

Monkton Bluefriars Charitable Trust

Trustees meeting

Location: Online via Zoom

Date & Time: 6pm on Thursday 1st September

Attending: Julius Caesar, John Clark, Alex Leflaive-Manley, Toby Saunders, Fergus Murison, Julian Bewick.

Simon Brown and Charlie Newbould (Monkton Rowing Club) joined for the second half of the meeting.

Apologies: Genevieve Bailhache, Steve Williams, Chris Cook

1. Review of minutes from last meeting

There were no questions arising.

Fergus agreed to meet with Charlie Newbould and Simon Brown at Monkton later this year to discuss the future of the Monkton rowing.

2. Review of Monkton Rowing Club activities

Julius explained that Simon had struggled with staffing at Monkton rowing club, which made it difficult to achieve his goals for the club. The addition of Charlie had helped. John C suggested that we might give a larger proportion of grants to non Monkton clubs, due to concerns that Monkton School wasn't prioritising rowing. Julius seconded, and mentioned his concerns that the school may use Bluefriars funds to reduce their own rowing costs, spending the savings elsewhere in the school - and so the grants were not effectively feeding through to rowers.

Julius proposed that we write to Wycliffe and Oxford Brookes to offer grant support to them, after their recent success. John, Julius and Fergus seconded, whilst Fergus and Alex suggested that Wycliffe would be preferable as Oxford Brookes already receive funding from other sources.

3. Grants

Toby proposed that we provide Jamie Gare with the £500 grant that he recently requested through our website for the U23 European Championships. Julian and Fergus seconded.

Toby highlighted that Sam Ford had requested his final grant for Henley accommodation, which falls within the c.£2,000 that the Trustees had previously agreed to support him with. Julius and Fergus highlighted the importance of receiving invoices for his costs to ensure that the money is being used in line with the original purpose of the grant. Toby will keep a record of all of the invoices and pay them directly wherever possible.



Fergus proposed that we give a £5,000 grant to Wycliffe for sculling boats. Fergus will write to them to offer them the grant. Julius and Toby seconded.

4. Report on Monkton rowing from Charlie and Simon

Charlie and Simon joined the meeting to give the trustees an update on Monkton rowing. Simon explained that Charlie will now lead the training, whilst Simon focuses on the clubs administration and maintenance.

Charlie explained that the Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) required a lot of training last year, but in the coming year they have more rowing experience. He also said that there are a few pupils aiming for GB trials in the coming years. Some pupils will be able to row in the 1st term, although only occasionally. Fergus raised concerns that occasional rowing in the cold Winter term may put pupils off rowing before they had time to build a passion for the sport.

In terms of funding, Simon suggested that they may look to buy a 4+ or 4-, or both if he can find them at the right price. This may not require extra funding from Bluefriars, but if funding is needed he will let the Trustees know.

Fergus asked Charlie and Simon if the proceeds from the recent Monkton rowing camps were going back into the rowing club. They explained that the proceeds went to the school and not directly to the club, and the trustees expressed their view that Charlie and Simon should challenge the school to ensure that the funds benefited the rowing club appropriately.

5. Any other business

Toby reminded the trustees that he will retire from the charity at the next AGM.

6. Date of future meetings

- a) **AGM:** Toby will send out an email to arrange the AGM in September or October.