

In the first 20 years of the trust we gave about £340,000 to Monkton and more than £50,000 elsewhere. In 2015/16 grants to Monkton was about £12,000 and in 2016/17 total was about £33,500. The regular grant is about £15,000.

Questions

Judging by recent conversations amongst trustees, I would expect at least some of the following to come up

- 1 departure of Matt Wells. I think you'll find that you get good support for the action taken
- 2 at the time of the appeal, which was endorsed by the governors, the then Principal wanted Monkton to be the best rowing school in the south-west and money was given to the appeal on that basis. Do you have similar ambitions for the boat club? It had a good season last year. Are you happy about that, or would you rather boat club activities were cut back?
- 3 Three term rowing - this topic has not been discussed recently but comes up from time to time. There is a fairly wide spectrum of views amongst trustees. I think all of us would say that the choice of sport should be freely made, particularly by older pupils. None of us, and no former master in charge or Director of Rowing would wish to force anyone to row; they should not be forced to play rugby or netball either.
- 4 'Gold Blend' Was a description invented by Richard Meredith. Monkton provides so many activities that there is a real danger of losing excellence anywhere. An example is the clash between Duke of Edinburgh and rowing. DofE could include rowing as an option, I think.
- 5 There is a clash between netball and rowing for the girls. Netball staff are trying to persuade last year's rowing girls to switch back to netball. One can see why, but it's not right.
- 6 Rowing once a week only for year nine. Why? To make enough hockey teams? To save money? To save staffing? Has the scheme worked this term? How many times has the average Year 9 pupil got on the water? Monkton are already behind and some at least feel this will make them even further behind. There is talk of introducing rowing at the prep school. If this is the case, they will make very rapid progress as it is easier for young people to learn balance in particular. Hardly consistent with cutting it back as soon as they arrive at the senior school. rowing=USP?

Plans for Year 9 rowing do not appear to have been well thought out.

7 Budget - we have perhaps misheard that the MCSBC current account budget has been cut to £24,000 of which parents pay about £20,000. The parental contribution was introduced some years ago to pay for the rowing licence which is of benefit to the individual and also to pay towards new equipment which needs to be bought year by year. There have been periods when equipment purchase has not been sufficient resulting in a crisis every now and again. The parental contribution is now being used for ordinary running expenses. There are always comparisons with the costs of other sports. There should be enough money available to enable crews in serious training to go to sufficient events where they can experience good competition. Attendance at events has already been cut back below the minimum needed.

8 Dundas - the Dundas stretch is almost unusable because of fallen trees. We may be able to offer some money to clear the river. Obviously only worth doing if the long-term intention is to keep Dundas as a rowing centre. There is rumour that Dundas will be closed to rowing. If this is the case what is the plan for looking after beginners? Transport to Saltford is already stretched.

9 Monkton 150th - a discussion would be useful. What can we do to help?

10 We are more than happy to advise or discuss plans for changes. Our wide experience, coupled with loyalty to the school might be worth tapping in to. We are in touch with other schools and have a good grasp at what is going on in the rowing world.

History

Monkton Bluefriars Boat Club (MBBC) was founded over 50 years ago. Its purpose was to act as a focus for OMs, allowing them to row under school-related colours after they had left Monkton. It was also used as a racing name for school crews rowing in the holidays or on Sundays. Sunday rowing was an issue for many years.

When I first came to Monkton, sport on Sundays was frowned on. An item in the school rules relaxed things a bit: "Quiet swimming may take place but no diving". A bit later, when the National Schools Regatta became a two-day event including a Sunday, the school rowing coaches, who all happened to be regular attenders at Chapel, had several meetings with governors who initially decided that Monkton could not take part. Eventually they relented and we took part in NSR which started its Sunday programme with a short religious service, attended, as far remember, by Monkton and Radley.

It has been a custom for many years that school leavers who have enjoyed their time in the Boat Club should contribute financially to Bluefriars so that their successors can enjoy rowing as they did. By 1996, the annual income of Bluefriars was about £1000 and we took up the suggestion that Bluefriars should become a charity. We thought it would increase our income a little bit at least. The legal work to set up the charity was done by an OM oarsman school governor. Rather to our amazement our annual income was immediately increased to the region of £10,000. The trust was also given a kickstart with significant capital gifts from a small number of supporters. Many people now contribute to the trust with regular payments most of which use the gift aid scheme. The purposes of the trust are to encourage rowing at Monkton Combe School and also at other educational establishments. In practice the majority of our help goes to Monkton, but each year we give some support outside Monkton.

People

There are present 11 trustees

*Gen Bailhache-Graham - coaches at William Borlase's. A strong and knowledgeable person

*Julian Bewick - Master i/c Rowing 1970-1994 - Deputy Head

*Godfrey Bishop - Master i/c Rowing - Deputy Head

*Peter Bossom - former coach

*Julius Caesar - parent - trying to get discipline into the way we work.

John Clark - Rowed at school. Son and father of OM oarsmen. (His father was Professor Clark of the Clark Society) Businessman, retired. Former Chairman of Bluefriars

Fergus Murison (Chairman) - OM. Used to work in the city. Now teaches maths and rowing at Great Marlow School. He is also chairman of EAC Trust which supports children at Monkton. (I have been a trustee for many years.) The size of this trust will increase significantly soon (Its founding trustee died recently.) Perhaps we can talk briefly about this.

*Toby Saunders OM (age 26), which lowers the average age of the trustees!) He has taken over from me as treasurer.

and Olympians

Rowley Douglas

Alex Partridge

Steve Williams

who are the source of sound advice

Rosemary Coates was until recently a trustee. It was very good having a governor-trustee. Is there at present a governor who takes an interest in rowing?

The trustees meet only once a year, though we use email extensively for discussions between times. Those marked * in the list above are what we call 'Local Trustees', who aim to meet once or twice a term to maintain momentum.

Money

our capital fund is worth about £185,000