

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 27TH SEPTEMBER 2017**

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| **Present** | | | | | | | |
| Hugh Ainsley  Michelle Alexander  Caroline Alliott  Chris Aschmann  Hudson Aschmann  Carl Barker  Paul Baron  Jonathan Barwick  Jeremy Bennett  Stephen Bogg  Edith Bourne  Adrian Bowers  Jo Brehaut  John Brooks  Brendan Buckley  Lee Butler  Lucy Butters  Joseph Clark  Patrick Clark  Dan Clarke  Tabatha Cole  Luke Cooper  Daniel Coulson  Rob Cree  Hugh Dawick  Alejandro Delgado-Castro  Alex Evans  Patrick Evans  Kate Fisher  Stuart Gill  Stuart Goodall  James Gowling  Michael Homa  Hilary Howe | | Duncan Hunter  Oliver Gurnell  David Hatliff  Louise Hawkyard  Ian Hazel-Gant  Anna Heathcote  Charlie Heise  Karen Heldt  Anne Homa  Cathryn Jackson  Chris Jones  Colin Jones  Phil Jones  Ada Keding  Georgie Killip  Dan Lewis  Luca Machado  Jamie Macleod  Cary Macmahon  Arnie Mander  Julia Mander  Rebecca Marchant  Sven Mattys  Astrid Mawle  Yvla Mawle  Conor McGahon  Jason Lee Meek  Steve Newby  Amy Newton  Sophy Nicholson  Richard Noble  Julie Parker  David Hugh  Louise Worsman | | | Fiona Polack  Elizabeth Porte  Michael Porte  Phil Press  Philippa Press  Nic Price  Holly Read  Margit Rezacova  Paul Richardson  Lucy Roberts  Andy Robertson  Tania Sharp  Caroline Sherlock  Helen Sneath  Brian Snelson  Roger Snelson  John Sparrow  Sue Sparrow  John Suchomski  Mike Thomas  David Turley  Ann Turner  Helen Waller  Martin Walsh  Sam Wharton  Paula Widdowson  Andrew Wilkinson  Karen Williams  Dagmar Willey Brewe  Aidan Wilson  Darren Woodford  Roger Woollen  Chris Worsman  Chris Polack | | |
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| **1.** | **Apologies**  Apologies for absence were received from: | | | | | |  |
|  | Rachel Cubitt  Stephanie Gant  Robyn Inglis | | Ali Gray  Neil Paveley  Benjamin Bollans | | | Peter Rigby  Charlie Wagstaff | |
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| **2.** | **Minutes of the Special General Meeting held on 20th September 2016** | | | | | | **Action** |
|  | These were agreed as a correct record. | | | | | |  |
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| **3.** | **Chairman’s introductory remarks** | | | | | |  |
|  | Greg Pipe welcomed all members to the meeting.  He explained that when York City Rowing Club was first founded 150 years ago, it was a very different entity. Then the members owned the club and its assets, and were free to do what they wished. Now YCRC is a Community and Sports Club and this imposes obligations on those who run it. It has to be run in accordance with its Constitution, in particular the ‘Purpose’ as defined in that constitution. Should the decision ever be taken to terminate the Club, the assets would go to other rowing clubs, British Rowing or other Community and Sports Club.  Greg went on to explain that the Club has to have robust systems for corporate governance and there are three governance issues that have been of concern recently.   1. The Committee is under an obligation to keep the Club going. This is an issue as we do not own the premises from which we operate. 2. We have to take care not §to kill or injure people. A recent incident when a section of boat came off a trailer whilst being transported demonstrated that we need to take safety more seriously and to take steps to minimise accidents. In this case, the accident was caused by a tie snapping and all ties have been replaced. 3. Trailer maintenance was not undertaken regularly; a system of annual checks has been introduced.   The fabric of the Clubhouse is a matter of considerable concern. It is built on land owned by the City of York Council and the Club holds a lease which is now of only 11 years duration. An initial obligation of this lease was that we built a boathouse which happened; an obligation now is that we maintain the building so that it is fit for purpose, which we have not done. Being a riverside property and built on clay is has significant cracks and evidence of serious dilapidation, with an estimated cost for putting right of about £350,000. Had we maintained the building, it is possible that our tenancy would have been renewable by right. Greg noted that there had been correspondence stating that the building could be made good by spending just £100,000, but assured members that this sum was far too small.  The Club is now in discussions with the City of York Council regarding the lease. However, as the Club is on the edge of the so called “Teardrop;” site, the Council has to ensure that it has the plans for the whole site clear before addressing the specific requirements of YCRC.  Greg went on to discuss possible sources of grant funding for redevelopment. The initial view that Sport England would be a potential source is not realistic unless the plans for the Clubhouse change significantly. Sport England will expect YCRC to be working very closely with CYC and to be developing as a multi sport facility.  Greg then turned to the challenges of having a riverside boathouse that floods not infrequently. He informed members that the Committee has just started to see if developing access to a reservoir or other non-flooding facility would enable more reliable, round year training and running of events. However, he was very mindful of the convenience of the location of the boathouse.  Looking to the longer term, Greg pointed out to members that the Club would be expected to make provision for future development and would be expected to maintain a redeveloped boathouse. This would require significant financial provision. He informed members that the Committee was very mindful of these restrictions and asked members to bear them in mind when considering the finances of the Club. | | | | | |  |
