

LEICESTER ROWING CLUB

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 16th NOVEMBER 2021 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, Tim Walton

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

Welcome

Welcome everyone and thank you for joining this, the Leicester Rowing Club AGM 2021. I'm sure you will all understand our decision to, once again, hold the meeting remotely. It seemed to work really well last year and with Covid cases continuing to rise, it seemed sensible to use Zoom again. It's a shame not to see you all in person but it is, at least, quite efficient!

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 the officers will give a very brief summary of the reports and be able to answer any questions you might have. 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 objection 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.
- 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

- With the ongoing pandemic, 2021 has again been a challenging year. The lockdown and increasing case numbers in Spring, unfortunately forced us to cancel the regatta yet again – which was a real shame. So, our last regatta was held in April 2019. We sincerely hope that we will be able to run the regatta again on 24th April 2022 - we are all just hoping we will be able to remember how to organise it!

- Despite Covid we have still managed to attend a few events and competitions over the year, with the rec squad recently making trips to row at Burton and Nottingham, and with a number of members getting their racing kit back on at a few of the late summer regattas, and more recently at Ancholme Head. It certainly has been great to see people back out racing, and racing really well too, with some very impressive performances, which I'm sure Ben will cover later.
- Despite all the issues and challenges we have faced as a club, I have to say that we are in fact, in a good place at the moment. As Nicola will cover later, our financial position is strong; our memberships numbers are good, the club atmosphere is really supportive, and I really feel that the watermanship and skill levels across our entire membership have improved. This is due in no small part to the commitment of our coaches. In particular, thanks to Ben and Hazel who have put a lot of effort into getting our new adult members out on the water, with a number of them now racing and recording their first wins at Ancholme Head. Well-done to you all. I also know that our recreational squad are very grateful to Paul Shaw, Mike Watson and Graham Clark; I know they all feel that their skills have improved tremendously under their guidance, so many thanks to them. Thanks also to Ang, Tim, Alex, Hazel, Sophie, and Howard for coaching the junior and performance squads, and thanks to Clare for taking on the junior organisational work. I'm sure Ben will talk more about their successes later but we are very grateful to you all and thank you all for your efforts.
- It's been a year with some highs, but sadly a few lows as well. We received some very sad news in August this year, when we learnt of the passing of former club Captain and President, Tony Green. Tony was our Club President for 22 years, from 1984 until 2006. He was an athlete, a coach, an umpire and above all, a leader. He contributed hugely to the club and those of us who knew him, remember him with great fondness. It was very sad news indeed.
- But there have also been some great highs too, most notably of course was Lauren's performances at the World Under 23 Championships and Henley Royal Regatta – but I'm going to leave Ben to give you all the details there. And, in June, we were all delighted to hear the news that Anne Hock had been awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's birthday honours list. As you all know we are a club entirely run by volunteers, so it's absolutely fantastic for the efforts of one of our volunteers to be recognised in this way. I am sure you will all want to join me in congratulating Anne's on her award. Well-done!
- Of course, there are many other people who have contributed to the club over the year. These include all of our hard-working committee – to whom I am very grateful, our junior parents who have continued to run the bank, remove debris from the river, and provide additional supervision of our on the water training, Joe Holohan who has serviced the trailers and got them safely back on the road after their extended lay off, Tim Walton who has ensured the building and facilities are maintained and compliant with relevant legislation, Sally who has made sure we are safe on the water, Nicola who has managed our finances and accounts, and many, many others. Thank you all very much for your input.
- Of course, there is one person that I haven't thanked fully yet, and that is Ben, our tireless and hard-working club captain. Ben has continued to do an outstanding job despite all the challenges that the club has faced. He, supported by Sally, has worked so hard to make sure that all our Covid protocols are in line with HMG and British Rowing guidance, whilst also being pragmatic and workable for the members. As I mentioned earlier, he and Hazel have organised and run our L2R courses, he's fitted new racking for some additional private boats, and of course he's also been busy training himself. So Ben, I am absolutely delighted that you have decided to stay on as Captain for another year. On behalf of all our members, thank you very much indeed.
- I mentioned a few moments ago that our membership levels are good. This was a cause of some concern for us this time last year, we really didn't know how well the membership levels would stand up to the recurring lockdowns. Well fortunately, it seems they have stood up very well, and been further bolstered by the new L2R group and by new intakes into the recreational and junior

squads. It takes a lot of effort getting new people out onto the water, so a big thank you to our squad leads and coaches for all their efforts. Thank you too, to our existing members have been incredibly supportive. Rowing with experienced people to start has not only helped to quickly develop the skill levels of our newest members, but has also helped to make them feel welcome and part of the club, making the whole rowing experience more fun. So, thank you all for the part that you have played.

