

Safety Report for AGM 2025

Members continue to make regular reports via the British Rowing online system and there have been 22 reports submitted since the last AGM, although some of these are duplicates. This might be because of glitches in the online system that make it unclear if a submission has been successful. As usual there have been plenty of simple capsizes. These include members from across the club. The main other categories of incidents have been antisocial behaviour and barges not following the proper navigation. Thanks to Anne, Liz and Howard for their ongoing liaison with external organisations that engage with the issues underlying these incidents. I'd like to record my thanks to Matt Eld for his support for the club. Matt has long been our link to the neighbourhood policing team but who has now moved on to a new role

We again experienced severe flooding in January, even worse than previously. This expanded the island at the basin entrance and moved a tree into the basin. Yet another impressive clean-up effort from the whole club ensured that we were back on the water quickly after the level fell. John Sephton has organised for sockets in the boat store to be raised well above the level reached this time, which was only one breeze block below the then current level. Anne has been leading our discussions with various parties about dredging and it now looks likely that this will happen in the near future.

The club has purchased a stock of hi vis T-shirts that are very reasonably priced. These really help with safe navigation in low light conditions over the winter and it would be good to see more members wearing these regularly for outings. Ang Holohan is managing their distribution.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported the club by spending time on the bank supervising crews, removing silt, tackling the island and the tree 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.

Sally Horrocks
20 Nov 2025