



Oundle Town Rowing Club

"non ut in primo cursu malum"

Newsletter No.25, June 2016

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Extraordinary General Meeting

All members of OTRC are cordially invited, nay encouraged, to attend an Extraordinary General Meeting of OTRC to be held at The Ship Inn, Oundle on Friday 10th June at 7:30. The EGM will have one single, but important item on the agenda: Membership Structure and related fees for 2016-17, as explained here:

Membership Structure Proposal

At the AGM on the 1st April the gathered members were unable to agree the fees for the next membership year, September 2016 - August 2017. This was the proposal they rejected:

<i>[Figures are the discounted fees for payment in September]</i>	<u>2015/16</u>	<u>2016/17</u>
Adult	£230	£190
Adaptive/ Recreational/Junior	£130	£99
Student/ Non rowing cox/ Non rowing Coach/ Associate	£80	£72

The meeting asked the committee to consider feedback and work up an alternative model. It quickly became apparent that the fee structure is the outward sign of what the club holds dear. The very structure of the club, its approach to equality and inclusivity is on show through the fee structure. The committee worked hard to get back to basics. We decided to determine the offer that we are able to make to members and how that can be shaped according to a member's aspiration. Equality of opportunity does not mean that all activity is the same. We are all different and are all after different things from our membership but the club can only offer what it has the capacity to safely do. We therefore felt that every full adult member should have the following four "rights":

1. A supervised water outing once a week
2. The opportunity to row in a safe club environment twice a week in summer
3. The opportunity for indoor training in winter
4. The opportunity for ad-hoc , unsupervised, access to kit via the booking system

This we termed 'gold membership'.



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For adaptive and junior rowers where items 2 and 4 may not be readily available in order to ensure their safety we proposed a '**Silver membership**'. We also felt it important that with a junior membership there came a ['free'] parent/carer membership so that there could be junior representation at general meetings.

We spent a lot of time considering the position of those rowers who do not want coaching and only want a 'recreational' paddle on 'our' lovely river. We proposed that these folk be One Sunday Session Only adult members [OSSOs perhaps] and that these folk should enjoy the benefits of **Silver membership**. At **Bronze level** we would encourage non-rowing coaches and coxes, associate members [who only want our fantastic land based training], and returning students [i.e. undergraduate ex members returning to the club over their long university vacations].

Membership summary

Bronze	Silver	Gold
Non-rowing Coach	Junior [membership includes a parent/carer]	Adult
Non-rowing Cox	Adaptive rower	
Associate (Indoor training only)	One Sunday Session Only adult members	
Returning Student member		

How does this manifest itself in our fee structure and how do we get back to a position of fairness where we have parity according to aspiration? We thought this best achieved over a two-year period:

	2016 -2017		2017 - 2018	
Membership	Full	September discount	Full	September discount
Gold	£ 210	£ 200	£ 230	£ 210
Silver	£ 140	£ 130	£ 160	£ 150
Bronze	£ 85	£ 75	£ 90	£ 80

As we continue to develop our club house, and the land based side of our club we remain excited about keeping our membership base as broad as possible whilst working safely and efficiently given our resources. The committee thinks that this structure does cater for individual member's aspirations in a way that is fair and equitable.

We ask you to support this new structure and the fee proposals at our Extraordinary General Meeting at the Ship, 7.30pm on the 10th June.

Alan McMurdo, Chairman OTRC



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A Very Special Treat – a “Fete Accompli”

The Social Committee is delighted to announce a very special Summer Event in the delightful Riverside garden at Tansor Manor.

Come along and enjoy the garden, try some games and the treasure trail. There will also be a chance to buy cards by artist Debbie James and win one of her prints, which will be on display.

We will also have lots of bargains on the book and plant stalls and an opportunity to find out how the new plans for the upstairs of the boathouse are coming along.

Tickets include food and are available from Rhona Murray or Becky Smith (Snr) by June 20th.

Donations of books and plants gratefully received, books to Jo Milborne and plants to Becky Smith (Senior), thanks. Any more info. please contact Rhona on rhonamurray@gmail.com

STOP PRESS: Enter Duck Races on the river (ducks can be purchased on the day, or you can bring your own – plastic, not feathered, please). Also there will be a chance to enter the Great British Boat Race – build your own model boat (no engine, biodegradable materials) and challenge all-comers. Talk to ticket sellers or email, as above, for details.



Separate advertising to follow.



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Captains' Report (from Simon)

Recent competitions that we have entered include one of the Spring Head races at Alton Water - a first time for us; with a notable success for the J16 quad - overall winners of the event. Sadly Abingdon Head was cancelled due to high water levels (not just us, then), but we did have a very successful Spring regatta at the end of April which provided some splendid entertainment.