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| **4.** | **Report of the Club Secretary** | | | | | |  |
|  | This was noted. Edith Bourne thanked Liz Porte for the monthly updates, which she found useful and informative. | | | | | |  |
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| **5.** | **Report of the Club Captain** | | | | | |  |
|  | This was noted. In Sean Potter’s absence, Greg noted that Sean had done a great deal for the Club over his year of Captaincy. | | | | | |  |
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| **6.** | **Report of the Regatta Secretary** | | | | | |  |
|  | The Regatta Secretary’s report was noted.  In addition to the content of her report, Anne Homa noted that the preceding year had been notable in that all four events had taken pace, with no cancellations due to flooding.  Anne went on to inform members that there is a thorough review undertaken by the Events Committee after each event and she asked members to continue to send in comments and suggestions as these are invaluable. She thanked Philippa Press for organising the catering for events; not only is this an excellent source of income, it is very much appreciated by visiting crews and clubs.  She noted that the numbers of volunteers for each event continued to rise. The Events Committee is looking to make sure that volunteering is made as rewarding as possible and will be looking to identify team leaders for different elements of event support.  No major changes are planned for next year; the Club is already using the new British Rowing ranking system that will become compulsory from April 2018. | | | | | |  |
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| **7.** | **Treasurer’s report and Annual Accounts** | | | | | |  |
|  | John Brooks spoke to his report and started by thanking Brian Snelson and David Hatliff for their support during his first year as Treasurer.  Below is John’s report to the AGM:  Treasurer’s Report 2016/17  It’s my pleasure, and great relief, to present the 2017 accounts. In doing so I have to give huge thanks to Brian Snelson and David Hatliff who have been both patient with their answers, and generous with their time. They must have wondered at times what they were dealing with. Thank you both.  There are three documents but I will concentrate on the two most important.  The statement of financial position (balance sheet) shows a healthy increase from £308K last year to £589K this year. This is due largely to us selling the Almery Terrace site for £606K, although you will see that this sum has not been carried through fully to the club’s net assets. This brings me nicely to note 5. Here I have to give thanks to Greg Pipe for repeatedly explaining the importance and relevance of the dilapidations clause in our lease to the trustees and the committee. In layman’s terms the club is legally obliged to maintain, at all times, the boathouse and steps in good order, something we have neglected to do properly for many years. We all know this to be the case; the roof leaks, we have cracks in the walls, the changing rooms and showers are Spartan to say the least. The result of this is that there is an estimated liability of some £350K which is the sum which would be required to put the clubhouse and steps back into tenantable condition. We could not, as some might think, simply decide to walk off into the sunset with our boats and £700K and build a new boathouse somewhere else. Nor could we simply “tart up” the current building with a lick of paint and some new blinds. This liability will effectively disappear when we develop our current building.  The statement of income shows an operating surplus, before exceptional items, of £25K, up £10K on last year. But this too is very misleading, to me at least, and needs further explanation.  In 2016/17 we spent £56K on new equipment, buying an eight, a four, two new engines, a set of blades, and a replacement towing vehicle.  We also spent £16K on maintenance/repair/refurbishment of the current boats. This is way more than we budgeted and way more than in the past, and we could easily have spent more. Some members are probably sitting here thinking we should have spent more. It’s probably not unfair to say though that if we took more care of our equipment we wouldn’t need to spend so much repairing it.  The club cost £30K to keep on the road (utilities, insurances, licences, etc). It would have been more but Greg was able to negotiate a dropping of the proposed rent increase with York City Council.  So our total spend was last year was actually £102K.  This is without setting aside funds to ensure the future existence of the club. A minimum would be to save a sum equivalent to the depreciation charge on the building (£5K).  Luckily our expected “normal” income of £82K from subs, rack rents, events and socials was supplemented last year by some “windfall” income. We got £9K from donations, grants and a credit on our utilities bills as well as £10K from the sale of equipment. This meant that income did almost match expenditure but there certainly wasn’t a big surplus.  