



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE TWENTYNINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BRITISH ROWING held on Saturday 22nd September, 2012 at the Cutlers' Hall, Warwick Lane, London EC4M 7BR at 1.45pm

PRESENT -

Directors: Mrs. D.M. Ellis (Chairman), M. Blandford-Baker, Mrs F. Dennis, Miss A. Faiers, G. Harris, A. Johnson, O. Kimberley, R. Mallett, Miss K. O'Sullivan, Mrs A. Phelps, M. Stallard, W.C. Thomson, M.D. Williams.

Company Secretary: J.R. Allsop.

Members: C. Anton, R. Bayliss, M. Brandon-Bravo, S. Brown, J. Clayton, A. Crawford, S. Darnbrough, J.C. Davies, F. Dennis, C. Eales, C. Edwards, T. Edwards, A.J. Evans, P. Fenoulhet, C. George, M. Green, B. Hawden, M. Humphrys, N. Jackson, C. Killick, M. Laing, P. Moore, M. Martin, Ms V.J. Perry, R. Phelps, Ms. F. Rennie, D. Saoul, P. Simpson, Mrs P. Sondheimer, M. Teale, J. Turnbull, T. Walton, A. Weekes, R. West.

In attendance: Ms K. Burt, Mrs. R.E. Napp, Mrs P. Randolph.

1. CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Council remembered in silence those members of the rowing community who had recently died; Alastair Keir of Lymington ARC, Geoff Carney - Richmond Regatta, Russell Mould - President of Broxbourne RC.

The Chairman opened the meeting with her annual statement:

"I will begin by extending a very warm welcome to our new Chief Executive Officer, Kate Burt, to both British Rowing and her first Council meeting. The Directors' Annual Report has been circulated to all our members (the Clubs and Regattas) and those present today will I am sure have read it, but when the accounts finish at the end of March the coverage of some extraordinary events can get lost in the history of time, hence the Chairman's opening remarks.

I feel hugely privileged to chair my last British Rowing AGM when the sport is on such a high. It has been an incredible year. In 1997, for the hundredth issue of Regatta magazine I was asked what were my hopes for the future. I had a list of fourteen hopes and I am pleased to say ten of them have been achieved, two of them in this last year.

These were;

- Regional councils that have a fully integrated role within the ARA (British Rowing)
- To see women at the same level as men internationally

Recognition of rowing's outstanding success by our athletes, with huge input from the support team, plus the tremendous contribution you all made this summer in so many different ways, is best summed up by some of the words written in recent weeks about everyone in our sport.



- Lord Coe “.. a Herculean effort to the cause.”
- Baroness Campbell “Congratulations on the part rowing played in making London 2012 such a memorable experience for the nation.”
- The Rt Hon Hugh Robertson, Minister for Sport “The performance of the athletes, their sportsmanship, style and humility – none of this would have happened without the work of many people in your governing body.”
- Sir John Major “... privileged to be at Dorney.”
- A proud member of the sport “British Rowing is a highly professional organisation with such dedicated, voluntary, selfless and untiring commitment to the management of our sport.”
- Spectator “Were my expectations too high? One of the best parts of the day was the input from the volunteers who really made the experience that much more special as their enthusiasm shone through.”

Alongside this our staff had put an incredible amount of effort into the minefield of ticketing and at both the Olympic and Paralympic Games at the ‘Get Involved’ tent where their efforts contributed to more than 32,000 people using club-finder. Our clubs have been inundated with people inspired to take part in learn to row courses, plus a thousand enquiries from young people wanting to join the Start programme.

The public satisfaction rate at Eton Dorney was 97%. What all this has demonstrated is the incredible commitment from both our staff and volunteers through business as usual, in running the sport through our members and committees, preparing Whole Sport Plans, prudent financial management, and restructuring our sport whilst being involved in the biggest sporting events worldwide.

Our thanks go to UK Sport, Sport England, the Henley Stewards’ Charitable Trust, Siemens and other sponsors for their generous financial support, and the Lottery for making success possible.

In conclusion my sincere thanks to the International Manager, David Tanner, National Manager, Rosemary Napp, our Financial Director, John Allsop and all the staff for, in Lord Coe’s words, ‘their Herculean efforts’ in the past year. Lastly, my thanks to my fellow Officers, Deputy Chairmen Annamarie Phelps, Gary Harris and Treasurer Oliver Kimberley for all their support and to all members of Council for their huge contribution to our sport.”

2. Medal of Honour – awarded for outstanding service to the sport of rowing to

- Rusty Williams – for coaching club, university and international rowers over three decades
- Peter Jowitt – for his input to junior rowing at national and international level
- Rosemary Napp – for the development of our sport
- John Friend – for his contribution to major events
- David Biddulph – for his commitment to umpiring and events
- Diane Graham – for service to women’s rowing as Chair of Women’s Rowing and Henley Women’s Regatta



Medal of Merit – awarded for exceptional service to the sport of rowing to

- Kevin Dentith – for coaching and administrative support
- Terry and Barbara Edwards – for their work with regattas and clubs in the Yorkshire Region.

3. Apologies for Absence

A. Cawood, J. Davey, L. Dillon, P. Knowles, F. Ljubicic, B. Millns, G. Nicholls, D.W. Tanner, J. Veats.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

4. To approve the Minutes of the Twenty-eighth Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 25th September, 2011.

The minutes were approved and signed.

5. To approve the Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on Saturday 14th April, 2012.

The minutes were approved and signed.

6. The Accounts of the Association for the year ended 31st March, 2012.

Together with the reports of the Directors and Auditors, the accounts were presented to the meeting.

A summary sheet had also been circulated for information. The meeting noted how heavily the sport relied on its partnership and sponsorship funding. However, the Hon Treasurer said that the current picture was a healthy one. The Auditors had asked that the current reporting and accounting procedures were reviewed and this was in hand.

A new Finance Director had been appointed and would take up position at the beginning of December. J.R. Allsop would continue to work with British Rowing on a part-time basis from January 2013.

P. Simpson queried the expenditure on boats. The Chairman said that the size of the squad had grown enormously. There were now junior, senior, lightweight, women's and adaptive squads training at Caversham, all requiring boats and towing vehicles.

There was discussion about the length of the lease for the Caversham facility. It was noted that British Rowing had taken legal advice before opting for a 25 year lease.

The Accounts had been approved by the Board and the Chairman thanked the Treasurer and the Financial Controller for their hard work in preparing them.

7. The appointment of *haysmacintyre* as Auditors of the Company

The appointment of haysmacintyre as company auditors had been reviewed by the Finance Committee. It had been agreed that the company provided an excellent service, not just to British Rowing, but to a number of National Governing Bodies, and the conclusion had been to retain their services.



The meeting was asked to approve the appointment of *haysmacintyre* to hold office until conclusion of the next General Meeting at which Accounts are laid before the Company and to authorise the Executive Committee to fix their remuneration.

The appointment of *haysmacintyre* was supported.

8. Other business

New Council: The Chairman said that there were items of business on the Agenda of the Ordinary Council meeting that were to be voted on by the new Council. The Chairman put forward a proposal that, rather than call an additional meeting, and as the majority of the new Council were present, these items should be dealt with at the Ordinary meeting. This was agreed.

Having concluded the formal business, the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting.