

Draft Minutes for Meeting, 17th March, 2020

At Club Shed, Molonglo Reach

- 1) **Attendees:** *President:* Jeremy Cook; *Vice-president:* Bob Collins; *Boat Captain:* Robert Bruce; *Marathon Convener:* Richard Fox; *Committee member:* Dom Hides; *Membership Secretary:* Helen Tongway, *Club member:* Mark Robinson
- 2) **Apologies:** Patricia Ashton, Laura Kleinrahm, Margi Bohm, Trent Birkett
- 3) **Minutes** of the last meeting:

Proposal: That the Minutes of the 18th February, 2020, meeting be agreed to

Proposed by: Dom

Seconded by: Helen

Proposal was accepted

Proposal: That the Minutes of November meeting amended to read: Special General Meeting (not Open)

Proposed by: Bob

Seconded by: Robert

Proposal was accepted

4) **President's report:** Tabled.

February and the first half of March have seen a considerable turnaround in seasonal conditions. Heavy rains have doused the health risks from bushfire smoke – and a new threat has potentially arisen with Covid 19. The rains also turned the Molonglo River from a static water body, half a meter below its normal depth, into a flowing, muddy river with water having to be released from Scrivener Dam. A lesson from this is to hold fire when making decisions in future to cancel races.

The flooding waters, that brought a change in conditions from exposed snags to floating snags, have also impacted our hardware on the river; in particular moving separation and turning buoys and causing the end of the club's main pontoon to break away. This all creates extra work, so thanks to those members who have pitched in already and to those who will be helping in the near future to put things right.

Thanks also to the grey army and others who have helped around the boatshed, including re-arranging the back room in readiness to receive equipment that will be purchased with \$1060 in grant funds we will soon be receiving from the ACT Government. There are still other activities on the to-do list, such as laying newer carpet in the kitchen area – and the annual autumn working bee to remove leaves etc can't be far away.

There are constant repairs and upgrades required around the boatshed, and it is timely to remind members that the shed, its fixtures and fittings, and the boats it houses – whether club boats or private – all need to be looked after. The 'tragedy of the commons' should not be played out in our club community. Our equipment and surrounds may not be perfect, but they are what they are, and people may need to make allowances. In the last Blazing Paddles I wrote about caring for club boats, which includes not hitting static boats, doorframes and posts, and ensuring boats are stable and set on stands before letting go. Club boats tend to come in club-build and can be heavy to handle, so people need to recognise their strength and ability to manhandle them on their own or with assistance.

Recent shed repairs and upgrades have included welding lock brackets onto the double doors in the old shed, the replacement of a security camera and some basic plumbing, which were all actioned by members. However other tasks require the club to pay professionals, such as electricians to fix sensor lights or plumbers and roofers to potentially put rain gutters on the new shed. All these things take club members' time and money to deal with, and the more we can all reduce wear and tear on the club's assets, the better.

The shower extensions and changes to the club's lease for the boatshed have increased costs to the club, including for utilities. The committee has been investigating options to keep costs down, including for example the recent installation of LED fluorescent tubes and working with utility providers to ensure we have the best deals and are being correctly charged.

The new showers use water from the electric hot water service, which after investigation of solar alternatives is not likely to be replaced unless or until the club can find and secure a hefty government grant. Most people are good at keeping their showering time short, but as the weather cools this may get harder, again resulting in a tragedy of the commons scenario with hot water costs. And while on the showers, members are reminded that if you use the showers, you should be prepared to help keep them clean. Cleaning products are supplied and there's a recording sheet so others can see who's been giving back. If there's product or equipment needed to make the cleaning task easier, let a committee member know.

Of course the reason members join BGCC is to spend time on the water and to enjoy themselves, not to clean showers.

For marathon paddlers, the Wednesday time trial (TT) events have been going on weather permitting. And despite variable river conditions, hardy players have continued to churn up the canoe polo field. Convenors will give more detailed reports on what has been happening in the various disciplines. Already this year, however, we have had marathon paddlers travel away to Batemans Bay, Wagga and Albury, and the first round of the marathon series proper is on this weekend with the state singles championships being held at Windsor. I have also heard of members travelling to the coast and Jindabyne for events, and wondered if information on these could have been more widely shared.

An area the club has not been strong on recently has been socialising. Bushfire smoke, inclement weather on TT evenings and low TT turnouts haven't been conducive to BBQs and social activity at the river. Although the weather (and water) temperatures are cooling, it may be timely to organise an autumn Sunday BBQ and paddle – let a committee member know if you'd be interested in coming along. It would be nice to bring together people from the various disciplines.

Anyone who spends much time at the boatshed will have been approached by passers-by who have asked about the club and what it offers. I am able to give a rundown on boats and facilities, but tend to get hung-up when it comes to the bit about people – what are the social opportunities, who will I meet, how will I meet them, who will support me become a paddler. The club has a Facebook page and a website, but if it doesn't actively welcome people and create a community it risks having an introverted core and rotating group of temporary members who pay their fees for a year – which is appreciated – but then leave. Suggestions to help address this are welcome.

