

LEICESTER ROWING CLUB

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 31st OCTOBER 2024 BY ZOOM

Present: Liz Pulford (President), Alex Wellings (Captain), Anne Hock (Secretary), Nicola Henry (Treasurer), Hazel Ward, Howard Marsh, Kim Clark, Graham Clark, Sally Horrocks, John Wilson, Alison Gosling, Alison Scott, Angela Holohan, Barbara Bogusz, Agi Cygan, Ben Barker, Ben Pickering, Rhian Evans, Clare Wildin, David Smith, Fran Gonnella, Jean McNeil, John Sephton, Kieran Blacker, Laraine Porter, Lizzie Webster, Louise Johnson, Lucy Cleaver, Natalia Wadowska, Rob Fox, Brian Robbins, Ruth Connolly, Matt Connolly, Simon Whitaker, Sue Porter, Kayne Wright, Victoria Barker

Proxies appointed Liz Pulford (Tim Walton), Anne Hock (Rose Elwell, Steve Bowyer, Shaun Gosling), Angela Holohan (Orla Holohan)

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

Welcome

Welcome everyone and thank you for joining this, the Leicester Rowing Club AGM 2024. As a committee we took the decision to run the meeting over Zoom again, as this has worked really well for the past couple of years. It is a shame not to see you all in person but at least it is efficient!

- 2024 has been another amazing year for the club, with all squads really making progress and pushing the club forwards.
- Over the year we have seen some outstanding performances and achievements across all the squads. I'll leave Alex to cover these in detail but will just take the opportunity to mention a couple of standout individuals who have delivered some outstanding performances. The first of these is Dave Smith, who once again has dominated his events both at the British and World Masters Championships. His commitment to training and his work ethic are an example to us all, and the wins and performances he has delivered are a just reward for all his efforts.
- Then of course, I want to, once again congratulate Lauren Henry on winning that amazing Olympic gold in Paris at the end of July – I'm still absolutely blown away by what she has achieved. I'm not sure if you are all aware but she and her crew have also been nominated as one of the three finalists for Crew of the Year by World Rowing – an immense accolade! Lauren certainly has made Leicester Rowing Club so very proud and really put us on the map. So, a massive thank you and well done to Lauren and I'm sure you will all join me in wishing her every good luck and every success in the future. I have absolutely no doubt that she will continue to amaze us all!
- We had an absolutely awesome regatta again, and I'm sure there will be more about this in the other reports, so suffice it for me to say it was an exceptionally good day, with fantastic support from the whole club to make it really successful and enjoyable. Particular thanks to Clare for continuing to undertake the entries secretary role, and to everyone who helped with the organisation both beforehand and on the day. Great job all of you so, thank you very much indeed.
- As you will see from Nicola's report shortly, our financial position continues to be good and our membership levels have continued to increase. Football car parks continue to bring in an important proportion of our income, between £8000 and £10000 each year, a very significant sum, so thanks to everyone who helps to make that happen. Particular thanks to Brian and Alex – who seem to volunteer for nearly every car park – which is fantastic. We do need and expect everyone to take a turn though please, so if you haven't already done so, please do put your names forward.
- Our affiliation with Castle Mead Academy continues to work well and grow year on year. Last year we have 28 Castle Mead scholars on the rowing programme through the club, and I'm pleased to report that. Of these, 25 have asked to continue again this year. That's an impressive

retention rate! We are also in the process of recruiting more scholars onto the programme, with the aim being to build the total numbers to about 40 or possibly slightly more this academic year. The school continue to receive generous funding from the Henley Royal Regatta Charitable Trust – which basically makes the programme affordable for the school and helps to fund the coaching required.

