

Safety Report for AGM 2026

Members continue to make regular reports via the British Rowing online system and there have been 14 reports submitted since the last AGM. The pattern is in line with previous years apart from the increase in land-based incidents. These highlight the need to be careful when handling boats and putting them in the water. In the light of this we also need to be careful to avoid creating 'trip hazards' inside or outside the boathouse by leaving things lying around on the floor.

The club annual safety audit for 2025 was approved by British Rowing and preparations for the 2026 audit are in hand. Successful completion of this process is essential to maintain BR affiliation.

A massive thank you to Anne for all the effort she put into the basin dredging project. While the results are not perfect, they are a significant improvement. We can only hope the winter weather is kind to us this year and silt levels do not rise again. It is unfortunate that our key contact at DMU for such matters, Colleen Thorneycroft, has now left the university. Her help and support for our activities over the years has been much appreciated. Anne has also been pushing hard with the various agencies to get signage on the bridges to encourage barges to stay on the correct side, but there has been no recent progress on this.

The club has a stock of hi vis T-shirts with either long or short sleeves in a range of colours 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, particularly single scullers and those in the bow seat of crew boats, wearing these regularly for outings.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported the club by spending time on any of the many tasks that contribute to the safety and wellbeing of club members. With a growing number of new members with a range of diverse support needs it is more important than ever that we continue working together to keep everyone safe.

Sally Horrocks
21 Oct 2026