

LEICESTER ROWING CLUB

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 24TH NOVEMBER 2020 BY ZOOM DUE TO THE COVID LOCKDOWN

Present: Liz Pulford, Rob Fox, Anne Hock, Nicola Henry, Malcolm Neal, Tim Walton, Kim Clark, Graham Clark, Sally Horrocks, Angela Holohan, Sarah Peck, Caroline Peck, Ben Pickering, Hazel Ward, Alex Wellings, Freya Talbot, Howard Marsh, Michelle Dempsey, Ben Pickering, Sophie Connolly, Mike Watson, Simon Whittaker, Jose Mills, Dave Smith, Clare Wildin, Malcolm Neal, FAIT ?, Elliott Cunningham, John Sephton, Shaun Brown, John Wilson, Alison Scott, Shelisha Kincarr, Matt Connolly, Andy Lyons, Lydia Gough, MATT ??, PETER ??, Phoebe Cook, Sue Lyons, Ron Hanson, Sarah Peck, Caroline Peck, Alison Gosling
(39)

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

Welcome

Welcome everyone and thank you for joining this, the Leicester Rowing Club AGM 2020. The first time we have ever held the AGM remotely! Hopefully we can all use the technology! I'm sorry that we are having to run the meeting over Zoom, but you all understand only too well why we have had to do it. It's unfortunate but needs must.

Meeting Organisation

- Some points about how the meeting will be conducted:
 - The intention is to keep the meeting as brief and concise as possible. All the reports have been issued in advance and are available on the club website for you all to read. Reports will not be read out in full this evening. Instead this evening each of the officers will give a very brief summary of the reports. If you haven't looked at the reports already, please do read them after the meeting.
 - We are not intending to hold any voting during the meeting. All the nominations for the committee are uncontested, so no voting should be required there. All the reports have been issued in advance, and everyone has had the opportunity to read and comment on them, so the intention is to take their acceptance as read. That doesn't stop attendees raising questions or making additional points during the meeting.
 - The meeting is being recorded so that we have a record of the meeting and to assist Anne in generating the minutes. If any of you have an object to this please let us know.
 - All participants will be muted, except for the person speaking at the time.
 - If you wish to make a point or raise a question please use the 'chat' or 'raise hand' functions. Hazel has kindly offered to monitor these functions and will make sure you get the opportunity to speak if at all possible.
 - Video will be off for all except myself, Ben, Anne, and the person speaking
 - We realise that this is all less than ideal, so as a committee we have all agreed that as soon as we are able to hold an in-person meeting at the club, we will do so. We will run a semi-formal meeting, coupled with a social function, to give everyone chance to air any issues, discuss the way forward for the club, and hopefully renew our friendships and have some fun.
- All members are encouraged to read the written reports. They all contain a number of thank you messages. For my own part, I really would have preferred to give these thanks in person and publicly, but time doesn't permit me to do so. So please do read the reports as I really don't want my appreciation of you all to be lost in the ether.

Review of the Past Year

- 2020 really has been an unprecedented year. We have faced many challenges; dreadful weather forced cancellation of many events over the winter; then the juniors went on strike early in the New Year, then just when things were starting to get back on track, we were hit with Covid-19 which forced the closure of the club for 2 months. Then, we were just getting back up and running when Leicester went back into lockdown, forcing us to close our doors again. The lockdown forced the cancellation, not only of our own regatta, but as it turned out, the whole regatta season. Now the head race season seems to be going the same way. It is so very strange to have so few results to report.
- And now here we are again – back in lockdown and with the club closed until at least the beginning of December.

However, it is an ill wind that blows no good!