- On the financial side, hopefully you are now all aware that we have restarted running the football car parks, bring a very welcome revenue stream back on line. Thanks to everyone who has already volunteered to run the car park for us – but if you haven't already done so, please do put your names forward. The football car parks have the potential to bring between £8,000 and £10,000 a year – a very significant sum, so please do your bit and put your name forward. If you need any more information, or want to know what you need to do, please just speak to one of the 'old hands'; we are all more than happy to help.

Looking Ahead

- As you will have read in Tim's maintenance report, the club is facing a significant outlay due to the potential requirement to replace the, now obsolete, lift. This is an emerging issue and Tim is currently exploring our options. He can provide more details, but it seems this is likely to involve some serious fundraising and will become a high priority agenda item for the new committee.
- We have recently opened discussions with the Castle Mead Academy, the new school built alongside the river on the site of the former Kirby and West dairy. We have now had two very constructive discussions with the Academy Principal, who is very keen indeed to get rowing into the school programme in some way. It's early days, but the initial plans are to introduce them to indoor rowing first, and then, hopefully sometime in the future, find ways to get them out onto the water too, hopefully during school hours. We will keep you all informed as this relationship develops, but we really see it as a win-win situation for both us and the school.
- One thing I am keen to think about as we move forward, is to consider what we can do as a club to help combat climate change. We have already started on this journey, with installation of LED lighting, ensuring we have timers on the heaters and refurbishing our equipment rather than replacing it, but I'm sure there is much more that we can do. If this is something you feel passionately about, and if you have ideas about other things that we can do, I would love to hear from you. And remember, a lot of small changes can help to make a big impact, so please do let us have all your ideas and suggestions, no matter how small.
- Before I close, I just wanted to remind you all of a couple of things. First is that we are running a Christmas Charity collection for City of Sanctuary, who are supporting asylum seekers in Leicester. We are asking members to donate items for gift bags that they are putting together to be distributed in time for Christmas. We have some donation boxes in the committee room and a list of items they are trying to collect, so please do see what you can do to support this very worthy cause.
- The other thing I wanted to let you all know about is that we are planning to run club races again this year. We have fixed a date of Saturday 18th December and more details will be available closer to the time. We will also use the occasion to host a club social event, including the presentation of the annual club awards, so please do your best to keep the date free – it will be great to get the whole club together again, a cause for celebration in itself!
- So, before I close and move on to the business of the meeting, I just want to say a final thank you to you all for your continued loyalty to the club over the past 2 years. Seeing the club in such a strong position, despite everything the world has been through, is really quite inspiring. It feels like we have developed into a truly supportive and caring community. So, thank you all and please do keep up the excellent work. Hopefully we will be in an even stronger position this time next year.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Tim Walton, John Wilson, Sue Lyons, Paul McGrillis, Shelisha Kincarr, Alison Scott

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 24th 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

Introduction

Year 2 as Club Captain and although for much of the first half of the year we have faced many of the same challenges as last year, it has been great to see the progress we have been able to make as a club and a rowing community during the second half of this year. During the AGM last year we were just coming to the end of a 4 week lockdown, to then be put into another lockdown at the start of January that lasted until the end of March. They were some hard, cold and dark months to get through (with a few zoom circuits and ergo sessions to help) but I am very pleased we have not had to close the club again since, and we have even managed to get out and do some racing. It has been such a joy to see so many people returning to the club, getting out on the water and even taking in some new members.

I would like to give a big thank you to the club committee who have worked hard again this year to tackle the challenges that have been thrown at us by the pandemic and in parallel to that, working to keep the club progressing. Thanks also to our club members for following the rules and mitigations that have been put in place to keep yourselves and others safe. I know some of the mitigations may seem onerous at times but we need to follow the guidance that is provided to us by British Rowing.

