

STOURPORT BOAT CLUB
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
11:00 AM ON 29TH SEPTEMBER 2024
AGM HELD IN THE CLUB ROOM



Captain's Election

Prior to the AGM, the Captain's Election was held.

Stew Barnett, the current captain, provided a summary of the key moments and events during his year as Club Captain. In his report he comments:

"As my Captaincy comes to an end I reflect on a very eventful year. I will remember it more for the fantastic support I received from all the members and the Committee rather than the amount of wins out on the water.

Rowing was significantly impacted by the weather, we lost most of the head season. Both our Heads were cancelled.

With the senior women still coached and supported I was keen to try and get the other squads strengthened.

We soon were able to get a group of senior men regularly training through the winter and they were able to enter some quality events enjoy themselves and gain some valuable experience.

But for me, a person always keen to make SBC a rowing force I have gained most pride from the tremendous club spirit that is so evident around the place.

We clearly needed to recruit more members, so a junior initiative was set up with the high school I never had a problem getting volunteers to help with that. You know who you are, and I can't thank you enough for all your help.

A new learn to row course was also started and off the back of that we have been able to retain a group of people who have already contributed massively to the club, both rowing and socially.

The bar has also been reestablished with all members being encouraged to go in there to socialize whenever they want, this really has transformed the club again the people stepped up and have made it a huge success. The Sunday sandwiches continue to go down well creating a nice opportunity for crews to critique their sessions and enjoy a bit of well-earned sustenance.

We were able to buy a new launch enabling us to deliver more coaching sessions and provide all our own safety and marshaling at the regatta without the need to borrow any boats.

The club truck finally bit the dust. We now have a Shogun all badged up and ready to take us to next seasons events.

The lake Vyrnwy training camp was fun despite the accommodation the juniors had to endure everyone seemed to enjoy it.

So, we finished up with 40 wins as a club not bad considering the number of cancelled events.



Finally returning to my earlier point this year has been less about rowing and more about the people stepping up and making things happen. The Regatta was a great example of this everyone just got on with it from the brilliant bar to the great catering and the marshalling of the event. Everyone played their part and made it one of the best. We made a huge amount of money which will be invested into the club for new equipment and club improvements.

So, with the new season about to get underway and with winter training about to start SBC is in a good place I can't thank you all enough for your support. We have shown that with a strong committee and a great club spirit we can go from strength to strength. I am really looking forward to next season."

Nominations

Only one nomination for captaincy was received:

Stew Barnett - proposed by Lee Evans, seconded by Pete Lloyd.

Vote

A vote by show of hands was held.

Count & Declaration

Stew Barnett was unanimously voted in as Club Captain by the membership

SBC Annual General Meeting 2024

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from the following members: Pete Spencer, Tim Haywood, Lydia Watson, Laura Livesley, Emily Sheppard, Ella Dimambro

2. Deeds and Silverware

Deeds held at HSBC Bank and silverware held at known locations

3. Treasurer's Report

- Delivered by Mark Appleton
- The accounts are prepared in accordance with normal accepted accounting practices. The financial year ran from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024
- The financial results show a significant deterioration to the prior year in accounting terms but not in cash terms.
- For full details see "Stourport Boat Club Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2024"
- Summary:
 - Income
 - Sale of boats

- this was due to the fact that during the 23 financial year Jamie Wrafter made a concerted effort to sell off old boats and equipment such as the old trailer, gym equipment etc which is shown as a profit on sale of equipment of £25k.
- During the same period new boats were purchased but the cost is not reflected as they have been amortised over 10 years. This explains the £25k sale figure in 23 but not in 24
- Membership income.
 - This has shown a significant drop over the past few years and was down by almost £5k in 24 from the previous year.
 - This does not remain a concern due to the significant growth in membership both at junior and senior level due to the learn to row initiatives and we should exceed the 23 level in this financial year.
- Loss of three heads
 - Due to adverse weather & river conditions, we lost the Autumn and Winter head which in the previous year had generated £10k profit as well as the inability to host the West Midlands Junior Head which would have generated another £1.5k. We can only hope that this does not happen again this year.
- Bar income
 - The bar last year did not run to any significant extent, and this also impacted the top line. The impact was a further loss opportunity of £4,500 income at the very least.
 - This year, thanks to the hard work Lee Evans, Andy Harris and the bar team have put in this is unlikely to be repeated. The bar has been reinvigorated with a welcoming atmosphere.
- Expenses
 - Property Maintenance
 - There were a two significant maintenance items undertaken during the year, including: £3k for electrical rewiring of the boathouse and £4.6k for the drainage around the car park. We also spent £600 for the alarm system as well as small ongoing maintenance. This amounted to £10,400.
 - Property maintenance has been identified as an area of ongoing spend for upcoming two years and we need to be aware of it.
 - Boat Maintenance
 - This remains one of the major expenditure items, but during the year Stew Barnett took on the role of repairing the boats inhouse, helping to reduce costs.
 - As part of the ongoing fleet upgrade, a number of boats were sent out for respray/refurb. Two suppliers were trialled, the

