

Bluefriars Annual Trustee Meeting - 2017

Location: Monkton Combe School

Date: 25th November 2017

Timetable

11:00 - 12:30 Private Trustees Meeting

12:30 - 13:00 Meeting with Principal and Director of Rowing

13:00 - 14:00 Break for Lunch

14:00 - 15:00 Public AGM. Decisions from the morning will be communicated and opened up for discussion.

Proposed Agenda for Private Trustees Meeting

Attending: Gen, Julian, Godfrey, Peter, Julius, John, Fergus, Toby

Apologies: Rowley, Steve

No reply yet: Alex

1. **Apologies**
2. **Review of minutes** *Appendix 1*
3. **Review of accounts (TS)** *Appendix 2*
 - Comments on the proposed grants budget
4. **Spending the remaining Boat Club appeal money**
 - £3,000 remaining. Any ideas for use?
 - E.g. To clear Dundas river of fallen trees / to build a toilet at Dundas.
5. **Criteria for awarding grants (TS)** *Appendix 3*
6. **Suggesting for non Monkton grants in the coming year**
7. **Appointment of independent examiner of accounts (JB)**
7. **Appointment of Financial Advisor**
8. **Monkton Bluefriars Head Race (JB)**
9. **Reappointing Trustees**
 - Re-election of existing Trustees (4 year term)
10. **Local Trustees (JB)**
 - Currently Julian, Julius, Toby, Peter, Gen
 - Confirmation of powers: E.g. can approve items by majority, provided that a minimum of 3 trustees are present and brief minutes are circulated by email?
11. **Suggestions for recruiting new members**
12. **Monkton's 150th anniversary celebrations - suggestions for Bluefriars event (JC)**
13. **Funding an honours board**
 - to go in the rowing center, listing those who have rowed internationally
13. **Insurance for Trustees**
14. **Any other business**

Proposed Agenda for Public AGM

1. **Welcome and opening remarks (FM)**
2. **Overview of last year's grants (TS)**
3. **Questions from the floor**
4. **Closing statements (FM)**

Minutes from Bluefriars Trustee Meeting on 26th November 2016

Present: Julian Bewick, Godfrey Bishop, John Clark, Fergus Murison, Peter Bossom, Julius Caesar, Toby Saunders, Genevieve Bailhache-Webb and Steve Williams.

Attending for part of the meeting: Matt Wells, Kevin Morris

Apologies: Alex Partridge, Rowley Douglas, Rosemary Coates

Report from Director of Rowing

Matt summarised the report that he had circulated earlier, in particular he mentioned the National Championship success and those trying for selection. He then explained this term's academic 4 week cycle for year 9 that introduces everyone to rowing. He went on to report on the growth in girls' rowing, particularly in year 10 where a predominance of girls want to row and that there are now more year 12. Next he explained the advantages of the move from Nantes to Hazewinkel in particular the addition of year 10. Matt then confirmed the change of leadership for the Bluefriars Head from Julian to Himself. Julius took the advantage of this moment to mention how impressive he found the attitude of the rowers. At this point Matt introduced Kevin Morris the Director of Sport, and asked him to speak on the way forward. He opened by saying that developing rowing was an integral part of this plan which is to position the school as a country boarding school. He said that he had already found that the year 7 pupils were most attracted by the rowing part of the school and that this seemed to be the reason that they would choose Monkton. He wants rowing to be more a part of the school and to celebrate rowing more. Kevin reported that rowing is an important USP of the school. Millfield's entry into rowing was mentioned and Genevieve said that they are targeting rowing at a high level.

Godfrey asked about the ridicule that rowers used to get for training too much compared with other sports and Kevin reported this had lessened and that Matt deserved credit for this change in perception of the pupils and the staff.

Fergus asked if the school was going to aim for excellence or just participation and Kevin said that they were going for a 3-19 school and that Matt was coaching in the prep school. He said that rowers are athletes and everything must work together and the registrar will mention rowing in her conversations with prospective parents. Julius then asked where can we support rowing in the school.

Here Matt said his real problem is contact time, (he now has a full timetable) that is his biggest problem, he works with the bottom pupils and engages with them, so he has had less time to devote as much time with the rowers as he wanted to and had in the past. He is helped by Anna Broekman, whose participation is to be praised, and the GTAs, but the problem is continuity as they leave. In particular he does not know how long Anna will be able to stay at her low salary, supported by Bluefriars. What he needs is continuous staffing rather than baby-sitters, Anna and Simon are helping here.. Matt said that he was trying to have coaches that took pupils from year 9 all the way through. Julius asked how the funding of a new Anna would carry on and Matt said that he was using 9 hours from the boatmen, an external coach's pay, our contribution and accommodation is provided for her as she does night duties. Kevin said that currently all 45 members of staff were coaching sport two terms a year, but it turns out that only 2 FTE staff are doing rowing. Even Emily wants to do other sport as well.

Matt wants to limit the scholarships that we provide for Hazewinkel as some did not properly follow up. As far as equipment is concerned it is far better now than when he arrived and saw "dust held

together with glue". The kit that Bluefriars is funding, the first VIII, which is very good, requires £30,000 from Bluefriars, but this has enabled him to purchase an VIII for the J16 as well. He is still looking at smaller boats, but bigger teams hold us together better and keep more students at a higher level. He plans to keep the age groups together and this seems likely. Genivieve pointed out that the girls' selection really needs a pair to give them a chance. Julius confirmed that what Matt wanted from us was a continuation of support for Anna and a pair.

Kevin mentioned that GTAs are very stretched and that he wants their skills to be more focused at what we want and Ben is a case in point (ex captain of Bristol University). Genivieve pointed out that equivalent schools had three full time rowing staff. There was then a discussion on the relative budgets of the competing sports and the school relying on Bluefriars so that they do not have to invest themselves. Fergus summarised by saying that he felt that Kevin was being very positive and he feels that it is good that Monkton seems to be trying to specialise in a few areas, at this he handed him the cheque for the VIII.

Kevin reported that he will be helping rowing two afternoons a week next term to build on his understanding. Julius asked if he and the Principle could attend National Schools next year and he said that he would try. Here Kevin left and the trustees wished him to be thanked for coming and his support of the sport.

Julius commented that the need for specialisation is coming from the head and asked if Fergus and the Principle could meet. Fergus thanked Matt for his input and all that he does. Matt then mentioned that the new boats will be here by January the first arriving in a couple of weeks and Matt asked about naming them and suggested something like Bluefriar with named seats? Steve took this opportunity to say that it is good to see Max at Leander as he is an excellent example as a representative of the school.

Review of minutes

These were passed

Review of accounts-(Portfolio reviews are available)

Julian rapidly went through the accounts and he commented that through Gift Aid appeared to be down it was in fact up and that some of the younger ex pupils are now giving generously. Then he went through the various comments attached to the accounts. He mentioned that we always try to give money to potential internationally participating pupils such as Olivia. Some discussion was had over the allocation of this money and how we should communicate that we do this. Julian and Julius discussed how we should promulgate Bluefriars. It was said that we need a board in the Bluefriars centre to show what we are and what we do. We did send more on the camp this year than previously and it was good.

Julius has purchased trees on our behalf to replace the missing trees without obscuring the view. Fergus asked Toby about his feelings and he said that he was finding it reasonably straightforward. Julius asked about a potential conflict of interest and Toby allayed our fears. John proposed that they be accepted subject to the independent review and Fergus seconded it, passed nem con.

Appointment of independent examiner of accounts

Julian proposed George and Fergus seconded it, passed nem con.