**TAMAR & TAVY GIG CLUB AGM 2022**

**16 November 2022 (7.00pm Bere Alston Parish Hall)**

**PRESENT:**  Heather Singleton, Andrew Singleton, John Rogers, Jane Rogers, Jon Overnell, Simon Howes, David Egerton, Denise Nixon, Helen Samson-Hill, Fiona MacInnes, Jeremy Lawrence, Chris Dill, Cate Taynton, George Holmes, Ali Crane, Graeme Barclay, Mark Ashley, Jill Borrow, Sara Boulter, Becky Mingo, Charlie Bowyer, Dan Langley, Sarah Piper-Smith, Anya Anstey, Simon Luke, Catherine Hughes, Debra Lees, Sally Rogers, Jon Snowden, Brian Nobbs, Ann Marcer, Debbie Farmer, Stephen Hall, Myles Clarkson, Helen Lloyd, Helena Harrison

**APOLOGIES:** Rob Mackintosh-Smith, Emma Moore, Brian Philips, Lou Ketteridge, Mark Brunsdon, Julie Rendle, Roger Hine, Colin Piper, Clive Collier

**MINUTES AGM 2021** Approved, nomatters arising. Proposed Denise, seconded Sara B

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

David welcomed everyone to the AGM, especially our newer members, and noted the good turnout with around 40% of adult club members present. Everyone was encouraged to interrupt with questions or comments.

Not quite business as usual this year but a great bounce back year, and we have managed to pack in a lot of rowing.

It is really important that we continue to cherish our club ethos of training hard and taking our competitive rowing seriously while also giving equal focus to social rowing and club adventure rows- hopefully, we have continued to strike the right balance.

The regatta fixture list was much busier than last year but still not back to normal, with many cancelled events, but all the major championship events did go ahead and we did attend them all!

**Regattas**: Salcombe, Cattewater, (Goran cancelled on the beach), Rame, (Looe planned to go but last minute mishap!)

**3 Rivers**: 4 crews entered, horrible conditions leading to a smaller field and shortened course, some great results: LA 13/70 LSV 60 MA 54 MB 63

**Scillies**: given a smaller pool of rowers we decided to take only one boat with 3 crews, again some great results, fantastic to take lots of first timers, great club spirit:

LA 26/115

MA 82/106

MSV 19/38

In 2023 we will be taking two boats and six crews!

**Appledore Supervets Champs**: Ladies came 4th in the world!

**Lyme Regis Masters Champs**: Great to take three crews to the first serious Masters event: Ladies won the Masters trophy, men & mixed crew competed well too.

**Mixed Champs**: well represented with three crews (open, vets and svets)

**Brixham Vets Champs**: LVA won Plate final, LVB 10th in same race- great to have both crews lined up side by side on the start line! Must enter men next year!

**Swanage Supervets**: great training and high hopes for a really good result and a fun weekend, sadly cancelled for weather

**Newquay**: only the ladies competing this year, did really well getting to the QFs and coming in 5th in a strong race

**Tamar Challenge**: the ladies squad has a great track record in this event so pleased to enter a men’s crew this year, with a very creditable result coming in 7th.

David highlighted a notable theme that the ladies competed in more events than the men this year and we really hope to change that for the coming season.

David also noted that we continue to give lots of first timers the opportunity to take part and it is important that we maintain this ethos.

We also had a busy and successful year with whole club fun social rows and club adventure rows.

**GRR:** it was very sad that the first race back after the Covid break became a Memorial Row for the late Queen Elizabeth II but after the drama of another lost trailer wheel (well-handled Myles!) and much uncertainty as to whether it would go ahead at all, everyone agreed it was fantastic to be part of this unique event. Again, really pleased to take 3 boats & lots of first timers.

**Teign Round the Islands Race:** a tough endurance race which again had to be slightly shortened on the day for bad weather, but a great row and very satisfying to take a mixed crew again with several fairly new members.

We enjoyed a lovely row up to Rumleigh Farm for a picnic (thanks to Lou & Andrew); we took three boats to Mount Edgcumbe for another picnic/swim; rowed up to Cotehele for an ice cream (closed!); managed a lovely scenic row from Totnes to Dartmouth for fish and chips.