Janousek refurbishment cost £3,900, and the Fisher Restoration re-spray cost. By removing these exceptional expenses from the costs of £9.4k, the overall the boat maintenance in-house achieved a significant saving over the previous year.

- Increasing of other costs
 - Where possible, the committee have tried to control costs as much as possible. e.g. minimising expenses around collecting membership payments, eliminating licence fees for Sportlyzer (juniors now moving to ICrew), etc.
- Cash position
 - The club remains in a healthy cash position and a decision was taken by the committee to maintain a minimum surplus of £30k, to cover emergency expenditure. At no time during the year did we ever get near breaching this. We currently sit on more than double this level, after having paid the insurance for the year 24/25.

4. Membership Subscriptions

- Membership subscription report delivered by Liz Danby, Membership Secretary
- As per below:
 - Summary

I took on the role of Membership Secretary in May this year.

At that time membership was much depleted at around 90 members which was clearly a concern. However, following on from a couple of very successful Club initiatives in the form of an adult L2R course and a school programme with Stourport High School I'm pleased to say our figures are greatly improved across all categories.

We have also seen an influx of returning members since April both rowers and gym/social members. We now have 132 members and based on that number a predicted membership income of approx. £32,000

- ClubHub to Spond Migration

The current system, Clubhub which sits on the BR website is not user friendly and there is confusion over the requirement to register with BR before you can join SBC. This leads to confused reporting.

The ability to pay by Direct Debit via Gocardless works well but BR takes a 1% charge on top of the transaction charges made by Gocardless which are 1% plus .20p per transaction. Last year this cost SBC around £700

With this in mind I have looked for a simpler and more cost-effective way of managing our membership. With Spond we can set up and

manage a membership database which is secure and complies with data protection. There is no charge for this. Spond also enables us to keep in touch with “Friends of” SBC. A very important group who we need to make sure are kept in the loop. Something that BR Clubhub couldn’t cope with.

I have set up a Gocardless account for SBC so we can continue to make payments by Direct Debit whilst still being charged 1% and .20p

Moving forward I would encourage members who take advantage of the 5% discount and pay in full to pay directly to the SBC Membership account by bank transfer so we will not incur charges. Only those wishing to pay by installments need to use Go Cardless.

As we transfer members over to the new system you will be sent a link to follow for both Spond and Gocardless to set up your membership and payments.

- Questions

As most of you will be aware, I`m here a lot and available for a chat if you have any questions and will hold Membership surgeries to make sure the transition is as painless as possible.

5. Management Committee Report

- Sara met with the trustee to run through the management report.
- Doing this provides an additional level of accountability
- Trustees were happy with the report
- Management Committee Report content:
 - Management Committee Report:
 - As a management committee, we have worked hard this year to make sure fleet maintenance has supported the fleet update work started by Jamie when he was captain. We had a healthy bank balance last year and, while it is lower at this point, we have made a conscious decision to ensure we have the equipment we need to operate safely. The purchase of an additional coaching launch when there was an accident with the previous launch, demonstrates our commitment to building capacity to coach across the club. The new truck was another essential purchase, given that we have no wish for anyone who has volunteered to tow to have the experience Jamie and Adie did when returning from Nottingham.
 - Thank you to Stew B for stepping up as captain at the last minute at the last AGM. I am sure you all agree that it is essential to have a captain at the helm. I would like to officially thank Stew for all of his hard work as captain this year and for continuing the development of SBC as a competitive rowing club.
 - In order to relieve the pressure on the captain’s role we are looking to assign a squad coordinator for each section. We are

asking squads to assign a coordinator for senior men, senior women, masters, development and junior squads. The captain's role will change slightly to oversee rowing needs and the strategic direction of each squad, improving the communication across the club.