- When the club did reopen after the first lockdown, we were limited to singles or single household doubles. Many members were initially a little reticent about going out in singles but so many of you managed to get over that initial fear, including many of our juniors and a number of our intrepid recreational squad, and I'm so impressed by the way so many of you have risen to the challenge. It's been fantastic to see so many of you getting out, learning new skills, and really enjoying the opportunity. The positive attitude shown by everyone involved has been absolutely brilliant and just fantastic to see.
- However, for me, the most pleasing thing to come out of all this adversity, is the very positive change in the atmosphere at the club. As a club I really feel that we have broken down many of the artificial barriers that had developed between the various squads. There is now a real feeling of everyone pulling together and supporting each other, for me it's been transformational, it all feels so much more 'fun' – which is exactly as it should be.
- The whole club has been involved in in this – and I want to thank you all for the part that you have played in this very positive transformation.
 - Firstly, thanks to everyone for rigorously following all the cleaning protocols that we have put in place. Knowing that everyone is following our robust processes has helped everyone to feel more confident about coming back to the club and getting back on the water
 - Thanks and well done to all the athletes who have stepped up to be brave enough to try new things and learn new skills
 - Our coaches who have given so much of their time to support everyone on the water, keep them safe, teach them the new skills that they need, and give them the confidence to continue
 - Thanks to Hazel and Alex who did a great job running the zoom circuits, which really helped to keep our members engaged, especially when the club was completely closed
 - Our juniors, and in particular, their wonderful parents, who have spent many, many hours, running and cycling the bank and supporting sessions on the water. It's clear that our juniors would not have been able to get out without your support, so thank you very much for your efforts – not just for your own children, but for our wider membership. Having you guys on the bank keeping an eye on what's going on has really helped to give everyone that extra bit of confidence and helped to keep us all safe.
 - Then of course the committee who have worked tirelessly in the background to get through this challenging period
 - Thanks to Tim, who returned to the committee at the last AGM saying he no longer wished to have responsibility for maintenance. Despite that he has continued to provide his advice and expertise, both practical and legal. He has ensured that our relationships with Riverside, West End Runners and DMU/Watershed are clearly understood and covered by

formal Licence Agreements; liaised with contractors to maintain the fire systems, lift and dance floor, and shown very impressive perseverance and resilience with respect to the club gates, which now seem to be working very well.

- We are all really indebted to Sally, Ben and Tim who all put in a huge amount of effort to put our COVID-19 systems, procedures, protocols and briefings in place so that we could reopen, and make the club as safe as possible for us all. I think the Covid systems we have at the club are really robust, and really have helped to give our members the confidence to return.
- Particular thanks have to go to Ben, who took on the captaincy this time last year. He has faced such a challenging and difficult year – but I'm sure you will all agree that he has done an absolutely brilliant job. Ben, I'm sure I speak for the whole club when I say that the leadership that you have provided has been just fantastic. So I want to take this opportunity to say a very sincere and massive thank you to Ben. You have been outstanding!
- Thanks to the whole committee for their input over the year. At times it has been very challenging, and very busy. I know a number of you have put your names forward to stand again in 2020-21, for which I am very grateful, but there are a few people who are standing down. In particular I would like to say a big thank you to Freya, our long-standing junior representative. Freya first took on the role as Junior Rep at the AGM in 2017 and had held the post ever since. Throughout this time, she has been a very active member of the committee and worked hard, both to protect the interests of our existing junior members, and to bring new juniors into the club. She has regularly organised junior rowing weeks during the summer holidays which have always been very successful and very much enjoyed by all. She has contributed fully to the management of the club and been a real asset on the committee. So very many thanks for your input and support Freya, your efforts are very much appreciated by us all.
- Also standing down this year are Caroline Haracz, Autumn Bates, Paul McGrillis and Graham Wright. Thank you all for your input.