David organised several night rows which were very popular, and more will be scheduled soon.

We are now on our fourth block of development rows for the social squad and these have been a great success and will continue as long as there is sufficient interest.

**Social events**

We’ve also had a bigger focus on social events this year with several music events including Mark & Ali at the boat shed; the G Strings event; the Gig in the Gig Shed with The Fallen Cedars and Jack of All Trades (Mark & Ali). We have the 80’s disco night coming up soon, and future plans include a carol evening, more “gigs in the gig shed”, a big breakfast and more. Huge thanks to Charlie for taking the lead in organising these fantastic social events.

HUGE congratulations to Becky Mingo who was selected to represent Devon in the Ladies’ Vets crew at the 2nd Inter County Championships in October, coming second with a strong row. We had four club members selected for the inaugural Championships in 2019, including two juniors, and it would be great to have club representation in the next Championship too.

Simon Luke reminded everyone that kettles sessions have now started at the Parish Hall every Tuesday evening from 7.35pm and ALL are welcome- he claims it’s fun!

Fiona MacInnes asked that all our regular coxes were thanked: David E, Dave C, Chris, Jeremy, Stephen, Andrew, Simon L, Simon H, Julie and Helen L.

David added that we should also thank our towers: Andrew, Simon L, Simon H, Myles, Jamie and Jane Rogers.

**Update on our boats**

David reminded everyone that we had consulted across the club on whether to modify the angle of the stretchers in Tamar & Ginette, with an almost unanimous response to make them much flatter. Brian Nobbs has just completed several repairs to Ginette and has moved the stretchers as requested. We will collect her shortly and once she is back on the water after some minor painting we’ll be able to test the new stretcher angle. Brian will make a new set of floorboards after Xmas and this will give us a last chance to modify the angle if needed.

Tamar has been sanded and is being repainted- thanks to Andrew, Simon Arscott and John Sparkes for their work on this. Tamar’s stretchers will also be flattened in due course.

David reflected on the sad loss of two former club members this year.

It was heart-warming to see so many club members attend Ian King’s funeral and to hear from his family what an important role rowing and our club played in his life.

Fewer folks will have known Robin Musgrave but he played a pivotal role in founding the club and in the early years of the Hub Club project.

**Membership**

David updated everyone on another really successful **learn to row** series with a huge number of folks taking part, and great support from across the club (thanks to everyone who helped by rowing or coxing).

This resulted in something like 30 new members, including several new juniors.

**Total membership** is now as follows:

Total **103** compared to **87** last year (a number of folks retired this year).

Social squad 38 (36%)

Men’s squad 24 (23%)

Ladies’ squad 24 (23%)

Juniors 11 (11%)

Non-rowers 6

Of the active adult rowers, 43% men, 57% women (no change from last year).

Of the adult competitive squads, 91% of both women and men are **vets/svets**.

There was a short discussion in which it was agreed that our vibrant vets and supervets rowers across all three adult squads are a real cause for celebration and pride, and it was noted that more focus is now being given to competitive events for these age categories with the developing Masters series and a putative CPGA-sponsored Supervets Championship for 2023. However, it was also acknowledged that we nevertheless do need to recruit more young adults if we are to continue to be competitive in the open category going forward.

Club membership ebbs and flows but is currently at a comfortable level and on an upward trajectory. We have had huge interest in joining our club and are very welcoming to new members, never turning away anyone keen to try gig rowing for the first time. However, we do need to be aware that we have a finite capacity within which we can continue to provide an appropriate level of rowing for existing members and this is carefully managed.

David confirmed that our membership profile and the challenges we face are common to the vast majority of gig clubs.

**CPGA**

David noted that there has not been much progress on the Strategic Business Plan approved at the last AGM bar the appointment of a number of employees: Administrator, Finance Administrator, Strategy Director, Operations Manager (some of these being the same individuals already fulfilling these roles as volunteers). The CPGA has also introduced the individual membership with mixed success- only about 25% of the 8000 active rowers quoted by CPGA have joined (this figure is higher for our club at 37%).

There is often negativity about the CPGA and it is true that none of the promises made about improved delivery of services such as training courses, better events, better club support, etc, have yet been fulfilled. However, we do need a strong governing body and we must assume that this year has been a planning period and that the next year will see the implementation of concrete initiatives which benefit our club.