- The programme has also been generously supported by Love Rowing, with the school receiving a grant to allow them to purchase warm clothing for the rowers to use over the winter months. The club also received help from Love Rowing in the form of the Octuple Scull that was donated to us by Maidenhead Rowing Club. This very generous donation came about following our grant application to the fund. The Octo is proving really useful and popular with both the school and with our own members.
- The school have now completed their own affiliation to British Rowing, meaning that they can now compete under their own colours, which is great. We have an ambition to get some of their crews out racing at the East Midland JIRR trials which are coming in February. I'd like to just take the opportunity to thank Sally Horrocks for her input into this BR affiliation process and for her ongoing support in her role as Club Safety Advisor to both LRC and CMA.
- Overall the Castle Mead programme is very rewarding. It wonderful to see all the young people involved all have a great time. Thanks to all those involved in supporting the programme, especially all those involved in coaching. It's great to see a number of our own young members supporting the coaching and hopefully they will enjoy it nearly as much as the pupils involved. If anyone else has an interest in getting involved, we could definitely do with a bit more help so please do let me know. Their sessions are during the daytime so if you have spare time on your hands and want to get involved, either as a volunteer or as a paid coach, please just message me or have a word when you see me next.
- Across the rest of the club, it's been great to see so many people out on the water, and training on-land over the year. Also great to see crews from across all parts of the club competing and sharing the club's success. It feels like we have a great atmosphere within the club at the moment, with lots of individuals helping with coaching, so thanks to all our coaches and squad leads for the fantastic work that they do both in organising crews and working with everyone to up their skill levels and fitness. We are very lucky to have so many talented and enthusiastic coaches at the club so many thanks to Alex, Howard, Hazel, Barney, Graham, Paul, Angela, Sally, Tim and everyone else who has picked up a bike and coached. You all do a great job so thank you all very much.
- Now, there are many people who have contributed to the club over the year. These include all of our hard-working committee – to whom I am very grateful. But there are many others, who do a huge amount to help. Tim Walton, Joe Holohan, our rec squad and our junior parents, plus many more. We really do appreciate all the volunteer effort that goes into keeping the club up and running. Thank you all.
- Those of you who were at the Club Dinner will know that this year I presented the Service Award to our hard-working Treasurer, Nicola Henry. As I said at the dinner, Nicola, who despite not actually rowing herself, does what is undoubtedly the biggest, most onerous job on the committee, Nicola is our club Treasurer, she makes sure all our finances are in order, our bills are paid, that we all pay our subs, and that we have the money in place to maintain our facilities and buy the boats and equipment we need, that everything is insured, and that our accounts are in perfect order. It's a largely unseen job, that goes on the background but is absolutely essential, and there is such a lot to it, and especially so in the run up to the AGM. It's a huge responsibility. She's being doing this job fantastically well since 2018, when she first took over from John Wilson, and she's even agreed to stand again next year. On top of all this, of course she has supported and followed her daughter Lauren around the world, so that's another thing we have to be grateful for - she and her husband Steve have provided our club with its very own Olympic Champion! So, thank you Nicola and thank you once again for agreeing to continue in the role for another year.

- Big thanks also to the rest of the committee, who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to make sure the club runs smoothly and efficiently. Particular thanks to Sally for her work as Water Safety Officer; to Anne, our club secretary and the squad lead for the recreational squad, but who also works hard and done her level best to keep C&RT on their toes, Kim our Welfare Officer, Isaac our Junior Rep, Hazel and Ross our vice Captains and of course Alex, our Captain. Thank you all very much for your input over the past year. Now most of you probably already know that these last three, Hazel, Ross and Alex are all standing down for their roles this evening so I would take this opportunity to formally thank you all for all your hard work. Alex in particular has really pushed the club forwards. During his 2 years as a captain he has done just about every job going. The list of what he has done is endless – from bringing new people into the club, running Learn to Row courses, organising crews, cajoling people into doing all sorts of jobs, engaging with the two universities, coaching, trailering, mending boats, and, as I mentioned earlier, along with Brian, running most of the football car parks! You will be a hard act to follow and at the time of writing, we don't yet have anyone to replace him. So, I'm sure you will all join me in thanking Alex for everything that he has done.
- On this note, we are becoming increasingly concerned about how dependent we are on a relatively small number of key individuals, the likes of Sally, Anne, Howard, Clare, Nicola, and Alex, who between them undertake most of the key roles in the club. As such, over the course of the next year we intend to really understand these dependencies, and endeavour to put a succession plan in place. So, if any of you are keen to get involved in the running and organisation of the club, please, don't be shy, just let us know. I know we will be absolutely delighted to get you involved and hopefully share the load.
- Before I close, I just want let you all know about is that we are planning to run club races again this year. We haven't quite fixed a date yet but hopefully sometime in December. More details will be available closer to the time. As in previous years we will also use the occasion to host a club social event so please do your best to join us. Fingers, toes, legs and arms crossed that we get some decent weather, but whatever the weather, it's always a fun day so please do your best to join us.
- So, before we 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 and your contributions to the club. It's fantastic to see the club going from strength to strength and growing stronger each year. We have a great atmosphere and a wonder, supportive culture that I'm very proud to be part of. So, thank you all, both for your loyalty to the club and for your friendship and support. Thank you all very much.

John Wilson raised the importance of members volunteering to spread the load of work, and suggested adding occupation/skills to the membership application form.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Michelle Dempsey, Tim Walton, Steve Bowyer, Rose Elwell, Shaun Gosling, Isaac Gosling, Orla Holohan, Toby Clark, Malcolm Neal, Fiona Wingate

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 2nd November 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Howard Marsh and seconded by Sally Horrocks and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee's report on their proceedings during the past year

All the reports have been prepared and posted in advance to give you all the opportunity to read them prior to the meeting. As such we, apart from a few points that the officers wish to draw out for your particular attention, we are planning to take the reports as read. We will take questions or comments on any of the reports, then at the end of this agenda item, unless anyone objects, we can all agree the reports en-bloc.

(i) CAPTAIN'S REPORT
Presented by Alex Wellings

Introduction

The 2024 AGM marks two since I took the role of club captain, and it's been a hugely rewarding experience to be able to contribute to the club in this role. I believe that we have an enormous amount to celebrate, both on and off the water – I would like to take the opportunity to share some of those successes during this report.