Results

The club posted a total of 21 race wins this season down from 34 last season. Historically this is a fairly low number, but with the club only attending races for four months of the year, then 21 wins is quite an impressive amount. The results can be further broken down as follows:

- 21 sculling & 0 sweep wins
- 0 coxed boat wins
- 7 womens & 14 mens & 0 mixed
- 2 senior & 8 masters & 11 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, Graham Clark, Liz Pulford and Howard Marsh for volunteering to tow the club trailer, without their help many of us would not be racing.

Notable results

- Lauren Henry has had a very impressive year, she won the GB rowing team open trials at Caversham back in May. She then went on to win the women's championship single scull at the Metropolitan regatta in June. Following this she was selected to represent team GB at the under 23 world championships in Racice in the Czech Republic and Howard Marsh was selected as a GB rowing coach for the event. After going through the heat and the repêchage, Lauren made it into the A final where she came 4th, equalling the best position of any British athlete in the women's single at these championships. If that wasn't enough, Lauren then qualified for the Princess Royal Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta. Her progression through the competition made her one of the stars of the show, beating an Olympic gold medalist on her way to the final where she lost out by an agonising 3 feet. These results are nothing less than incredible by Lauren and

her coach Howard Marsh and on behalf of the club I would like to wish them both the best of luck with their future ambitions.

- David Smith won a gold medal at Masters C in the single scull at the British Rowing Championships in June as well as a Masters C medal in the double scull at the Henley Masters Regatta. Dave continues to be a force to be reckoned with on the Masters scene.

Women's squad

Everytime I visit the club, Alex always seems to be there. Whether it is coaching from the towpath, running ergo sessions, coaching in the gym or fixing boats. His dedication to the women's squad, helping with the juniors and to the club in general has been commendable and it is greatly appreciated. Alex has been the women's captain for 4 years now, which I think is a record, and I would like to thank him for the time he has dedicated to the squad. I know his athletes are very grateful for the efforts he makes and that for many of them, their level of skill and confidence in a boat and motivation for competition is in large part down to Alex's abilities as a coach.

Men's squad

Hazel is stepping down from the Men's Captain position after 2 years in the role. I would like to thank Hazel for her hard work arranging training plans, putting crews together, planning races, coaching, coxing and bringing new members into the club, as well as running some fairly brutal circuit training sessions over zoom when we were all locked down. I am pleased to say that Hazel will be staying on the committee as a member and I hope she will be able to offer support to the new Men's Captain as they settle into the role and continue to help with bringing new members into the club.

Junior squad

The junior squad started the year with a new squad leader in Caroline Peck but unfortunately she had to step down before she could really get into the role due to a job move, but I would like to thank Caroline for the time that she was able to give to the role. Managing the junior group was then taken on by a team made up of Clare Wildin, Angela Holohan and Liz Pulford who have worked hard to organise and coach the squad, arrange for them to visit and compete in multiple races as well as putting on taster days and running learn a to row course for new members. It has been very encouraging to hear about how many existing junior members volunteered to help out with these taster days and also to see the parents who continue to help out on the towpath supervising the juniors, it really helps to give a safer environment for junior rowing.

Lydia Gough and Phoebe Cook took on the role of junior representatives this year and their input to the committee has been very valuable. Phoebe stepped down part way through the year following a move to another club leaving Lydia as the sole representative. Thank you both for your contributions this year with the committee and to the junior squad.

Recreational squad

Anne continues to do a great job of running the recreational squad which I believe is the most popular of all the squads and continues to get a lot of interest from potential new members. It is good to hear that they have been able to get out and about a bit more this year with a visit to Burton Head for a private race which they won, as well as visits to Nottingham, most recently for a Halloween row. I will let Anne comment in more detail on the recreational squad in her secretary's report.

Performance squad

The performance squad have trained hard this year and brought in many good results for the club. Howard's coaching and training plans have helped to keep his squad motivated despite the challenges of the pandemic and the lack of races. Howard's encouraging attitude helps his athletes to push themselves on to higher levels than they may have thought they could have reached otherwise and I hope his achievements with Lauren will inspire others as to what they might be capable of. As well as coaching at a world class level for international competition, he also finds time to coach those who are just starting out on their rowing journey and to pass his wisdom on to other aspiring coaches. He is a great asset to this club.