Looking Forward

- Unfortunately, we don't yet know what the near future will hold. Hopefully we will come back out of lockdown and closure on 2th December, but we don't yet know what that will look like. I suspect we may well be back in small boats to start with – but we shall have to wait and see. The main thing is to be ready for whatever is thrown at us.
- Over the course of the year we have put things in place to support the changing dynamic and requirements of the pandemic. We have kept our Covid systems under constant review and they have been updated numerous times; we have moved equipment around to allow easier access to the small boats, and focused expenditure on buying/refurbishing our small boats (singles and doubles) which have been put under much more pressure and have been in much higher demand than would normally be expected. We will continue with this so that we are able to respond quickly as things change.
- It's difficult to see exactly how the future will pan out. We don't yet know quite how our membership levels will stand up – it certainly feels very uncomfortable asking you all to pay your subscriptions when the club is closed. I do however want to thank you all for the support that you have given the club so far during the pandemic. I understand that the vast majority of you have continued to pay your subscriptions, whether you have been using the facilities or not, and for that we are very grateful. That has been very positive for us, but clearly, as we move into another club year, and recognising the financial challenges that many people are facing at the moment, we realise that some people may decide not to renew their subscriptions. Whilst the accounts show that our financial position is still strong, our future revenues will almost certainly be hit by reduced membership numbers and the loss of the football car parks. I'm still keen that we do our best to grow and improve our fleet but we will need to think very carefully about our future expenditure

plans and we will undoubtedly need redouble our fundraising efforts in order to progress with some of our projects and develop the club for the future.

So, the new committee will need to work hard and really think ahead. I believe there are a number of things that we need to focus on:

- How best to re-engage our existing members, especially those who have not yet had the confidence to get back out onto the water
- How to go about recruiting new members and getting them out on the water safely
- How to prioritise our funds, find new sources of revenue and maximise our fundraising efforts
- The management, refurbishment and growth of our fleet to ensure that it meets the needs of the members under the new 'normal'. This goes hand-in-hand with optimising and potentially expanding our storage capacity, as the boathouse is now completely full.
- Then of course we have the regular issues to manage, such as the regatta (keeping our fingers very firmly crossed that we will be allowed to run the regatta in 2021, although I have to say it's by no means a given), the football car parks and the bar.

So, the new committee will have plenty to do. We can only hope that the vaccines which are now being heralded, are as effective as the media is suggesting, and that we are all able to get back out on the water and back to 'normal'. Let's hope that we can meet in person very soon in the new year and move on from this very challenging and unprecedented period.

Thank you.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Sue Shaw, Paul Shaw, Paul McGrellis

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 14th November 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Presented by Ben Pickering

Introduction This has been a challenging year to take on the role of Club Captain, I think Rob managed to do a very good job of timing when he handed the role over...but it has been a privilege to work with such a committed and hardworking group of members on the club committee.

This year has largely been overshadowed by the Coronavirus pandemic and it continues to challenge us. I would like to give a big thank you to the club committee who have worked tirelessly to get club members back on the water where possible, with special thanks to Liz, Sally, and Tim for their hard work on the club's Covid documents, Anne for her communications with the club's MP and the C&RT to help get us back on the water and to Liz and Howard who have worked to source and keep stocks of the sanitising equipment at the club. I would also like to thank our club members for following the rules and protocols that have been put in place to keep yourselves and others safe.

Results

The club posted a total of 34 race wins this season down from 75 last season. Bearing in mind there were no races for approximately 50% of the year, 34 wins is an impressive amount. The results can be further broken down as follows:

- 33 sculling & 1 sweep win
- 1 coxed boat win
- 21 womens & 10 open & 3 mixed wins

- 20 senior & 14 junior wins

I would like to give thanks to our squad leaders for organising their athlete's race entries and special thanks to Alex Wellings and Graham Clark for volunteering to tow the trailer on so many occasions, without their help many of us would not be racing.

Notable results

- Lauren Henry won the women's headship at Nottingham Autumn Head and at Newark Head was the fastest female sculler and 2nd fastest sculler overall.
- At Lincoln Head Sophie Connolly was the fastest female sculler and James Bradshaw was the fastest overall sculler.
- 7 juniors were selected to represent the East Midlands at the Junior Inter Regional Regatta. These were James Bradshaw, Blythe Lyons, Teddy Sherman, Stanley Alexander, Leonard Hubbard, Samuel Gosling and Freya Talbot (cox).
- Kelly Sapsford won a bronze medal at the World Indoor Rowing championships for her category.
- Sophie Connolly got the British and World records for fastest 100,000 meters on the ergo for her category.
- Matt Bowles got the British records for furthest distance over 4 minutes and fastest 6000 meters on the ergo for his category.