Before doing so however, I must take a moment to express my deepest thanks to all of those who have supported the club and me personally over the last 12 months. Support can come in a number of ways and we shouldn't forget that, so if you've contributed a lot or a little, visibly and invisibly, I would like to pass on my sincere thanks.

I will go on to than a number of key individual later within this report – I would however like to start by thanking the committee, some of which will be stepping down. For those stepping down, please accept my gratitude for your efforts. For the new members that will be elected at this year's AGM, I would like to warmly welcome you into the committee.

Results

This year the club has posted an impressive 91 wins, which is an increase of 1 from the previous year.

There have been some notable results and performances this year which need to be mentioned:

- Lauren Henry had an exceptional Olympic campaign, winning the Gold medal at the first time of asking in Paris. That makes Lauren a European, World and Olympic champion. This is a landmark achievement and I cannot overstate how proud the whole club is of the success.
 - Whilst we have celebrated Lauren's amazing achievement, I believe that we should go one step further and create a permanent tribute at the club to commemorate the landmark achievement. As a discussion point for the AGM, I would welcome any ideas from our membership base on how this can be achieved in a fitting manner.
- Dave Smith continues to dominate the Masters circuit and really is a shining light of performance within the club. An outstandingly dedicated athlete with wins at British Masters, Henley Masters and World Masters.
- Molly and Sophie had a hugely positive year in the pair, coached by Howard Marsh. Crowing off their year with a quarter final at Henley Women's Regatta, a win at British Rowing Senior Championships and going on to represent England at Home International regatta.
- Small Club Pennant for the Senior men's 8+ at Head of the River race. This represents a true club success that we should be proud of.

Women's squad

Hazel Ward has looked after the senior women's squad for the past 12 months and has created an empowering, inclusive and friendly atmosphere amongst all athletes. Hazel is by far one of the most dedicated and selfless vice captains I can remember during my time at the club – her dedication to making sure everybody is included, happy and looked after is second to none as far as I am concerned.

Under Hazel's leadership, the senior women's squad have grown enormously, now boasting

upwards of 20 members.

The senior women fielded a coxless quad this year at Henley women's Regatta, missing out on qualification by just 2.5s – I know that they plan to improve on this position in the current year and have made a bright start to the new season with this goal in mind.

Coming into the new year, Natalia Wadowska will be taking over as ladies vice captain. Natalia is a bright and positive presence at the club and I am confident she will continue to develop the cohesive and close knit group we have enjoyed over recent times.

Men's squad

Ross O'Brien has been men's vice captain for the past 12 months, in that time he has overseen some of the highest performance in recent times. Ross is a keen rower and a universally well liked presence at the club – I am personally very grateful for his efforts and I hope that Ross is proud of the achievements during his time in the role.

The men's performance has continued its development over the last 12 months with the squad achieving a win at HERR this year with the small cub pennant – I reference in my annual dinner speech that this is not a result that grabs national headlines – but it is a bright indicator of the progress we have made within this squad over the last few years.

Moving forward, Barnaby Allen will take over the leadership of this squad. Barney has been a member of this club for 12 months now and is not only a high quality rower, but also a really personable character who I know has ambition to continue to develop this engagement into improved performance.

Junior squad

Liz and Ang have continued to work together to run the junior squad this year. Supported of course by a number of keen coaches including Sally Horrocks, Howard Marsh and Tim Walton.

The Castle Mead Partnership is again something that we should be very proud of. In memory, 25 out of 28 scholars are opting to continue with the Castle Mead program which is a big endorsement to the quality of the offering provided.

Angela Holohan will be stepping down from the organisation of the juniors for the coming year. This is not Ang's first stint in the role and she has supported the juniors a couple of times during her time at the club. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Ang for her contribution, support and guidance.

I would also like to say thank you to Isaac Gosling, who has conducted his role of junior representative admirably. I am pleased and excited to see Isaac continuing for another year in his role.

Recreational squad

The recreational squad continues to be a hugely popular group within the club – boasting large numbers over our weekend rowing sessions. Anne, as squad lead for many years now, has done a great job of both organising and championing the squad in the club. Anne has also been a keen promoter of recreational rowing more broadly which I know will continue to have a positive impact on our sport.

It has been great to see more of the recreational squad out racing and I hope that this continues to develop throughout the coming years.

Leicester Rowing Club is a volunteer led club and the rec squad are key contributors in many

aspects of that effort – they also form a large part of the committee. I would like to say thank you to the squad for their continued support and contribution to Leicester Rowing Club.

Performance squad

Howard continues to support performance athletes at the club with incredible dedication, purpose and impact. Under his guidance we have seen a number of athletes including Sophie, Molly, Hannan, Lizzie and Eleanor have successful seasons – with I am sure more to come in the coming year.

Howard should be commended also for the unselfish manner in which he shares his expertise with squad leads and coaches by way of advice and training plans which are adopted by many at the club.

It is true to say that this squad is a real performance benchmark for the club and sets a standard that all competitive athletes can aspire to.

