a 9am Coastal Outing. This would be subject to numbers, as we are limited to combinations of 5s and a 2 and to the availability of coastal coxes.

On Saturdays we would continue to offer later morning or afternoon fine boat outings to handle the variation in tide times.

We will plan to offer an end of year outing for intra-club fun races at Coombe Cellars. We will look to see what is the best choice of date allowing for the tide.

RTRC have not made any plans yet for a Frostbite Challenge. We are keen for these to happen and will seek to get dates set.

I have done some analysis of our outing statistics. I've now extended Gordon analysis for last year to look for any patterns going back to 2011. Results remain largely stable. I'll circulate the figures.

3. Boosting the number of outing leaders, and fine and coastal coxes

We should boost our numbers of outing leaders, and fine and particularly coastal coxes. We are far too dependent on a few individuals (most of whom are not young).

Mark Eastman is looking at who else we might be able to approve as outing leaders.

For coastal coxes we still need to clarify our criteria for approval and a process to train individuals. Individuals who have achieved coastal cox status on gigs or seine boats and have rowed coastal sculls should be capable of coxing coastal sculls. There may be scope to include coastal cox training as part of the Development Programme on Sundays.

We need to acquire a copy of the existing RTRC Seine Boat accreditation document to provide a template.

4. Membership and recruitment/retention

We have had some success in attracting more scullers, both from the rest of the club and from elsewhere through the Novice Night Programme. This year's novice nights included some fun races at the end, however we were not able to immediately offer novices more coastal rowing.

Gordon outlined the new Development Programme (10 weekly sessions, available to all RTRC sections) that attempts to do this and which has now started. While this was advertised to all RTRC club members I mentioned that we did not seem to have advertised this to those novice night participants who had either not joined yet or had done so only recently. No doubt we will organise this better next year when the Development Programme is more established.

Sally reported that our junior programme continues to be full and we have a waiting list.

5. Racing

Future participation is planned for the following fine boat races.

- 9 Nov 2019 Totnes Autumn Head
- 8 Dec 2019 Exeter Head
- 15 Feb 2020 Fowey Head

6. Equipment

Work is being done/needs to be done on:

- **Swift.** Has since been refurbished.
- **Xeno.** The foot board is loose and can be kicked out – needs new adjuster plates or adjuster plate/adjuster channel strips.
- **Coombe Lady.** Zane reported that some of the seat support struts need replacing.
- **Red Herring.** Scope for repair needs assessment. This is a useful boat as particularly suitable for juniors and lightweights.
- **Flo (Coastal).** Is currently out of use as is being refurbished.

- **Life jackets.** What we have are now very old. We need to get them checked and if necessary replaced. Marjorie to liaise with Simon Coe, the RTRC Safety Advisor about this.
- **Sculls.** We have recently acquired some new high-end sculls at an attractive price, however they are too good for regular club use. Andy is to investigate posting them on rowing sales site to try and swap then for a larger number of more novice sculls

Sport England Grants. Alan Gillespie encouraged us to consider applying for a Sports England grant for new equipment. These days this does mean that we need a development/business plan to justify our request. Producing one had been suggested last year but nothing has happened. Sally thinks that we should acquire boats suitable for our juniors. Most of what we have are really too big for (some of) them. Sally to discuss with Alan what would be involved in making an application and then think about setting up a sub-committee to progress this.

7. Kit

We have also been informed that the club (RTRC) will be collecting members orders so RTRC can then place a collective order on our suppliers, Zeon. You should get an update on how and when to order shortly.

This was originally planned for the end of October but has now been (probably) postponed to early December.

Andy stated that there was interest from first team members in onesies, although we don't yet have a design from Zeon for this. Getting a design is being pursued, but we still might have problems with their current minimum order (of 11).

At present we are the only coastal club where crew don't wear club kit as a matter of course. WEARA rules for fine boat races require participants use club kit. Gordon will write to all members emphasising the desirability of wearing club colours in competition.

8. Increasing club visibility

..through publicity and the Website(s). Having taken this on last year Lucy Bufton has been successful in getting us into the local media, however the size of our coverage (despite our crews' considerable success in e.g. the Coastal League) has remained small compared to that of other local sports. We are therefore setting up a publicity sub-committee to try and do better. Agreed members are Lucy Bufton, Alec Pugh and Simon Dolley.

9. AOB

New Teign base in Teignmouth

We received an update on progress.

Presidents Cup.

Gordon announced that this would go this year to Youlie, for all the behind the scenes support she has proved over the years. Alan Gillespie to present the cup to her.

Marjorie Roome

Sculler Section Secretary