Women's squad

Alex continues to take a dedicated approach to coaching the women's squad and I am pleased to hear that he will be standing again for Women's Captain for the 4th year in a row. The squad have posted a number of wins this year and I expect they will have ambitious targets for the year ahead. Men's squad Hazel has worked hard with the men's squad over the past year and it is great to see some members who were not long ago on a learn to row course, now rowing confidently in fine singles. Work continues with the current learn to row members who will soon be at a level to be included into the men's squad. I am pleased that Hazel is carrying on as Men's Captain to continue the good work she has been doing.

Junior squad

The junior squad remains strong despite the challenges of this year. With restrictions on boat usage it has forced many juniors to row in single sculls when they may have normally rowed in crew boats. Rowing in singles really helps to develop an athlete's technique and I know many juniors have really benefitted from this opportunity and really taken to it. It has also been great to see many more members and parents helping out with coaching and supervising the junior members on the water. Special thanks here to Shaun Brown and Barry Sherman who have been regular fixtures running up and down the tow path together and to Sophie Connolly who has done a great job in encouraging many of the juniors and building their confidence on the water.

Graham Wright has decided to step down as Junior Squad leader after 3 years in the role. I would like to say a thank you to Graham for his service to the club in this position. During this time he has taken a large number of new junior members into the club and there have been many junior race wins. I am pleased to hear that Caroline Peck will be taking on the role from Graham, I wish her well in this and ask that she is given the support and help from others that this role deserves.

Freya Talbot and Autumn Bates will also be stepping down as junior representatives this year, many thanks for their help with the junior squad. Special thanks to Freya who has been in the role for 3 years and has been involved with many aspects of the junior squad including coaching, coxing, running sessions and being a key member running the junior summer camps, all alongside winning plenty of races herself.

Recreational squad

Anne continues to do a great job of running the recreational squad. I know there have been far fewer trips and tours for the squad this year but it has been good to see they have been taking advantage of the restricted water sessions we have been able to provide and a number of them having their first sessions in

the explore singles. I will let Anne comment in more detail on the recreational squad in her secretary's report.

Performance squad

The performance squad continue to bring in excellent results for the club, even when there are no races available they look to other challenges with the British and World indoor rowing records that have been achieved. As well as this there are a number of athletes in the squad aiming to trial for team GB and I wish them the very best of luck with their aspirations.

Howard's encouraging and positive attitude towards his athletes continues to help them to have big ambitions and to realise that with the right level of work and dedication those ambitions can be achieved. I look forward to seeing what this squad will achieve over the coming year.

Equipment

- New lightweight AVE single scull
- 4 sets of new sculling blades (paid for in part with funding from the Mick George Sports Fund)
- Boats refurbished to an excellent standard:
 - City Challenge
 - Harry Wykes
 - David Ladds

Clubhouse

- A new kitchen has been installed - many thanks to all of those who have been involved with this, it has been a real team effort.
- The front gate has been fixed - a big thank you to Tim Walton for getting this sorted and I would also like to thank Tim for the many other unseen jobs that he does for the club. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the committee and his efforts are very much appreciated.

Learn to row

Myself and Hazel have worked hard to develop a new learn to row training program starting off with 8 weeks of land training prior to getting on the water. This has worked well in getting beginners experienced with the rowing technique and establishing a level of fitness prior to water training and has helped them to quickly gain confidence once in a boat. We will be taking this program forward with a new learn to row intake when the Covid restrictions allow for it. Thank you to those who have helped out with coaching the L2R and we would appreciate continued help with this in the future.