May saw the start of the regatta season with the juniors taking part in the Ball Cup and four crews entered for the Nottingham Masters and Club regatta the following week. Competition is again at a high level and as always OTRC crews performed well, although just missing out on the silverware. The summer's events are almost upon us (see updated race calendar at the end of the newsletter) and entries are already being taken for St Ives (18th June) and St Neots (24th July). British Rowing are in the process of changing the points ranking system so there may be some changes to the way events are run. We are keeping an eye on the proposals and how they could affect us.

In the next month we will be starting to plan for next season (September onwards). If you have a preference - sculling or sweep oar, bowside or strokeside, racing or non-racing; if you want to row with your mates, or fed-up-with-rowing-with-your-mates-and-want-a-change, etc. etc., please can you let one of the coaches or captains know. This year we managed to organise 75-80 rowers with a coached outing during the Saturday sessions, and next season we will have even more with new members wanting to join the racing crews. We will do our best to accommodate all requests, although there will have to be some flexibility on session times due to equipment limitations.

Please keep a look out for further information by email.

Club House Development – Progress Report

From Anita Dunn

The quotes for the first stage including the floor, bridge and door to spend the money granted by Augean are now in and the team are asking for clarification prior to awarding the contract. The planned start date is sometime in July. We will need to facilitate the work by moving the boats elsewhere for the duration of the contract so if you have any time to help with that, it will be much appreciated. Watch out for emails and notices on the boathouse.

Phase 2 planning is underway and focused on achieving the best facilities within the newly created space as the funds will allow: windows, toilets, shower and kitchen space.

We can always think of great ways of spending more money so thanks to all who supported us in the Waitrose Community Matters scheme-we raised £278.

We are fund raising for the Boathouse development this summer with a Garden Party – see the article above for details.



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Racing isn't free! Or Do You Owe Us (UOU)?

This is going to be a blunt article – straight to the point! We are in an unfortunate situation at OTRC at the moment, where we are owed money by some Club Members. Some debts date back to the Northampton Head Race in January with some racing fees still owed from that and from subsequent events. We are still awaiting £30 from the Northampton – 6 months ago now! - and we routinely lag behind the fees going out of the club account by up to £200 for a big event. Coaches invariably find themselves chasing a number of members for their race fees.

We don't like to nag, but:

1. Coaches give up swathes of their time to help others in the club. **Coaches do not have time and should not be expected to chase people for money.** You wouldn't expect to eat your Tesco shopping before you have paid for it. Why expect to race without paying?
2. The club has to pay at the time of entry for every rower we enter. If you fail to pay or if you are late, it's not the hosting club that loses out, but OTRC. Once the closing date has been reached, no refunds are given out.
3. The fees are not per boat but per seat, so every seat entered by the club must be paid for, whether it's for a senior race, a junior race or a 'splash and dash' race, whatever boat you race in – single, double, quad, four or eight.
4. If you choose to enter a race then you owe the fee for your seat(s) .
5. If you subsequently decide to 'scratch' – i.e. not turn up - for whatever reason, whether it's because you are ill, your circumstances change or you just don't fancy it, you still owe the club for that seat.
6. Even if someone else subs for you in a crew boat, you still, personally owe the club for the seat because you are the one who elected to enter – it is not your sub's responsibility. It is still your debt. And please realise we will always try and find a sub in a crew boat, otherwise the rest of your crew will miss out on a race and lose their seat fees.
7. The same applies to single scullers. If you 'scratch', you still owe the club the money it paid to enter you.

If you know you owe us some money, please pay as soon as possible. If you are not sure, please check with your coach or one of the captains. In the future, please pay your racing fees as soon as you enter. To make it as simple as possible for coaches, an ideal way would be to collect fees from all your crew, put them in a labelled envelope (providing competition information, date of competition and the names of the crew members).



Simples!

If you choose to enter a race then you must pay for the privilege before you race. Simples, as the Meerkat says!



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Junior Development

As the summer approaches Anita plans to start a series of skills development sessions in 1x (singles) for the younger age group. We hope everyone will have a go. The WJ16 and WJ17's will be introduced to sweep oar (the dark side of rowing) to further develop their rowing repertoire before going off to Uni. It should be the perfect antidote to exams! We should even have enough for an 8+! Watch out for further news!

Incident Reporting

from Dick Meads, OTRC Safety Adviser

I've been asked a couple of times recently if we have a club 'accident book' or somewhere to log incidents. Of course, those of you who have read the OTRC Safety Plan will already know the answer to that question, and if that doesn't include you, then I'll remind you that ALL members should read and understand the Safety Plan which can be found on the club website. Anyway, back to the accident book...

