

WCBC committee meeting minutes

Wolfson college Committee room

8pm, 08/08/2018

Present: Laura Depner, Daina Sadurska, Stef Zekoll, Jessica Dunham, Sophie Diarra, Allison Bryan, Gwylim Jones, Sabin Sulzer, Bronwen Hudson, Natasha Bowyer, Abi Killen, Sophie Schauman

Absent: Jessica Hoff, Eric Hoff, Fig Hammond, Jill Marcum

President's report

- Regatta updates:
 - Club has taken part in several regattas: Maidenhead, Kingston, Henley T&V, Offshore Rowing; City of Oxford is coming up.
- Regatta secretary will be organizing entries into the big regattas starting from Michaelams.

Treasurer

- Budget allocations: £3000 estimated income from subs
 - We have around £31,000 currently in our long term equipment fund
 - £7000 is planned to be allocated for training budgets on each side of the club; £8000 is allocated for equipment budget; £1800 comes from Investec for kit.
 - New budget category to be set up for events, which includes alumni, freshers' and other events.
 - Blade allocation: £500 from StX budget to be used for blades, so as to be the same as Wolfson contribution.
 - Suggestion to allocate some budget for purchase of action cameras for training and racing purposes. Currently men's training budget has been used for purchase of two action cams, each for approx. £100. Men's captain to assess usefulness, potentially additional action cams to be bought from women's training budget.
 - Retroactive vote on authorizing purchase of two action cameras for total of £200: unanimously approved.
- Refurbishment of Tara: Tara is to be sent for refurbishment this year. The funds are to come out of the equipment budget instead of the long-term-equipment-fund (same was done with refurbishment of resolute last year). Possibly for resolute the funds were supposed to come from long-term fund instead, but definitely came from the short term one.
- This year's budget priority: to use ore funds on training the novices, novice intake is very important this year. Next meeting to be held in about a month, will be discussing particulars then.
- Regatta subsidy budget:
 - Captains are to decide which regattas to subsidize, currently decided to subsidize Quintin Head and WEHOR/HOR
 - Budget is £2000 for men and £2000 for women. This budget cannot be used to subsidize trailering
 - Captains to check prices, check how many boats they are sending, so that we have some idea about how much we can subsidize.
 - Suggestion was made last year: regarding regatta subsidy it is best to think of what WCBC wants to focus on for training i.e. bumps or headraces and then subsidize regattas that slot in nicely with that training plan.

Captain's report: men

- Allison planning on focusing on finding a coach for novices; will be posting on college rowing page. Senior men have expressed that they would prefer if an active male WCBC rower did not coach the novices, but may be ok if an active female WCBC member was involved (maybe).
- Nanda and Becker are ready to take over senior coaching full time during Michaelmas term.
- Men's captaincy issues: Milan and Hwei Ru have resigned from their committee posts as men's captains leaving Allison as the only captain.
 - Allison proposes to get a novice captain: someone who can commit for the eight weeks on Michaelmas; post will be opened up for anyone from the boat both, male or female.
 - Suggested that maybe one of the three women's captains might want to take over some of the men's captaincy tasks. However, this is not a good idea to officially mix up both captaincy sides, plus women's captains cannot take on extra responsibility. However, instead all committee members are happy to step in unofficially as needed and lend help if and when required.
 - There are some really keen summer novices, therefore it was suggested whether maybe one of them might be recruited to become an unofficial novice captain. However, Allison does not want to burden novices with that responsibility. Instead novices will be encouraged to bring in their friends to rowing etc. but novice captain will be sought from the senior ranks.

