

HOLLOWELL SCULLERS

Minutes of the 1st Annual General Meeting
held at Hollowell Sailing Club on 8th November 2008

1. Apologies for Absence were received from:

Brian Hawden, Malcolm Luthman, Ian Evans, Sarah Rudkin, James Rudkin, Mark Marston

Those present:

Mike Pipes, Adam Webb, Andrew Rudkin

2. Proposal and Election of Officers

The following were proposed and elected:

President - Mike Pipes (Commodore Hollowell Sailing Club)

Chairman - Andrew Rudkin

Deputy Chairman - Mark Marston

Captain - Adam Webb

Water Safety Adviser - Andrew Rudkin

Secretary - Sarah Rudkin

Junior Captain - James Rudkin

3. Membership

Membership issues were discussed in detail. Hollowell Scullers (HLS) has affiliated to the Amateur Rowing Association (ARA) – to comply with the governing body's best practice guidelines for the sport (particularly safety for juniors), and to allow members to participate in ARA open meetings.

It was confirmed that rowers' subscriptions to Hollowell Sailing Club amount to 4 individual or family memberships; 8 craft fees; 1 affiliated club membership (which covers rowers who are members of Northampton Rowing Club, but not members of Hollowell Sailing Club) – a total of about £700.

The question arose of whether rowers should join Hollowell Scullers, which is a separate but affiliated club (like Northampton Rowing Club) or whether they should continue to join Hollowell Sailing Club, with Hollowell Scullers effectively being the sub-committee of Hollowell Sailing Club, responsible for best practice in rowing.

Since most rowers have taken up Hollowell Sailing Club membership, participating in the benefits of full club membership, it was concluded that the later course was preferable.

Although this appears to place a double burden on rowers - paying Hollowell Sailing Club and Hollowell Scullers subscriptions – it was noted that sailors have to additionally pay for the costs of their own boats, whilst rowers receive some benefit from shared 'club' boats and from ARA affiliation – so it was felt that this evened out.

Mike Pipes agreed to take this conclusion – that Hollowell Scullers is the ARA-affiliated sub-committee of the sailing club, responsible for best practice in rowing at Hollowell – to the sailing club general committee for their deliberation.

(The fact that Hollowell Sailing Club allows potential new members to visit the club up to 4 times, before they are obliged to take up full membership is important, since we do not want to put barriers in the way of those who would like a taste of the sport, before making the significant commitment of membership.)

Junior members of Hollowell Sailing Club pay £30 / year. Parents of under-16s are expected to join as social members £30 / year. Seniors pay about £100 / year. Hollowell Scullers

subscriptions are £48 (seniors), £24 (juniors). This is mainly to pay the ARA affiliation fee and to purchase and maintain shared rowing equipment.

These amounts, taken together, compare favourably with subscription levels at rowing clubs.

4. Water Safety

The 2008 Water Safety Audit returned by Hollowell Scullers to the Amateur Rowing Association was reviewed in detail. The present circulation pattern was reviewed and confirmed. It was agreed that the contact telephone number list should be enlarged to include contact numbers for most members and officers, with advice to scullers to carry a water-proofed mobile phone. The incident log was reviewed with respect to the 2009 audit and it was noted that there were a couple of minor capsizing incidents to report.

The issues of safety boats and their equipment was discussed and Mike Pipes proposed the use of the sailing club rib inflatable for rowing and RYA 1 & 2 boat handling courses. It was agreed that the person supervising junior sessions and using the Hollowell Sailing Club rib inflatable, would be the 'Duty Officer' for the session. Mike Pipes gave Andrew Rudkin instruction in the procedures – including keys and alarm for clubhouse, Naseby Lodge and fuel store.

5. Coaching

Mike Pipes suggested that local funding could be obtained so that rowers can attend coaching qualification courses.

6. Rowing Guidelines

It was confirmed that there would not be any change to the existing time arrangements for rowing. Northampton Rowing Club has not requested a date for a regatta in 2009, however if it wishes to do so, this request will need to be made in the coming weeks, before the 2009 sailing calendar is settled. A rowing 'Fleet Captain' is invited to attend the Hollowell Sailing Club General Committee meeting, to represent the 'Fleet'.

7. Roadway

Mike Pipes and Andrew Rudkin inspected the access roadway, because of the difficulty of negotiating with the rowing trailer. The main problem seemed to be an abandoned boat, which will soon be resolved.

8. Sculling Report

Andrew Rudkin reported 6 wins at ARA open meetings - Lea , Warwick (3) and Sudbury Regattas, and Isis Sculls. 6 senior scullers in active training - Malcolm, Bob, Ian, Adam, Mark and Andrew. 4 junior scullers in active training - James Webb, Max Marston, Pierre Scrase and James Rudkin.

A team comprising 7 boats, including a Junior-13 double and a Junior-14 single, is entered for Star Club's event at Bedford on 23rd November. A sculling eight is planned for an event at Cambridge in January.

Andrew Rudkin

Chairman, Hollowell Scullers 12th November 2008