

SECRETARY'S REPORT

LEICESTER ROWING CLUB AGM – TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2020

Riverside

Only one clean up was organised this year. The Council asked for a new approach, so we had work groups tackling specific areas led by a Council volunteer and using equipment also provided by the Council. This was hugely successful but plans for a repeat had to be postponed because of weather and then the lockdown. I continue to be in contact with the Council, C&RT and EA regarding the state of the riverside and when volunteers will be allowed again to work on the riverside.

C&RT

When Leicester was locked down again, the C&RT withdrew consent for any water users. A big thank you to Jon Ashworth MP and his office for their advice and support which ended with the C&RT allowing those in the lockdown area to use the water for their exercise. This was an important precedent and the C&RT continue to acknowledge the right to use the water for exercise, provided the Government allows it.

Annual Dinner

It was obviously not possible to hold the dinner in September as usual, and the booking at the Mercure has now been made for Saturday 25th September 2021. Thanks to Caroline Haracz for her work with the hotel to make sure both booking and deposit could be carried forward.

Committee meetings

Since the lockdown in March, the Committee has met using Zoom. Thanks to Hazel Ward for facilitating the calls and taking notes of the meetings. And for her Zoom workouts which were very much appreciated!

Recreational Tours and Events

All events were cancelled due to weather and then the lockdown. For the first time recreational rowers had to take out singles and to steer without a cox. I am pleased to say that almost all the group were back on the water and supporting each other on the bank as well. But our hearts are with the crew boats, and we were cautiously moving to getting coxed quads out again when the lockdown was announced. Plans for next year are now starting to take shape, with the BR Tour in July, Coal Rows in August and a Boston Tour to take place alongside the Marathon in September.

British Rowing

I would finally like to thank British Rowing for their advice and guidance throughout the lockdowns and variations. It has been very challenging when advice varies, different authorities are laying down guidance and so many authorities are involved. I know many members see them as a means to Race, but they also have a critical role to keep rowers out in boats, and I have no doubt that without them, we would have been very much more restricted. I would urge those who are members to keep their membership up, and those who aren't, to consider joining so that British Rowing have maximum support to continue to press for all rowers, no matter their age or ability, to enjoy their sport whether on the water, the bank or in the bar!

Anne Hock

Secretary

17th November 2020