Let me turn now to the budget for 2017/18.  We’re hoping for an income from members’ dues, events, etc of £87K this year.  The club will again cost £30K to run next year. It’s not possible to reduce this amount.  We will need to spend a minimum amount on the building; £5K. Work to make good the roof is underway and these costs will have to be taken from reserves.  Paul Baron, the equipment officer, wants to spend £20K continuing to get the current fleet back into good condition.  The crews committee will expect to spend the equivalent of the equipment depreciation charge on new kit (£30K), and if we do this for boats why wouldn’t we do it for the buildings and put aside the equivalent of the depreciation charge on the buildings (£5K)?  So £87K in, and £90K needed. This is too tight for my liking and one of the first jobs for the new committee will be to decide where we don’t spend. Or what we can do to increase the club’s income.  But think about this as well. If it rains in the third week of November and we lose the Small Boats Head then we’ll be down £5K on income and the figures no longer come even close to adding up and some difficult decisions will have to be made.  The Accounts and Treasurers Report were accepted by the Membership present. | | | | | |  |
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| **8.** | **Safety culture for YCRC** | | | | | |  |
|  | Andrew Wilkinson, Safety Officer, spoke to members about the need for the Club to develop a much more ingrained safety culture. He noted that he can only advise, he cannot tell individuals what to do. He reminded members that his 20 years of rowing and 15 years working in a highly regulated industry have made him very aware of the need for individuals to take personal responsibility for their own safety and that of others. He referred to the recent incident with the trailer as an example of where no-one had taken responsibility for addressing a safety concern. He stressed that everyone needed to feel able to raise a safety concern, with no fear of recrimination, and to stop another Club member doing something that was unsafe. Hi aim is to see fewer incident reports and none of the ones coming through saying “I was in the right place…” | | | | | |  |
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| **9.** | **Election of the Club Officers:** | | | | | |  |
|  | In introducing the election of Officers, Greg Pipe described the management of the Club. The ownership of the Clubs assets rests with three Trustees, who are liable for these assets and indemnified via the Constitution.  The Committee of Management has overall responsibility for running the Club in accordance with the Club’s Constitution.  The Crews Committee is a Sub Committee of the Committee of Management and consists of the Club Captain, and squad/group captains. This Committee makes recommendations to the Committee of Management regarding the purchase of new kit. It also considers who is allowed to use which boats, although the final decision rests with the Club Captain.  The Development Committee did a great deal of work in preparing for what was hoped to be the redevelopment of the boathouse, but this was now in abeyance until the views of the CYC become clear.  The Regatta Committee does a great deal of work in organising the events the Club runs.  Greg reminded members that they are entitled to see the minutes of all Committee meetings (any confidential issues will be redacted) and they are entitled to attend meetings. David Hugh asked if the minutes of the Committee of Management could be sent automatically to Club members. Greg informed him that this matter could be taken to the next Committee meeting for discussion if the Committee were asked to do so.  Arnie Mander noted that the Club accounts were perhaps the most important document discussed at the AGM and expressed concern that they had been tabled. Greg agreed, noting that there had been difficulties with some of the data that had lead to the late production of the accounts. Whenever possible, these would be circulated at least 48 hours in advance.  Luca Macado asked if the Club had considered using Gofundme pages to raise money for equipment. Greg supported this proposal, noting that overall the younger Club members were more at ease with this type of approach and asking that they become more actively involved.  In relation to the purchase of new boats, Greg noted that the lack longer term planning meant that the purchases tended to reflect immediate needs. He had charged the Crews Committee with developing a longer term plan, recognising that there would still be shorter term needs. Carl Barker pointed out that the purchase of the new men’s eight had been made on the basis of a review of the ages and condition of boats across the entire fleet.  Greg Pipe thanked the retiring Committee members for their considerable work over the preceding years. In particular, he thanked Liz Porte for the many hours she had put in as Secretary, Pat Evans for the phenomenal work he had done over many years and in many roles, and Alex Evans for her work in running the club bar.  