

## Annual General Meeting

19<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Draft Minutes

1. **Welcome** by Chairman (John Goddard) Explained that AGM moved to align with rowing seasons. EGM will be in February 2024 to approve accounts.
2. Attendance: J Goddard, J Mulholland, C Percy, M Hulse, J Whitehead, S Dobson, P Hawthorn, B Laidlaw, T Jackson, D Marshall, I Stratford, L Goldsmith, L Bray, J Hulse, K Bulmer, A Leigh, A Colley, L Basey, Z Fox, A Burton-Cole, E Kinz, R Cripwell, P Hale, J Maclennan, A Shaw, Alice LT, E Thompson, B Dyer, T Campbell, D Robertson, D Higgins, P Keown, R Tachikawa H Clark, E Chatto, L Johnson, J Symons, J Tyler, C Barwick.

Apologies: D Smark, T Ballantyne, D Robinson, I Boyd, S Thompson, J Thompson, I Smiles, G Davies, K Graham.

### 3. Draft minutes

Chair thanked Lyn Goldsmith for chairing rowing committee.

Minutes agreed – proposed by L Goldsmith, seconded by C Barwick

4. **Matters arising** – add John Mulholland to attendance.

### 5. Nominations

**Agreed Harry Clark to become a Trustee.**

Adam Azzi to stay on as secretary of Rowing Committee.

**Unanimous decision to elect Colin Percy to Rowing Committee**

### 6. To receive Strategy document

Chair introduced document explaining the direction of travel and the need for this plan to secure the long-term future of the club.

Thanked Jo Gregory for pulling together the information.

Jo Gregory presented a slide show going through the document page by page.

Chair highlighted the Tyne Youth Rowing project designed to encourage diversity and inclusion.

#### Questions and discussion

Would the 4 tiers of rowing structure change? there would be no change to squad structure, but if there was a large influx into one squad the club would endeavour to enable everyone to receive coaching and water time.

Established that all members of the Rowing Committee should be endorsed at a general meeting.

Discussion around Key Performance Indicators, established the current document is an overview, not an action plan. Agreed it will take time to work on each stage of the document.

Discussion broadened out to the following:

**Respect for the clubhouse**, established that the changing rooms should be the responsibility of squad members, not left to cleaning staff, everyone needs to share responsibility.

**4 Tiers of rowing**, concern that there is:

- little opportunity for recreational rowing,

- do the 4 tiers apply to all squads?
- what about the raft of members that do not fit into the categories within the structure?
- Need to find more volunteers to support community rowing.
- Is the club trying to be a 'Jack of all trades' rather than meeting the aspirations of the elite squads?
- Community rowers use the poorest equipment and often have to step over equipment not put away by squads after regattas.
- Can the club produce a 'bite size' version of the strategy.

All points of discussion were noted.

**7. To approve changes to the constitution**

**8. To approve changes to enable Junior voting**

Concerns raised included:

- giving juniors a vote would become a vehicle for junior parents to influence voting whilst not being eligible to vote themselves.
- Safeguarding
- Ownership and responsibility
- Liability
- Juniors leave going to University etc
- Votes given to all parents at Chester-le-Street (contrasting views expressed )

Support included:

- Juniors are members of the club and should have input into the running of it.
- They are ambassadors at national events.
- Involved with U19 GB training.
- Achieve scholarships for 6<sup>th</sup> form and universities.
- Some come back to the club to support younger juniors.

**Agreed to defer any changes to the constitution and junior voting until EGM.**

**9. To approve membership fees proposal**

No objections raised to the proposal, NB, off peak land membership is scrapped.

**Agreed to raise fees for year beginning September 2023 – August 2024. Fees will be looked at again at EGM.**

**10. Captain's report –**

(Tom Campbell has copy)

**11. Club manager report -**

(Jo has a copy)

**12. AOB**

Martin Hulse proposed Harry Clark as new safety adviser, Adam Azzi Seconded, (Jen to support Harry)

Chair highlighted date of Captain's regatta (Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August)

John Mulholland - more umpires are needed, training is available.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm

