

Marlow Rowing Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Club via zoom video conference

Wednesday, 14th July 2021 at 8pm.

Present: Mike Parsons (Chairman), Ruth Naylor (Captain), David Wells (Treasurer), Helen Chadley (Secretary), Jenny Hargreaves (Bar Secretary), Julie Lyons (Welfare Officer), David Brindle (Junior Representative), Kingsley McDiarmid (Deputy Treasurer), Matt Smith (Deputy Chairman), Brais Cortinas Alvarez, Jeremy Rowe, Katherine Curtis, Monika Bagga, Paul Franklin, Richard McMahon, John Hill, Anthony Evans, Catrin Baker, Charles Hill, Marilena Borghini, Roland Baker, Ben Kent, David Brindle, Bruce Lynn, Kingsley McDiarmid, Rose Crosby, Sarah Jackson, Geraldine Rowe, Graham Parcell, Lorna Loretto, Rob Robertson, Vince Wood, Emily Pimlott, Richard Lewis, Edward Phillip, David Jackson, Martha Penny, Ian Pike, Graeme Armstrong, Ella Holloway.

Apologies: Sir Steve Redgrave, Belinda Ford, Alex Morris, Ben Marsden, Richard Buckeridge, Kate Bradnock, Jonathan Walne.

Meeting opened 8.00pm

The meeting was opened by the Chairman who welcomed all present members to the meeting, and outlined guidance for how the meeting would be run via zoom video conferencing. The Chairman then went onto give an overview of the meeting agenda.

1. To approve the minutes of the 2020 AGM

The 2020 AGM minutes were approved unanimously.

Proposer: Julie Lyons

Seconded: Richard McMahon

2. To reappoint Villars Hayward LLP as auditors

It was agreed unanimously to reappoint Villars Hayward LLP auditors for the club for the ensuing year.

Proposer: David Wells

Seconded: Andrew Garnett

3. To receive the Director's reports and accounts for the period ending 30th September 2020

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer gave a brief outline of the accounts highlighting the major changes and significant figures. The year started well and it was business as usual from October 2019 to February 2020, however in March 2020 Covid-19 struck. The committee took prompt action on the announcement of lockdown to mitigate costs and strengthen virtual activities. Fundraising activities, donations and the usually run courses declined and therefore a very substantial drop in income was seen although the club did benefit from some Covid-19 grants. Despite the challenges the club emerged with £100,000 free cash in September 2020 and adequate financial resources to continue into the future.

Captain's Report

The Captain referred members to her report previously circulated and highlighted the key points. She made reference to the continuation of covid-19 challenges, 150th Anniversary and ran through individual squad summaries from the past year. She wished to thank all the volunteers for their hard work throughout the year especially given the significant challenges.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman referred members to his report previously circulated. He made reference to the weather that saw the river flood and the further lockdowns that subsequently kept the club confined to land training. He wished to thank all the members who had volunteered and donated so much time to the club. He then continued to talk about the club priorities that have seen continuation during the year, junior squad performance, funding and numbers, culture and sense of one club, competitive performance, equipment renewals, communications, MRCT revenue. He noted that despite the challenges, the club had pulled together and were doing exceptionally well.

Members Commented as follows:

1. I couldn't find the accounts on the website.
It was acknowledged that they should have been uploaded but had not been in advance of the meeting.
2. There was no link for the treasurer's report.
It was clarified that reports are within the members section on the website but acknowledged that the link wasn't working correctly and would be amended after the meeting to allow all to access.
3. With interest rates as 0-5% is it reasonable to charge those who pay monthly a 10% surcharge.
The ability to pay monthly was a members request and there are additional costs involved in administering this which account to the surcharge.
4. It's interesting that club members don't get to approve the financial activity of their club.
5. Would it be possible for the board to consider some better solution to the pigeon infestation that seems to continue to affect the club and its boats? The mess is considerable and there are health risks associated.
The club is currently looking into another device as the previous hasn't worked, this would mimic a bird of prey randomly.
6. What plans are in place to improve the quality and quantity of General Use Equipment (Singles and Blades)?
The club has a three year capital plan, with purchases allowing equipment to be bumped down through squads.
7. I would be very interested to hear about the male/female split, and diversity more generally.
On average there is a 50:50 split across the squads. As a club we do a lot to endure the choice to row or not is not a financial one.
8. The para squad is one of many things the club can be really proud of, how is that growing and are we attracting 'new to rowing' para participants?

There is currently a wait list due to high coach to athlete group and Bruce Lynn is running an adaptive learn to row linked to talent pathway.

9. It was mentioned that membership numbers had held up, what is the club membership number are the moment?

Circa 377 members

10. After the landing stages have been done, how much of the VAT money is going to be left?

It depends on what projects come up and what is needed.

11. No report from the safety officer, how many incident reports are submitted to British Rowing? It provides a clear metric of our Safety Culture.

The safety officer reports into the committee monthly and the club has won an award for reporting all incidents.

The report and accounts were received unanimously.

Proposed: Jenny Hargreaves

Seconded: Jeremy Rowe

4. Election of Officers

- a) The following officers having been correctly proposed and seconded and they being on the only nomination were elected unanimously:

President:	Sir Steve Redgrave
Chairman:	Mike Parsons
Captain:	Ruth Naylor
Treasurer:	David Wells
Secretary:	Helen Chadley

Proposed: Kingsley McDiarmid

Seconded: Jeremy Rowe

5. Election of other Roles

The following officers having been correctly proposed and seconded and being the only nomination were elected unanimously:

Deputy Chairman:	Matt Smith
Deputy Captain:	Alexander Bavage
Bar Secretary:	Jenny Hargreaves
Junior Representative:	Sarah Stirling

- b) **Deputy Secretary:** There were no nominations and members unanimously authorised the Board to fill both these vacancies.
- c) **Deputy Treasurer:** There were no nominations and members unanimously authorised the Board to fill both these vacancies.

Proposed: Ben Kent

Seconded: Monika Bagga

6. Election of Directors to Marlow Rowing Club Trading Limited

It was agreed unanimously to authorise the directors to vote at the Marlow Rowing Club Trading Limited ("MRCT") Annual General Meeting to replace the existing directors with the Chairman, Captain, Treasurer, and Secretary just elected at this AGM and such other members as they see fit. Their term of office shall run until the close of the next Annual General Meeting of MRCT.

7. Granting Vince Wood as a life member

It was agreed to grant Vince Wood life membership to Marlow Rowing Club. It was clarified that this is proposed for individuals with a significant sporting achievement or a significant service to the club.

The meeting closed at 21:12

H Chadley
Secretary
September 2021