

RIVER TEIGN ROWING CLUB LTD

The Fifteenth Annual General Meeting of the River Teign Rowing Club Ltd was held at the Teignmouth Yacht Club on Tuesday 24th November 2009 at 8.05pm

Present : A quorum was achieved

Apologies: Lesley Burton, Pat Ash, Steve Adams

Minutes of the last AGM

Minutes of the 2008 AGM held on Tuesday 25th November 2008 were circulated to all members present. There were no comments from the members present; the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman as a true record of the proceedings

Chairman's Report: Andy Darkin

Welcome to all present. The club has been making progress with the Development Plan and thanks were due to all those (not just on the committee) who had worked hard to take it one step further. This has been shown by the purchase and delivery of the new gig 'Morgan' which has produced good results in racing and participation in gig rowing has increased. The club is in discussion with Bert Blank who owns Teign Spirit and Double Dutch as to their future. The club has achieved financial security with a solid two years of budgeting, accounting and keeping costs down. The ultimate goal is still to have a waterside facility and the committee are still involved with town/council meetings. A proposal for Town Quay Development had proved too ambitious but we had been involved in the consultation procedure. There has been an informal arrangement for the use of Swanson's garage which is to now be formalised with Teignbridge District Council. A lease is to be drawn up allowing us the use of the building on the terms of a peppercorn rent and the club being responsible for certain safety and structural improvements. Andy thanked all those who have worked hard to negotiate the arrangements. Youth development has been and remains an important part of the club to develop in the future. Communication is important due to the size of membership and therefore the club continues to promote and refresh the website on a regular basis and will continue to push email contact as a form of notice. The club needs to look at the roles and responsibilities required within the club and to develop clear frameworks and processes. The club has received good support from local organisations; TCYC, Trinity School (loan of RIB and premises) the Harbour Master (and Commission).

Thanks to all those who are leaving the committee this year, Lesley, Wally, Jacky, Sarah and Stuart. This will be an opportunity for new committee members to refresh the committee, bringing new skills and ideas. Andy emphasised that additional help is always welcome to work in any section of the club and does not require members to be on the committee.

Youth Development Plan: Ian Mitchell

We have achieved very strong links with Trinity, the headmaster being very supportive. Taster courses have been held with Teign School which keeps the kids involved in addition to bringing money in. It falls on a few volunteers so please step forward if anyone can help. Loans of private boats for junior training and extra coxes would be great. Pat Atkins reminded members that CRB check forms were needed for junior coxing and available from her.

Promotional clothing is on view tonight, good quality and available through Ian.

Financial Report: Guy Langworthy

The draft accounts (for year ending 31st October 2009) and draft balance sheet were circulated to all members present. A profit of £7516 is showing. Fund-raising has been very successful this year and income has also been achieved mostly through schools, training, oar stores and Wednesday night novice nights. There has been an increase in membership bringing in an additional £1000, extra club boat sponsorship and £800 profit made on the club bash. Additional spending will be required for the next year, in approx. £2000 for maintenance on Swanson's garage, allowance for increased fuel costs and budgets which is partially why there is a need to increase the fees. The club is also hoping to update/ buy the support and safety boats. There were no questions from the floor.

Fund-raising: Nigel Potts

Fundraising has been good this year due to lots of effort by different people working on different projects. The Trinity income has been very beneficial and thanks due to Ian M, Ray, Wally, Liz, Jon

and Andy Darkin. Clothing may take time to get going but it will take off thanks to Stuart C and Ian M. Thanks to Julie Hill for her great effort with the jumble sales and the quiz night. The Teign Cycle challenge, originally the idea of Lisa Pash, continues to be popular and thanks to Jon Haytread and Lisa for helping with the organisation as well as Jackie Forte for support. We had a great day launching Morgan, thanks to Andy F and Kate, and the fund-raising on the day was also successful. We do need to continue raising funds to replace items as they wear out and more activities will be needed for next year. The club particularly needs and would like to hear from anyone who has practice in or willing to research and apply for funding grants and lottery bids.

Race report: Dave Salter

This has been the first full year of a new race team. The big factor is always the weather and the decision to cancel a race is never taken lightly. The ability of all the crews has to be taken into consideration. The race dates will be issued shortly and there will be two reserve dates, one halfway through and one at the end of the season. The race team tried to call the buoys this year and generally the crews responded. More attention will be giving to looking at penalties, sanctions and processes etc. The race team has been small and therefore it is difficult to watch all the fleet. More people are required and extra help appreciated. Andy Darkin reiterated that additional help would also allow members of the race team to actually race on the water as some people have had to forgo rowing to marshal the racing.