The club does not have an accident book, but all incidents, both on and off the water, should be logged using the on-line Incident Reporting form on the BR website. There are two forms available here; one to record the details of any type incident, and another short form for a 'simple capsized' where nothing but pride was hurt, and there was no equipment damaged. Whenever anyone logs an incident citing OTRC as the primary club involved (whether it happens in Oundle or while taking part in a regatta or head race somewhere else) then I will automatically receive a copy.

So why bother to log incidents here? Well, most importantly it provides the club with a long term record of all incidents. As soon as you enter the details, I can see if any immediate action needs to be taken to stop it happening again to other members. But over time all the records could help identify trends - for example, regular capsizes at a particular point in the river, or multiple collisions in one type of boat, or frequent slips somewhere prone to ice in winter - which will in turn lead to find ways of removing or reducing the risk of recurrence. Without the data, those trends could well be missed, and the risk to others remains unresolved.

Don't forget that all types of incident should be reported, whether on the water or not. For example:

- **Capsized:** whether through inexperience, contact with another boat, contact with other object, or equipment failure.
- **Collision:** whether on the water or on land (eg. when getting a boat on/off the rack).
- **Swamping:** through rough water, collision, or wash from another boat.
- **Personal Health:** hitting your head, hurting your back lifting a boat, breathing problems, hypothermia, heat stroke, etc.
- **Equipment Failure:** riggers or gates breakages, steering equipment faults, launch engine failure, racking or trestle fault, etc.
- **Behaviour:** for example vandalism, aggressive behaviour, dangerous navigation, etc.

Any member or helper can use the BR form, so if you are involved or you witness something you think should be reported, then do it yourself and don't assume someone else has reported it. Simply go to the website and do it as soon as possible after the incident occurs at: <https://incidentreporting.britishrowing.org>



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Grounds Maintenance Day

Saturday 11th June from 8am

Your club NEEDS YOU!

As normal activities at the club roll on in to spring, grounds maintenance tasks mount up. So, with refreshed enthusiasm we need to "Spring" into action to stay ahead of the growing vegetation and growing list of jobs.

Having concentrated on and, I think, beaten the problem of drainage at the Boat House we now need to consider a few smaller jobs:

1. Ensure the clear running of the new drains
2. Ensure the ditch continues to perform its function in draining the riverside
3. Construct an additional blade rack near the water's edge
4. Lay the slabs for the generator
5. Check Cambridge House for leaks – roof & guttering in particular
6. Deal with the port-a-cabin
7. Trim the veg. growth on the island

Whilst it won't be possible to complete this list (some tasks are on-going anyway), I'd like to make a big impression on it and to do so, the Club **NEEDS YOU!**

If you have expertise in any of the areas listed and can spare some time, then please let me know beforehand. Otherwise, if you can spare a couple of hours or the whole day, please come down on Saturday 11th June to help. Bring some lunch and we'll provide the drinks. Bring some work wear and we'll provide the work!

Come prepared:

- As ever, wellies would be a good idea (one lucky person will get a chance to wear the waders!)
- Gardening gloves
- Secateurs & loppers
- Garden rake
- Wheel barrow
- Waterproofs – the weather might want us to see how effective the new drain can be!
- Sun cream & a hat to leave in your car because it's raining

If you have any questions before the day, then please let me know.

Looking forward to seeing you on 11th!

Philip (philipchandler@ymail.com)



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Diary Dates

Please add these dates to your diary. Don't miss out.

5 June	Peterborough Spring Regatta	Crews already entered
11 & 12 June	British Masters (Nottingham)	Seniors (5 crews entered)
18 June	St Ives Regatta	Whole Club – entries now open
26 June 4pm – 7 pm	Fete Accompli (see article above)	EVERYONE PLEASE!!!
24 July	St Neots Regatta	Whole Club – entries now open
6 August	Sudbury Regatta	Whole Club
14 August	Peterborough Summer Regatta	Whole Club
20 August	Warwick Regatta	Whole Club

If you wish to enter the St Ives or the St Neots Regatta, talk to your coach NOW!!

A Bit of Fun....



What's in Claire's Bag?

Claire never rows without her trusty bag. What's in it? The kitchen sink?
A nice pink lipstick?

Suggestions on an email to Auntie Angela. Most inventive and yet relevant response = a prize (maybe something from Claire's bag...). Even if you don't know Claire, you could have a go.

Closing date: 18th June.

Communication

Find all you need to know at: oundletownrc.org.uk

or

oundletownrowing.club

Please send articles for the next newsletter to angela.hook@live.com