○ Events

- The cancellation of both Heads, in November and January, as well as the last-minute cancellation of the regional Junior Regatta, was a nightmare and disappointing for the club in terms of competition and finance.
- The boat naming ceremony earlier this year was a great success, with a large attendance and a real opportunity to celebrate the support and commitment to the club of members, past and present, and sponsors.
- The fact that our summer regatta was able to go ahead was a huge relief. We were very lucky with the fantastic weather over two days and the amount of money we have been able to recoup has been very positive. The decision to change to an upstream course for our August 2023 regatta was considered a positive move and we continued with this course this year. The feedback from clubs and competitors, as well as umpires, has been overwhelmingly positive. (Read some feedback from clubs)
- The revenue generated from this year's regatta has added to funds. Again, thank you to everyone who volunteered to make it such a successful regatta. I am sure you can all agree that the team atmosphere and how everyone supported each other was outstanding.

○ Membership

- Membership is something we needed to focus on and with the numbers going into 23/24 lower than we have had previously, we needed to do something different to attract new members. Membership expansion is needed to sustain growth and develop competition across our junior, senior and masters sections. The junior section has expanded, with the school initiative bringing in new members. A massive thank you to all of the members who helped out with the school rowing programme. It was a big commitment each week. The invitational event at the end of the regatta was lovely to witness and thank you to Ben Palmer for organising.
- The L2R programme was launched this year, with twelve new members joining as a result. Again, a huge thank you to everyone who supported that each week and welcome to those of you who have joined us through this initiative.
- We have also had a number of new members/old members returning because of the new gym membership option.

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- We are currently looking at a new membership system 'Spond' to reduce costs and simplify reconciliation. We will be sending more information out to members as we develop a better understanding of the pros and cons of this new system.
 - Removal of individual membership
 - the management committee received complaints regarding an individual member of the club in March and April this year. As a committee, it is really important that we take complaints seriously and we ask that all complaints be put in writing. Within a matter of weeks, a total of fourteen serious complaints had been sent to the committee chair, with still more instances of poor behaviour submitted after this. We discussed the complaints with a trustee and an independent club member who suggested (due to the serious nature of a number of the complaints) that membership needed to be withdrawn immediately. The process to begin membership cancellation began in May, with the final appeal hearing on 13th June, involving all of the committee and advice from British Rowing. British Rowing's Integrity Team was contacted to support the club and British Rowing's regulations and Code of Conduct were agreed to be closely aligned to that of SBC's.
 - The final decision was made in line with the ethos and values of the SBC constitution document. As a management committee, we are committed to supporting members of the club to row without fear of bullying or intimidation.
 - As a result of this unfortunate event, we have updated our anti-bullying statement to supplement the constitution and code of conduct. Copies of this can be found on the tables for you to view and will be placed in the members' area of the website.
 - Bar and Social events
 - I think we can all see the benefits of having a working bar and a thank you again to Lee for all of his support in managing this. The bar profits are very healthy and the regular use by members throughout each week has shown how we can develop trust and honesty as a club to run a successful bar.
 - Dinner Dance
 - This is planned for 19th October at Wharton Park Golf Club. Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment!
 - Fundraising
 - Ladies fundraising has moved on at pace, with car washing, the summer fun day on 17th August and other events planned.
 - Junior fundraising
 - The juniors have raised £1467 for the purchase of a dynamic ergo. We are looking at how we might be able to add to this to be able to purchase our first Row Perfect ergo.
 - 150th celebration

- The new committee would like to establish a sub-committee to begin to plan a memorable celebration of 150 years of SBC. If anyone would like to be part of this please complete a nomination form to join the committee.
 - Thank you
 - Thank you to everyone who has been part of the committee this year. It is always difficult to get volunteers to support the work of the club and we have worked hard this year to make sure the club is in a stronger place. To Jane Palmer for taking on the role of welfare officer and neurodivergence champion. Deb Barnett for all her support with catering, cleaning and organising the breakfasts (which have been a resounding success). For Lee for taking on the bar and general hilarity. To Mark Appleton for his work with the finances and making sure the money is where it needs to be, staying in the role when he didn't want to and keeping the club on track. Adie for all of her work behind the scenes in making sure events run as they should with solid entries. Luke for all his H&S advice, as well as support for insurance and the licencing application for the regatta. Nic and Jimmy for coordinating social media posts and a big thank you for Nic for stepping up as secretary mid-year. Liz for being membership secretary and looking for news ways in which we can streamline and save money.
 - Finally, we thank you all for your support of the club and each other. We are in a strong position, with increasing membership numbers and an improving fleet. The ethos and values we have re-established as a club over the last few months have been fantastic to see in action, with everyone helping out when needed. The recent regatta was a perfect showcase for this.
 - Membership fees
 - No increase in senior membership fees or racking for the coming year. The junior membership fees will incur a slight increase, to £300 per year, but this is still cheaper than many other sports clubs locally.
 - Changes in constitution
 - See item 12 '*Proposed constitution amendment vote*'
- Any questions
 - No questions raised.

