

## **Guildford Rowing Club, Annual General Meeting**

### **Minutes of Meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 20.00.**

#### **GRC AGM 2015**

The meeting was called to order by the chairman (Paul Woowat). There were 31 members present of whom 25 were voting members. The Secretary (Paul Hussey) confirmed this exceeded the number required for a quorum (25)

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Rachel Townsend, Simon Welicome, Lynsey Hussey, Kate Austen and Chao Yu in advance of the meeting

#### **2. Minutes of 2014 Annual General Meeting.**

The minutes of the previous year's meeting were agreed with no changes noted.  
Minutes proposed by Paul Hussey and seconded by Paul Woowat.

#### **3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters presented to the secretary that are not addressed by the agenda and none were raised at the meeting.

#### **4. Chairman's Report**

##### **CHAIRMANS REPORT AGM 26 March 2015**

The Club enjoys success at every level though-out the squads and interest in our sport and the clubs activities continues to be maintained

The Committee I start by thanking the members of this year's Committee for their work during the year. I'm happy to report there has been no major crisis to manage and all things seemed to run smoothly – maybe you can offer a different opinion when you have your say later in the meeting!

Club Development.. At the forefront of our minds this year has been the proposed new development. I don't have any major change to report since the last meeting, all is proceeding to plan, we are currently working with a planning consultant and assessing our response for GBC Planning before we submit our application.

Behind the scenes a lot of work has been completed in the sense of highlighting our ambitions to interested parties and proceeding through the rigmarole of surveys and researching how the project can be completed and paid for.

Funding for the project is not only critical to the projects completion but also to the security of GRC as a rowing club into the next century, so the membership should be assured that the management bear this fact in mind as we progress the required development.

I thank Carolyn Turner and the social committee for their efforts this year highlighting our need for funds to the membership and our parent supporters. Their efforts raised £2000 for the project in addition to our normal social profits. The bulk of our funding requirement will come of course through corporate efforts and grant assistance. GBC this year has awarded us with close to £5k towards our planning costs . Once we have planning consent Carolyn and the committee will need to direct our efforts towards more lucrative corporate funding. I thank Danny Skillman & Sam Mogeridge for taking on the role of researching and implementing possible sponsorship support which is a different avenue for obtaining part of our funding requirement.

In our discussions so far GBC Planning / Parks Dept for land & GBC amenities /The National Trust/ and some of our local neighbours have all expressed support in principle for the development. We do of course have to produce a product that fits all their expectations.

Membership – continues to hold close to our maximum with a waiting list for both junior and seniors wanting to learn to row. With the adaptive group we are also at our maximum but we could do more if we had the coaching resource available. We now have a fleet of 5 adaptive boats – all paid for by grant aid with a new single arriving this year provided by funding from the military charity Row to Recovery

We ran a beginner course in September for seniors and propose to do similar again this year. There is also an annual intake for juniors each September. The challenge for the new committee will be to maintain our current status ensuring fair opportunity for all groups, but also looking at ways to increase our membership through the use of off –peak periods. It is through our potential for increased membership that we will be able to secure funds for the development and expand our influence in the rowing community.

Back to the Committee I've sat on this committee for many years in various roles and as your current Chairman should you vote for me to carry on for another year my motivation would be to oversee the progress of the proposed development.

Every year we have a debate on how to keep continuity of a well- managed club – which it is – but at the same time encourage more people to participate in its management and bring new ideas to the fore without compromising all the things we do well. Quite often the reason for not volunteering for a role is the idea of inexperience – let me assure you, you do not need experience, sitting on this committee is experience enough. So as I hand over to the Captain please consider how you would

## **5. Club Development**

Paul Woowat gave a presentation on the new future vision for GRC, this presentation is included in the attached presentation and is also available on the website.

The committee then answered various questions from club members regarding the proposed club development and flood defences, cost, funding and fundraising and council planning. Paul Woowat confirmed that all of these aspects have been considered and gave further details around the progress whilst highlighting that we are still in the very early stages of planning and fundraising.

## **6. Captains Report**

Steve delivered a presentation to the members' reflecting on the previous year's successes and challenges. The captain's presentation is included in the attachments and is also available on the website.

**7. Treasurer's report**

Leonie Sadler delivered a presentation to the members on the club finances from last year and budgets set for the forthcoming year including subscription fees. The treasurer's report is included in the attachments and is also available on the website.

**8. Election of Club Officers and Committee members for 2015 - 2016**

| <b>Role</b>           | <b>Name</b>       |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Chairman              | Paul Woowat       |
| Club Captain          | Steve Wright      |
| Vice Captain Men      | Mark Starling     |
| Vice Captain Women    | Lauren Smoothy    |
| Vice Captain Adaptive | Christopher Boys  |
| Vice Captain Junior   | Ian Pigram        |
| Secretary             | Chao Yu           |
| Treasurer             | Leonie Sadler     |
| Boatswain             | Sam Mogridge      |
| Safety Advisor        | Danny Skillman    |
| Welfare Officer       | Kathryn Slaughter |
| Membership Secretary  | Bill Mansfield    |
| Social Secretary      | Emily Rowland     |

All nominees for committee roles were proposed and seconded by qualifying voting members. Club officer roles are appointed by the committee and also listed above.

**AOB**

There were no matters presented to the chairman. Paul W closed the meeting