

LEICESTER ROWING CLUB AGM – THURSDAY 29th OCTOBER 2026

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Basin

The removal of silt did finally take place earlier this year. The work was commissioned by DMU and Barratts who own the rights to the basin, and cost a substantial sum. Unfortunately the company Dovetail, were unable to remove all the silt (although they did remove 3 times their estimate), and were unable to complete removing any by the DMU stage due to technical issues. Although it was hoped they would come back to do that, the company withdrew on the grounds that they did not have the correct equipment or manpower to remove silt from that area.

Nevertheless, the removal should help the water flow when there is sufficient rain, but we will need to remain vigilant in stopping overgrowth in the basin, particularly when the water is low and the flow is very slow.

A very big thanks to Colleen Thorneycroft, Natalie and David de Berger from DMU who persevered with ensuring the work took place. We send best wishes to all three of them, now sadly having left DMU.

Council

The Council supported the riverside clean up on Saturday 24th October. This will be the first of many clean ups which are urgently needed along the canal and river. The Outdoor Pursuits people are removing pennywort where they can, which has also helped, even if other invasive species rapidly grow instead! Both Outdoor Pursuits and West End Runners supported the clean up session, and our thanks to them for their help and support.

C&RT

The C&RT are entirely dependent on volunteers which clearly limits how much can be done. Members are encouraged to help with collecting litter and cutting back when they can.

Active Leicester

Active Leicester responded to a request for help with the rough sleepers who appear along the tow path and under the bridges from time to time. After a meeting with all interested parties, they provided a list of contacts to report any further problems with rough sleepers and/or other anti social behaviour.

Committee meetings

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

Trustees

My thanks to Tim Walton for sorting out all the paperwork required for a change of Trustee. The Club Trustees are now Sue Shaw, Tim Walton, Simon Whittaker and Rob Fox.

Website and IT

A long overdue look at the Club Website and IT use is now in progress, and a small team has been established to sort out strategy and implementation. Harsh Pandit, Mark Sutherland, Zak Swift and I now meet regularly to sort out a thorough overhaul of the website, booking forms and club information which we hope to complete in the next year.

Mental Health Friendly Club

Following our meeting with Active Leicester, the Club has been registered as a Mental Health Friendly Club. We now have access to information about mental health, and to webinars, often at no cost. If anyone is interested in completing the requirements for registration, please let me know.

Joe Humphries Memorial Trust – CPR and Defibrillator training

Steve Humphries and his team came in for their annual training session earlier this month, during SADS week. After the disappointing turnout in 2025, this year saw a major improvement with 40 members, parents and friends attending. It was a lively and informative session which also brought members from all the squads together to learn more about CPR and use of the Defibrillator. Many thanks go to Steve and his team for their commitment to saving lives.

Recreational Tours and Events

The Good Friday Row took place this year with 9 members of the recreational squad rowing the full length and enjoying both a lovely row and meeting old and new friends from other clubs. The BR National Tour took place on the Norfolk Broads, and was enjoyed by the 6 Leicester rowers who took part.

Race for Tyler

As many of you know, the Recreational rower and parents took on the Juniors in a timed race at Ancholme as a fundraiser for the Air Ambulance. Only 3 of the recreational rowers had ever raced before, and one was our cox! The majority had less than a few months of rowing, and then only within the recreational squad. It was a very enjoyable experience for all, raising funds in memory of Tyler, and supported by Tyler's family on the day. I would like to thank all those Recreational rowers who took part, including of course the parents, as well as others in the squad who cheerfully sat in crews for training sessions when not everyone could make them. I would also like to thank the Juniors for the competition and congratulate them on their faster time!

FOOTBALL CAR PARKS

The Committee would like to thank all volunteers who have done sessions for the football parking. This raises valuable income for the club, all of which will be spent on equipment for all squads. Despite the fall in fortunes for the football club, we continue to organise the parking and rely on members for their support to do so. Although numbers are a little down, it's not as much as we feared, and is still a major source of income. Our thanks to Brian Robbins who continues to volunteer for so many matches, and we wish the football club every success in climbing back up the league!

Anne Hock

Secretary

20th October 2026

