

Monkton Bluefriars Charitable Trust

Minutes Trustee Meeting

Location: Video conference online

Date & Time: 6pm on Wednesday 24th June 2020

Attending: Toby Saunders, Julius Caesar, Julian Bewick, John Clark, Alexander, Peter Bossom.

Apologies: Furgus Murison

1. **Video conferencing notification:** recording, editing and storing. Writing minutes.

2. **Review of minutes**
 - a) Review of minutes from trustees meeting on 15th Jan 2020 These were accepted.

3. **Update from Monkton Combe School (appendix 1)** There is according to Simon still no idea what will happen. Though probably not rugby he is waiting till a meeting in mid August. There will probably be no competitions so this would be good for the finances. Peter reported on the misuse of Dundas but it appears that Salford is worse.

4. **Finances**
 - a) Review of accounts core assets holding up well. Cash from Easter camp is £4000 in credit so it ought to be enough to tide us over. Simon reported that he needs to produce a booklet to explain what is required and what the rowing fee is for. Simon thinks that it is used to pay for external coaching, Julius is to investigate where the money goes with the Bursar.

5. **Future trustee meetings**
 - a) AGM 3rd October 2020

6. **Any other business**

Simon is still investigating Bluefriars Head, Toby suggested that red tape would be a problem. A virtual head is a possibility, Future meetings to be on zoom, was agreed.

Julius wants us to benefit from rowing being a non contact sport.

Simon reported that he now can get rowing at the prep school as he is officially in charge of rowing at both schools. He hopes that this might open the possibility of year 9 rowing.

The meeting ended at the end of the free zoom time.



Appendix 1

Simon Brown, Monkton Combe School direct of rowing, has sent us the below update to discuss at the Trustees meeting. Julian Bewick's (JMB) comments and thoughts regarding each point are in blue italics below each of Simon's paragraphs.

Monkton Combe School Update - June 2020

I will bring you up to date with news from the school and a few of my worries for next year.

I am expecting a reduction in my budget from school for next season.

JMB> I suspect that schools will be in very difficult position next year. Particularly boarding schools; I think it's highly likely that they will lose a significant number of pupils – particularly overseas. I'm sure all of us will be worried about the position of the boat club, but I think we really must see it as part of the overall picture.

I have done my forecast and tried to be fair but already I have had any requirements for new equipment turned down. I can petition the bursar for individual items but I think it will be hard to get any money out of the school.

JMB> there will have to be a lot of belt tightening and I wouldn't be at all surprised if your budget is cut. However, my understanding is that parents have had to pay the boat club Levy this term. I have never been convinced that the school has come clean about the extra charge for rowing. what is it for? When it was first introduced, it had two purposes. First, it was to provide money to buy new equipment, then it was also there to pay British rowing licence fees.

The bursar Tom who I really get on well with and understands the boat club is leaving. This could be a problem if the new bursar is not as on side with rowing at the school.

JMB> I had heard that the bursar was leaving. I agree that he will be a loss as far as the Boat Club is concerned

All the sports staff are still on furlough and we have been told to stay away from the boat club until next September.

JMB> your position is not the same as ordinary sports staff because you have the boatman role as well. If you are to do no work, then presumably the groundstaff who are in some sort of position are also not working. There is regular security check both Dundas and Saltford. If you're not allowed to visit, I wonder who is doing that important job.

The canal trust have contacted the school concerning back rent due for Dundas and the boatman shed. I believe the old rent was about £1000 a year. I have not seen the actual letter but I

understand the rent has gone up to £9000 a year and the back rent is approx £10,000. This is going to be an awkward meeting and I have a meeting with Kevin Morris on Monday.

JMB> The Canal trust or previously British waterways have in the past suggested similar huge increases to rent. Have they plucked the big number from a hat more or less at random? I suppose they could be comparing with the rent they get in for other facilities along the canal. Dundas Has in the past been treated differently because it is used by a nonprofitmaking charity working with children. Multiplying rent by nine or 10 in a single jump seems to me to be unreasonable. I don't think the increase should be accepted without serious comment.

Dundas and Saltford boat houses have been real hot spots for gatherings during the hot weather in lockdown. Saltford has come off worse with a few illegal raves where the rubbish and human waste left at the end of the weekend has left the site in a terrible mess. It even made the local news! . The council have had to come in and clean up with special equipment.

JMB> If there is no rowing presence, is highly likely that the gap will be filled with undesirable trespassers.

I still do not know how school sports will look in September but as rowing is non contact I am hoping that it will play a large part in the Michaelmas term. This will be vital for us to catch up some valuable time on the water.

JMB> You mentioned earlier that you expect a reduction in budget. The budget ought to reflect the numbers taking part in rowing.

The role of assistant to Head of Rowing has been taken off the job websites. Dave Barstow was due to leave but I am trying to keep him for another year. If he leaves I have two candidates that have asked to be considered who are both very experienced in rowing coaching.

JMB> Whatever you call the job, it still has to be done, assuming rowing takes place..

I have sold some gym equipment and a quad which has bought in approx £8000. I am putting this towards 2 new pairs. Or I can put it towards Dundas if school doesn't play ball.

JMB> Dundas is a problem. It is becoming completely overgrown and unrowable because it is not being used. chicken and egg problem. It's probably three or four years since any attempt was made to clear reeds trees, and so on. We used to spent quite a lot of time clearing reeds and small trees from the river to make rowin possible. It is an ideal starting point for beginners but unless you have sufficient help to provide coaching and safety cover, there is a severe danger that money spent on it will be wasted. if you have gained £8000 from sale of equipment which is no longer needed, that money should surely go into new equipment.

I am also waiting for an insurance claim to come through on a pair. We had an old play boat go over the weir at Saltford and it sank. I have worked with Andy at Hudson and fingers crossed we get away with it.

Apart from the obvious problems with the year I believe we had the beginnings of a really good squad. Only 4 left this year so numbers should be good for September and if we can work through Michalemas it will help secure them for January.

JMB> It will be interesting to see what the school attitude is to rowing, particularly in the Michaelmas term. Obviously the current virus situation has not helped things to settle down.

JMB> Simon - you don't mention in your note anything about funding from Bluefriars. trustees need to think about it. It could be argued that the Boat Club is suffering an emergency situation. Bluefriars Has sufficient funds to make a significant contribution to facing up to the crisis. However, if we made such a contribution, this school might well feel that it can reduce about club budget yet further, Or expect blue friars to produce large funds on a regular basis. (Larger than the £10K - £20K which we produce and present. My guess is the trustees would be wary.