Equipment

- 2nd hand heavyweight Janousek double scull / pair
- 8 sets of new sculling blades
- Repairs/refurbishment to the following boats
 - Nigel Ramsden (Burgashell)
 - Bada Bing
 - Cuddywifta
 - Fawley Challenge
 - Millenium
 - Bridget Hull

Clubhouse

- Repairs to the club lift. This will likely require a sizeable investment in the coming year for further improvements.

Learn to row

Myself, Hazel and Alex have continued to work hard to bring in new members to the senior men and women's squads. We have had two members successfully go through our program of land based training followed by water sessions and they went on to win the first race that they entered, so we must be doing something right! We are now working with a second intake of beginners and plan to take on another group in January. If anyone would like to get involved with helping coach new members please let us know and thanks to all those who have helped out already.

Leicester Regatta

Leicester Regatta has now had to be cancelled for two years in a row but I hope with the way the pandemic is going, we should be reasonably confident that we will be able to run the event next year. Although it takes a lot of organisation and the day itself is long, stressful and tiring 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.

University business

Both DMU RC and UoL RC have recommenced activity on the water and the committee are in communication with both clubs on plans for training and safety. We have good relationships with both of these clubs and I expect this to continue over the next year.

Some more thanks...

Sarah Peck will be standing down this year as the Club Welfare Officer. I would like to thank Sarah for the time she has dedicated to this role and her invaluable work as she has taken on a number of cases and led a team in reviewing and updating the club's various welfare policies. Michelle Dempsey also got involved with the role over the past year and will also be standing down, I would like to give my thanks to her as well.

Many thanks to Tim Walton who has continued as a committee member taking on club maintenance issues. This is no easy task and I imagine it goes unnoticed by many club members, but this is largely due to Tim's diligence in organising required maintenance before issues come about, allowing the club to continue running smoothly and for us all to keep on rowing. Thanks also to Joe Holohan who has helped to keep the wheels turning on the club trailers and the club bikes.

Thanks to Nicola in her role as the club treasurer. This past year Nicola has kept a keen eye on funding available as a result of the pandemic and this has been a great help to keep the club bank account in a healthy position despite the drop in our usual revenue streams.

On behalf of the club I would like to give thanks to Liz Pulford in her role as Club President. As well as winning races, Liz takes on many responsibilities around the club and is always one of the first to put her

hand up to take on a task that comes out of a committee meeting or a RoFo. This year she has taken on an active role with the junior squad alongside Clare and Ang, and she is eyeing up some big rowing projects on the horizon. Thank you for your continued dedication and enthusiasm for the club.

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 as this is what allows the club to keep running, and they are all very much appreciated. Over the next year it would be great to see even more volunteering from our members to help with club tasks. These don't have to be large or onerous tasks, it could be checking that the detergent bottles are kept filled up for cleaning the boats, monitoring the ergos and arranging repairs or checking and replacing broken cable ties for the rubber bumper on the landing stage etc. The more of these smaller tasks that you are able to help with then the more time it frees up for the committee to focus on some larger projects to help the club to keep progressing. If you think you can spare some time to take on some club tasks like this then please let me know.

Summary

I am really pleased this year to have felt some return of normality around the club with the majority of our members back on the water and with races on the agenda once again. Now that Covid is at a stage where it is causing less disruption at the club, I hope this will allow the committee to work together over the next year to bring in more members and take on some big projects to get the club in an even stronger position and make it an even more enjoyable, motivating and inspiring place to be than it is already.

(ii) SECRETARY'S REPORT Presented by Anne Hock

Riverside

Despite reminders, I have still to confirm dates with the Council to do work on the riverside. In the meantime, the Council have had their boats out, and the C&RT have also promised to do some work. The problem is timing as with the cutbacks, the Council are reluctant to approve overtime for their staff to work at weekends, and will not permit us to do work without their staff being present.