Greg then turned to the issue of the recent correspondence from the outgoing Club Captain, Sean Potter, that Club members had seen, in which Sean had alleged bad faith on the part of the some of the candidates for Committee posts and accused them of duplicity. He noted that Hilary Howe had expressed grave concern and been deeply offended by the inclusion of her name in the correspondence; Greg reminded members that Sean had subsequently made it clear in the letter circulated just before the meeting that he had not discussed his correspondence with Hilary or with any other member of the Leisure and Progression Group.  Nevertheless, Greg observed that correspondence of this type causes mischief and is a slap in the face for those individuals who work hard and want to do more for the Club.  Greg went on to note that by attempting to twist the election process by endeavouring to pull a group together to vote as a block creates divisions within the Club and must not be allowed to continue. Anything that attempts to create such divisions is fundamentally wrong. However, he noted that the reaction to the correspondence was marked disapproval of the intent and the potential impact, and a strong desire to resist it.  Greg finished by reminding everyone that the sole purpose of the Club is to support and enable rowing; the Club must stick together and not allow artificial divisions to be created.  Greg then explained to the members that he would be handing over the Chairmanship of the meeting to the President, John Sparrow, as the post of Chairman of the Committee of Management was a contested post.  Liz Porte informed members that she would read out the list of uncontested nominations and then outline the election process.  Liz then read out the uncontested Officers and Committee members as follows: | | | | | |  |
|  | President  Club Captain  Captain of Men’s Rowing  Captain Women’s Rowing  Junior Co-ordinator  Leisure and Progression Co-ordinator  Treasurer  Estates Officer  Boats Officer  Steward  Safety Advisor  Regatta Secretary  Social and Entertainment Secretary | | | John Sparrow  Dan Lewis  Carl Barker  Sophy Nicholson  Phil Jones  Hilary Howe  John Brooks  Sam Wharton  Paul Baron  Luke Cooper  Andrew Wilkinson  Anne Homa  Oliver Gurnell | | |  |
|  | Liz Porte then informed members that each candidate for the posts would have five minutes during which they could make any points they wished and answer questions from the membership.  John Sparrow announced that the candidates for the role of Chairman of the Committee of Management would be asked to speak first and invited Paula Widdowson to take the floor.  Paula Widdowson spoke about the Leisure and Progression Group, noting that it had started six years ago with just two members, but now had 43 members who included 9 qualified coaches, 5 launch drivers and an umpire. Group members raced regularly and had won on many occasions, most recently at the Autumn sculls. Members had won gold and bronze at British Masters, and at the 2016 Veteran Fours Head, the women’s quad had been the fastest northern crew in their event. She stressed that this demonstrated the wide range of interests of the Group that reflected the length and breadth of the Club – they were not just concerned about coffee and cake as was often the perception!  Paula went on to say that she had been actively involved in sport for many years, initially running but had been involved in rowing for 10 years and active for 5. She had won gold and bronze at national level, she had helped develop the Leisure and Progression Group and coached the juniors. Outside rowing, she was a school governor and Chair of the School’s Finance Committee, and had worked with Marks and Spencer and Waitrose.  Cary MacMahon asked Paula what added value she would bring. Paula responded by informed members that she would bring rigour and personal judgement; she had written the sustainability governance for Marks and Spencer; she had been actively involved in fundraising over many years.  John Sparrow then invited Greg Pipe to take the floor.  Greg informed members that he is a barrister, specialising in commercial and property disputes. He is accustomed to dealing with claims that run into tens of millions of pounds and so is able to handle the issues that the Club faces. He was appointed Head of Chambers when in his 30s and was the youngest appointment to be a Head Chambers at the time, so far as he was aware. He had performed that role for 10 years before securing a merger. In addition, he had been the managing director of a board of director. This meant taking responsibility for a wide range of issues and individuals, involving difficult discussions and decisions. He had played a major role in running the business at that time and so was accustomed to financial modelling.  Greg went on to say that his real reason for wishing to continue in post was that when younger, rowing had been the most important part of his life and he wanted to put something back into the sport that had given him so much. He wanted everyone in the room, but particularly the juniors, to be able to row within a stable organisation.  Charlie Heise asked what Greg saw as the key issue for the Club in the next year. Greg said it was obviously now integration and expressed the view that what had happened over the last few weeks had been a disaster and a symptom of a failure to integrate. He stressed that he wished to promote genuine integration as this would be essential if the Club is to be in the best position possible to enable the boathouse to be developed.  