Equipment

Equipment purchases and maintenance this year has been wide ranging, with notable purchased listed below:

- 5 x new Concept 2 ergos (additional to previous year)
- Multiple refurbishment projects
- Fixing of Simon Whitaker

I am also aware that the committee is discussing a number of projects such as new blades, refurbishments and purchases which will go some way to maintaining and improving the quality of the equipment for our members.

I would like to thank anybody who has conducted maintenance or repairs on our fleet, it is invaluable to ensure that the equipment remains safe and water-worthy for use by the club members now and in the future. I would however, whilst I have the forum, like to make a request for club members to remain vigilant for new damage or repair needs. The sooner we are able to rectify these issues, the less likely they are to propagate into bigger issues.

Thank you's

I referenced earlier that contributions by our members can come in many forms, some of which are invisible to the general population of the club. It is as always very difficult to single out all of the great contributions, but please know that all are appreciated and welcomed.

Special thanks goes to:

- The squad leads for their work to ensure that all people in the club are supported and empowered to make the most out of their experience at Leicester Rowing Club.
- Sally Horrocks for working closely with the committee to ensure that we're operating sensibly and safely in all activities.
- Brian Robbins for helping to generate funds for the club by volunteering to support the football car parks at the club.
- Howard Marsh for providing a great coaching example to follow, and providing many members at the club training plans, guidance and support.
- Liz Pulford for her tireless work as Club President. Liz has been instrumental over the years in shaping the club into a place we can all enjoy. Further to that, Liz has been a great support for me as Club Captain for which I would like to thank her whole-heartedly.

Moving Forwards

Unfortunately, I will be stepping down from my role as Club Captain this year.

When taking on this role, I had huge optimism for what could be achieved. My ambition primarily was to ensure that as each year went by, we would make a lasting impact leading to an improved experience for our members – I hope that as a membership base you think that we have achieved that task.

I have certainly found the role hugely rewarding and would like to thank all members for their welcomed and appreciated support during my tenure. I would ask that the same support, patience and kindness is extended to my successor once identified.

At the time of writing this report, we do not yet have a nomination put forward to replace me as Club Captain. The role is important, and whilst challenging I am sure that it will be rewarding for whoever takes on the role.

I will continue as a committee member and offer my commitment to support the club as much as I can do from my new position.

President: Once again, our sincere thanks to Alex, who has done a fantastic job over the past 2 years. It's wonderful to see the club thriving, growing and producing some outstanding performance across the whole club. done a great job and really good to see the membership growing so well.

(ii) SECRETARY'S REPORT
Presented by Anne Hock

Basin

Everyone will be well aware of the problems with silt in the basin. Discussions with DMU about removal of pennywort moved swiftly into removal of the monster after the storms left it there. The water rights in the basin belong to DMU (61%) and Barratts (39%), who own the rights to the wall as well. A site meeting was recently held between DMU and Barratts, attended by Liz and myself. The C&RT are scheduled to dredge at Lime Kiln Lock and at Freemans Lock, and Barratts contacted them to see if they could dredge the basin as well. Talks are currently continuing on that basin, and we are waiting to hear developments. LRC has offered access to the basin, and is looking at how to best plate up over the drains given the weight of silt to be removed. The cost of dredging will be met by Barratts and DMU and we are not involved in that discussion.

An update was provided. The contractors approached by Barratts have now taken samples of the silt which have been sent for analysis. They will next measure the silt in the basin by taking a grid of depth readings 1m apart. From that they calculate the amount of silt to be removed, and can then provide an estimate of costs. At that stage, the apportionment of cost has to be agreed by Barratts and DMU, and then, hopefully, the work will be booked. Although this will take time, both Barratts and DMU appreciate the need for the work to be done as soon as possible, but it is of course also dependent on the weather.

Council

I am waiting for the Council to suggest a date for clearing up the riverside but this will of course be weather dependent. Meantime they have had volunteers out working on the Straight, in particular down towards the start of the regatta course where they have been clearing and planting wild flowers which it is hoped will flower appropriately for the Regatta itself. The Club contributed towards the cost of the plugs, as did Barratts. Discussions are also due to be held with Barratts regarding their bit of land up towards the weir and cleaning that up for the Regatta.

C&RT

I still have paint for the railings which was donated by the C&RT, and am waiting for better weather to organise a session. I note I said this last year as well!

Committee meetings

The Committee have continued to use zoom meetings throughout and will continue to do so.

Joe Humphries Memorial Trust – CPR and Defibrillator training

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 provided an excellent and informative session. Our thanks to Isaac and Alison Gosling for hosting the event, and of course to Steve Humphries and his colleagues for the time they spend with us on these sessions – they too are all volunteers.

Recreational Tours and Events

Sadly the Good Friday Row had to be cancelled due to poor weather and water conditions. Our visits continue to be limited for the same reasons. The BR National Tour did take place on the Thames, and was enjoyed by all the Leicester rowers. Although bad weather was forecast for the last day, it did not materialise and the organisers were able to use their previous experience from last year to be ready with a Plan B so rowing took place on all 3 days.