C&RT

Thank you to all those who reported incidents with the magnet fishers. These were followed up and due to our pressure, the Deputy City Mayor called a meeting with the EA, C&RT, Council, Police and ourselves to discuss what we, as a community, could do. Although not permitted by the C&RT, the penalties are small and almost impossible to enforce. As a result, it was agreed to pursue a 'change of culture' and signs will soon be going up making it clear magnet fishing is not allowed carrying the logos of all the agencies. These will be followed up on social media pointing out how anti-social magnet fishing is, and far from doing everyone a favour, the fishers are pursuing their own interests often to the detriment of other water users and the riverside communities.

As a result of the meeting, we were put in touch with Castle Mead Academy (the new school opposite Friars Mill) and have started a discussion to introduce rowing to their students. Liz is leading the rowing, and I continue to pursue the environmental issues around the tow path and water.

The C&RT are proposing a riverside partnership initiative for all interested parties which is being launched later this month at the Space Centre. At the moment all I know is that dredging is not included in any proposals, but there will be considerable investment in the canal to make it more attractive to all water users, and those who use the tow paths.

Liz has already referred to climate change and we need to do our bit for the riverside. Once the signs go up for the magnet fishers, the group will be turning its attention to litter and trying to make people take their litter home and not drop it wherever they feel like it. Feeding the rats and swans is also pretty high on the list, particularly given the damage done to wild birds by feeding them bread. Please support the initiatives

and when you see signs around the clubhouse, remember it is down to each and every one of us to take our litter home, not to drop it around the grounds or in the water, and to clean the boats and blades after use to prevent the spread of weeds and invasive species.

Annual Dinner

The annual dinner was again postponed, and will now be held in September 2022. Rob Fox and Hazel Ward will be organising the event, and anyone interested in helping them should contact them direct.

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

A reduced event was held in October for a session for members on CPR and defibrillator training. It was excellent, and the smaller numbers allowed for a more hands on session and greater understanding of how to recognise and respond if someone has a heart attack. It was agreed that the session should be repeated in the New Year, and it is recommended that all members, including juniors and parents, should attend. Recent events, in football in particular, have shown that a heart attack can happen to anyone at any time, and a speedy response is vital to save a life. Thanks to Steve Humphries and his colleagues for the time they spend with us on these sessions.

Also thanks to Joanne Talbot who has continued to monitor the Defibrillator by the gate to make sure it is available at all times.

Recreational Tours and Events

The recreational rowers have continued to row and their introduction to fine boats during the lockdown has increased skills along with a wider use of club boats – and we have welcomed the coaching support from Paul Shaw and Mike Watson in particular! We are again at full capacity and hope our 5 new recruits will quickly settle in.

We have greatly welcomed the 4 wheeled trolleys for the Explore boats, and pass a fervent thanks to those who organised the extra wheel on each trolley which has made getting the boats in and out of the boathouse easier and safer.

The squad has cautiously approached visits to clubs that have equally cautiously welcomed us. We have enjoyed great days out at Burton and Nottingham, and are looking forward to Santa's Challenge Row at Boston in December.

Finally I would like to thank all members for their continued support for the club, including the covid procedures and protocols. Some members have been relaxed about coming back to rowing, others less so and are still very cautious about mixing with other members. The need for tolerance and kindness to others has never been needed more, and please remember that not everyone is finding it easy to return to rowing or to using the clubhouse. Other clubs in the region are very much in the same position and none are fully open yet as our area continues to suffer such high rates of infection. A great deal of thought and care has gone into the procedures, and it is not enough just to thank those who have written them, the real thank you is making sure we observe them to keep all our members safe and well.

(iii) SOCIAL CHAIR'S REPORT

Bar Chair Report

Presented by Rob Fox

The bar remained closed until September 2021 when the committee felt that the Covid situation had eased enough that we were able to start inviting members of the public into the club again.

The website was updated and we have started to get enquiries through, at the time of the AGM we have our first booking in 2 years in November.

Given the considerable cost involved with a full restock of the bar and replacing of the stolen tablets conversations were started on how this could be done or other options available to us. This led to discussions with junior parent Ady who already runs a 'pop-up' bar company and who was keen to partner with us where he runs the bar and the club benefits from the room hire fee. Whilst in its early days this partnership should allow for the bar to reopen with minimal risk and reduce the volunteer overhead on club members. Due to the length of time the bar was closed the majority of LRC purchased stock had gone out of date and has now been disposed of. The remaining stock e.g. spirits, wine is to be sold to Ady. The club committee have started discussions on a potential refurbishment project of the bar area to include a new carpet. Nothing has yet been decided and club members are encouraged to voice their opinions on what we can do to maintain and improve that area.

