

TTRA AGM 2018

Monday 14th January, 2018

Held at Mercers Hall, 6 Fredericks Place, EC2R 8AB

Members and visitors began arriving at 18:30

1. The Chair, Captain Guy Brocklebank welcomed everyone.

Present were 25 people.

Guy Brocklebank - Ed Robertson - Joe Lane - Roger Gould (all of the Committee).
David Strassburg - Jon Averbs - Brind Waldron - John Adams - Nigel Tate - Kathrine Rounce - David Sidden - Nikki Calcutt - Roy Miller - Catherine Jago - Rachel Headley - Anya MacGregor - Simon Hall - Mark Smith - Tony Mason - John Gavin - Stuart Smith - Nick Trillwood - Sarah Trillwood - Darren Knight - Edward Condry.

2. Apologies for absence received from Malcolm Knight and Tom Lee.
3. The Minutes of the previous AGM were read out and were proposed for acceptance by David Sidden (RBBC) and Seconded by Mark Smith. This was carried by a show of hands.
4. Election of Committee Members.
All three elected members showed their willingness to stand again for office.
5. Guy Brocklebank was duly proposed for the post of Chair by Roger Gould, and seconded by Brind Waldron.
6. Ed Robertson was proposed by Guy Brocklebank for the post of Vice Chair and seconded by David Strassburg.
- 7 and 8. The post of Secretary and Treasurer being accepted by Roger Gould once more. No election was required.
9. Joe Lane was proposed by Roger Gould as IT and Social Media manager, with the additional responsibility of overseeing the Accounts.
10. Jon Averbs of Port Health, was proposed by Joe Lane as a further committee member to shadow Guy Brocklebank in his role as Chair for this year. This was seconded by Roger Gould.
There were no objections to any of these elected positions and each was agreed by



a show of hands with none to the contrary.

11. There were no matters arising.

12. The secretary reported on our five events that had taken place in 2018, and Joe Lane reported on the Great River Race giving thanks to all those that took part from the TTRA.

13. The Treasurers report was produced for inspection to all those present having been prepared by Carol Ratcliffe of Watermens Hall. Roger Gould thanked Carol for her hard work in making sense of the accounts. David Strassburg proposed they be accepted and this was seconded by Roy Miller. This was carried by a show of hands. None to the contrary.

14. Events for 2019 are recorded as :

Sunday 7th April Oxbridge Watermens Challenge

Thursday 13th June Admiral of the Port Challenge

Saturday 29th June Tudor Pull

Monday 29th July Port of London Challenge

Events for 2020 will be published as soon as they are confirmed.

15. Any Other Business

Guy Brocklebank (GB) reported on The Sheriffs race. GB has been approached to see if it can be put n our calendar. Could we consider it this year?

September - we think 19th, is the 100th Anniversary of the Merchant Navy Association. As this date is mid week, it is thought that the TTRA might struggle to get a reasonable response. Were it held on a weekend or evening, perhaps we could help.

John Gavin asked when will it be firmed up. GB said later next month. RBBC asked if they can be kept informed as their members do have some days off in the week.

Roger G reminded all of their entitlement to 2 coxes courses per membership fee - and asked members wishing to attend them, to speak directly to speak to RBBC.

Their next coxes course will be held on 8th 9th and 11th of March at Richmond.

They have also expressed a willingness to hold courses at the downstream end for our members if the Ahoy would be willing to allow them from their base.

RBBC reported they have other events. Please join in. A sheet was sent round to all present showing the coxes course date.

10th March Tic-Toc - a 1.5 mile race starting and finishing at Richmond Bridge

14th April - A water obstacle course to challenge your boat handling skills - suitable for all rowing standards as it is a fun day out

21st July - Round Eel Pie Island race

17th August - Round the Islands Race - From Eel Pie Island, round Isleworth Island and back to Eel Pie (6 miles) in preparation for the Great River Race.

Roger G mentioned that two of our members are presently out in the Atlantic Ocean in a rowing boat taking part in the Talisker Atlantic Challenge.

They are - Toby Gould and Jeremy Reynolds - JL reports they are now over half way across the Atlantic Ocean. We wish them a safe and speedy return to their native land, should they so desire it.

Roger G advised their progress can be monitored on the Yellow Brick Tracker by searching for Talisker Challenge, 2018.

Ocean to City Race reported / advertised by JL and told us all what a wonderful time they have out in Ireland every year for this event.

DS from Tallow Chandlers. Made the point regarding the Tudor Pull. Can we regulate our timings as we get stretched out and perhaps have an area where we regroup even if QRB Gloriana has to speed on ahead. It was suggested that Chelsea Reach would be an ideal holding area to allow everyone to get back together so we make more of a spectacle and have greater impact as we pass through the city. This was agreed on and will be trailed this year.

Nigel Tate of the PLA crew said he'd love to see the ceremony for once as he has been taking part for years and has yet to see it. We will try our best to make this happen for all our members and it may be easier this year, as the Tower may well be open later due to the event taking place during summertime with longer hours of daylight.

Brind Waldron of The Barbers and Surgeons asked if we might allow the **Admiral of The Port Challenge to be an event when no regalia is required** as it is cumbersome and makes things awkward.

Joe Lane made a well balanced and reasoned point that as we are the Thames Traditional Rowing Association and this is now the only event of the entire year when we ask for regalia to be used during a race, maybe we should continue using it.

After all, it is our reason to hold the event in the first place, to traditionally show which crew can take two passengers from point A to point B in the shortest time possible while advertising their company prowess. This was accepted as a potted history of the TTRA by all present and Brind quickly realised the reason it is done. It should be noted that the Barbers and Surgeons have only this past year taken an active part in our racing events, so it was not a question that should be belittled.

Subscriptions - were discussed as an issue for privateers. The question asked was could there be a reduction in subs for private people or joint owned boats.

Roger G pointed out that even the Livery Companies have to justify their subscriptions and went on to ask the question as to how we could justify having a two tier system of charging while providing exactly the same services to everyone?

ie,. FREE towing to and from events; FREE food and drinks for all boat crews at our events and TWO FREE coxes courses for each boat crew. We must have one charge rate to make it fair for all. On reflection of all that we now provide this should

be seen as a good deal.

Roger G went on to explain the balancing of our income and anticipated expenditure for each year, the books presently balance perfectly. The more members we have, the greater the expenses will become as we will need more towing boats, more food and drink, and also more Safety / Support cover charges.

GB discussed the issue of us not currently having a President. He asked should we invite Sir David Wooton who introduced the LMF to be our President?

Passed by majority of those present.

16. **Date for next AGM - Monday 13th January, 2020 - The WC Goldsmiths** have kindly volunteered their services.

17. A few words of encouragement were given by our Chairman on closing the meeting.

The also gave thanks for - Canapés and wine will be available by courtesy of The Worshipful Company of Mercer's.

This was echoed by a spontaneous round of applause by all those present.

The meeting was closed and all retired to continue the discussions over several glasses of wine and many splendid canapés.

If anybody that was present has any observations or amendments, please contact the Secretary direct on ttraroger@btinternet.com

Roger Gould

Secretary for the Thames Traditional Rowing Association.