

LEICESTER ROWING CLUB AGM – WEDNESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2022

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Riverside and Agencies

COUNCIL

Work on the towpath and riverside has been very limited, but the Council has now confirmed 3rd 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.

*Anne Hock
Secretary
10th November 2022*