

The Wycliffe Watermen Wycliffe

Annual General Meeting 2022

Held at The Boathouse November 6th

1 Present

Committee Members: Trevor Jones, Phil Clements, Peter Salvin, Felicity Bertram. Greg Flower
Members: Peter Speed, Fred Ballard, Nick Janes.

2 Apologies

Douglas Macmillan, Nick Clack, Laura Ralph

3 The Chief Steward's Report 06 11 2022

Five years ago, when the Wycliffe Watermen committee was reformed, Wycliffe College Boat Club faced some serious challenges

- 1 The fleet of boats dated from the 1990s and early 2000s and was no longer competitive,
- 2 The club was having to survive on subscription income alone.
- 3 There was no towing vehicle, the Head of Rowing having to use his own car.
- 4 The lease on the Boathouse was short so there was little incentive to make improvements
- 5 Much of the land training equipment once belonging to the club was not to be found including several ergos donated by individual Watermen.

At the time the Watermen funds, accumulated from the profits of the 2 annual Head of the River Races, were being saved nominally to help provide a new boathouse. When negotiations between the school and the Canal and Rivers Trust led to a much longer lease on the boathouse, The Watermen felt they could change tack and help to fund equipment. £21K was donated as 50% of the cost of some new Hudson boats matched by the school. Another donation of £6000 was granted towards the cost of a telemetry system. More recently £2800 was given for a new set of 4 pairs of sculls. Meanwhile the school replaced the lost ergometers and also purchased a second hand towing vehicle.

These large Watermen donations not only helped to provide much needed equipment but also forged a strong relationship between the school and The Watermen which is on-going. However, despite these donations, the principle which continues to guide the Watermen Committee is to provide the extras, while the school provides the basic equipment i.e. helping the school to provide better quality equipment.

5 years on, the Boat Club is in a much stronger position and has become a feared opponent again, as it was in the past. This is not only due to the support of the school and the Watermen but largely to the hard work and dedication of Greg Flower (Head of Rowing), his coaching team and his athletes.

It is also through the hard work and dedication of Greg Flower and his team that the boathouse has been smartened up inside and the coaching launches refurbished.

In recent years the two annual Wycliffe Heads have ceased to be the 'golden goose' they once were. Running 2 events in the winter months is at the mercy of the weather and several Heads have had to be cancelled with attendant financial losses. Further cancellations resulted from the covid pandemic. At the same time costs have risen, especially as we are no longer able to use our 'home made' temporary landing stages but have to hire pontoons which cost us around £5K per year. Also trailer parking in the back field has been compromised by the dumping of slurry by the C&RT (without the school's prior knowledge or permission) which has led to the need to hire vehicle trackway (again not cheap). Health and safety concerns have also added to running costs. Providing catering in house has been reintroduced and was successful in boosting income. This might be tried again.

The Watermen have ring fenced an amount within their accounts for running the Heads. This means that if one Head has to be cancelled, the second Head that season can still go ahead and hopefully restore funds. The Watermen may have to consider other forms of fundraising in the future.

In order to ensure the future of the Wycliffe Watermen, I have decided to retire as Chief Steward and hand over to the younger generation which will carry things forward from here.

I wish to finish by paying tribute to Mark Kenchington who died earlier this year. He was a distinguished oarsman at school, a founder member of the Wycliffe Watermen and our first Chief Steward.

Trevor Jones

4 Elections to the Committee

Members of the current committee are 2 years through the 3 year period specified in the Constitution. However, with the resignation of Trevor Jones there is a need to elect a new Chief Steward and a new committee member

Pete Salvin was elected as Chief Steward. Proposed by Trevor Jones, seconded by Phil Clements
Peter Speed was elected to the committee. Proposed by Pete Salvin, seconded by Fred Ballard

5 Treasurer's Report

In 21/22 we made c.£3,000 from the two heads combined (c.£5800 before medal costs)

- The end of year (August 22) balance is £21k.
- The Watermen Committee has agreed to hold a minimum of £15k in reserve to cover the costs of running both heads. Therefore at the start of the 22/23 financial year, there is approximately £6k available to consider donations/purchases for heads etc.
- In September 22, a donation of £2800 was made to purchase 4 new sets of sculls to compliment the schools investment in boats.

Regarding the head events;

- An increase in entry fees for the WSBH off-set the reduced numbers for Covid (c.80%) but WBH takings were down on previous years due to covid impacts.
- The costs of trackway and pontoon hire are the key costs significantly impacting on profits (c.£5k per event). 3rd party parking attendants were required due to availability of volunteers as well. Hence the events we're less profitable than planned. The Committee will continue to explore ways to reduce the costs of trackway and pontoons – any suggestions welcome!
- In future the head events are expected to make £4-5k each to be reinvested in the club/events.

6 AOB

It was suggested that there is a need to revive a newsletter informing Watermen of racing results etc. Trevor Jones volunteered to produce a newsletter given the information by Greg Flower. A newsletter covering the autumn term successes will be available shortly