

Exec meeting 1/05/24 – 1st meeting of 24-25 exec

Present: Ben, Erica, Noah, Izzy, Madeleine, Sophie, Charlie (minute taker), Will, Charlotte.

Ben: vote on giving Charlotte lifetime membership. Everyone votes in favour (we value our lives).

Ben: Palatinate dinner - him and Mark think we should coordinate who we nominate otherwise we don't stand a chance of winning. All agree that as a club we nominate final years Josh, Nick, Sarah and Charlotte for their contribution and achievements. Charlotte will nominate club for most improved after great BUCS performances.

Ben: plans for summer term. Need more rescue-trained people. Mark and Ben will run an unofficial FSRT course so more people can be signed off. George, Chloe, Erica, Will, Sophie and others interested.

Izzy: definitely need to do this so we have trained people. Wording of safety doc means you don't need 'official' certificate as long as competent and signed off by Mark/Ben.

Izzy: need to make sure Wednesdays are pushed more in September.

Noah: should do the training asap.

Charlotte: maybe rescue refresher training in first week of term next year. Need more airbags so that the rescues are as easy as possible.

Ben and others agree. Suggest buying more airbags as we don't have nearly enough – all agree. Possibly front airbags as well as rear. Ben will look into this.

Izzy: we need new polo BAs.

Charlotte and Ben: will talk to TD about funding. Our current BAs are deteriorating and no longer legal for competitions as they don't have enough protection. Expensive – probably close to £2000.

Charlotte: club should buy the Zet Raptor for sale as its good for taller members. Noah agrees. Should look at boats that aren't being used.

Ben: need to look at the boats we have, see what isn't being used/could be fixed. Some boats should probably be sold.

Charlotte: need to buy more tools. Need a general clear-out basically – chuck out some helmets and ask about rodent traps for boathouse. Summer BBQ a good way to do this.

Charlotte: spraydecks: Wear decks looking a bit sad – we should buy more spraydecks. Need to relabel current deck tubes that have stretched. Should buy small waist size. Ben will look at this.

Ben: new paddles - need to have a look at options, somewhere between Ainsworth and werner rio level.

Noah: should we do a termly membership.

Ben: Disagrees, but might be able to get a similar arrangement to climbing where not everyone has to pay TD membership as it does put off casual members from joining. Will ask.

Sophie: should we buy more dryrobes as lots of the private ones that get shared are owned by outgoing members.

General agreement on buying more dryrobes – Izzy: we should buy more dry cags too – really important that people don't get cold on whitewater and they are good for polo too.

Ben: half-slices are popular. We only have one. Should look at buying others, possibly rpms/axiom with footplates (not footpegs) so that people can keep developing without the need to private purchase a boat. Everyone agrees.

Discussion of keys and who needs one etc. Will get them from outgoing members in June.

Charlie: we should do BA tests. Shouldn't send people on whitewater with untested BAs. Happy to do them with help over the summer.

Noah: could we use rice rather than dumbbells for the BA tests?

Everyone: collective looks of disappointment. Agree we should do the tests.

Charlie: interested in running some sessions for Durham air cadets using club boats. Community outreach etc. Club would have priority over boats and possibly a small contribution to club. Will look into it – nobody seems to object.

Noah: more polo. Maybe a hill vs bailey polo match.

Izzy: wants to do inter-uni polo friendlies. Get people into polo early next year. More time in Stockton.

Charlotte: could collaborate more with teestigers.

Izzy: need to make some contribution as a club to teestigers if we keep crashing their training. Maybe a one-off payment. Need to talk to Mark about this.

Will: will start thinking about socials when people finish exams.

Maddie: pool sessions – got to be when pools, cars, drivers have availability. Charlotte and Erica agree any day except Thursdays.

Charlotte: getting faffed around for Alps. Deadline is Friday for letting her know availability. Wales interest and sign-up form going out soon. Might invite some alumni to Wales. Were we happy with trips this year?

Izzy: make sure trips are varied – not just HF-LF.

Charlotte: should make sure that there's a supportive community around whitewater. Lots of beginner stuff so people can develop and not be traumatised.

Ben: should do surfing trips, good for helping people learn to roll. Wants to look at dolphins.