Captain's report: women

- Coaches: Tom and Aly are going to continue as coaches; Aly is happy to be more involved. Will be looking for one more coach for Hilary term onwards; advert shall be put out soon.
- Novice training: captains are to assess interest from current seniors, depending on situation women may have paid coach for some novice sessions. Jess D has expressed interest in novice coaching but it will depend on whether she decides to trial for blues.
- Currently women's side has 4 new novices. Swim-test for summer novices needs to be arranged, and probably will be taking place end of next week, i.e. 14th August and onwards. 18th August suits best for Swimming pool but this is only one of four possible slots. It would be good to organize time that suits both men and women novices, but most men are unable to attend on 18th August. Therefore potentially two tests to be run, depending on availability and costs.
- Allison to email grad colleges about whether they would like to also have people taking the swim test to split the costs. Sophie D to arrange the costs and the dates etc.
- Weights training: Tom Chapman wants potential W1 ladies to start doing weights training now. Captains to inform rowers about gym etiquette (i.e. not blocking it during peak hours etc)

Secretary

- Blades update: All blades that were ordered are finished, almost all have been delivered, only waiting for 4 more blades.
- STX blades: to the last account there are 5 most recent blades missing from StX. Andrew Balin recalled some StX budget allocation to have been made for blades last year, but not the specifics. StX rep Bronwen to look into it, so that blades can be ordered.
- Associate members list and a unified club member's database: secretary suggests that having a unified database of active members, associates, and alumni would make admin easier. Captains to send Secretary lists of active members and associates so that secretary can contact associates and ask whether they want to renew membership. Details to include: membership status, contact details
- Summer associates: Two people from GTS Sanja Brolih and Jess Brown want to become associate members for the summer so that they can have use of Wolfson double and use it as a pair. They would pay summer subs. They would technically have the same privileges as anyone, but Laura

talked with them and said that they should use the boat only outside peak times because our double is fully booked during those times by WCBC people. Sanja is GTC captain, so would be in position to return the favour to Wolfson

- Vote on electing these two GTC rowers as our associate members: unanimously yes.

Equipment

- Resolute has a new rudder and it has been put in; boat is ready to be tried.
- Refurbishment of Tara: Tara is to be sent off for refurbishment now. Janousek have gotten back to Gwilym and timeframe is that Tara should be back by 1st week of October. Tara Refurbishment to cost approx. £3000.
- If Tara is not back before fresher's week then probably Resolute will be used as the second taster boat.
- New riggers for the double and the single: For the double it will be a new rigger, Janousek will send it to us, but it is not quite sure how soon. For the single, information coming from the manufacturer is that potentially they may be able to replace the rigger on warranty, but will get back to us.
- Boat house keys: Gwilym has asked Univ whether it may be possible to get a locked safe-box for the keys, that could be placed in the erg room with a code. Univ are understandably worried about the security. Potentially if such a box was code-operated, then Univ might be ok with the possibility if the code was just being given to captains. Gwilym will ask whether they may be willing to extend it to the whole committee, or a least to president and to captain of coxes too.
- Ergs: Univ are considering switching to dynamic ergs in future and might be interested into a contribution by WCBC too. If that is the case we may be in a position to renegotiate more access to their ergs.

Web

- Website needs to be updated, in particular this involves constitution, Committee page, Race reports and mailing lists. Daina to talk with Jill and ask to do the updates.
- Committee to send Jill their photos.
- Suggestion: Gmail accounts for all committee positions
 - Currently the wolfsonrowing.org email addresses are essentially a forwarding rule, which mean that they are every year attached to committee members private email addresses, unless the position has a gmail or similar account, such as captains and president do. This results in email history being lost when committee switched after the AGM. Secretary suggests that a gmail account is established for each position and the wolfsonrowing.org address is permanently linked to that Gmail account. That way when the next handover takes place, the next person taking on each position has access to the previous emails, google drive files etc. Committee has expressed general agreement with the idea, secretary to talk with webmaster.
- Suggestion: Alumni sign-up on website, could be made similar to that which we currently have for new member sign up

Development update

- Jess D has met with StX development officer discussing involvement of StX alumni into the boat club. Have discussed sending a blurb to StX alumni about boat club.
- Jess D to talk to Jill about sign up page for alumni, similar to that we currently have on our website for novices.
- Plans regarding alumni events for next year: an event centered around Summer Vllls to get people from StX to take part. Development Officer will be sending out termly summaries about WCBC to the alumni. Reminder to people who have taken parts in regattas: Send your race reports to Jess D!