Leicester Regatta

It was a great shame that Leicester Regatta could not go ahead this year due to the Covid restrictions. Although it is a long, stressful and tiring day, it is always great to see the club members come out in force for the regatta and work together to make it the success that it always is. A big thank you to the regatta committee who went a long way in organising the event this year all for it to be cancelled a month before the date. I really hope that next year we will be in a position to dust off the bunting, set up the cake tables and try to remember which bit of scaffolding goes where.

University business

The committee have been in close communication with both DMU and ULBC on plans for training and also for safety, which is now even more important with the Covid situation. We have good relationships with both of these clubs and I expect this to continue over the next year.

Some more thanks...

I would like to say thank you to Sarah Peck for her work as the Club Welfare Officer. She has taken this role very seriously over the past year and volunteered a lot of time towards it, most recently in leading a team to review and update the clubs various policies. I am pleased to hear that Sarah will continue in this role and that Michelle Dempsey will be getting involved with it as well.

On behalf of the club I would like to give thanks to Liz Pulford in her role as Club President. I know Liz has had a very challenging time this year in the role but she has taken those challenges in her stride. It has been great to see how engaged Liz has been this year with members across all squads and especially with the juniors. I believe Liz will be going into her 15th year as Club President and it is clear that her dedication to the club is as strong as ever.

There are too many people to thank to be able to name them all, and I like to think that is a good position to be in. As a volunteer club we must all make contributions in one way or another whether it is chopping back trees along the canal, repairing boats, coaching, fitting kitchen cupboard doors or filling a hole in the car park. These contributions help to keep the club running and they are all very much appreciated.

Summary

This has been a year like no other with many challenges along the way. At the start of the year there was widespread flooding which cancelled many races across the country and left some clubs looking at the possibility of having to shut down. Then there has been the Coronavirus pandemic with its various lockdowns and restrictions on day to day life. Although there are a lot of negatives to this past year, there are many positives that I take from it as well. I have experienced the club committee working at it's best to overcome challenges and put in place whatever is needed to get our club members back on the water. I have seen improved camaraderie and inclusiveness between squads. Many more club members have been helping out with coaching of others to help them improve and it is great to see junior parents getting involved with this as well. Club members have volunteered their time to set up activities to help others continue to feel involved and engaged with the club, whether this is simply a squad zoom call, quiz nights, group cycles or Hazel Ward's monumental efforts running club circuit training sessions. All of this makes me confident that as a club we will come out of this far stronger than we were before.

A big thank you to the vast majority of our members who have continued to support the club with their membership payments even when they can't visit the club. We have lost many of our sources of income this year with the football and rugby car parks, club functions, West End Runners all being affected by Covid, so your membership payments really help to keep us going.

Unfortunately the pandemic continues to challenge us and will do for some time to come. As I said when I first had to announce that the club would have to close, rowing is far more than just a sport to many of us, as well as a physical and competitive outlet it is a source of ambition, it's our friendships, it's a community that we are involved with nearly everyday and it becomes a way of life. To have that taken away, even temporarily, is very hard to take. But in time it will be back to the way we remember it, the club will reopen fully, the boats will be back on the water and there will be races to be won.

(ii) SECRETARY'S REPORT Presented by Anne Hock

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!

(iii) SOCIAL CHAIR'S REPORT

Bar Chair Report

Presented by Rob Fox

After taking over £10,000 over the bar in 2019 it was hoped that 2020 would bring similar success especially with several bookings already in place. However as soon as COVID-19 restrictions were introduced all bookings were cancelled either by the hirers or LRC as we could not legally put them on. This prolonged lack of use of the bar has resulted in all beer, cider, soft drinks and mixers going out of date which is a considerable write-off. To add insult in injury the bar was broken into during the lockdown period which resulted in the theft of several bottles of spirits and the two tablets we use to record sales and take payments. An alarm and CCTV camera have since been installed into the bar area to deter any future break ins.