**HubClub**

In the gig shed, the showers and additional WCs have been completed in the last year, and the track has been stoned (thanks to Andrew and the men’s squad).

Landscaping of the area behind the pylon to allow more trailer parking and hopefully a better wildlife area will be completed over this winter.

David thanked Sara, Clive and Jane D who represent us on the HC Board.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Jane Rogers reviewed the Club accounts which had been circulated to club members prior to the meeting and confirmed a closing balance of £32061 (up from £30066 last year).

Jane confirmed that anyone wishing to see the full accounts should contact her.

Jon S asked about the reasons behind such a large balance and the approach to risk and asset management.

David confirmed that we produce a budget each year and forecast expenditure taking into account anticipated cost of boat and equipment maintenance, planned asset replacement (eg life jackets, seats), planned event attendance and contingency for unexpected costs. The large balance is not a result of a substantial operating surplus but largely due to a historical bequest and as yet unspent grants, and there are constraints on how these funds are used. The Committee regularly reviews potential future uses for these funds.

Jon O asked about Hub Club costs and it was confirmed that this is currently just the rent and that the Hub Club has now repaid two out of five annual instalments of the £5000 loan we made.

David confirmed that the Club remains in a financially stable and healthy position and thanked Jane for her sterling work in managing the accounts.

**CHANGE OF WORDING IN CONSTITUTION RE STUDENT MEMBERSHIP**

Resolution to amend Constitution in regard of membership subscription as follows:

Text to be deleted: ***“Student members- over the age of 16 in full time education, who shall have one vote”***

Text to be inserted: ***“Young Adult members- over the age of 16 and 23 years or under, who shall have one vote”***

The purpose of this amendment is to allow the Club to apply the same reduced rate to all young adult members in the stated age range irrespective of whether they are in full time tertiary education or not ie to take account of folks who are in apprenticeships or formal volunteering positions to gain experience equivalent to tertiary education.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

**SAFETY BRIEFING**

Simon Howes ran through a reminder of important safety information:

* Contents of the yellow panic bucket
* Correct use of a life jacket
* What to do in a capsize event
* How to handle cold water shock
* Avoiding a lightning strike
* Risk of illness from sewage contamination in the Tamar

**ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE**

David thank those folks stepping down this year:

**Mark Ashley** for bringing a sense of order to the men’s squad.

**Becky Mingo** for juggling a really busy year for the ladies’ squad.

**Ali Crane** for taking on the important but less visible role of Welfare Officer

David noted that an amateur sports club such as ours relies on a small number of individuals who give up a lot of time and put in a lot of effort to take care of the essential work involved in running the club. We should all be grateful for their hard work on our behalf!

David thanked all those willing to keep going and also those volunteering to step up and fill vacancies. Hopefully, we have a good balance of continuity (the collective club memory) and new faces with fresh energy. As there was only one person standing for each role, and there were no objections, the process was handled as one block with no need to vote. The new Committee as below as proposed by Simon H and seconded by Sarah P-S.

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| --- | --- |
| Secretary: Helen Samson-Hill | Junior Captain: Helen Lloyd |
| Treasurer: Jane Rogers | Bosun: Andrew Singleton |
| Club Captain: Simon Luke | Safety Officer: Simon Howes |
| Ladies’ Captain: Julia Egerton | Welfare Officer: Charlie Bowyer |
| Men’s Captain: Jon Snowden | Chairman: David Egerton |
| Social Captain: Cate Taynton |  |

David thanked Mel Cotton who has agreed to continue as Membership Secretary. Although a non-Committee role, this is vital work which Mel manages with great aplomb.

David confirmed that the first Committee meeting will be next week and key items and plans for next year will include:

* Work on recruiting younger membership
* Attending more regattas next year
* Caledonian Canal/Monster the Loch/Castle to Crane
* Camping row
* More social events
* Feedback to CPGA on regional structure
* Celebrating our 20th anniversary year

Quick reminder that we are hosting the first winter league regatta on 3 Dec and all hands will be needed on deck.

In closing the meeting, David highlighted that everyone is encouraged to give feedback, make suggestions and contribute ideas for the running of the Club.