

# Monkton Bluefriars Charitable Trust

## Trustees meeting



- Location:** Online via Zoom
- Date & Time:** 18:30 Monday 23rd April 2024
- Attending:** Julian Bewick, Fergus Murison, David Bewick, Nigel Gould-Smith
- Apologies:** Chris Cook  
Max Leflaive-Manley was delayed at work and unable to join the call

### **1. Acceptance of Minutes from 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

The first sentence of “Financial Review – Financial Activities” should be corrected to read:

Donations remain stable. There was no income from renting out radio equipment. The VHF radios have been sold to Avon County, which now organises races held at Saltford. The UHF radios have been retained for use by MCSBC.

Otherwise, the Minutes were accepted as an accurate record of that meeting.

### **2. Financial Review**

DB has made some amendments to the accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023

The accounts package has been changed from Quickbooks to Xero, a system with which DB is more familiar and is also slightly cheaper. The Quickbooks account will remain live until the accounts for the last year have been reviewed.

DB is now a contact with JM Finn although JB remains the primary contact.

The Trust may have fallen off HMRC’s “radar” – DB has re-registered as the contact. Likewise, registration for Gift Aid has slipped and DB has submitted an application to re-register the Trust, in order to enable an application for Gift Aid due from past years, as discussed at the last meeting.

DB has registered with the Charity Commission (CC) as a contact for the Trust. Trustee records have been updated. The Annual Return for the CC is due by the end of June. ALM prepared a draft which DB has finalised and will submit.

JM Finn currently manage a Shares account for Bluefriars plus two cash accounts. In addition, they also manage an execution only portfolio of shares which have been gifted to Bluefriars.

The Barclays account has now been closed and the balance transferred to Bluefriars’ accounts.

Overall, Bluefriars’ bottom line is £17,000 better than it appeared.

In future years, the starting value for each year’s accounts will be the closing value of the preceding year. The accounts have been prepared on a different basis in previous years.



Simon Brown has been asked to provide a written statement regarding the unauthorised balance of £771.99 which has been run up on the Bluefriars card held by him. The Trustees' view is that Simon is not responsible for this balance but, before the Trust can write off this amount, a proper explanation is required for compliance purposes, which has not yet been provided but it was pointed out that Simon and MCSBC have recently been extremely busy, not least as a result of the Easter Training Camp. It was agreed that DB would contact Simon to remind him that the Trustees need to hear from him in this regard, in due course.

The card is currently non-active and there was a brief discussion as to the necessity of making such a card available to MCSBC, especially as pupils generally seem to have access to their own funds to cover refreshments while out attending events. It was agreed to allow the card to remain suspended pending receipt of Simon's statement and the opportunity to hear from the New Head of Rowing, David Rumble. JB felt that it was still desirable that the Head of Rowing was able to have access to Bluefriars' funds for an appropriate purchase.

A copy of DB's presentation, including figures providing more detail, is available on the Bluefriars website.

### **3. Head of Rowing Report, including Easter Camp**

David Rumble, newly appointed Head of Rowing at MCS, joined the meeting.

FM introduced David to the Trustees and briefly explained the Trust's brief before inviting David to comment on the Easter Camp, MCSBC plans for the season and areas where financial help from Bluefriars might be able to help.

David felt that the Easter Camp at Nantes had gone exceptionally well, the river was very pleasant to row on and the hosts exceptional. Thanks were expressed to Bluefriars for the help provided.

National Schools and Henley are the main focus for the coming term. The top boys crew is the 4+, who are technically very good. The second boat is likely to be an 8, about half of whom are Year 13 with a number of Year 11.

The number of girls rowing is a little low and the top boat will be a pair, with a 4 as second boat.

In addition to these crews the club hopes to put out a J15 boys 4 and both boys and girls J14 Quads.

Overall, numbers in the boat club are reasonable with 40 Year 9 and 10 girls and boys signed up and around 42 J16 upwards.

There are no equipment needs at the current time.

The Dundas site has been under used for a number of years, flooding around Christmas was damaging and the river is in poor condition for rowing. Despite this, effort is being put into getting the site up and running again in order to allow Year 9s to get some after school rowing in as an introduction to the sport, before progressing to Saltford.

Details of some summer courses are close to being finalised. It is also hoped to reach out to MCJS, to introduce some of their senior pupils to rowing and encourage them to continue into



senior rowing at MCS.

The club is hoping to enter an VIII for Henley.

David did not currently see any specific areas for additional Bluefriars assistance.

After David left the meeting, there was a general discussion about how Bluefriars might continue to provide support to Monkton rowing. FM commented that it would be good to try to ensure that Bluefriars support was more “visible” to MCS. The possibility of supporting a rowing scholarship was discussed, with the intention of attracting promising rowers to MCS, although it was also noted that this would be likely to erode Bluefriars asset base very quickly as it would probably require around £20,000 support per annum and that this support would be required to be ongoing.

The Trustees view was that the current asset base of around £240,000 is probably rather more than is required and there would be no objection to this becoming significantly reduced if a suitable opportunity to provide substantial support to MCSBC were identified.

FM suggested that an approach be made to Richard Miller to discuss the Trustees thoughts in this respect.

JB commented that it was good to feel that Bluefriars and MCS were once again pulling in the same direction.

#### **4. Membership**

Bluefriars’ website is under review and some input from MCS is required.

#### **5. Appointment of Additional Trustees**

This was a subject on which MLM expressed strong views at the last meeting. In his absence it was felt that it would not be appropriate to discuss potential future appointments without MLM’s input. FM expressed the view that future appointments might well be related to a particular role requirement and that it was important to reflect a greater range of diversity amongst the Trustees.

This matter was deferred for discussion at the next meeting.

#### **6. Grants**

No requests received although DB felt that the Trust might receive some requests to help with the provision of small boats to use at Dundas as part of the initiative to reopen Dundas for rowing activity.

There might also be some requests received towards the end of summer to support possible international rowing.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

None.

#### **8. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 18.30 on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