BUILDING, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Our thanks must go again to John Sephton who has sorted out the lift, and cleared the gutters at the back of the building, together with Joe Holohan and Kim Clark. He is currently working out how to clear those at the front which need urgent attention. His efforts have saved the club considerable amounts of expenditure, as well as looking after the building, but we should not have to rely on so few members to take on so much of the work.

We continue to look for more volunteers to help, whether with technical advice on environmental issues, clearing the roof, drains and gutters to the mundane tasks of regular meter readings. The mens changing room needs attention as does the womens, but nothing is going to happen unless members volunteer to support the committee to draw up the spec for what work is needed, to work out how much work can be done by members, and to organise competitive estimates for costs.

If any members, or junior parents have appropriate skills or are simply willing to help, please let me know as the sooner we can tackle building problems, the better.

It would be a great help to know members (and friends and family) skills and if anyone has a particular skill that could be useful, could they please let me know. These are not the only people we need to involve, we also need people to help eg Kim holds the ladder for John, where no skills are required eg meter readings, to meet contractors if we're looking for competitive estimates, and to be part of a planning team to get work done.

President: Again, I would just like to record my thanks to Anne – in case you aren't aware, she has been club secretary since 2011, as well as squad lead for the recreation group since it's inception, and is also the chair of the EM Region. Great job Anne and very pleased you plan to stand again!

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

Members continue to make regular reports via the British Rowing online system and there have been 27 reports submitted since the last AGM. As usual there have been plenty of simple capsizes along with a range of other incidents. Like many other clubs we have experienced a number of incidents of antisocial behaviour. Several of our reports have been included in the monthly briefing sent out by the British Rowing Hon. Rowing Safety Advisor, ensuring that other clubs can learn from our experiences. On a more positive note, there have again been examples of club members assisting members of the public.

Early in January we experienced the highest water levels in memory, so high that water reached inside the boathouse. This created a new 'island' at the entrance to the basin and left a significant amount of silt on land. An impressive clean-up effort from the whole club ensured that we were back on the water quickly after the level fell but we have been left with restricted access to the basin entrance and very shallow water in it. This means that we now have to manage traffic in and out of the basin very carefully, but so far, apart from a few groundings, this has not caused significant problems. Anne, Liz and Fiona have been in discussions with various parties about dredging and we can only hope this proves to be viable. We now have a supply of sandbags in case the water rises to similar levels again. Heavy rainfall and flooding are likely to continue to be one of our main safety challenges in the future.

Another ongoing issue is likely to be water quality. In September I did some sampling as part of Earthwatch's Great British Waterblitz. I was not surprised to learn that the water we row in is in poor ecological health. I am awaiting more information on some samples I took for additional testing by Imperial College. A summary of the results across the country are available in this [article](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/oct/21/uk-rivers-chemicals-stimulants-phosphates-nitrate-endangering-aquatic-life) <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/oct/21/uk-rivers-chemicals-stimulants-phosphates-nitrate-endangering-aquatic-life> These results suggest we should continue to be careful with post outing cleaning, of ourselves as well as the boats

I would like to thank everyone who has supported the club by spending time on the bank supervising crews, removing silt or tackling the island after the flooding or any of the many other tasks contribute to the safety and wellbeing of club members. With sustained high membership numbers and lots of people out on the water, especially in singles it is more important than ever that we continue working together to keep everyone safe.

President: Once again, I'm sure you will all join me in thanking Sally for all her efforts. Our safety, and that of all those who might be impacted by our actions, always has to be our number one priority. Sally makes sure we always keep it at the forefront of our thinking. She also does a great job of ensuring that our annual safety audit is completed and submitted, and that our risk assessments are maintained and up to date. Some of you may not realise it, but if we didn't submit the annual safety audit none of us would be allowed to race!! So it is a big deal and takes a lot of effort, so a big thank you to Sally for all her hard work.

(iv) JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT **Presented by Isaac Gosling**

Introduction:

This year has been exciting for the junior squad and has also been my first year as the junior representative. I just wanted to start off by saying that there has been some really good progress this year, with more race wins & experience for first time racers. Currently, we have twenty four members of the junior squad which train three times a week. The junior squad continues to embody true rowing spirit through their dedication and teamwork, which has been mirrored by the coaches Howard Marsh, Liz Pulford, Sally Horrocks, Tim Walton and Angela Holohan.

