

# LEICESTER ROWING CLUB

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022 BY ZOOM

**Present:** Liz Pulford (President), Ben Pickering (Captain), Anne Hock (Secretary), Nicola Henry (Treasurer), Michelle Alexander, Adrian Alexander, Barbara Bogusz, Matt Bowles, Ethan Brown, Shaun Brown, Graham Clark, Kim Clark, Matt Connolly, Sophie Connolly, Ruth Connolly, Agnieszka Cygan, Michelle Dempsey, Rob Fox, Alison Gosling, Sam Gosling, Isaac Gosling, Shaun Gosling, Lydia Gough, Gualter Graca, Carole Gurnham, Lauren Henry, Mike Holman, Angela Holohan, Joe Holohan, Sally Horrocks, Louise Johnson, Howard Marsh, Peter Mather, Leanne McLaughlin, Malcolm Neal, Stephen Playdon, Sue Porter, Laraine Porter, Brian Robbins, Carl Sanger, Sue Shaw, David Smith, Emma Stewart, Hazel Ward, Mike Watson, Alex Wellings, Simon Whitaker, Clare Wildin, Fiona Wingate

### 1. **PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS** **Presented by Liz Pulford**

### 2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Tim Walton, Emma Stewart, Steve Bowyer

### 3. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

Proposed by Ben Pickering

Seconded by Anne Hock

### 4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### (i) **CAPTAIN'S REPORT** **Presented by Ben Pickering**

#### (ii) **SECRETARY'S REPORT** **Presented by Anne Hock**

### **Riverside and Agencies**

### **COUNCIL**

Work on the towpath and riverside has been very limited, but the Council has now confirmed 3<sup>rd</sup> December for a council supported cleanup which will hopefully start up the regular days again. There will be both litter picking and cutting back on the riverside and towpath.

Avian flu has not been so severe although it has affected the birds either side of us in Aylestone Meadows and Watermead Park. I enquired about signs but no one has provided any! We have had to call in help to remove dead birds on a few occasions. Meantime members are urged to make sure they are careful with any items left on the landing stage and boating area, and that those items are kept clean.

### **C&RT**

Cllr Adam Clarke, Deputy City Mayor called a meeting of all the agencies and the rowing club about the magnet fishers. As a result the C&RT designed and produced signs to be displayed along the tow path and

riverside. Unfortunately only one remains, and as planning permission is required for any to be put on the bridges, the signs were confined to C&RT property. We have subsequently suggested that the signs are stencilled on the towpath, but have yet to have a response. However the problem does not seem as great on our area as in the past.

Paint for the railings was donated by the C&RT, and a start was made on the railings by the bridge and the club railings. More paint, including red, has been ordered and a further session will be arranged once the weather is favourable! Many thanks to the volunteers who worked so hard to clean the path, and wielded paint brushes.

### **Environment Agency**

It was very disappointing that the EA did not do their usual weed clearance this year. I was told this was due to severe staff shortages and the lack of a barge, usually on loan from the C&RT, to take the weed away. However the consequent growth of pennywort in particular has now been recognised as a huge problem, and talks continue on how best to deal with it.

### **Committee meetings**

The Committee have continued to use zoom meetings throughout and will continue to do so as it has the benefit of higher attendance – and shorter meetings which has been welcomed by all!

### **Joe Humphries Memorial Trust – CPR and Defibrillator training**

Clare Wildin has taken over responsibility as contact for the Defibrillator. There is an issue with the software so it has had to be sent back for that to be sorted out, but we hope for a swift return.

Steve Humphries and his team came in for their annual training session in October, during SADS week. They provide invaluable information on CPR and use of the defibrillator, and although an excellent session, it was not particularly well attended. A further session can be arranged in the New Year, but we would need to make sure it was sufficiently well attended for the team to give up their time. Thanks to Steve Humphries and his colleagues for the time they spend with us on these sessions.

