

To Bluefriars Trustees

Our next meeting is likely to have a long agenda. To help to get myself briefed on topics which are likely to be on the agenda, I decided to sort out some emails and correspondence into some sort of order. Result are the notes which follow. I hope they may be of some use to other trustees.

#### Rowing Scholarship

After separate conversations with Simon Brown and Alex, Julian understands that the school may ask us to contribute to a rowing scholarship. We are in business to support rowing, not to pay school fees (though we sometimes do), so we need to tread carefully. It might be possible to compromise. E.g. We could make a grant towards a rowing need which would normally be funded by the school and the school funds the scholarship.

BUT the whole story is not a simple one. Simon tells me that there is a girl in the club who has had a great deal of coaching time spent on her. She is strong and ambitious but is not perhaps quite as good as she (and her parents) think she is. The girl is not happy with the small size of the Monkton Girls Squad and is having interviews at other schools, aiming at moving to another school for sixth form. These interviews have involved unapologetic missing training sessions at an important time.

Simon seemed quite upset about the affair when he told me about it. His closing comment came as a surprise. The parents might fund a new sculling boat for the girl. The scholarship would be given to another girl, new to the school, who would in effect be encouraged to come to the school to train in a pair to satisfy the ambitions of the girl who wishes to leave.

#### BLUEFRIARS BOAT CLUB BANK ACCOUNT AT BARCLAYS

1. I have been in touch with the bank and they confirmed that we don't have to get the forms back to them within a two week period. We can have as long as we like.

2.. (Alex and Max) The bank also confirms that you do not need to go into a Branch with certified copies of documents to confirm your ID

3 instead, you need to phone the mandates change help line 0333 202 7477 and tell them that you want to confirm your identity in connection with the account of Monkton Bluefriars Boat Club

Sort Code. 200506

Account Number. 206329101

You will need your photo ID driving licence and/or your passport.

I forgot to tick a box requesting a debit card for the account. I suggest that just one card should be held by just one of you. From memory, it was going to be Max who is going to be treasurer of. MBBC, so he should probably have the card. This would help keep the boat club separate from the charity.

5 Two signatures are required to authorize transactions. Three (Alex, Julian and Max) Will now be available.. I have kept myself on the list to act as longstop in case one of you is not available.

6. I will hand over the cheque book, paying in slips and some recent bank statements.

7 Several people make annual donations to MBBC by standing order. Over the years, I have tried several times to get them to change to make payments to the Trust with the advantage of being able to use the gift aid scheme and the majority did this 20 years ago.

8 Alex mentioned to me that a bill from BR to pay the affiliation fee for MBBC needs to be paid. I think this should be paid by the boat club account. Better still, the club should no longer be dormant but should be paying the affiliation fee of an active club.

Chairman's letter to School chairman of Governors

Has there been any reaction from School?

Do we leave this to the chairman, or have we views which could be included in any further discussions?

JMB: some of the ongoing tensions between the school and Bluefriars appear to have evaporated.

However. there are several unresolved major causes of concern

1 Large amounts of money were raised from OMs, Bluefriars, parents and other supporters not long ago. It was made very clear at the time of the Boat Club Appeal that the aim was to make Monkton the best (or one of the best rowing schools in the South West with new facilities at Salford for the senior and more experienced members of the club, complemented by local facilities at Dundas which were more convenient for beginners. It happens that substantial Bluefriars funds were used to fund essential repairs at Dundas and we were assured quite recently that facilities at Dundas would continue to be used to give beginners a convenient and safe location. We understand that rowing is now more less impossible at Dundas. The rafts at Dundas, miraculously still in place, are used by the general public in large numbers as a public swimming venue. The general state of the boatouses, workshop, rafts does no credit to the school.

We understand that the emphasis put on various aspects of School's life will change over the years, but it is not helpful to be asked to support a project and providing substantial funds only to find it being closed down after a short time. Of course the maintenance of a large, active and enthusiastic Boat |Club comes with a price, but even if only a handful of pupils come to Monkton because of the rowing, it can pay its way.

I wonder if it's worth pursuing all these arguments, or should we just accept that we're not going to get anywhere.

BLAZERS

Toby has a friend who would like to purchase a Blazer.

Alex urges that we make progress – We've been talking about it for a long time. When discussing what new blazer is wanted:

It should recognize girls and should include a Bluefriar.

Julian hopes that the traditional 1st VIII blazer which is well known should be retained for those who earn it. It is the one bit of Monkton kit which has survived more or less unchanged for a very long time. Other kit is brought in regularly to give variety and add interest. A new blazer could be based on the 2nd VIII blazer which has white/blue piping. Possibly add some red to piping to recognise Girls.

The school might not approve of another bit of kit. Perhaps a new badge could recognize both the school and Bluefriars by incorporating both a Bluefriar and a school emblem (what?) into the badge?