John Sparrow informed the members that the candidates for the role of Club Secretary would be asked to speak next and invited Margit Rezacova to take the floor.  Margit informed members that she had been a member of the club since October 2012. She was standing for election because loved rowing and wanted to give something back to the Club. She stated that she has the necessary qualities; she is a good communicator and has good relationships with all sections of the Club. She has previously been a member of Sheffield Rowing Club, where she held a similar position.  She has recently started working for York Museum Trust, where she is a member of the management team. Her role involved extensive communication with all members and taking minutes. In terms of developing the role, Margit stated that she wants to build on the excellent work of the previous secretary, to continue with the monthly updates, to give more information to members about where crews are going to be competing. She is keen on using social media and so would be keen for the Club to be more proactive in this area.  Paula Widdowson asked Margit how she would approach integrating the different groups within the Club. Margit responded that she had good relationships with the L&P Group, the juniors, and the men’s and women’s senior squads. She recognises that people are busy and felt that communication was key.  Charlie Heise asked Margit if she would have the time to fulfil the role. Margit responded that she worked flexi time and so would be able to fit the requirements of the role around her work and training, noting that there were other members of the Committee who could send out urgent all club messages if necessary.  In Ben Bollans’s absence, Liz Porte read out his statement to members as follows:  *‘Apologies that I could not be there in person tonight, unfortunately I am away with work so please accept the below to address why I decided to run for Secretary.*    *A great deal of you know me personally, but for those members who do not or are new to the club (welcome), I joined YCRC in 2012 post London Olympics having never rowed before. I have been a Men’s squad member since joining, twice rowing for the club at Henley Royal Regatta, which I am very fortunate to have had the opportunity to do, and also rowing with the Vets at Hazelwinkle, when I could get to the start on time…*  *I’m not as active a rower as I once was, though when I’m not at the club with my baby girl and two Westies, you’ll now see me going up and down the river, via some trees, in my white and blue single.*  *I have stood back from running for any YCRC committee role in the past to focus on rowing, but after discussion with current committee members and with Liz regarding the details of the Secretary role, I was sure that now was the right time to put myself forward. As current committee members are moving on to new opportunities outside of running of the club, there is a real opportunity for new members to come forward and take direction of the club at what is a critical time in its history. As someone with commitments in York for the long term, I very much wish to be a part and to shape this very great club’s future, if you’ll elect me. I have not been on the committee before, but despite this I am confident I will overcome any learning curve quickly.*  *So, why Secretary? I first want to be clear that I am standing to represent all sections of the club membership on an equal platform. With the sections of the club that we have, all with different needs and ambitions, the Secretary role remains impartial to enable me to work together with everyone on key issues raised.*  *Secondly, I want to explore and develop ways to improve communication between all sections of the club. A lot of great work has been completed to date to improve the way the club communicates across its membership (e.g. monthly webcollect emails). I want to develop how the committee communicates internally, to the membership (and vice versa), and look at the platforms we as a club use to send/receive communications, with the overall aim to increase transparency within the club. This all will of course take time, but by the start of year I expect a difference to be seen.*  *I also have ideas to expand our presence on social media as a business and community hub - by working with other committee members (press, membership, crews sec.) to agree a strategy, I hope to increase our profile firstly in York and then to the wider rowing community.*  *Lastly, I have spent my professional career working on multi-disciplinary projects, to summarise this I have spent a lot of time pragmatically bringing together all sorts of people, from different departments, often from many countries for a common objective. This involves chairing meetings, setting agendas/notes and communicating technical reports to people who might not consider themselves, ‘technical’­ – requiring a careful choice of words. These communications sometimes involved sensitive or difficult subjects, I say this as I am aware I will have to deal with addressing similar subjects as Secretary, which I am not averse to dealing with.*  *I do hope you will give me the opportunity to serve the club – I am very sorry that I cannot be there in person to answer any questions you have, but I hope the above outlines my position for standing – wishing all at the AGM the very best of luck.’