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

This year has been another busy year on the safety front as we have regularly had to review and amend our Covid-19 related safety procedures and documentation. I'd like to record my thanks to everyone on the Committee for their contributions to this process, and particularly to Ben, Howard, Liz and Tim who have all committed significant amounts of time to writing and reviewing documents. We have also benefitted from the advice of the committee's healthcare professionals, Ang and Clare. Credit is again also due to club members for the way they have adapted to the changed circumstances and quickly adjusted as guidance has changed. As a committee we have sought to ensure that all our members continue to feel confident that the club is an environment where the risks of contracting Covid-19 are taken seriously and that a concerted effort is being made to mitigate them.

Members continue to be assiduous in reporting incidents to the British Rowing online reporting system. Indeed so assiduous that the club received a commendation from British Rowing. While simple capsizes remain a common incident, it is 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 steering work in her effort to get the Canals and Rivers Trust to take out navigation concerns seriously. She has had more success mobilising a range of agencies to address the risks posed by magnet fishers and I look forward to seeing how these bear fruit over the next few months.

I would like to thank all the junior parents who have supported the club by spending time on the bank, including marshalling for Sunday pieces and fishing all sorts of debris out of the canal.

Finally I would encourage everyone to continue to continue working together to keep everyone safe. I was reassured by conversations with some new members during a recent night rowing briefing that we are getting many things right, but there is always room for us to improve and make things even better.

(v) JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT
Presented by Lydia Gough

- The club has successfully managed to provide the Juniors with a broad range of training and coaching from a variety of members. This new approach has been well received by the Juniors despite initial apprehension regarding the absence of a Junior Coordinator. A big thank you to the consistent coaches and those facilitating good quality sessions for the Juniors; there is a general feel amongst the Juniors that this has created a stronger community.
- Numerous new Juniors have joined the club since April, particularly from the Learn to Row day which was organised in August, along with the recent follow up sessions.

- The summer regattas had a good Junior participation, and a very supportive atmosphere. Well done to all those who raced and especially won their events. At Ancholme Head we saw some of our newer members race for their first and second time.
- I would like to say thank you to the club for giving me the opportunity to take up this role during 2020/2021. Many thanks to all the parents, coaches and volunteers who give their time to make rowing possible for the Juniors.

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

Works

1. This year all of the work that has been undertaken has been reactive comprising statutory and other maintenance.
2. The statutory compliance works comprised:
 - a. **Electrical:**
 - i. 5 year fixed wiring test and works that flowed from minimal failures in compliance with BS7671 – 2018, the 18th Edition Wiring Regulations. Electrical Test Certificates confirming the check and extent of compliance works have been issued.
 - ii. Fire Alarm, Emergency Lighting and fire extinguisher checks in compliance with The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and BS5839. This requires the complete installation to be inspected twice yearly and for certification to be issued in confirmation.
 - b. **Mechanical:** Platform Lift Remedial works to rectify deficiencies identified during Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) inspections. The most recent LOLER Inspection Certificate was issued in Aug 21
3. There has also been a maintenance visit by the installer of the motor assisted gate at the boundary.
4. Contractors also undertook the annual maintenance of the hardwood floor.

Risks to Leicester Rowing Club

Statutory Checks – Fire Alarm etc:

5. The contractor that has undertaken long term checks on the fire alarm and emergency lighting etc undertook his last check in Oct 21 before retiring. A search is now ongoing to find a replacement. It is likely that the cost of this work will increase because the Club enjoyed favourable rates from the retiring contractor. These checks are statutory in nature and must be undertaken on a twice yearly basis. It is important that a new term contractor is appointed so that there is no break in the inspections.