Alex asks for details of suppliers. The old supplier is no longer trading. The last batch was supplied by a blazer specialist who was able to make an excellent copy of the badge that has been in use for many years. Joe Short produced a modern replacement Bluefriar using vector graphics. Perhaps the blazer firm are the right people to make a suitable design. Ask potential users what they want. How about a striped blazer?

I think Lisa-Jane Caesar organized the last batch. Perhaps she would be willing to take on the task again?

Simon Brown has a batch of blazers for use by current crews. We have in the past bought a few new ones to replace worn out ones. How many are needed?

Ties

JMB still holds some stock of traditional and 1st VII ties

To end on a good note

Capital fund is now over £200,000. As I have said in the past we are in business to give money away, not to save it.

I am very much in favour of supporting the OM who is asked for help to row at high-level.

We have had a request from a member of Bristol University boat club to support rowing at the three clubs row at Salford by providing small bits of kit for common use. I don't think we should do a little small items such as stopwatches and radios. It's okay if they are looked after carefully but if too many people have access to them they're likely to get lost, broken, maltreated.

I think we can go for something more ambitious. For example, the Ross at Salford are the very bad state. If facilities at Dundas really are closed forever then the rafts could be transferred to Salford. They were a very good buy, and have plenty of life in them yet. This would help everyone who trains at Salford in any of the clubs involved, as well as helping visitors races. It will help to prevent accidents and damage.

Even if rowing is returned to Dundas, not as many Rafts would be needed as only small boats would be in use. At least 2/3 of the rafts could go to Salford

What about the field which is used to the car park at Stortford.

Funding Grants:

Alex: Tiffin School: We have had the below request from Tiffin School Boat Club for £1,300 for a Swift 4x which I suggest we discuss at the next meeting

Julian. Should we support other schools. Monkton has benefited from similar help in the past - eg to when boats were lost in the fire of the 1950's. My original reaction was that we should not help them but on second thoughts I think we should perhaps with the whole of the £1300 they ask for

Tiffin School

Grant Application form completed

Name of event/equipment. Swift quad

Total event/equipment cost. \$ 1,300.00

Reason for grant request. At Tiffin school we have really struggled during the pandemic and only just managed to keep the club going.

We have a fantastic group of young boys and girls but they are competing in 20 year old boats and it's a real struggle.

We have very limited funds for new equipment and have a local company looking to sponsor and support the cost of an elite quad for our boys to aim for Henley and National regattas.

We will never be able to afford this without your help . Could you consider supporting our quest to be competitive. It would be truly amazing and inspire our young rowers to believe they compete at a National level,

If other sources of funding are available to you, please select them below

Other sources

Further details regarding other sources of funding (please provide if relevant)

A local company is willing to contribute £2k for an elite quad from swift which is 15k

Account holder name

TSBC parents

Account number

20411264

Sort code

204673

Agreement and submission

I have signed up to be a member of bluefriars

I commit to write an article for the bluefriars newsletter. THIS NEEDS To BE CHANGED

I will consider donating to bluefriars in the future, to support the next generation of rowers

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information above is truthful and correct

Alex : UBBC/Saltford: Furthermore, I've had an informal approach from a senior figure at the University of Boat Club who asked about Bluefriars and the possibility of funding some

facility-wide cox-boxes and stroke coaches for general use at Saltford between ACRC, UBBC and of course MCSBC. I told them that it's something we could look into upon submission of a formal funding application. I would also add that if we were to consider this idea we would need buy-in from representatives of ACRC and MCSBC.

JMB. I don't think we should supply things like radios, stopwatches, cox boxes for gen use. They wouldn't last long before getting damaged.

JMB I think we could be far more ambitious and make a substantial donation which would be of benefit to everyone who rows at Saltford. In the past I have suggested we might consider buying the field which is used as a car park at events. Or, if the marina if I needed to sell some land we could buy the Field just upstream of the both houses pharmacy regatta and Head Race finish.

When Writing these notes, a really good idea came to mind. Much as we would like the Dundas site to come back into use is it best suited to use by small boats – no bigger than fours. Also to be considered - the number of people using the facility at any one time what is never been more than a very small proportion of the 120 or so it managed to deal with in the past. There are a small number of ideas to put together in order to come up with a donation which would be of any benefit at Saltford

The Saltford Rafts are in a very bad state

The Rafts at Dundas are in a very good state, but the real danger that they will be ripped from their moorings. Present used by the general public as a bathing platform. They can be taken to pieces easily and taken to Saltford. (Reminder that they consist of tanks which are less than a metres square, partially filled with water to adjust the flotation.) Sufficient tanks could be left at Dundas for use by Fours. The smaller number could be attached to the bank more easily than the large raft.

Cost of the equipment ZERO. Not quite true. There will be some expenditure on attaching rafts at Saltford, and Dundas. Transport cost – not much. I guess is that 4-6 tanks will fit in the Boat Club truck, and they could be taken. When the truck is going to Saltford anyway.

ALL the rowing clubs at Saltford would benefit.

It may be that a bigger raft would be ideal. A Bluefriars grant could be used. (I don't know whether the same model is still being made.

JMB 5 May 2023