



# EXETER ROWING CLUB

Est 1864

- 1. Welcome:** Mr Paul Wilson, Club Chairman, thanked members for attending the Zoom meeting and explained the format of the evening. This was now a recognised format for meetings given the current circumstances re Coronavirus.
- 2. Receive apologies:** Gill Hawkey, Nigel Willmington, Harry Shepherd  
**Present:** Kevin Dentith, Susan Brooks, Stephen Gibson, Paul Wilson, Joe O'Connor, Ray Grigg, Veena Phull, Kevin Dentith, Sue O'Connor, David Brooks, Julia Wood, Peter Savage, Ray Mallett, Alison Webber, Kirstie Ffrench-Constant, Julie Ruddick, Emma Gilbert, Jane Silver, Anne-Marie Allison, Lucinda Sanders, Carole Atkinson, Eleanor Burke, Jerry Copping, Marcus Allen, Nigel Forcer, Jenny Neale, Lesley Willmington, Adam Bewes, Jane Tanner, Diana Parrish, Vickie Sincock, Lisa Cocks,
- 3. Minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019:** These were accepted as a correct record of that meeting.  
Proposed by Ray Grigg, seconded by Kevin Dentith.
- 4. Matters arising:** None.
- 5. Annual Report including Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and the Chairman's Report from September 2018-September 2019:** The report had been circulated by email prior to the meeting.

Paul Wilson presented the Chairman's report to those present.

Treasurer's comments regarding the financial report:

Stephen Gibson explained that the seriousness of the Coronavirus at the end of March had had an effect on preparation of the accounts. The normal tasks to be done such as chasing invoices etc. so that they were all paid in the correct financial year were affected by the circumstances and not all of these tasks were achieved.

ERC had finished the year in a better position than previously. The Directors had adopted a Reserves Policy which had outlined a set of figures the Club will hold in reserve. The amount was not yet at the planned level when Coronavirus hit.

The accounts are improved in that income and expenditure are recognised in the year in which they took place. This is reflected in the accounts.

This year we have worked to reduce expenditure while maximising income from other sources. The move to take on the lease of Maclaines was gratuitous in that it enabled us to receive a grant. Coronavirus grants were also received and rebates and discounts from our suppliers were achieved. A rebate to ERC from EWSA is pending but will be calculated at the end of the year when costs have been calculated.

Maclaines – there is a three year lease on this but with a three month notice period. He is aware that planning permission has been granted on the whole of Maclaines so at some point we will need to vacate these premises. Members need to keep a watching brief on other possible facilities particularly as we bear in mind the possible expansion of 62 Haven Road into new premises. This will also impact on the costs of running the club.

He and Ray Grigg have been discussing the payment of corporation tax. Have we been underutilising the possibilities re capital allowances? We may be able to reclaim. Steve feels that

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this is beyond his remit and suggested engaging professional advice on this matter. He has asked for quotes and from this will see if there will be a cost benefit to the Club following the receipt of quotes. He also explained that the Corporation tax bill had gone from £6000 to nil. There may be £4500 due to come back to us. The hope is to reduce this year's tax to nil and to reclaim funds from tax paid previously. Our liability is less since we became a CASC in January. He reassured Ray Mallett that we would not engage professional services if this outweighed any potential refund.

Kevin Dentith commented that Steve is one of the best treasurers we have had and if he needs support he would back his idea regarding potentially engaging professionals.

Kevin asked why depreciation is shown this year but none last.

Steve explained that this is done based on the potential life span of the boats. Purchases made from restricted funds such as the Exeter Foundation were depreciated immediately in total. This year a coxless quad/four was purchased by the Exeter Foundation for the junior section. Last year a Filippi was purchased by the club for senior use.

Kevin also asked what was included in sundries. Steve explained that as members may have noticed more lines were appearing on the accounts in order to clearly identify items so that sundries contained less items – such as medals, honours board, trailer boards.

Dave Brooks asked what Truck Income described. Steve explained that this was the residue of transport money paid in for regattas.

Ray Grigg congratulated Steve on a great set of accounts. Lots of agreement to this comment. The Chairman's report and financial statement were accepted by members.

