

Message from the Walbrook Committee, 20 March 2021

## **Club Re-opening from 29 March and Club Update**

As you may have read, British Rowing have mapped out a provisional return to covid secure boating, aligned with the government roadmap out of lockdown. Sport England will meet with National Governing Bodies on March 22nd to confirm details but here is our plan for opening on 29th March as long as they do not significantly change things. (see below)

Unfortunately, Andrew Crossley has had to step down as Captain for personal reasons. We are very grateful for the time and effort he has put into the role organising crews and the vast amount of time he has given behind the scenes.

The Committee has voted Katherine Cook as our new captain with Rik Hubbard taking over as Men's Coordinator in addition to his safety role.

The Committee has been working hard throughout Lockdown and we have now taken delivery of 3 refurbished quads and a single for which we received a 50% grant from the Rowing Foundation and the remaining 50% paid for by Confido racing who carried out the refurbishments.

We have now extensively relooked at our safety documents especially looking at boating on Red and Yellow Boards. These will be circulated next week but we hope that we have made things clearer. Club members have now been classified as Beginner, Improver, Improver Steersman, Experienced and Experienced Steersman. Please check with Steph and Rik if you feel that you have been wrongly classified.

There are many jobs which now need doing to boats and equipment and if you have some time, then as we can meet up according to the "rule of 6" it would be very much appreciated if you could sign up to help – list of jobs that need doing immediately are at

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAa\\_ZdkfRNUODFFU0hYOE04SjdSNkQ1UFFBRDNPRUJYOC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAa_ZdkfRNUODFFU0hYOE04SjdSNkQ1UFFBRDNPRUJYOC4u)

For many months now we have been investigating building a store cupboard for some sculling blades as many get piled up on the floor or fall off the racks with the potential for damage. We have now gained permission from TWC to build a store under the kitchen window by the fours, close to the gate into Tamesis. Chris Stone (one of the junior parents) has offered to build this for us. The store will be started in April – we are in the process of double-checking measurements etc. We hope that this will reduce the chance of damage to boats as sculling blades are carried past them, reduce damage to the blades themselves and give us some more space at the back of the boathouse.

## Reopening on 29th March - BR Step 1b:

- Crew boat rowing of all sizes will be possible in all rowing clubs with mixed households (subject to appropriate Covid secure protocols)
- We will be using the same boat booking form with the same log in as previously. All members boating including those using private sculls are required to sign in please.
- By taking part you agree to abide by the club rules for boating both Covid and non-Covid, to complete the boat booking form, to wear a mask on the hard and to wash boats and blades down fully.
- If you choose to take part in a crew, we assume that you are fully aware of the risks involved i.e. that you will be closer than 2m.

We are keen to support everyone who wants to get back out on the water to do so. We realise that not everyone has received their vaccination yet and may not feel comfortable with crew boat rowing and would prefer to either single or return to rowing at a slightly later date. There may also be those of you who would like to single scull but don't feel confident. To ensure we have everything in place for 29th March, as a first step can I ask you to respond individually to your section co-ordinator (Men: [rikhubbard@hotmail.com](mailto:rikhubbard@hotmail.com) Women: [stephanie.singham@live.co.uk](mailto:stephanie.singham@live.co.uk)) indicating your boating preference below:

- I am comfortable with crew boat rowing.
- I am comfortable with a double scull.
- I prefer to single scull only.
- I would like to single scull but want to improve confidence /pass steers test.
  
- I would like to learn to use a single scull.

The TWC Coordinating Committee are still requiring each section to boat within their boating times on Saturday and Sunday mornings. These are:

7.10 - 7.30am

8.10 - 8.30am

9.30 - 9.50 - Walbrook dedicated landing stage for returning crews

10.10 - 10.30am

11.10 - 11.30am

Crews leaving the creek have priority over those returning except from 9.30 - 9.50 when returning crews have priority.

Please keep the astro turf area clear for out rigger rigging.

If you are ready to boat at other times and there is no one on the lading stage, then you may boat.

Janet will be serving "Take Away" coffee and cakes on Saturdays, commencing April 4th and then as sit down according to the Road Map plan.

Many of you have said that you are keen to get back into racing and at this moment we are aware that the following early regattas (before 21st June) are trying to find a way to go ahead.

Walton and Weybridge – Saturday 22nd May

Twickenham – 29th May

Metropolitan (Dorney – no masters events) plus Peterborough both on 5/6th May

British Masters – Nottingham, plus Reading – both on 12/13th June

Marlow (Dorney) 19th June

We hope to see as many as possible recommencing rowing in the week of 29th March.

Best wishes

Walbrook Committee