

Clubs and Societies Board  
26<sup>th</sup> May 2009

**ACC Boat Club Budget Appeal  
Clubs and Societies Board Meeting, 26/05/2009**

The Boat Club accepts that budgets are being cut this year across the board. However, we consider it unfair and unreasonable, as detailed in our original appeal paper to the ACC, that our budget is being cut by such a large amount relative to those of other clubs, which in some cases have been considerably increased. We would like to appeal on these grounds and also to rebut some of the arguments made by the ACC in rejecting our initial appeal.

**“Underspend”**

The ACC believes that the current year's budget is “underspent” by a considerable amount. This is because, unlike many other clubs, we make a large proportion of our expenditure in the summer term for race entry fees (the majority of which happen from May to July), and equipment purchase (which we time in order to get the best deals on boats and the most appropriate equipment). The club currently has £151 remaining from its £4500 budget to pay for a projected £4780 entry fee bill this summer. Entry fees for the Met, just one of six forthcoming regattas, amount to over £1000.

**Participation**

As detailed in our original paper, participation in rowing is far higher than any other ACC club on the basis of number of people multiplied by time spent. The ACC's argument against our appeal on the grounds that ICSMBC receives much less money is therefore invalid. We also note that ICSMBC is not funded by the ACC and is therefore irrelevant. Compared to other ACC clubs, we have higher participation rates **and** charge much higher membership (103 people training 15-25 hours per week @£75 each) than Hockey (95@£45), Riding and Polo (74@£35), and Basketball (49 people training for 4hr/wk @£40), all of which received significant budget increases this year.

**Subsidy**

As detailed in our original paper, Boat Club members pay a minimum of £825 each per year to participate in rowing, to a total of over £82500 across all Boat Club members. The budget allocation for 2009/2010 of £10050 therefore offers a subsidy of only 11% - an extremely low figure compared to other ACC clubs. We also note for comparison that the ACC Budget Request of 2/3/2009 states that “ACC members contribute approximately £130 each to their sport”.

**Budget reallocation**

The ACC state that “funds simply do not exist”. In our original paper, we have demonstrated, as requested, that it *is* possible to reallocate money from the budgets of other clubs to offer a more even distribution of cuts, with the Boat Club still receiving a larger funding cut than other clubs. We consider it extremely unfair that our members, who commit most of their non-academic time to rowing (and a large proportion of their disposable income) are asked to take a 37% funding cut where, for example, the Hockey Club receives a 28% increase.

We also consider it unfair that while we are quite rightly asked to provide lengthy justification for our budgets, the ACC have provided no justification of their decision, have not replied to our arguments and do not even appear to have read the submission prepared for our original appeal.

We understand the need for budget cuts, but request that they are made more evenly across all of the larger clubs rather than solely from our budget. We would also like the Board to note

- a) that our membership is increasing rapidly under new Head Coach, Steve Trapmore MBE;
- b) that the club's aims are unashamedly to promote high standards of rowing, and that this does not reduce our enjoyment of the sport or discourage participation (quite the opposite!);
- c) that the club is very successful not only in gaining BUCS points for the College but also representing the College nationally and internationally, always with exemplary behaviour.

**Appendix****ACC Boat Club Budget Appeal**

The increase in the number of ACC clubs has led to a necessary reduction in funding to larger (by members) ACC clubs. However, the Boat club has borne the brunt of these cuts, with a reduction of 37%, which compares to a reduction of 1% for the rugby club and an increase of 28% for the hockey club.

**Participation**

Participation levels (in terms of members) in rowing are the same as that of rugby. However, participation in rowing is expanding, with an increase of 47% in the past year and a possible increase of approximately 15% next year. Additionally, participation in terms of man-hours is far larger for rowing, with 10 two-hour training sessions per week compared to a maximum of 7 sessions per week for rugby. On this basis, participation in rowing is far higher than any other ACC club.

**Subsidy**

Currently, Boat club members pay a minimum of £825 each to participate in rowing:

Equipment and kit	£50
Club membership	£75
Travel*	£185
Training camp	£350
Competition costs**	£165
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£825</b>

\*This includes costs of training camp travel (£120) and travel to overseas regattas (£65)

\*\*Costs of competing at Henley Royal Regatta (£130) and BUCS regatta (£35)

This adds up to a total of at least £82500 across all Boat club members. The budget allocation for 2009/2010 of £10050 therefore offers a subsidy of only 11% - an extremely low figure compared to other ACC clubs.

**Entry Fees**

Since the rowing regatta season runs from May until July, the majority of competition entry fees are paid in the summer:

	Winter/spring entry fees	Summer entry fees
2008/2009	£3836	£4216
2009/2010	£4349	£4780 (projected*)

\*Based on the ratio between summer and winter/spring fees remaining the same as 2008/2009

Currently, the club has £151 remaining from its £4500 budget to pay for a projected £4780 entry fee bill this summer. Despite this, the club's entry fee allocation has been cut from £4500 this year to £2600 next year. Entry fees next year are likely to cost over £9000, such that next year's allocation represents a subsidy of only 28%.

The club would like to request that the allocation for entry fees is maintained at £4500, which would pay for 50% of club entry fees. The remaining 50% would come from club members.

**Equipment purchase**

The Boat club asked for an equipment budget of £16500 and was allocated only £800. Of the requested budget, £5000 is for essential equipment while £11500 is for non-essential equipment.

Essential equipment includes parts for launches and parts for essential boat repairs. Since the Thames is a fast flowing tidal river, safety should be of the utmost concern to the club and to the ACC, to avoid serious injury or death of club members. In comparison, non-essential equipment can be deferred, but will lead to increased depreciation in the value of Union assets.

The club would like to request that 45% of its essential equipment purchases (£2250) are covered in the equipment purchase budget, with the remaining £2750 to be paid for by club members before the

Clubs and Societies Board

26<sup>th</sup> May 2009

start of next term. Non-essential equipment purchases will be deferred until later years.

### **Budget reallocation**

The proposed adjustments to the Boat club budget require an additional £3350. Of this, it is proposed that £1850 of this is redirected from the Hockey travel budget, which has been increased from £3150 this year to £5093 next year (2009/2010). This increase of £1943 for the Hockey travel budget contrasts with a reduction in the Football travel budget from £5657 to £2900, despite the training and competition schedules of these two sports being similar. Additionally, the Hockey club is receiving a very large increase in its budget while most other large clubs have seen large cuts.

Additionally, £1500 would be reallocated from the Rugby club travel budget of £6000. This budget is far larger than clubs of a similar size, despite competitions being largely confined to the UK. A travel budget of £4500 would still be the largest of all the ACC clubs.

### **Summary**

The proposed budgetary reallocations will offer a more even distribution of budget cuts to the larger ACC clubs and ensure high safety standards are maintained. Compared to the previous year, overall increase/decrease of budgets will be as follows:

<i>Boat club</i>	-16%
<i>Rugby club</i>	-14%
<i>Hockey club</i>	+1%

Boat club members understand the increased requirement to fund new/smaller clubs, but request that this funding is taken more evenly from across all of the larger clubs rather than solely from the Boat club budget. It is also important to note that over 40% of Boat club expenditure occurs during the course of the summer term due to the nature of the rowing season.