Races throughout the year:

The juniors this year have raced competitively at a range of different races and had numerous wins which include:

Northampton Head Race:

Band 1 Op J17 1x – Isaac Gosling

Band 1 W J16 1x – Eleanor Gough

Band 2 Op J16 1x – Igor Miedziak

Band 2 W J17 1x – Imogen Sherman

Open J17 2x – Isaac Gosling and Oleksii Melnyk

Bedford Head Race:

Band 2 W1x – Eleanor Gough

W. 4x+ – Sophie Bredariol, Phoebe Pain, Fran Mithcell and Imogen Sherman – Cox: Angela Holohan

Lincoln Head Race:

Op J17 1x – Isaac Gosling

W J17 1x – Eleanor Gough

W J15 2x – Scarlett and Sophia

Ancholme Head Race:

W J17 1x Band 1 – Eleanor Gough

W J18 1x Band 1 – Eleanor Gough

W J15 2x Band 2 – Oliwia Karas and Scarlett Hardy

Peterborough Head Race:

W. J16 1x – Eleanor Gough

Nottingham City Regatta:

W J16 4x – Eleanor Gough (Composite with Newark and Derby)

Leicester Regatta:

Leicester regatta was a great opportunity for both juniors and junior parents to get involved. This year was no exception, as we got support with many volunteers that helped the regatta to run smoothly. Due to the parents' support and committee organisation, it allowed many juniors to race and secure wins, which included:

J17.2x – Isaac Gosling and Oleksii Melnyk

W.J17.2x – Fran Mitchell and Imogen Sherman

W.J14.2x – Leah Starmore and Olivia Karas

J16.1x – Igor Miedziak

W.J16.1x – Eleanor Gough

East Midlands Interregionals Regatta

For this year's interregional regatta, we had two juniors (Igor Miedziak & Eleanor Gough) which qualified to represent the East Midlands. Eleanor achieved bronze in the second A final, which is a great achievement.

Coaches:

The coaches have given the greatest amount of support to the junior squad and are the reason why it's so prominent in the club. Over this year the coaches have helped develop the junior squad's technique and skills in rowing.

The junior squad acknowledges the commitment that the coaches make and that some of the coaches wish to step down from their role. The junior squad would welcome support from other club members with coaching to share the workload.

Progression:

Over this year, there have been multiple learn to row sessions which mainly focused on indoor sessions which taught the basic techniques, which was then followed by training on the water. From this, we have some new junior squad members that have now also started racing. There is hope that the most recent learn to rows will follow in their footsteps.

On the 1st October the Joe Humphries Memorial Trust Foundation came into the rowing club to deliver a defibrillator course. This was well supported by the juniors and parents, and I'm glad to say that we have seen an increase to the amount of juniors that attended.

The Castle Mead Academy collaboration is continuing with regular sessions during the week run by Liz Pulford. I believe that it has been quite successful as we have currently three juniors from there who became members of Leicester Rowing Club. Looking ahead, we hope to see some more new faces.

Conclusion:

To summarise this year, with a lot of support from the coaches, parents and juniors' dedication, we were able to achieve twenty wins and good development within the junior squad. We are very much looking forward to the next racing year where we hope to see more juniors rowing. 😊

President: I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Isaac for his support and input into the junior squad this year. He has done a phenomenal job, not just as the junior rep, but also helping with the sessions as well. He's always there to help to get the on and off the water and helps with coaching and supervision too. And everything he does is done with a cheerful smile and great humour. You are a real asset to the junior squad Isaac, and I'm delighted that you are standing as junior rep again for this year.

I can confirm that the have been proposed for acceptance and seconded as follows:

- Captain's report proposed by Clare Wilding and seconded by Anne Hock
- Secretary's report proposed by Liz Pulford and seconded by Graham Clark
- Safety Report proposed by Alex Welling and seconded by Howard Marsh
- Junior Rep report, proposed by Angela Holohan and seconded by Kim Clark.

The reports were accepted and AGREED unanimously.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

Presented by Nicola Henry

President: First of all, I'd like to say a big thank you to Nicola for all her hard work once again this year managing our finances so well. Particular thanks for preparing the accounts themselves – it's a big job and I know it puts you somewhat out of your comfort zone so well done and thank you very much indeed. Thanks also to John Wilson for your ongoing support, and for auditing the accounts for us this year. All much appreciated.

So I hope you have taken the opportunity to have a look at the accounts and at Nicola's written report. You will see that we are very fortunate and we remain in a strong position financially.

I also just want to take this opportunity to tell you all about some great work that Fran Gonella has been doing to try to secure some grant funding for the club. She has recently submitted two grant applications, one to the Naturesave Trust for electrical solar panels for the club roof, and the other to the Greene King for new sculling blades. These two applications have only just been submitted so we don't yet know the outcome, but I would just like to take this opportunity to thank Fran for her efforts to get them submitted. It's great to have your support with this. We will of course keep you all informed about the outcome.

Does anyone have any questions on the accounts or on our finances?

The first thing that people look at in a set of accounts is to see whether the club has made a surplus or a deficit for the year (see page 4 or 5). The bottom line is a negative **but** this is after depreciation, on which I will comment on below. The net result before depreciation is £11,843 up £5,683 on the previous year. Overall income rose by £3,151. The bulk of this came from Grants from British Rowing for the Learn2Row course and Youth rowing research, this latter being work done by Liz Pulford. The detail behind some of the figures (pages 6 & 7) show fluctuations. Room Hire died on us this year and the increasing cost of tankards decreased the profit made on the Regatta. The Committee are minded to replace tankards with medals going forward.