*  John Sparrow informed the members that the candidates for the role of Membership Secretary would be asked to speak next and invited Ada Keding to take the floor.  Ada read out to members the statement she had prepared.  Dear YCRC member,  ‘*I have been an active member of York City Rowing Club for over 10 years. In this time, I have very much enjoyed my journey from novice to (arguably) semi-competent, and I truly appreciate the friends and camaraderie I have found along the way.*  *For the past year I have been serving as membership secretary on the club committee, a role that I found most rewarding and that I would like to continue to build upon. I have competently managed our online subscription system and facilitated the timely payment of renewals, on which the club’s financial planning relies. Membership is often the first point of contact for new interested individuals, and I hope my open and professional attitude has conveyed our welcoming club ethos from the start.*  *Going forward, I see inclusivity and retention as particular challenges for the club. In liaison with the squad captains, these could be improved for example by strengthening the buddy system between existing and new members, by identifying and targeting groups that are under-represented in our membership and by encouraging an inclusive and supportive atmosphere around the boat house.  If re-elected, I will further continue to represent the interests of all sections of the club to the best of my knowledge. I will advocate in particular the proportionate allocation of resources based on the makeup of our membership, so that every club member can expect value for money.*  *Drawing on skills as a medical statistician in my civilian life, I am able to support the committee by analysing membership data quickly and accurately, including the identification of trends over time, while safeguarding the confidentiality and security of the sensitive information we hold.*  *In short, I would be delighted to be given the opportunity to serve our membership on the committee for another year.’*  Charlie Heise asked Ada what had been the hardest thing that she had had to do in the preceding year. Ada responded that it had been to reply to members whose expectations could not be met, such as payment by instalments. She had approached this by giving the facts, but also explaining that looking to the future she would be seeing how other Clubs managed to do this. She had also had to explain to individuals that they could not reduce their payments if they felt that they spent less time on the water than other members,  Carl Barker made the point to Ada that in his opinion, the Membership Secretary is the link to new members. He asked Ada how she thought she could support Crews Committee in terms of under represented groups. Ada responded that she would wish to look at the social and demographic profile of the club, and approach schools to stress that rowing is a sport for all.  John Sparrow then invited Lee Butler to take the floor.  Lee Butler reminded members that the previous year he had stood for one of the General Committee Member posts. However, he had changed his mind this year when he read the Forward Plan and Action Plan. He wanted to get actively involved in the many tasks of the plans and felt that he would fit in well with the Committee to deliver these plans.  His first task, however, would be to identify outstanding subscriptions and to chase them, liaising with any individuals not renewing to understand why. Looking forward, he would seek to talk to squad co-ordinators and captains to look at ways of recruiting new members and retaining existing members. He would wish to develop a survey of individuals attending open days or taster sessions to see if the Club met their expectations. He wanted to see YCRC benchmark itself against other Clubs in relation to fees and membership subscriptions. He stated that he saw the Membership Secretary as the point of contact for new members; he wanted to make them welcome and make sure that they had the welcome pack.  Margit Rezacova asked Lee if he had looked at the possibility of family Club membership. Lee responded that he would need to consider if this might be an option.  John Brooks reminded Lee and the members that he had been the Membership Secretary. He asked Lee how much time he would be able to give to the role. Lee responded that his work in the Civil Service would give him the flexibility to respond to urgent issues during the day and to undertake more routing work in the evenings.  Charlie Heise observed that Lee had a long list of priorities and asked which one he would prioritise. Lee responded that it would be to work with different sections of the Club to increase membership numbers.  John Sparrow informed the members that the candidates for the role of Welfare Officer would be asked to speak next and invited Jason Lee Meek to take the floor.  Jason Lee Meek informed the members that he is ex military, where welfare is a major part of how the Army looks after its troops and so welfare is in his DNA. He now works with individuals undergoing rehabilitation for drug and alcohol problems and so is very aware of mental and physical health problems. He is very aware of Safeguarding issues, is a qualified mental health first aider and a active mentor.  