When we can host functions again, we need to consider the considerable investment required to restock the bar and replace the tablets. Hopefully once restrictions are lifted, we will benefit from all the cancelled parties and weddings and we can finally open the bar again.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by and seconded by and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

This has been a busy year on the safety front, particularly since we were able to get back on the water in the summer. I'd like to thank everyone on the committee for all the help and support they have provided while we have worked through the various rules and regulations to ensure that water sessions could restart. Credit is also due to club members for the way they have adapted to the changed circumstances and quickly got used to following all the new guidance and protocols. These events reinforce more than ever that safety is our collective responsibility and it is encouraging to see this working in practice. As a committee we recognise the benefits of approaching safety issues from a range of perspectives and always welcome comments and feedback from members.

This has provided a useful opportunity to review our standard risk assessments and make some minor amendments and additions.

Thanks to everyone who has reported incidents through the British Rowing system and on occasions also to the police. These reports enable us to review and update procedures if appropriate and to learn from each other. As usual the most common incident on the water incident was the simple capsize, although fortunately these tend to result in bruised pride, rather than actual injury. We have also had a significant number of reports of anti-social behaviour on the bank which have been channelled to the relevant authorities via Liz and Anne. It is important that we continue with these reports as they help to ensure adequate resources are channelled towards the area.

British Rowing has updated the online safety learning packages and I would encourage you to take a look at these and complete them when you have time.

(v) JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT
Presented by Freya Talbot

Firstly I'd like to say well done to everybody for doing a great job in keeping the club going, whether that was rowing, coaching, organising or helping to keep the club up and running during the Covid-19 Pandemic. It has been great to hear that lots of people have stayed involved in many ways and it seems that the club has been working together and it has brought the members closer as a whole.

Although I have been a bit distance during this time, I have heard lots of great things about the juniors and how they've been getting on throughout.

I would like to mention the races that the juniors have taken part in before lockdown:

- Anchlome Head

OJ16 1X (James)

WJ16 1X (Blythe)

- Saturday 16th November-Head of the Soar.

WJ15 2X (Phoebe and Emma)

WJ16 2X (Lydia and Kathryn)

J16 4X (Teddy, Stanley, Leonard and Sam)

J15 2X (Ethan and Edward)

WJ16 4X+ (Emma, Kathryn, Fait, Lydia, Cox-Autumn)

J16 2X (Teddy and Sam)

- Nottingham Autumn Head

W 1X (Lauren) Fastest Womens Single Sculler

Everyone competed really well and got some really great times.

- Newark Head

OJ16 1X (James)

W 1X (Lauren) Fastest Woman Single Sculler and 2nd Fastest Sculler overall

W Band1 1X (Becky)

- Saturday 18th January- Northampton Head.

J15 4X+ (Perran, Lucas, Edward, Ethan, Cox-Freya)

J16 4X (Teddy, Stanley, Leonard and Sam)

WJ15 4X+ (Emily, Phoebe, Fait, Riyaa, Cox-Autumn)

WJ16 2X (Lydia and Kathryn)

J16 2X (Teddy and Stanley)

J16 2X (Sam and Leonard)

J15 2X (Ethan and Edward)

J17 4X+ (Phoebe, Kathryn, Fait, Lydia, Cox-Autumn) **Winners**

Everyone else did really well at competing and they all had some really good experience and times.

- Saturday 25th January- East Midlands Inter-Regional Time Trial.

J16 1X (James)

WJ16 1X (Blythe)

WJ15 1X (Fait)

J15 2X (Ethan and Edward)

WJ16 2X (Kathryn and Thomasin-Loughborough)

J16 4X (Teddy, Stanley, Leonard, Sam)

No wins from the junior squad crews but placings resulted in being asked to form a J16 8+ with 2 boys from Derwant Rowing Club and 1 from Notts County RA. They had a couple of training sessions before entering Lincoln Head.

- Peterborough Head

OJ16 1X (James)

WJ18 1X (Becky)

- Sunday 15th March- Lincoln Head Race

WJ15 1X (Fait)

J16 4X (Teddy, Stanley, Leonard and Sam)-didn't win but had the fastest Leicester Rowing Club Crew over the course.