- Jess to get in touch with Investec and see whether they would be keen to actually meet with us and to hold an event where they tell us what they are about. i.e. this may be a recruitment opportunity for them.
- This years goal is to work on involving both colleges in the boat club evenly.

Captain of Coxes

- OURCs are still missing a Captain of Coxes and several other positions are empty including treasurer.
- Status upgrades: Since Michaelmas no automatic status upgrades have been passed by RQ. Joe Hitchen has informed us that N status coxes up for an upgrade, i.e. Daina and Laura D, are ok to go out without bankriders in the summer, if committee agrees. No objections from committee. Hopefully by Michaelmas the situation will be rectified.
- Alison has talked with RQ about X to S status upgrades: RQ is willing to test coxes, we just need to contact her personally. Therefore Sophie S and Allison who may want to upgrade will contact RQ.

Fresher's week prep

- StX freshers' fair is planned for October 3rd from 11am to 5pm. Last year there was a mandatory meeting for all freshers at 3pm, which meant that novices who had signed up for boat club could not attend the taster session that afternoon. Needs to be taken into account when planning taster sessions.
- Wolfson fresher's fair: SCC chair is Sabin, and he is involved in the Wolfson freshers' fair organization. Fair to be held on Friday October 6 (week 0) between 6-8pm in Haldane room. Sabin to send out an email soon to all sports clubs with full schedule.
- Fresher's socials, to be discussed in the next meeting
- Captains to think about how to arrange the taster sessions. Should set up sign up sheets for seniors to volunteer for taster sessions soon.

Honorary members and Senior member

- Three vacancies for honorary members to be filled.
- Laura D to talk with Cliff Sofield, Jill Betts and Christian Coester. If they agree to be nominated as honorary members, we will hold an electronic vote before the next committee meeting.

Social sec stuff

- Date for Torpids diner and Summer Vllls are confirmed and will be taking place at Wolfson on the usual dates.
- Date/location for ChCh dinner is problematic, Wolfson has already been booked, and therefore we can't have our dinner there.
- Suggestions: we can ask StCross, may be more willing to accommodate us. Catering staff may not be very happy with folks who could get rowdy, after previous experience with another sports society. However it is worth inquiring. Tash and Laura will contact StX to determine whether we can hold the ChCh dinner there.
- Alternatively, if StX refuses we can book Wig and Pen or something similar and hold the dinner there. That has been done for ChCh dinner in 2014. If that is the case, we will need to book early. Decision to be made at the next meeting.

Other business

- OxBump: John McManigle has emailed WCBC letting us know that he does not want to actively run OxBump anymore, and suggests to pass it on to us as a charitable donation. Terms to be negotiated by Laura/Jess D. We will need to find out whether we have anyone who has the technical expertise to run this app.
- Gym use: a reminder to captains that sessions for crews should not be in the peak slots, i.e. between 5pm to 8pm. Best to arrange times with gym rep, currently Sam Sutton. Women's coach Aly has expressed interest in training people in weights. Everyone who goes to gym needs to be inducted
- Crash reports: there have been recent instances of people crashing small boats, and president not having been notified. A reminder to always notify president about crashes!

Two incidents took place:

- 1) A crash between WCBC double and a privately owned double from Magdalen College. Repair costs can come up to £200 pounds? Our double was in spinning area and the other one rowed into us. Laura to email and suggest 50/50 split instead.
- 2) Crash between WCBC double and GTC double. Our damage 150 pounds, damage to GTC double £50 plus the cost of a new set of blades for them (one of their blades got broken).

AOB

- Website updates needed:
 - Committee page: photos and the position descriptions in accordance with the new constitution
 - Constitution page
 - Development and regatta sections need to be updated with recent information, everyone please send your race reports from summer regattas to Jess D
 - Reflections from presidents: missing last three years, Laura should have them as they must have been sent to Tracy from presidents email address. Laura to track them down and submit to Jill.
 - Updates needed about people who have been in blues squad recently since 2013 (can be looked up online: Allison, Elo, Abi, Jill etc.
- Next meeting: in approx. a month time, i.e. early to mid September. Focus for the next meeting to be election of honorary members, fresher's fair action plan.