Gigs: Andy Forte

The gig launch was a fantastic day also helped by the composition of the Teign Rowing Song. There are now well over 100 gig rowers and this has bought us success at The Scillies, Paignton and Salcombe. The men performed well at Newquay this year coming in 13th and the Ladies A's have done the best ever coming in 2nd overall in the County Championships. There is great interest in Scillies 2010, with 4 ladies teams and 3 mens. Fund-raising has been successful, thanks to Julie and others and one idea for next year is an Easter Egg Hunt. One of the targets for 2010 is to bring on more coxes and more people to tow. Two gigs are currently being used for training with Morgan being reserved for racing. Another trailer is required for Morgan as currently the boats are sharing trailers. Advertising slots are still available. The end of season meeting is being held at TCYC on 7th December 2009.

Safety: Andy Darkin

Thankfully, through good observation and having people around, we are keeping safe. The one main objective is that we do not have a serious accident and we need to focus on that. There have been incidents which we will learn from and help us to improve procedure. Thanks to all those who have helped. Safety committee member Paul Barczok was still concerned that people were going out in bad weather up the river showing bad coxing.

Training: Rachel Holgate

Novice nights have been very popular with up to 80+ people attending on a Wednesday night. More coxes are required. Rachel thanked massively all those who helped on the Wednesday evenings. The coxes course is up and running; this is a nationally recognised Level one certificate (although much of the information is localised to this club) which is applicable to other clubs and does not have an expiry date. More dates are to be made available shortly. Dry rowing is taking place at Dyrons with occasional spaces available

Election of Executive Committee

Chairman:	Andy Darkin
Vice-Chairman:	Rachel Holgate
Treasurer:	Guy Langworthy
Secretary:	Kate Yeo

The above named persons were duly proposed, seconded and voted in as the Executive Committee for a period of 12 months

Election of Ordinary Committee

Dave Salter	Pat Atkins
Nigel Potts	Mark Brett
Rupert Holliday	Liz Francis

Rona Boyne

There were seven vacancies. The above named persons were duly proposed, seconded and voted in as Ordinary Committee Members for a period of 3 years.

(A list of the proposers and seconders are attached to the master copy of the minutes)

Proposals

1. A proposal had been received requiring all seine boats to carry VHF radios as part of their safety equipment. This proposal was carried by majority agreement
2. Proposal raising club membership fees was carried by majority agreement. The fees from 2010 will be Adult £27, Couple £44, Family £60, Junior £10, Novice £10, Social £10. The committee will review the definitions of each category at the next committee meeting.
3. A proposal was received asking the membership how the club should respond on the question of fishing from the bridge. After some discussion, the majority agreed that on safety grounds RTRC supports the ban of fishing from the bridge in the navigable channel.
4. A proposal regarding the nomination of a charity for the year was withdrawn by the committee
5. A proposal bringing forward the membership year to start from 1st March was carried by the majority
6. A proposal to enter into preliminary discussion with Teign Scullers regarding the formation of a combined club which will offer all forms of rowing (initial report back to the membership to be ready by Spring 2010) was carried by the majority
7. A proposal requiring all coxes to be trained to the recognised standard of British Rowing Coastal Coxing Certificate Level One hopefully by the end of 2010 was carried by the majority.

The need for this is to:

- To reduce risk of injury and accidents
- To have a consistent understanding of risk management, local conditions, terminology and technique
- To address ever more onerous insurance requirements and possibly reduce premiums
- To promote RTRC as a centre of excellence
- To comply with best practice and British Rowing Recommendations
- To develop skills and give confidence
- To emphasize to rowers the importance of the coxes role.

There will be a discretionary route to qualification for members/coxes who have appropriate experience; eligibility will be decided by the training and safety sub-committees

8. A proposal to give authority to the officers of the club to sign off final accounts once approved by the club accountants (following presentation of the draft accounts) was carried by the majority.

Any Other Business

It was noted at the Remembrance Parade/Service on the sea-front that RTRC was not represented. It was agreed that next year the club shall be represented and shall establish the link with the appropriate authority

With no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 9.40 pm