Expenditure fell by £2,532. Again a mixed picture. Less as spent on general repairs but it should be noted the money spent by John Sephton on equipment repairs £1063 (mainly on the lift) has overall saved us replacing the lift, which would have been hugely expensive. Alex has saved the club on motor & vehicle expenses as he has a vehicle capable of towing a trailer to regattas. Two adverse variants are rates & water and light & heat. Water was subject to a catch up in billing and then estimated bills, Light & heat also

suffered from estimated bills and the club is locked into Eon until January 2026. Please be assured that the subject of the estimated bills is being pursued.

So back to depreciation of £26,138 (also see page 8). Those conversant with accounts will know, this a non cash adjustment to recognise that funds need to be set aside to replace assets when they come to the end of their useful lives or in the case of the Boathouse putting aside monies for major repair or renovation works.

Whilst looking at page 8. The additions column reflects the refurbished Nigel Ramsden 1 (single) and the donated Octople being brought into the books at £1,000 and £2,000 each, and the purchase of 5 new ergos. The disposals are a double and 2 ergo's. The adjustment column reflects bringing Big Teddy back onto the books after its sale fell through.

In looking at the balance sheet we have covered the major asset in the paragraph above. The club is now carrying a small stock of clothing. Details behind the debtors and creditor figures can be found on pages 6 or 7.

John Wilson proposed asking everyone about who has got a key and paid a deposit. There needs to be an accurate record of key holders, and whether any money is due for refund or can be included as a donation. John will assist Anne and/or Nicola with this.

Simon Whitaker – accounts fine. Leicester Uni's fee has dropped significantly and asked why. Fee is paid on number of members and racks used in the clubhouse. Ben Parker (President LUBC) advised that in one year paid double and now back to regular payment.

He also asked about the valuation of the premises and book rate, and queried whether Trustees and Committee should be aware of what land and building are worth. An informal view would be helpful. That will be referred to the committee for further action.

John Sephton also queried the value of club trophies and Liz agreed to add that to the Committee agenda. Sally also suggested that there should be a record of all the trophies and where they are kept.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Liz Pulford and seconded by Alex Wellings and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

- (i) Proposed rates for subscriptions and rack rents – *attached Appendix A*
- (ii) **Resolution:** *Subscription rates to remain at 2023/24 levels for 2024/25.*

President: I'm sure you will all be pleased to hear that we are not proposing any changes to the membership fees this year. So a full membership remains at £350 per annum, with all the other rates and rack rents being calculated from there.

Check Appendix as might be wrong!

Acceptance of the recommendation was proposed by Angela Holohan and seconded by Alison Gosling and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Election of Officers (President, Captain, Vice-Captain(s), Co-ordinator of Novices, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, one Junior Member, a Press and Public Relations Officer, and enough committee members to make up a total membership of eleven.)

President: As I have already said, Alex is standing down as Captain, and we do not have anyone standing for that role. Now clearly this is an important position within the club, but also one that covers a diverse range of responsibilities and tasks. We have discussed this as a committee and all agree that we need to break the role down more so that we can divest some of the responsibilities out to others. Hopefully this will make the role less onerous going forwards. So, with this in mind, if you, or anyone you know of, might be

willing to take it on, or be talked into taking it on, please do let us know. We are able to co-opt people onto the committee after the AGM if appropriate.

I would also point out that there are a number of posts on the committee that are not officials as such – according to our constitution these roles are nominated and agreed at the first committee meeting after the AGM. In particular the role of Club Welfare Officer, hence why this is not an elected post and doesn't appear on the list. Similarly, the role of Water Safety Advisor, although Kim and Sally, who undertake these roles for us, are both standing for the committee again this year.

The following nominations had been received and were approved:

	POSITION	CANDIDATE	PROPOSED BY	SECONDED BY
1	President	Liz Pulford	Kim Clark	Howard Marsh
2	Captain	No nomination		
3	Secretary	Anne Hock	Kim Clark	Graham Clark
4	Treasurer	Nicola Henry	Liz Pulford	Angela Holohan
5	Vice Captain - Men	Barney Allen	Graham Clark	Alex Wellings
6	Vice Captain - Women	Natalia Wadowska	Lucy Cleaver	Fran Gonella
7	Junior Rep	Isaac Gosling	Hazel Ward	Alex Wellings
8	Committee	Kim Clark	Graham Clark	Anne Hock
9	Committee	Graham Clark	Kim Clark	Anne Hock
10	Committee	Rob Fox	Anne Hock	Kim Clark
11	Committee	Fran Gonella	Angela Holohan	Liz Pulford
12	Committee	Alison Gosling	Hazel Ward	Alex Wellings
13	Committee	Angela Holohan	Howard Marsh	Liz Pulford
14	Committee	Sally Horrocks	Liz Pulford	Howard Marsh
15	Committee	Howard Marsh	Kim Clark	Clare Wildin
16	Committee	John Sefton	Kim Clark	Anne Hock
17	Committee	Alex Wellings	Clare Wildin	Anne Hock
18	Committee	Clare Wildin	Anne Hock	Kim Clark

According to our constitution, whilst we ideally have a minimum of 11 committee members, we can agree by a show of hands at the AGM to have up to 20 on the committee. Fortunately, we have a very healthy list of volunteers to form our committee next year. We actually have a total of 17 people standing – which is great. I'd like to thank all of you for agreeing to stand.