Proposed by David Brooks, seconded by Joe O'Connor. All agreed.

Julia Wood emailed Kevin during the meeting with a vote of thanks to all of those mentioned in the report especially Steve and the O'Connors.

**6. Appointment of Independent Examiner:**

Stephen Gibson has approached various professional accountants for quotes regarding our potential corporation tax rebate. As such he will inform the Directors regarding the way forward when quotes are received and they will select an appropriate examiner.

**7. Club President:** Paul Wilson introduced Kevin Dentith as Club President for a third term by request of the Directors. He commented that the President normally attends events and congratulates crews – not this year!

Kevin acknowledged that he was willing to stand again in this honorary position. He commented that he found it unusual that the Club is struggling to fill the vacant roles. It can take a great toll on those in post if they do not get support from members. The captain should be a figurehead for the Club and in a big club can be a huge job. We haven't had anyone to come forward. If you've been thinking about it please come forward. There are people to back you up. The Captain should have the chance to do their job but also enjoy the club. All volunteers do so because they enjoy the sport. It can be a burden to take on such a role but we have had people sharing the role in the past – mini committee? If you've thought about it speak to family and friends. Joe and Sue will still be around to help. There are 25 people at this meeting – including ex-members between them there must be about 400 contacts.

As President, Kevin is prepared to organise Head Races for the Club. On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September he attended the WEARA meeting of club chairs where it was agreed to run an event at Wimbleball. Using the University boathouse as usual will not allow for social distancing but Wimbleball has plenty of space. There would not be any catering but the idea is to allow WEARA members an opportunity

to race. Exeter would run it and hopefully would have the usual support from members. It will be a WEARA event and not run for profit.

As well as being President Kevin has agreed to be the Chair of EWSA. He is concerned, indeed alarmed, that ERC may need to sign up to the new development by the end of the year. Kevin is looking for help from someone from an architectural background to work with himself and Dave Millar from the Canoe Club. ERC needs to push for more space and must bear in mind that the equipment we store outside will not be accommodated in the proposed new build.

**8. Election of Officers:** There being no other nominations for these roles the following nominations by the directors were accepted by those present.

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|------------------------|---|
| 8.1 Chairman           | Paul Wilson   |
| 8.2 Vice chairman      | no nomination received  |
| 8.3 Honorary Treasurer | Stephen Gibson  |
| 8.4 Honorary Secretary | Anne-Marie Allison  |
| 8.5 Captain            | no nomination received. Directors will review this situation. |

**9. Election of Directors:**

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 9.1 Mr Paul Wilson       | continues as Director of Exeter Rowing Club Ltd |
| 9.2 Mr Nigel Willmington | continues as Director of Exeter Rowing Club Ltd |
| 9.3 Mr Stephen Gibson    | continues as Director of Exeter Rowing Club Ltd |
| 9.4 Mr Kevin Dentith     | continues as Director of Exeter Rowing Club Ltd |

**10. Proposal**

- 10.1 Mr Joe O'Connor was elected to serve on the board of Exeter Rowing Club Ltd
- 10.2 No nominations were received for two Non-executive Directors, free from obligations to other club committees. The Directors will review this situation and may co-opt the required number of Non-executive Directors.

**11. Election of Life Members**

The chairman informed us that we currently had sixteen life members. He thanked Steve for the outstanding work he had done in addition to his excellent work fulfilling his role as Treasurer. He nominated Stephen Gibson as a Life Member of ERC Ltd. All agreed.

**12. Appointment of Junior Coordinator and Welfare Officer**

The chairman explained that Helen Fuller had stood down as Junior Coordinator some time ago and Alison Creasy had, at the Directors request taken on this role. Marcus Allen has agreed to continue as Welfare Officer.

**13. Any other competent business:** No items of any other business were notified to the Honorary Secretary.

**14. Closing Remarks:** Paul Wilson again thanked everyone for their attendance. "Support from members has been outstanding in this difficult year. From the bottom of my heart – thank you. Especial thanks go to Sue and Joe O'Connor. Moving on is going to be a long, slow process but we hope to have a good programme for next year."

The meeting closed at 19.55