J15 4X (Perran, Ethan, Lucas, Edward)

W 4X (Caroline Peck, Kathryn, Autumn, Lydia) **Winners of Band 2**

J16 8+ (Ethan, Sam, Andy MacDonald-NCRA, Leonard, Teddy, Barnaby Allen, Jake Smith/Beard-both from Derwant, Stanley, Cox-Hazel) Time only entry with a great performance and they all had great fun and added experience.

OJ16 1X (James) Fastest Single Sculler Overall

WJ16 1X (Blythe)

WJ15 1X (Fait)

Well done to everyone that raced!

Unfortunately, due to the current circumstances the Junior Rowing Week-usually run by Myself, Oliver Talbot, Joanne Talbot, with extra help from numerous members of the club-was unable to go ahead. This is usually where we get some more junior members and allow for existing members to help out and get more experience as well as have fun rowing.

However, during the October Half Term, daytime junior rowing was organised thanks to Clare Wildin, Emma Stewart and Liz Pulford. This was really great as the juniors had more of an opportunity to get down to row during their time off school. It also gave them some great coaching mainly by Alex Wellings, Sophie Connolly and Howard Marsh. Thank you to all of those involved in helping out our juniors during this week. As soon as lockdown gave us the opportunity to get back to rowing lots of the juniors came back and were very eager to be getting back onto the water. Because of the Covid restrictions and to protect the health of our members, only single sculling was able to start up. However, from hearing lots of positive comments, I believe that this really helped our junior members to increase their capability and willingness to try to develop their skills on their own. All the juniors who came back and started to get out in singles, really started to enjoy the opportunity as well as something they possibly haven't done/been able to do before the current situation. I really believe that this would have brought out their true talent and their potential as rowers, whether that's for fun, or competitively.

Because of the new found love of singling that the juniors seem to have, this has meant that most of the singles are being used, meaning the club might have to look at purchasing some new ones/ trying to manage who is using them and when. Although this means that money might have to be spent for those wanting to train, as well as those wanting to race in singles, it is also a very positive thing for those athletes as individuals, as they will be really working on their own rowing and seeing their strengths and weaknesses and overcoming those.

It has been amazing to hear about how the juniors have come along during this time and just how much they've still enjoyed rowing-despite it being so different during the Pandemic. I am also sorry to see that some of our juniors haven't decided to come down as often or even at all, but I hope they will show their faces again as we will miss every single one of them I'm sure.

Lastly, I would just like to say thank you for everyone's help and support for these last years of me being Junior Rep, and that I've really enjoyed taking on the role and all of the responsibility that comes with it. I have absolutely loved being involved with everything, from coxing, coaching, rowing myself and believe it or not, going to all of the committee meetings that I attended. I am so proud to see how everyone has grown up over these past 3 years and just how much they have improved as rowers but also how much they have grown as individuals! I have felt really privileged to have been Junior Representative for the past 3 years and although I am sad that it has come to an end, I really think that both Lydia and Phoebe will bring so much to the committee and will help and support the juniors the best they can. I would like to say good luck to them and just try your best, and I'm here if you need to ask anything at all-rowing related or not. It has been a joy to be part of the committee and the junior /womens squad and I hope everything carries on being as great as it has been.

Thank you for reading my Junior Representative report 2020. Please feel free to ask me any questions or mention anything else about the juniors that you feel is relevant. I hope I have mentioned the majority of things that were relevant to this last year, but if not I am quite happy for anyone to add any extras.

(vi) CLUB WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT
Presented by Sarah Peck

A club welfare officer is the person within a sports club with primary responsibility for managing and reporting concerns about children and for putting into place procedures to safeguard children in the club (ref. Child Protection in Sport Unit).

Additionally, the CWO has responsibility for safeguarding adults at risk (ref. British Rowing).

If any member of the club (junior or adult) has any concerns regarding safeguarding or welfare and wishes to talk, seek advice, or raise a complaint; the CWO can be contacted in person or via e-mail. If the CWO is not available at the time, a committee member can always be contacted and can pass a message to the CWO.