I'm not proposing to take a show of hand on the extension of the committee this evening, instead I will just ask if anyone objects to having this number – if you do please make that known now through chat or raising your hand. Meanwhile, I'll just run down the list of names, but won't read out the proposer and seconder – although I can confirm that all nominations have been appropriately proposed and seconded – the full list is available online should you wish to see it

So, given that there have been no objections, I ask that Anne records that all the nominations are accepted unanimously and as such you are all officially elected to the committee and I reiterate my thanks to you all for volunteering your time to the management of the club.

As I mentioned earlier we are saying goodbye to a couple of people this year, Ross and Hazel, our two vice captains, are both standing down. I would just like to reiterate Alex's comments and thanks to them both, you have both done a great job. Thank you both for your input and support over the past year. And then, looking at the new list, we welcome back John Sephton, who is standing again, after a gap of a number of years, and delighted to see Barney and Natalia standing as Vice Captains, and Fran as a committee member. I look forward to working with you all over the coming year. Thank you all.

Also delighted that Anne and Nicola have agreed to stay on as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. They are all big jobs and having the continuity in these roles really helps with the smooth running of the club.

Thank you all very much indeed.

Acceptance of all nominations was AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENTS

President: The position of vice-president is bestowed on people who have made significant contributions to the club over the years. A list of the VPs is provided on the club website, published along with all the other AGM reports etc, but I will just read it out.

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

Lord Mayor of Leicester, Rob Fox, Nicola Henry, Anne Hock, Mike Holman, Sally Horrocks, Martin Jones-Gerrard, Howard Marsh, Jose Mills, Malcolm Neal, Ben Pickering, Liz Pulford, John Sephton, Sue Shaw, Paul Shaw, Rodger Smart, Tim Walton and John Wilson

Acceptance of the election of all Vice Presidents was proposed by Kim Clark and seconded by Clare Wildin and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

President: So we have the following people nominated as VP's this year:

- Firstly, I would like to propose that Alex is elected a vice-president in recognition of his efforts as Club Captain over the past two years. I'm sure you will all agree that, not only has he been very popular and supportive of us all, but he has also been a very positive influence on the club overall.
- And then there are two former Club Captains who have never actually had their efforts and input formally acknowledged and I would like to take this opportunity to rectify that. The first of these is Cath Rees. Now most of you won't know or remember Cath, but she is married to Simon Whitaker, one of our Trustees, and she was not only a highly successful elite athlete in her own rights, but she also served as Captain for two years in 1986 and 87.
- Then we have Sally Ann Sephton, John's wife, who actually did 2 stints as Captain, covering a total of 4 years, 1983 and 1984, and then again in 1999 and 2000.

So does anyone have any objections to this proposals? – if not then I take the opportunity to thank all three of them for their input to the club over the years and ask Anne to record their election as carried unanimously.

Alex Welling, Cath Rees and Sally Ann Sephton were proposed as Vice Presidents by Liz Pulford and seconded by Anne Hock. The nominations were AGREED to add as Vice Presidents.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Two items had been notified to be raised under this item:

1. The first is that members of the Recreational squad have asked that we note a strong condemnation of Severn Trent for the raw sewage output into the canal and asking the Committee to write to them regarding our concerns. Sue Porter said she will draft a letter for us to review and send. Does anyone have any comments to add about this? Does anyone have any objection to the new committee taking on this action? In that case we will follow this up at the next committee meeting.

Sally has done some testing and will chase for results about information about what is in the water, and will share that with member. Sever Trent website will show dates for spills. Sally and Kieron will help with the letter.

2. Next the Recreational Squad would like to thank Hazel for organising the new hi-vis shirts which have recently been delivered. After seeing people out on the water wearing them they have suggested that all new rowers joining the club should be encouraged to wear a high viz shirt when out on the water, and night time rowers should also wear one. I understand John Sefton suggested this saying it made it so much easier to spot a crew well in advance which made all crews that much safer. In principle I think this is a great idea, but I am aware that, whilst the shirts that Hazel has organised are very high quality, they are also quite expensive, so I was thinking that if we could get some low cost hi-vis tee shirts organised, we could get them printed with the Wyvern and then keep them in stock. I'm pretty sure Sally, our water safety advisor would be supportive of this initiative, but does anyone have any concerns or issues with the suggestion?
Sally thanked the rec squad for asking for this.

If everyone is OK with the idea we will get the new committee on the case.

OK, so as far as I understand it we have got to the end of the business. If there's nothing else to discuss, I would just take this opportunity to thank you all for attending, thank you for your support for the club and call the formal part of the meeting to a close.

There being no other business, the meeting closed.

After thanks from the President for attendance, the meeting closed at 21.10pm.