### **Recreational Tours and Events**

The recreational squad continues to flourish, and outings and tours to other clubs and locations are now getting back to normal. The focus has been on staying local, so Boston, Burton and Nottingham have all been very enjoyable days out during the year and an at home with the DMU recreational rowers for them to try out the Explore boats was very well received by all their members. Three members joined the BR Tour on the Ouse, rowing with Nottingham members to make up the crews.

The squad would also like to thank the Committee for the various improvements over the year, in particular the shoes for the Explore quads, backstays for Simon Whitaker and new cox boxes. Simon W is regularly used now as a coxed quad, and is a welcome addition to boats used by the recreational rowers.

### **(iii) SOCIAL CHAIR'S REPORT**

### **(iv) CLUB SAFETY AUDIT AND SAFETY REPORT Presented by Sally Horrocks**

This year we have finally put our specific Covid-19 related safety procedures and documentation behind us and instead were able to once again enjoy Leicester Regatta.

Members continue to be assiduous in reporting incidents to the British Rowing online reporting system. While simple capsizes remain a common incident, it remains a matter of concern that many of the incidents, either of poor adherence to navigation codes by barges or of anti-social behaviour, are things that are very difficult for us to control in any way but which still need to be reported in the hopes we can push those with power in these areas to take action. Anne continues to do sterling work in her effort to get the Canals and Rivers Trust to take out navigation concerns seriously and to get overstaying barges to move on. She even managed to get some signage in place to deter magnet fishers, which has not completely solved the problem but does seem to have significantly reduced it. Most of our serious incidents since the last AGM occurred on land rather than on the water and we need to continue to identify and mitigate all potential hazards relating to our activities.

Some club members were unfortunate enough to experience a catalogue of safety issues at Newark Head in December 2021. This was a sobering reminder of what can happen when risk assessments are not fully adhered to.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported the club by spending time on the bank supervising crews or fishing all sorts of debris out of the canal or has worked to trim back overhanging trees.

Finally I would encourage everyone to continue to continue working together to keep everyone safe.

#### **(v) JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT** **Presented by Emma Stewart**

Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to the whole committee for all the hours and work you put in. I would especially like to thank Liz and Ang for taking on the junior squad, organising them to get out on the water and running indoor sessions. I would also like to thank Howard, Alex, Hazel, Sophie, Tim and Sally for their help coaching on the bank. The support provided has allowed the juniors to have 3 coached sessions a week.

The juniors have taken part in a number of races throughout the year and have gained some very valuable experience and even collected some wins. This year we had Junior wins at:

- Newark Head (4/12/21)
  - J18 1x – Teddy Sherman (fastest men's single sculler)
  - WJ18 2x – Emma Stewart & Lydia Gough
- Lincoln Head (13/03/22)
  - J18 1x Band 1 – Teddy Sherman (fastest single of the day)
  - W4x-Band 1 – Emma Stewart, Lydia Gough, Thomasin Storey (Loughborough), Isabelle O'Toole (Loughborough) – (fastest women's crew of the day)
  - WJ18 2x – Emma Stewart & Lydia Gough (fastest women's double of the day)
  - WJ18 1x – Blythe Lyons
- Cambridge Junior Sculling Head (19/03/22)
  - WJ17 1x – Emma Stewart
  - J16 1x – Jeremy Gundle
  - Best steering prize – J17 2x – Josh Sangster & Lucas Bredariol
- Bedford Head (10/04/22)
  - J18 1x – Teddy Sherman
  - Op.Band1.1x – Teddy Sherman
  - W.Band2.2x – Emma Stewart & Blythe Lyons
- Leicester Regatta (24/04/22)
  - W4x-Band1 – Lydia Gough, Kathryn Scott, Thomasin Storey (Loughborough), Isabelle O'Toole (Loughborough)

