

**Murray Edwards College Boat Club
Minutes from Committee Meeting 1
4th October 2010; ME Bar at 5pm**

Committee Members

Present: Akiko Toda (AT), Eve Bonner (EB), Wing Ying Chow (YC), Natalie Barry (NB), Izzi Boanas-Evans (IB), Rebecca Rewbury (RR), Marina Steketee (MS), Ola Janusz (OJ).

Absent: N/A

Introductions:

The Committee announced and introduced the following people as the new members of the Murray Edwards College Boat Club Committee 2010-11:

Captain of Club: Akiko Toda

Captain of Boats: Eve Bonner

Vice-Captain (and continuing as Computer Officer): Wing Ying Chow

Treasurer & Secretary: Natalie Barry

Lower Boats' Captain: Izzi Boanas-Evans

Safety Officer: Rebecca Rewbury

Social Secretaries: Marina Steketee & Ola Janusz

Proceedings:

YC has re-written a new constitution incorporating the College name change, and made the constitution clearer, however it is noted that changes should be made at a later date to make it more comprehensive.

YC summarizes the changes:

- 1) Change to the specified provisions for who can row for College, defining Fellows, College Staff and other students from different colleges according to CUCBC guidelines.
- 2) The old Constitution required surplus compulsory roles. New roles defined with only Captain, Treasurer & Secretary, Senior Treasurer and Safety Officer as compulsory. The other roles are to be appointed at each committee's discretion. Training Officer was removed due to its futility and Alumnae Officer is now incorporated into the roles of Vice Captain.
- 3) Committee roles can be redefined and expanded at a later date if necessary.

OJ questioned E.7.:

'The crew or individuals involved in a race are responsible for paying at least half of the entry cost for races and regattas, and are fully responsible for their own transport, British Rowing membership, and any fines that they may incur.'

AT disputed the clause due to the subscriptions already paid by members. YC informed the Committee that most other Boat Clubs ask individuals to pay for their

seat in races. OJ mentioned that generally lower boats paid to enter races and senior crews did not at other colleges. EB recommended that a set of core races are to be listed which will be covered by the club; other races covered by crew. Committee agreed. An annual list of 'core races' will be established and any payment for other races will be evaluated according to crew's success and funding.

YC also defined blades and proposed Club ribbons be abandoned, which was agreed by the Committee. The Committee agreed to YC's proposal that Club scarves still apply to members of the College who row for the University as honorary members.

NB highlighted three grammatical errors which were to be amended.

Committee must pass the Constitution at the next Committee Meeting when the above changes have been made.

AT attempted to change the Club's name with CUCBC. AT informed the Committee that the Club must contact 'British Rowing' to change the Boat Club from 'New Hall' to 'Murray Edwards College' in order to rename the Club with CUCBC, and a new 'boat code' is needed. AT will contact British Rowing, and report at next Committee Meeting.

AT mentioned sponsorship; a brochure/portfolio, review of the budget and long-term proposal (next 5/10 years) must be created for the Club to accrue sponsorship. 'Cambridge Consultants', the current sponsor, must be contacted again, but other sponsors will be approached.

AT established that a new VIII is needed and is the priority in the short-term; a second VIII is the long-term goal.

OJ recommended integrated levels of sponsorship according to exclusivity, kit and boat advertising, and holding recruiting events for sponsors within College.

AT mentioned that the College Development Office would put the Club in touch with potential investors once a brochure has been created.

RR asked how much 'Cambridge Consultants' donate annually - £3000 a year.

YC proposed to move 'Owen' down to second place once a new VIII purchased. Figures estimated for new VIII £16,000.

IB recommended approaching one sponsor to buy the new VIII (sponsor the boat) and another sponsor for long-term annual financial support.

AT proposed a focused alumnae campaign at the same time to accumulate funds. NB advised not to fix price at a minimum of £16,000 to allow negotiation.

IB advised the Club to approach companies who are specific to the characteristics of the Club: transport Guilds; all-female connections (EB); any industry with low percentage of women to increase profile (YC).

EB and YC recommended compiling a list of the top three boats as a proposal for sponsors.

EB and YC will research prices from boat companies. By Christmas there must be a list of the Club's requirements and a price list for the new VIII. EB and YC will delegate research to Committee members.

AT detailed that College have proposed to pay £5000 per annum directly to the Club rather than the JCR determining the entirety of College funding for the Club. This sum excludes the rent paid to Peterhouse by College.

The Club will now only require the JCR budget to support the Club's race entries and administration costs.

AT pointed out that the JCR would only provide the Club with hundreds, rather than thousands, of pounds, which is in line with other College societies.

AT informed the Committee of the College's proposal to underwrite or match donations from fundraising events to encourage the Club to continue fundraising. College will underwrite £2000; if fundraising is below £2000, College will cover the difference. Or the alternative is for the College to match donations.

The Committee agreed for College to underwrite donations.

AT ensured that the above figure is covered by inflation.

The Committee discussed the JCR Budget; how much the JCR distribute to other societies; how much the JCR will allocate to societies as a whole.

MS asked about funding from the MCR.

AT proposed the MCR donated to the Club as a gesture due to the high proportion of graduate rowers. YC will contact MCR.

EB asked if the Club could charge for outings over the summer. YC informed EB payments had been made.

YC and AT informed the Committee that the website must be used frequently to distribute information. If exchanging emails, provide the Committee's shared email address. YC explained how to email in order to post information on the website. Email: post@mecbc.posterous.com. Further instructions to be distributed by YC.

AT recommended that potential investors were directed to the website.

AT established that a price list must be created for the lending of boats. AT and EB will work out price list after researching other colleges.

EB and AT informed the Committee that Sidney Sussex College wish to rent a boat throughout Michaelmas. EB recommended a price of £50 per outing.

EB informed the Committee that 'Dolphin' is being repaired. Further information TBA at next meeting.

YC informed the Committee that she will organize a timetable for Tubbing.

NB proposed a re-design of Stash. The Committee agreed. NB will contact suppliers for prices, and the previous Secretary (Pip) and previous Captain about crest templates. EB requested a kit order ASAP.

Next Committee Meeting will be in 2-3 weeks, date confirmed by email.

Other Business:

EB asked the Committee whether members would prefer Lent training camp to take place abroad, as tradition, or in Cambridge. Members agreed the camp to take place in Cambridge due to work commitments.

Minutes submitted by MECBC Junior Treasurer & Secretary, Natalie Barry.