Jason went on to say that his reason for wanting to undertake the role is that he feels he has the right experience and skills for the role and he believes that if an individual is part of a club they should be prepared to help.  Charlie Heise noted that Jason has extensive experience and asked him if he had a feel for how far away YCRC is from what a professional Safeguarding expert would advise. Jason responded that whilst there is considerable emphasis on Safeguarding of juniors, there is a lack of focus on adult safeguarding where there can be issues of mental health, drugs and alcohol. He went on to explain that many individuals can experience problems and if individuals can get help earlier, there is more chance of a problem being dealt with effectively. He noted that if welfare issues are addressed the Club as a whole will be happier, that adults need input whilst still protecting juniors.  John Brooks asked Jason if he had any experience of dealing with juniors. Jason replied that he had worked with cadets and new Army recruits. He did not have much experience of dealing with juniors, but would look to work with the junior coaches and felt that he would be able to draw on his good communication skills.  Greg Pipe asked Jason how he would feel about dealing with problems raised by the parents of juniors. Jason replied that he recognised the need to keep lines of communication with parents open, to find out what their issues are, to keep conversations confidential and to understand what can be done. He stressed that it is important that parents know who he is and how to contact him.  John Sparrow then invited Duncan Hunter to take the floor.  Duncan Hunter informed members that he had been involved with the club for many years. He had done the Welfare Officer in the past before taking over as Boats Officer (a role he had found too demanding and had relinquished). He had spent 20 years in teaching and so was accustomed to dealing with a wide range of children and parents – parents often being far more difficult than their children!  Duncan observed that the Welfare Officer is a role that works quietly in the background. When he had undertaken the role previously, he had found that adults would often come and discuss problems quietly, just wanting support which is what he gave.  Duncan stated that he was standing as he wanted to give something back to the Club. When he had been made redundant he had received a great deal of support and he wanted to give support back. He wanted to see cub welfare, adults and juniors all working together and he noted that he had good working relationships with the British Rowing Safeguarding Officer.  Finally, in front of members, he promised this year to learn to row.  John Sparrow then asked each candidate for the two General Committee posts in turn to take the floor and make a brief statement.  Phil Press informed members that he had been part of the Club for around 30 years, during which time he had undertaken many roles including coaching and volunteering, and was the Regional Junior Commissioner. He felt that he was seen as diligent and fair, and would look to the long term interests of the Club. He wanted to see the Cub grow and facilities improve; he wanted to hand on to the next generation a good club as had been handed on to this generation. He is Chair of the Development Committee, work that he wishes to continue as he feels that the current lack of progress is about to end as the Council’s intentions become clearer and hence he is seeking re-election.  Georgie Killip informed members that she is a member of the senior women’s squad. She is also a part time English teacher and so is accustomed to dealing with difficult situations, and as a mother perhaps brings some motherly skills. She has been a member of this club for 18 months, having previously been a member of Leeds Rowing Club. LRC had been a very small club rowing on Roundhay Lake and she had seen the massive change that had occurred as that Club moved into its new boathouse. She saw herself as fair and diplomatic, and was standing as she wished to give something back to the Club as it had made her so welcome.  Helen Sneath informed members that she too was a member of the senior women’s squad and had been for 2 years. Prior to that she had been involved in coastal rowing, which had been a much smaller club but which she had enjoyed. She felt that she had settled in to the Club and now wished to become more involved, although not with one of the major roles.  Lydia Brear was not present and had not submitted a statement.  Darren Woodford informed members that he had joined the Club in 2015. He was standing as he had got so much from the Club over that time and wished to give something back.  He informed members that he had retired from the Police Force and so was very accustomed to dealing with and defusing difficult situations. He felt it was important to treat all parts of the Club equally, no squad was more important than any other. He felt that the Cub needed to recruit more new members and to maximise its efforts in that aim.  In the absence of Robyn Inglis, Liz Porte read out her statement.  *‘I have been a member of YCRC since 2012, and whilst I have mainly coxed for the vet men, over the years I have enjoyed working with all of the squads. I am standing for election to the committee this year to contribute to the running of the club.