- J17 2x – Josh Sangster & Lucas Bredariol
  - WJ18 2x – Emma Stewart & Blythe Lyons
  - J17 1x Band2 – Ethan Brown
  - WJ18 1x – Blythe Lyons
  - WJ17 1x – Emma Stewart
- Shrewsbury Regatta (07/05/22)
    - J16 1x Band1 – Jeremy Gundle
    - WJ16 2x Band2 – Riyaa Sandhu & Becca Carpenter van Barthold
  - Nottingham City Regatta (21/05/22)
    - J18 2x – Teddy Sherman & James Bradshaw
  - Nottingham Masters & Club Regatta (22/05/22)
    - J18 1x – James Bradshaw
  - Burton Regatta (10/07/22)
    - J14 1x – Igor Miedzak
    - WJ17 1x – Emma Stewart
  - Bradford Autumn Regatta (17/09/22)
    - WJ15 4x+ - Eleanor Gough & Anna-Maria Rennie (Composite with Derwent Rowing Club)
  - Ancholme Head (09/10/22)
    - WJ18 1x – Emma Stewart
    - W 1x Band1 – Emma Stewart (fastest women's single scull)

The junior squad also raced (but unfortunately with no wins) at:

- Head of the Soar (Loughborough)
- St Neots Regatta
- Nottingham Autumn Head

I would also like to mention the higher-level events some of our juniors raced at:

- National Schools Regatta
- Metropolitan Regatta
- Women's Henley Regatta
- British Junior Championships

We have been able to run 2 junior taster days over the past year. Taster days are only able to be run with the help of Clare, Liz, Howard and Ang, so again another big thank you. Both days required huge help from the juniors themselves to coach, cox and row. These days were extremely successful and have enabled us to recruit more members for the club.

Recently, Liz (along with help from the juniors) has applied to the Rowing Foundation for a boat refurbishment grant for the junior boats. This application was supported by letters written by Jeremy Gundle, Riyaa Sandhu and Agi Cygan. We haven't heard if the application has been successful yet but I hope to see some much-needed attention given to our most used junior boats (including Bubbles & Squeak, Bangers & Splash, Joan Bateman and Poseidon).

As the effects of COVID were finally disappearing the club could get back to running its usual events which included Christmas club races. It was good to see the juniors getting competitive and also socialising with the rest of the club (as this had been limited in the last few years). This year we also ran some junior only events to allow for those who hadn't been rowing long to still be able to have a go. I think this worked extremely well and it would be nice to see this carry on next year. It is clear to see the friendliness of the

juniors and how cohesive they are as a squad. And the efforts made to extend this to the whole club is reflected by Halloween party Riyaa Sandhu organised with the help from the rest of the squad.

Thank you for all the help and support I have received while being Junior Rep. and to the junior squad as a whole. I am confident that Riyaa will do an all-round fantastic job by helping the juniors and by what she will bring to the committee as Junior Rep. and wish her the best of luck.

4(vi) **MAINTENANCE REPORT**  
**Presented by Tim Walton**

Acceptance of all the reports was proposed by Nicola Henry and seconded by Hazel Ward and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS**  
**Presented by Nicola Henry**

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Ben Pickering and seconded by Anne Hock and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Treasurer proposed that subscriptions and rack rents remain at the current rates for this financial year 2021/2022.

Acceptance of the recommendation was proposed by Ben Pickering and seconded by Anne Hock and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The following nominations had been received and were approved:

Acceptance of all nominations was proposed by Ben Pickering and seconded by Anne Hock and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. **ELECTION OF SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

8. **ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENTS**

The following were proposed by the Committee, seconded by and UNANIMOUSLY elected as Vice Presidents:

Lord Mayor of Leicester, Rob Fox, Mike Holman, Martin Jones-Gerrard, Howard Marsh, Jose Mills, Malcolm Neal, John Nicholls, Liz Pulford, Sue Shaw, Paul Shaw, Rodger Smart, Tim Walton, Mike Watson, and John Wilson

Acceptance of the election of all Vice Presidents was proposed by Ben Pickering and seconded by Anne Hock and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

After thanks from the President for attendance, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.