The CWO e-mail address is: cwo@leicester-rowing.co.uk

Activities to date:

- Introduction to the Junior Squad one Tuesday evening at the beginning of March before their land training session.
- Poster put up on noticeboard outside changing rooms in March, together with some flyers on other noticeboards at club, giving contact details of CWO.
- Updating of the DBS or instigating a new DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check for several club members. The resultant clearance certificates have a life of 3 years.
- Following notification in April from British Rowing that all clubs should “ensure the safety of all your juniors by having robust signing in / out procedures in place”, the CWO worked with the group set up by Graham Wright (Junior Co-Ordinator) to draft a procedure, which is intended for implementation once the club is fully open. It has been passed to the LRC committee for approval.
- A couple of issues raised by some juniors and their parents have been investigated and resolved.
- Following the ‘Black Lives Matter’ campaigning this year, the club has taken the opportunity to review some of its policies. The CWO is currently co-ordinating a working group made up of committee members and other club members to look at/update the following policies: *Code of Conduct, Anti-Bullying, Equity, Welfare*, and look at a new *On-Line Safety and Social Media policy*. Thanks to those club members who have offered suggestions on the content of the *Code of Conduct* and referred us to potentially useful websites for additional information. British Rowing is keen that all clubs promote diversity and inclusion. The group is considering how best to get the content in these revised/new policies out to our club members. In the case of the *Code of Conduct*, a potential plan is to produce an 8-point summary in poster format.

The President then put a resolution to accept ALL reports without dissent, and this was AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

The Treasurer proposed that subscriptions remain at the current rates and this was AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following nominations had been received and were approved:

	POSITION	CANDIDATE	PROPOSED BY	SECONDED BY
1	President	Liz Pulford	Howard Marsh	Lauren Henry
2	Captain	Ben Pickering	Rob Fox	Liz Pulford
3	Secretary	Anne Hock	Kim Clarke	Clare Wildin
4	Treasurer	Nicola Henry	Liz Pulford	Lauren Henry
5	Vice Captain - Men	Hazel Ward	Graham Clarke	Alex Wellings
6	Vice Captain - Women	Alex Wellings	Liz Pulford	Anne Hock
7	Junior Co-ordinator	Caroline Peck	Howard Marsh	Lauren Henry
8	Junior Rep	Phoebe Cook/Lydia Gough	Blythe Lyons	Sophie Connolly
9	Committee	Graham Clark	Clare Wildin	Caroline Haracz
10	Committee	Kim Clarke	Caroline Haracz	Graham Clarke
11	Committee	Matt Connolly	Anne Hock	Howard Marsh

12	Committee	Sophie Connolly	Alex Wellings	Clare Wildin
13	Committee	Rob Fox	Ben Pickering	Liz Pulford
14	Committee	Alison Gosling	Clare Wildin	Alison Scott
15	Committee	Angela Holohan	Howard Marsh	Sally Horrocks
16	Committee	Howard Marsh	Lauren Henry	Liz Pulford
17	Committee	Tim Walton	Liz Pulford	Sophie Connolly
18	Committee	Clare Wildin	Kim Clarke	Graham Clarke

Agreed UNANIMOUSLY to accept all 18 nominations.

7. ELECTION OF SOCIAL COMMITTEE

No nominations had been received for the Social Committee and as reported by Rob Fox, the Committee would be looking at the structure and if any constitutional changes were required, these would be put to the next AGM if not sooner.

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

The election of Vice Presidents was UNANIMOUSLY accepted.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

As there was no annual dinner, and so little racing, Liz reported that the Committee had decided to leave the annual awards for rowing for this past year. However it was agreed to present the Annual Service Award. This was presented to Hazel Ward for her outstanding contribution over the year including bringing in new members, coaching the men's squad, arranging fitness training on zoom, helping to arrange meetings and taking notes for the committee. Very many thanks from members to Hazel.

After thanks from the President for attendance, the meeting closed at 8.47pm.