

TAMAR & TAVY GIG CLUB AGM 2020

10 December 2020 (8.00 pm Zoom meeting)

PRESENT: Sian Dennison, Cate Taynton, John Rogers, Jane Rogers, Julia Egerton, David Egerton, Ben Egerton, Rowan Egerton, Debbie Farmer, Helen Lloyd, Denise Nixon, Helen Samson-Hill, Fiona MacInnes, Jeremy Lawrence, Amy Ross, Stuart Ross, Chris Dill, Simon Grylls, Tracy Grylls, Peter Clarke, Simon Howes, Jason Grylls, Angie Douglass, Tom Bickle, Lynn Renton, Heather Singleton, Andrew Singleton, Julie Rendle, Roger Hine

APOLOGIES: Jon Overnell, Mel Cotton, Anya Anstey, Colin Piper, Brian & Ginette Nobbs, Graeme Barclay, Julie Eastaugh, Jasmine Lake

MINUTES AGM 2019 No matters arising. Proposed Tom B, seconded Jane Rogers

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

David welcomed everyone to the AGM and we all fussed over our guests of honour, Freya Ross and Jake Bickle!

2020 has been a strange and difficult year dominated by the global Covid pandemic. We've all had our own challenges and we've all had to cope with the different impacts of the Covid situation in our own way; and there's no doubt there have been lots of challenges for the Club too.

For most of us, rowing plays a big part in our lives: we love the physical challenge; we love being part of a crew; competing in races; or just bimbly about on the water. Missing all of that has definitely been tough.

However, it's important to remember that the rowing year actually got off to a great start and through all the ups and downs this year we have stuck together, supported each other and found different ways to have some fun together.

Helen Lloyd did a great job of collating the photos sent in by Club members and we played this slideshow showing some significant moments from the past year.

There have been moments of great sadness this year with the loss of our friends, Kevin and Charlie. There were also many moments of drama, fun and great joy- whether we were stuck in the mud, paddling a sinking kayak (twice!), or welcoming the next generation of little T&T rowers into the world, we all did our best to maintain a sense of club identity and togetherness. I know that many club members really appreciated that mutual support over this last year.

So, huge thanks to everyone who organised zoom quizzes (Jason), paddles (Cate), scenic walks and virtual cream teas (Jeremy and the Jam on Top crew). Thanks to Debbie, Fiona and Jason for keeping our land training going with kettles and outdoor circuits. And well done to the juniors who beat everyone in the virtual Longships challenge raising funds for A Shore Thing, and who also took part in other fundraising challenges this year.

David briefly reviewed the circumstances around the suspension of rowing for the record:

Rowing was prohibited from Mar to Aug (our last row was 16 March); rowing became possible during Sep-Oct but we decided as a Club not to row; rowing was banned again in November. Tom B felt it was a good thing that the Committee communicated extensively to Club members during this difficult period and consulted Club members on these decisions, and he thanked the Committee.

We all felt it was important to look forward now and focus on the future.

Rowing is now possible again but there remains uncertainty over what restrictions may be imposed in January and, after being so patient over the last ten months, it makes no sense to try to rush back now in the run up to Xmas. It seems sensible for the new Committee to review the situation, with the goal of potentially resuming rowing early in the new year for those who want to. We all looked forward to the inevitable blisters, gigass, and early starts in freezing conditions when we do get back on the water!

Looking forward to 2021, we will just need to take things as they come and be flexible and creative in grasping any opportunities to row. Sadly, we know that IOS will not take place but we don't yet know if/when summer regattas may resume or whether NQ will happen this year. Maybe we can reschedule our Caledonian Canal adventure this summer, maybe the GRR will be on- we'll just have to wait and see.

All we can really say is that we will do our very best to organise as much rowing as we can, and take part in as many events as we can, according to what is possible under the Covid restrictions of the day.

We have a comprehensive Covid-secure Return to Rowing Plan; we have looked after our boats; we have checked and serviced equipment- we are ready to go as soon as circumstances allow.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jane Rogers reviewed the Club accounts, which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting, and there were no questions raised.

Covid has had a small impact on income, while the majority of our expenses have remained the same, so our closing balance is slightly down on last year- however, we remain in a stable and healthy financial position.

David thanked Jane for continuing to manage the accounts and confirmed that to help mitigate the impact of Covid we have applied for a small Sport England grant, and will make a big push to recruit new members next Spring/Summer.

David confirmed that membership remains more or less stable: current membership 82 (vs 84 last year). David thanked Mel Cotton for continuing in her role as Membership Secretary.

The Committee had previously proposed a reduction in subscriptions and the deferral of any payments to 1 Feb 2021 in acknowledgement of the suspension of rowing for much of the year. Given that there are still uncertainties about when we might resume rowing, David proposed that we defer a vote on this and that the new Committee review the situation in Jan and confirm a proposal for Club members to vote on. This was agreed by those present.

ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE

David thanked the whole Committee for the effort they have put in to keep the Club running through this difficult year, and for stepping up to make some tough decisions.

David also thanked those Committee Members who are stepping down:

Simon Luke has been a stalwart of the Committee for several years and contributed a lot to the Club, first as Men's Captain and now stepping down as Welfare Officer.

Debbie Farmer has also been on the Committee for several years, first as Ladies' Captain and then Club Captain, and has put a lot into the Club. In addition to organising the ladies' squad, Debbie has helped to coordinate training plans, run land-based training, help organise catering for our regattas and events, book camping for Scillies, and generally contribute to Club life.

For next year's Committee, thank you to all those who are willing to keep going and to our new volunteer! As we have only one person standing for each role, we will handle the process as one block.

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| Secretary: Helen Samson-Hill | Junior Captain: Helen Lloyd |
| Treasurer: Jane Rogers | Bosun: John Rogers |
| Club Captain: vacant | Safety Officer: Simon Howes |
| Ladies' Captain: Denise Nixon | Welfare Officer: Ali Crane |
| Men's Captain: Jason Grylls | Chairman: David Egerton |
| Social Captain: Cate Taynton | |

The new Committee was proposed by Jeremy Lawrence and seconded by Peter Clarke, and duly voted in by those present.

David noted that any amateur sports club relies on a small number of individuals to keep things running for the benefit of everyone. We started out with three vacancies prior to the AGM, and had only two volunteers (both for the same role). Luckily, Denise agreed to continue as Ladies' Captain, and David will cover the vacant Club Captain role for the time being. However, Helen L made the point that it is important to try and fill all Committee roles to ensure a wide representation of members, and to avoid a tied vote. While we can manage fine for now, it would be great to have a full Committee in place early next year before we hopefully return to rowing. All Club members are encouraged to consider volunteering!

Finally, David encouraged all Club members to give feedback, make suggestions and contribute ideas for the running of the Club.

CLUB AWARDS

In the circumstances, the Committee decided that we should skip Club awards this year. However, David was keen to retain the Chairman's Award and a number of folks felt it would be a travesty to miss out on the Golden Thole Pin!

Chairman's Award **Debbie Farmer** for her great contribution to the Club and **Jason Grylls** for the fantastic way he has stepped up and filled the role of Men's Capt.

Golden Thole Pin Despite stiff opposition, there was only ever going to be one recipient for "best idiot moment" this year and **David** accepted the inevitable award for getting stuck in the mud with a smile!

We have made it through this year with a great Club spirit and look forward to a positive start to 2021 when we finally get back on the water together!