

Dolphin Rowing Club

Annual General Meeting 2021 28th October 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

Held at St. John's Church Centre, Stein Road, Southbourne PO10 8LB

Present

Aileen Campion
Andi Davies
Andrew Ferrand
Alison Kidd
Ian Maclennan - Secretary
Patrick Marshall
Mandy Nuttall
Richard Nuttall
Elaine Parkin - Safety Officer
Chris Partridge - Chairman
Dee Pullen
Julia Rooke - Treasurer
Steve Rooke - Bosun
Linsey Taylor
Bianca Tilgner

Apologies

Paula Bray
Louise Florence
Karen Gardner
Jenny Glass
Mark Nicholson
Helen O'Brien
Mark Potter
Shahnaz Schaeper
Franklin Ward

The Chairman called the meeting to order and noted that it was quorate (requiring at least 33% of the members to be present, i.e. 11 out of the current membership of 31).

The minutes of the AGM held on 7th October 2020 were received and accepted as an accurate record of that meeting.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave his report summarising a challenging year, severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. He noted that when permitted by regulations and prevailing weather, rowing had continued, although understandably membership has declined during the pandemic as a number of former members did not renew.

He noted that Dolphin Rowing Club has the distinction of having members who have rowed in the World Championships and the meeting congratulated Andi Davies and Lou Florence on their performance.

The club is now back and operating at full capacity and it has been possible to enjoy rowing in recent months. Our challenge is now to increase membership so as to ensure the viability of the club. While the winter months are typically quieter, we are hoping to be able to recruit new members in spring 2022.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer gave her report and referred to the one page annual accounts to 31st March 2021, which also include information for the period April 2021 to 24th October 2021. She noted that total income in the year was just under £ 4.8k, total expenditure was £ 3.3k and so a surplus of just under £ 1.5k was generated. Closing year end cash balance was just over £ 4k.

In the first seven months of the year to 31st March 2022 a further surplus of £ 2.2 k has been generated, taking cash balances up to around £ 5.9k.

A grant received from British Rowing to support the club during the pandemic has allowed us to meet rent payments and other expenses. If this grant had not been received the club would have

experienced a deficit for the year. She expressed appreciation, on behalf of the club, for the helpful support provided by British Rowing.

In response to questions from members the Treasurer commented that our landlord, Releasing Potential, has kindly reduced the rent charged to us, in recognition of the difficulties being experienced as a result of the pandemic. In place of the normal rent due of £ 200 per month, a concessionary rate of £ 60 per month is currently being paid. In due course, as membership increases and resources allow, she expects the rent charged to increase. It will be important to increase membership in order to meet increased costs in the short to medium term.

The acceptance of the annual accounts by the meeting was proposed by Ian Maclennan, seconded by Andi Davies and passed unanimously.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for her report and also thanked all current officers for their service during the year. All the work which Steve and Julia Rooke have been doing to support the club during the year was highlighted and thanks were expressed. Small gifts were given as a small token of appreciation from the club. In addition the Secretary noted that Elaine Parkin will be standing down as Safety Officer this year and there was also a small gift for her, in recognition of her service to the club.

Election of Officers

The Secretary noted that he had received the following nominations for officers for the coming year:

Chairman

Chris Partridge
Proposed by Julia Rooke
Seconded by Andrew Ferrand

Secretary

Ian Maclennan
Proposed by Julia Rooke
Seconded by Andi Davies

Treasurer

Julia Rooke
Proposed by Ian Maclennan
Seconded by Shahnaz Schaeper

Volunteers

Bosun: Steve Rooke
Safety Officer: Linsey Taylor
Race Secretary: Andi Davies
Site Manager: Andrew Ferrand
Social & Rowing: Dee Pullen

As no more than one nomination has been received each role, there is no need to hold an election. The Chairman proposed that all the above should be elected and this was agreed unanimously.

Welfare Report

The Secretary noted that there have been no welfare issues arising during the year. The Chairman encouraged all members to take welfare and safeguarding issues very seriously and asked that any issues arising should be reported to any member of the committee as soon as possible.

Other Points Discussed

Defibrillator

Elaine Parkin noted that there is a defibrillator held by Langstone Adventure Rowing on the Northney site. It is closer to where our boats are stored than the defibrillator at the Marina Office. She proposed that action be taken to arrange for the club to have access to the LAR defibrillator and also for a number of members to be trained in the use of this equipment. The Chairman asked the newly appointed Safety Officer to approach Mike Gilbert of LAR to make the necessary arrangements.

Debentures

The Treasurer noted that a number of clubs use debentures purchased by members to allow them to fund the purchase of equipment. She noted that the club has limited cash resources and would not be able to spend significant sums in order to take advantage of equipment purchase opportunities which may arise. The use of debentures purchased by members would allow flexibility to purchase equipment.

After some discussion it was proposed that the committee be authorised to assess the possibility of issuing debentures to purchase equipment. Subject to the committee being satisfied that there is credible plan to repay the debentures within a reasonable period of time, and that the terms and conditions of the debentures were reasonable, the committee was authorised to make use of debentures. Details of any debentures issued must be provided to the AGM of the club, along with confirmation that the club continues to be in a position to make the necessary payments.

Membership

The meeting agreed that it is going to be increasingly important for members to recruit additional new members, so as to ensure that the club continues to be viable. All members were invited to approach one or more friends with a view to asking them to try rowing and consider club membership. There was discussion about the publicity needed to raise the club's profile and encourage new enquiries / members. The Chairman was asked to review the club's website and consider whether it might be possible to ensure search engines give our site a good ranking. The Chairman also proposed running events in spring 2022 designed to attract interest and new members.

There was some discussion about recruiting members from universities and colleges in the area. The Chairman advised that Chichester University had approached us to offer rowing to their students, however the pandemic had reduced activity and there has been no recent contact with them.

Aileen Campion commented that the success of Andi Davies and Lou Florence was a great story to share with prospective members. In addition a number of clubs have held open days (including an NHS open day) which have attracted new members. This may be an idea worth considering.

Caravan

Steve Rooke noted that club members can make more use of the caravan at the marina. Releasing Potential do not need it until April 2022, so it is currently available for club use. He also commented that it may be possible to offer workshop modules on rigging, coaching and other topics of interest.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 8.20 p.m.
