

Teign Scullers (RTRC Sculling Section)

Committee Meeting

19:00-21:00, Wednesday 13th September at Coombe Cellars

MINUTES

Present

Zane Steers, Mark Eastman, Wendy Blackburn Carole Atkinson, Robbie Robinson, Marjorie Roome

1. Apologies for absence

Rachel Palmer, Alex Lonsdale

2. The draft minutes of previous meeting (12 Jul 2023)

Were approved.

3. Any matters arising from last meeting

None not covered elsewhere

4. Use of boats by racing crews (Zane)

It was agreed that first choice of boat, for training and racing should be given to the crews who were most active (for the men's crew this would currently be the B crew).

5. Single Scullers (Zane)

The issue had been raised as to whether experienced and approved scullers could be allowed take out single sculls unaccompanied. This is not presently allowed in the club rules that insist that scullers operate a buddy system (so be accompanied by either another single scull or double or quad). At present private boat owners can do so in their own boats. Three committee members present were private boat owners and valued to chance to get on the water alone and felt the risk acceptable.

Zane had discussed the issue with Mark Layton who thought it was up to the Scullers to decide.

Marjorie, the Safety Officer, had approached Stephen Worley, British Rowing's Honorary Rowing advisor who expressed the view that it was up to each club to make their own risk assessment but that his own Club, Wimbleball, operated a buddy system and required that buddy boats remain less than 100m apart.

The club's safety officer felt that to allow club members to go out alone was unnecessarily risky. In particular having another person in another boat around would make it much easier to summon help if a rower had an accident.

A vote was held and the decision was made (vote 4 to 2) to change the rules to allow single sculling in club boats.

The club's Safety Officer is not willing to implement this rule change and therefore announced her intention to resign as Safety Officer. The post will need to be filled, probably at the All Members Meeting.

6. Committee members resigning or staying at the All Member Meeting (Zane)

Existing Committee Members should tell Zane if they wish to continue in post when elections are held at the All Member Meeting (15 Nov 2023).

Members can stand for both filled and unfilled posts at the All Members Meeting.

7. Edgar Lee, choice of name, naming ceremony (Zane, Roger)

We have acquired another quad, Edgar Lee, from Exeter RC. It has been repainted and will shortly be at CC to be rigged. It is intended to be a replacement for Lola, which is becoming EOL.

As the current name has no significance for the club we are considering renaming it. If you have a suggestion for an appropriate name please send it to the Club Secretary (marjorie@meeble.net).

8. Process for joining the Sculling Section (Carole)

Carole has mentioned that there seemed some confusion as to how it was decided whether someone could join the club directly, and immediately start signing up for outings or need to complete one of our learn to row courses. Mark Eastman clarified that those who thought they had enough experience to join directly could ask for a trial outing with him (the Chief Coach) and he would make an assessment based on rowing with them.

9. Outings Schedule (Mike Cullen)

Mike had expressed a concern by email whether we might need to plan for more coastal outings when our latest learn to row cohort complete their course. Meanwhile we do have difficulties filling both the evening outing on Sunday. As winter and GMT approaches we will need to cut back to a single evening outing. We may be able to double up the Sunday morning outing, either by scheduling a second outing or simply at need if the number justify. There may also be conflict with the need to fit in training crew outings, both coastal and fine boats.

Mark Eastman will continue to try and provide schedules that suit most members.

10. Update on current Learn to Row (Marjorie)

We have now held our first L2R in the latest round. We have 11 starters.

11. Progress on Endymion (Marjorie)

Endymion has been saved. Repairs to the hull and deck have now been completed and she is being sanded down and painted.

She is a good fast boat in a straight line and handles rough seas well, however she doesn't turn very quickly so there was some concern as to whether we would want to race her in addition to Wave Dancer and Flo, so we might want to consider selling her.

12. Regatta Dates - 2 in 2024 (Rachel)

We are scheduled to hold two Coastal Regattas (+ Round the Islands) in 2024. At present one club is asked held two Regattas on a Round Robin basis.

Rachel has looked at the tides, and the dates other clubs have already nominated and she thinks only June 15th and October 12th are available.

June 15th would fall outside the usual Spring Coastal window and in the WEARA fine boat regatta one.

Whether we can do use this date is being raised with WEARA.

Ali and Lucy B would be happy to support running the Regattas again as long as they in

turn will get the same club support as they got last year.

Coastal regatta dates agreed so far:

13th April: Mayflower

18th May: Exmouth

24 Aug: Dartmouth

14 Sept: Carrick

28 Sept: Exmouth

13. coastal 60+ mixed (Marjorie)

Marjorie would like us to be able to develop of 60+ coastal quad crew. At present the 50 and 60+ mixed races are run separately from the mixed open age category races, unlike with the mens and womens so we can re-use boats (and possible crew members). She was encouraged to find out if any other 60+ else was interested.

14. Need for means to carry Lifejackets – Rosemary Knapp and Flo (Marjorie)

Presently we have no obvious means of carrying life jackets in Rosemary Knapp although we have the jackets, so crew are going out without. However this is now going to be addressed and bungee netting and fixing points fitted similar to what we have on the estuary singles. Flo does not have a large fitted 'bag' for Lifejackets as Wave Dance has. However it was pointed out that there was a waterproof bag in the oar store that could be used.

15. AOB

RTRC Main Club Committee Meeting

Zane reported back what had been discussed at the RTRC Main Club Committee Meeting the previous day.

- a) We were assured that our club insurance covered us when we were competing 'away' at other clubs.
- b) There are plans afoot for 3 'all section' Open days for 2024. And a Junior Open Day. We would expect to opt out of the Junior Open day.
- c) A shelter is going to be built in the Club's boat storage area behind the railway station. While primarily intended for the gigs it would allow work to be done on our boats undercover when required.
- d) The Gig section is wanting to bid for a new racing Gig. The cost would be ~£33,000. For this to go ahead the Gig section will have to prove that they can raise money (additional to club funds).
- e) We expect to get a reply to our Lottery bid within 4 weeks.
- f) RTRC have not decided when their AGM will be, but probably last week in November.

Scullers All Members Meeting

Mark Eastman to book Hearn Field Pavilion for 3 hours on the 15 November for the Meeting. As usual we will provide some light refreshments.

Fixing dates and times for Race team outings

We might want to look again at better ways of doing this. We have used Doodle Polls in the past. Spond is used at Exeter and Carole reports that it seems to work well.

Marjorie Roome. Sculler Section Secretary