I would be pleased to hear from you via email at swimming.fast@yahoo.com.au, which is the personal address you can use to contact me at any time, or you can use the standard club email contacts via the website.

Jeremy

5) **Treasurer's report:** Sent by email: Showing a bank balance of \$43,863
(See attachment)

6) **Correspondence:**

In: 2x ActewAGL invoices (\$157.05 & \$169.10) and Post Office box (\$134.00)

Out: "thank you" to the Allnut family for their \$250 donation.

To SES requesting assistance for July 4th race

From Previous Meeting:

- **Budget:** Still being worked on. Need input from Canoe Polo for annual pool fees and approximate income collected for same.
- **Club Shed:** guttering – MastaFlow came to measure and assess the guttering and drainage but still no quote
- **Portage Pontoon:** postponed due to work being needed on the main pontoon
- **Main Pontoon:** Due to damage to this pontoon in the recent rain downpour, work was done to make it safe and usable again, Thank you to XXXXXX Bob looking at options for a replacement pontoon. Current approximation is that a section made of aluminium would cost \$1,500 and that 3x sections would be needed. These would be imported from USA and with transport and taxes, etc., would cost the club about \$12,000, fully installed. This is longer term in that we would need to make an application for an ACT Govt. grant in the next grant round, so money would not be available until February 2021. Will include wheelchair access in the application, so \$ will probably need to be greater than the \$6,000 as above (\$ for \$)
- **Grants:** Bob attended announcements; we received Admin \$6000, plus Training Fund Grant of \$1,060. These are to be matched \$ for \$ by the club for the items stated in our application.
- **Conveners/coaches Training Fund:** having received the grant, David Pammenter has been paid for the erg. he has sold to the club. Margi will confirm other equipment to be purchased
- **Soldier On:** Tuesday 31st March 9.30; for 3 hours, at \$25pp We already have several volunteers: Bob Collins, John Lockie, Gary Bergman and Margi Bohm have agreed to help

7) **Convener Reports**

- **Paddle to Fitness.** No report
- **Marathon:** 4th July

Patricia has sent a letter to the SES for 2 boats & will ask Ben to be our First Aid person. She will also check with Water-Ski club on possibility of using their river-end instead of the lake. Helen has booked a coffee van: Frank Gearts at *Rebootcoffee*

- **Canoe Polo:** No Report
- **Coaches Rep.:** No report
- **Boat Captain:** There has been a dribble of new boat-rack applicants. There are currently 6 spaces, with 2 of these to be kept for Boat Captain spaces. BUT, because there some stray boats stuck in the shed, there are only 3 actual spaces. Robert also rescued and replaces some of the red and the yellow buoys which had been washed out of place in the recent rain-induced river flow.
- **Membership:** 232
- **Members were asked for reasons why many members were not renewing.** One reason given was a lack of social activity; very few opportunities for members to socialise

either on the water or at the club. Much discussion on possible solutions, but most came back to the need for willing organisers. Suggested a trial of Sunday morning Social paddles with a stated “Start” time and a stated “Be Back by” time, to have coffee and cake (or whatever) so that paddlers could either stay on the river (and time themselves if they wanted to,) or head out onto the lake – to the dam wall if that is how fast they are, or over to Little Venice, or wherever their paddling speed allowed – to be back by Coffee Time. Reintroduce evening/night paddles? Trips away – to South Coast, Kangaroo Valley?

- **Safety:** No report
- **Time Trials:** Tony Mee will not be available to time over the winter Sunday TTs – but see above

8) **Key Request** – via email – Georgie Statham – has received her key

9) **Events** - Burley Griffin BASH – agreed that we still want to run it, will need to look at the calendar from September to see what dates are free in the Ultra Marathon series. Need to encourage newer paddlers – maybe get experienced paddlers to buddy up in doubles or singles

- Ski Weekend – advertised for end March 28th & 29th. Craig Elliott to organise: Batemans Bay at the river mouth, skills practice and paddle.

10) **Other Business**

- Need to line and **insulate the ceiling in the meeting room**. Might cost about \$1,000 to do. Shane Lund and Bob to look into costs of materials and get back to the committee for approval
- **Membership**, key-hire and boat-rack **fees for 2020-2021** Will keep them as they are, as the “Early Bird” fees; for those who pay their fees by end of August. For tardy payers, each of the fees will rise. Membership from \$80 to \$100; annual Key-hire fee, from \$75 to \$85; Boat-rack fee from \$180 to \$200. Allowance can be made by any member who finds these fees too high in the current recession, by making an application to the committee (or a nominated committee member – membership secretary?) BEFORE the end of the Early Bird period.

Membership/Fees: 2019-2020	M'ship:	\$18,600	\$80 p.a. + \$50 New Member fee
	Keys:	\$8,435	\$75 p.a. + \$50 deposit
	Boat-racks:	<u>\$17,380</u>	\$180 p.a.
		<u>\$44,415</u>	

11) **Meeting closed:** 7:03 p.m.

12) **Next meeting:** 21st April, 2020?