6. Election of President

- During 2023-2024 there was no standing president
- Sara Peace proposed for President

Name	Proposed by	Seconded by	Verdict
Sara Peace	Stew Barnett	Lee Evans	Unanimous - Yes

7. Election of Treasurer

- Mark Appleton completed his terms as treasurer and standing for another term
- No other nominees

Name	Proposed by	Seconded by	Verdict
Mark Appleton	Stew Barnett	Clare Barley	Unanimous - Yes

8. Election of Committee Members

- Committee members entering second term
 - Nic Danby
 - Luke Barnett
- Committee members standing for re-election and verdict:

Name	Proposed by	Seconded by	Verdict
Jimmy Watson	Matt Gould	Matt Palmer	Unanimous - Yes
Jane Palmer	Lee Evans	Ryan Clark	Unanimous - Yes
Liz Danby	Nic Danby	Deb Barnett	Unanimous - Yes

- Committee members standing for first-time election and verdict:

Name	Proposed by	Seconded by	Verdict
Andy Harris	Stu Campbell	Stew Barnett	Unanimous - Yes
Jo Harris	Ryan Clarke	Andy Harris	Unanimous - Yes
Matt Gould	Nic Danby	Luke Barnett	Unanimous - Yes
Ben Palmer	Nick Dawe	Stew Barnett	Unanimous - Yes
Deb Barnett	Andy Harris	Stu Campbell	Unanimous - Yes

9. Life Members

- Existing life members
 - Confirmation of existing life members: John Hughes, Fred Caswell, Andy Hough, Pete Lloyd, Bob Eaton, Tony Gavin, Pete Lashford
- Mark Betson life membership rationale & vote
 - SB delivered rationale:
 - Mark has been and continues to be a dedicated SBC member
 - For many years, every weekend, during the early hours, Mark would take out a large group of rowers, keeping them engaged in rowing and the club
 - During his time, he bought on numerous new rowers – many of whom still row to this day
 - Despite deteriorating health issues, he continued to support with coaching and developing
 - He continues to support the club during the regatta building the scaffolding for the finish tent
 - He is a former club maintenance man

- He is a former club captain
- Mark has gratefully agreed to become a life member, pending membership approval
- Vote held, by show of hands:
 - Verdict: membership unanimously agreed to Mark's life membership.

10. Trustees

- Confirmation of trustees:
 - Tim Haywood
 - Richard Lloyd
 - Tony Gavin

11. Any Other Business

- SBC Vice Presidents
 - There are currently no SBC Vice-Presidents
- World Masters 2025 (10 - 14 Sep), Banyoles, Spain
 - SB would like to take a large SBC cohort to this
 - Further details for follow

12. Proposed constitution amendment vote

- Context: As a committee we wanted to move into the 21st century, tweaking the constitution slightly, enabling voting to be done via digital means. The preference would be to vote via face-to-face, however this is not always possible.
- Current wording:
 - *5.9 Only the posts qualifying as committee members will have the right to vote at committee meetings.*
 - *5.10 The quorum required for business to be agreed at Committee meetings will be 50% committee members +1. The chair will have the casting vote.*
- Proposed amendment:
 - *5.9 Only the posts qualifying as committee members will have the right to vote on committee business.*
 - *5.10 The quorum required for committee business to be agreed will be 50% of the committee members +1. The chair will have the casting vote. Where possible face to face meetings of the committee should be the norm, especially when voting in a new initiative. If a face to face meeting is not possible, then voting can be via electronic means, as per the agreed numbers stated above. Any vote must be documented.*
- Membership voted on amendment
 - Verdict: Majority in favour