*  *As an elected general committee member, I would carry out the duties and tasks allocated by the committee as needed, yet I would also seek to revitalise the club’s publicity portfolio particularly through our social media accounts (such as Twitter, Facebook) and our new website.*  *I would work to ensure that the activities and achievements of all members and squads are showcased in a positive and encouraging way to YCRC members and the wider rowing community.*  *I would also work to promote the club and its profile in the York community in a professional and appealing manner, to showcase the strength, depth and diversity of rowing at YCRC.*  *My current job involves using social media and blogging for science communication, and I would transfer these skills to the role at YCRC. I have already received positive feedback for my trial runs of tweeting at Bled and York Autumn Sculls, and would look forward to developing these activities for future events at York and beyond.’*  John Sparrow invited members to cast their votes and the Scrutineers (Anne Homa and Andrew Wilkinson) then retired to count the votes.  When the Scrutineers returned, Bill Andrew Wilkinson announced the results of the elections as follows:  **Chairman of the Committee of Management**  Paula Widdowson 24  Greg Pipe 65  **Club Secretary**  Margit Rezacova 26  Ben Bollans 59  Spoilt papers 1  **Membership Secretary**  Ada Keding 44  Lee Butler 43  Andy Wilkinson informed members that this vote had been recounted three times in view of the closeness of the result.  **Welfare Officer**  Jason Lee Meek 37  Duncan Hunter 47  Spoilt papers 1  **General Committee Members**  Phil Press 64  Georgie Killip 17  Helen Sneath 7  Lydia Brear 5  Darren Woodford 31  Robyn Inglis 42  Andrew Wilkinson pronounced Greg Pipe elected as Chairman of the Committee of Management, Ben Bollans elected as Club Secretary, Ada Keding elected as Membership Secretary, Duncan Hunter elected as Welfare Officer, and Phil Press and Robyn Inglis elected as General Committee Members.  Greg Pipe resumed as Chairman of the meeting | | | | | |  |
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| **10.** | **To appoint honorary auditors for 2016/2017** | | | | | |  |
|  | Greg Pipe proposed that David Hatliff be appointed as honorary auditor for 2017/18. The was unanimously agreed by the Meeting. | | | | | |  |
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| **11.** | **To ratify the rates of subscription for 2016/2017** | | | | | |  |
|  | Greg Pipe stated that private boats took up a considerable proportion of racking space – 40% - and that this should not be subsidised by other Club members as having a private boats stored in the boathouse was a privilege. As a consequence, the cost of rack rent has gone up proportionally more than the subscription levels and would continue to do so. Charlie Heise asked what the cost of a private rack would be if private rack rents covered 40% of the cost of running the boathouse. John Brooks replied that it would cost £668 per year for a single.  The proposed subscription rates were unanimously agreed. | | | | | |  |
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| **12.** | **Forward Plan and Action Plan 2017 - 2021** | | | | | |  |
|  | Greg Pipe asked members present if they had read these two documents; approximately three quarters of members present indicated that they had and Liz Porte announced herself delighted.  Liz went on to stress that these Plans are ambitious and will need the very active involvement of many people, not just Committee members. She stressed that whilst they will evolve and develop over time, the one element that she wished to see succeed above all others was the concept that every single member of the Club should undertake an activity to support the Club.  Jeremy Bennett noted that he supported the Plans, but wondered how the target increase in membership of 50% would be sustained, given the constraints of space and boats. Liz responded that it would require the development of a wider range of times when activities take place as there are parts of the day and week when the Club is not used. Expansion could also take place within existing sessions, with careful planning a judicious use of the resources available.  Arnie Mander noted that the Action Plan was not yet explicit on how success would be measured. Liz Porte agreed, noting that if the Action Plan was accepted, a next step would be to develop outcome measures.  The Forward Plan and Action Plan 2017 – 2021 were accepted | | | | | |  |
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| **13.** | **Any other business** | | | | | |  |
|  | Dan Lewis introduced himself to new members as the incoming Club Captain. He stated that he wished to make himself known to all sections of the Club and to understand their priorities.  Alex Evans reminded members that the Annual Dinner will take place on Saturday, 25th November. Tickets can now be purchased through Webcollect.  Richard Noble proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Committee members. This was warmly endorsed by members present.  Richard went on to thank everyone who had stood for election. He hoped that those not successful would still take on roles within the Club.  There being no further business, Greg Pipe announced the meeting closed. | | | | | |  |