Platform Lift:

6. In Mar '20, R J Lifts Ltd were appointed to undertake the necessary works to the platform lift to ensure that all of the deficient items included in each LOLER Certification were rectified. Works were deferred until Oct '20 because of the lockdown and progress since then has been painful with many missed and aborted visits. A further failure of the call system occurred during the tenure of the repairs though RJ Lifts have proved singularly unsuccessful in identifying the cause of the failure and rectifying it. A second lift maintenance company was requested to look at the fault and have confirmed that the control panel would appear to have reached the end of its life. (The design life of a lift control panel is 10 yrs, this panel has lasted since installation in 1997 or thereabouts). A quotation of circa **£6k** has been received from Accurate Lifts for the replacement of the control panel though committee have

now requested that costs are obtained for a complete replacement. It is thought that this may be in the order of **£20 – 25K**. In the interim, RJ Lifts have been advised that their contractual relationship with Leicester Rowing Club is at an end.

Carl Sanger offered advice on implementing changes to the lift as he will be a main beneficiary, and happy to offer consultancy on accessibility issues. CS is tax exempt and if that can help, he would be pleased to offer support. He pointed out that disability equipment should be tax exempt. He is also involved in youth work, and happy to also offer support for the Castle Mead initiative, and has the qualifications to do so.

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

- Thank John Wilson for his help in putting the accounts together. Got a very satisfactory balance, with grants from Leicester CC as £22,000 plus £8,000 from grants the previous year. But no income for parking from Riverside whose staff continue to work from home, and not sure yet whether they will return so this is a substantial loss to the club at approx. £9000 pa. West End Runners are now back, and we agreed a credit for the weeks they were unable to use the facilities. Bar stock approx. £400 at the moment, but on going discussion about how to manage the bar with Ady, together with managing functions.
- Cash has been reduced and returned to the bank.
- Football car parks now returned, and since 11 Sept put in £2840 from the parking so thanks to everyone who volunteered, and most important that members continue to offer their help.
- Not raised subs since 2017, and although time we looked to increase, the recommendation is to remain unchanged for the 21/22 membership year.

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:

POSITION	CANDIDATE	PROPOSED BY	SECONDED BY
1 President	Liz Pulford	Ben Pickering	Tim Walton
2 Captain	Ben Pickering	Hazel Ward	Liz Pulford
3 Secretary	Anne Hock	Malcolm Neal	Michelle Dempsey
4 Treasurer	Nicola Henry	Anne Hock	Sally Horrocks
5 Vice Captain - Men	Peter Mather	Ben Pickering	Graham Clark
Vice Captain - Women	No nomination received		
6 Junior Rep	Emma Stewart	Lydia Gough	Ethan Brown
7 Bar Chairman	Rob Fox	Liz Pulford	Howard Marsh
8 Committee/Safety Rep	Sally Horrocks	Liz Pulford	Angela Holohan

9	Committee/Maintenance	Tim Walton	Liz Pulford	Howard Marsh
10	Committee	Graham Clark	Malcolm Neal	Anne Hock
11	Committee	Kim Clark	Anne Hock	Caroline Haracz
12	Committee	Matt Connolly	Anne Hock	Kim Clark
13	Committee	Alison Gosling	Howard Marsh	Sally Horrocks
14	Committee	Angela Holohan	Liz Pulford	Ben Pickering
15	Committee	Howard Marsh	Liz Pulford	Ben Pickering
16	Committee	Hazel Ward	Sophie Connolly	Alex Wellings
17	Committee	Alex Wellings	Liz Pulford	Howard Marsh
18	Committee	Clare Wildin	Kim Clark	Ron Hanson

AH suggested two people took on the CWO role as it can be easier to share this challenging position. Michelle is still happy to support a CWO role.

MD suggested involving new members in the committee, and to bring fresh ideas.

Phoebe Cook, Sarah Peck and Sophie Connolly all stood down during the year and thanks for the contribution. Thanks also to Lydia who was the junior rep, and welcome Emma. Hazel and Alex both stood down as squad leaders and thank them for their great contribution. Peter is standing as Vice Captain Men and welcome to the committee.

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

7. ELECTION OF SOCIAL COMMITTEE

No nominations had been received for the Social Committee.

The Committee is looking at alternative arrangements for managing the bar and outside functions (see RF report). Keen to get some social events going for members, and if anyone is interested in helping to organise any, please let the committee know.

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

CHECK DAVE CLARE

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

Rob confirmed contactless payments for the car park are almost ready to be introduced. Thanks to Clare for providing a phone and should be available next week. The first function is scheduled for next Saturday so will still need help moving the ergos. We hope this will still provide income to the club.

LP thanked members for their attendance.

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