

Minutes of 2023 AGM

held at LARC, 19 October 2023 at 7:30pm

- **1. APOLOGIES:** received in advance from David Gredley. There were 18 members in attendance.
- 2. MINUTES OF 2022 AGM: taken as read and approved.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Fee Brooker)

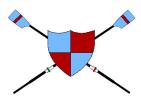
"First of all, thank you for coming along tonight. I'll open with my chairman's hat on and just say a few words about my perspective on the club. I'm not going to talk at all about the rowing side of the club which I will to Hugo, other than to thank and congratulate all those who have represented the club at races this year.

I'm just going to say a few words about how the club is developing because I think there is much to shout about. The club has changed beyond all recognition from the one I joined over 20 years ago, and we should be proud of it. We have an ever growing and diverse membership; we have some money in the bank; we have a fantastic clubhouse; and as you will hear from Hugo later, we've had some significant successes at rowing this year as well.

However, we are undoubtedly experiencing some growing pains: some will say that we have lost the sense of club with the now diverse needs and goals of our members; that we have become less social; that we struggle to find volunteer coaches; and undisputedly that we don't have enough storage space for our boats and kit.

But although we need to address these issues, they are good problems to have. We only have them because we are getting more people can out on the water and enjoying the wonderful sport of rowing. This year with Kirsty's help, we have recruited 16 juniors and 12 adults through learn to row and our membership now stands at an all-time high of 152. We supported a BR Talent ID programme for 24 youngsters of which 4 are now members of the junior dev squad. Whether our members are future GB talent or recreational rowers just wanting to get out on the water for fun and fitness, we would like there to be a place for everyone at the club.

Looking ahead, we want to continue to grow and thrive but to do this we do need to professionalise what we do in some areas and to find sustainable ways to keep delivering our offering. This coming year we want to look as a priority at how the club is structured and whether we should change this to better enable us to fund raise and to manage member liability. We would like to do more with the local schools and build our links with the wider community. We are about to trial a collaboration with Lymington Town Sailing Club and are applying to become an indoor rowing club. Some of our members have dipped their toe into the Beach Sprints and



Adventure Rowing arenas but there's a great opportunity for us to do more in these areas going forwards.

Stan told me that I am allowed one little moan as Chairman. And if I have one, it is this. We have over 150 members in this club but only a handful of them are actively involved in helping to run it on a regular basis. We've come a long way in the last few years, but we are undoubtedly constrained in what we can do by a lack of resource. If we could somehow harness the power of all our members, just think what we could achieve. The club belongs to all of us and if you can, get involved off as well as on the water, please do.

In closing I'd like to thank the Committee – those standing down, those continuing, those stepping up – as well as our coaches and supporters who give up their time week in week out to get and keep our members afloat. I'd also like to thank all those who get involved in maintaining our boats and kits keeping them on the water. Without you, there would be no rowing.

Looking back on 2023, there is much to celebrate and I look forward to sharing another year of rowing success, fun and camaraderie with you all".

4. CAPTAIN'S REPORT (Hugo Mills)

"Good evening, so 2023 has been a very busy and successful year for the club on many fronts.

Momentum has continued to build throughout the year with membership now reaching c.160, the largest in my time at the club with arguably the largest rec and Junior memberships in the area.

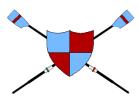
Rowing Update

After a strong winter of training on the ergos in the pain cave and some good results in the small boats in the Autumn heads we started the 2023 Season in good shape.

The primary aim for the club this season with the growing momentum was to look to compete for Championships during the Hampshire and Dorset Season and at the South Coast Championships.

At the first race of the season, the Head of the Stour at Christchurch, where we had a large entry, it was clear that we had many competitive crews with seven wins across the 2 divisions including Masters Double, Junior Ladies, Novice Men, J16 and Masters Fours.

Our home regatta, Milford Regatta on 29th April was the first event of the coastal season where once again the club turned out in numbers. In benign conditions for the time of year, the club saw many of our crews cement their winter promise with our Ladies squad winning both Junior and Novice 4s, our Masters squad doing a clean sweep of the Masters events and our J16 quad winning.



The Junior Ladies 4 of Amelia, Ellie, Elysia and Annabelle coxed by Livvy and coached by Tim saw their winning streak continue with them wrapping up Hampshire and Dorset Junior Ladies Championship for the 1st time since 2010. This was a thoroughly deserved win for all their consistent hard training throughout the year and a big thanks to Tim for all his support and wisdom.

The wider club also had some memorable regattas, emphasising that if we turn up we can compete, of particular note was Swanage where once again the Junior squad turned out in force securing many wins. The final regatta of the season at Poole was a truly memorable end to the Hants and Dorset Season with several wins but the standout being our Men's senior 4 of Dave, Angus, Callan and Max coxed by Livvy winning the Oakley Shield for Senior 4s for the 1st time in 21 years in emphatic style. An interesting side note is that Dave was in that crew 21 years ago!

The season ended at the South Coast Championships in Folkestone where our Junior Ladies and Masters 40 Crews represented Hampshire and Dorset against the other 2 coastal associations. The Junior Ladies performed valiantly coming 3rd. However, the Masters 40 crew of Dave, Waddy, myself and Mike coxed by finally shook off our bridesmaid status to win the South Coast Championship for Masters 40. In a year without our talisman Pete Lock at stroke it has been very much a squad effort.

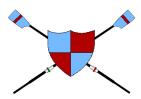
Junior Squad

Our Junior squad has continued to go from strength to strength, when I joined the club in 2017/18 the squad was c.6-8 people but now totals c.60 people across 3 squads, the catchily named SLARC, JLARC and Junior Development. This is without doubt the largest J18 squad on the South Coast and is testament to Kirsty and her enthusiasm at learn to row stage supported by a growing number of enthusiastic and willing parents across the squads.

We had a hard core of youngsters training throughout the winter on the ergo which resulted in us taking 20 youngsters, our largest entry from the Junior Squad to the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships in London where Imogen brought home a bronze medal in the J17 category and Sol Chamberlain was shaved into 4th place in the J16 Boys category (by 3 meters). We already have 25 signed up for next year!

This year also saw 3 of our crews selected to represent Wessex at the Junior Inter-regionals in Nottingham for J14-16, with Sol in the J16 1x, George, Izaac, Rufus and Patrick coxed by Alex in the J16 4+s and Rebecca, Jess, Izzy and Zara coxed by Flora in the J154+s. Whilst the competition is undeniably fierce, all crews found it a really positive experience and it was great to get some focused training at Eton Dorney at Easter ahead of the event.

Both the 4s used this experience to help them win their Novice races and will be part of strong squads challenging for Junior Championships in the Hampshire and Dorset Season next year. Sol always up for a challenge took his experience to the British Rowing Beach Sprint Champs where he made the quarter finals in the U19 category (as a J16), his performance at the U19 trials resulted in him being a non-travelling reserve for the England Team, all great experience for the future.



It has also been great to see club members progressing and winning under different colours with Callan winning 2 gold and a Silver as part of the GB U19 team at Couple do Jeunesse and Max winning the Temple Challenge cup for University 8s at Henley Royal Regatta.

Looking to this season, we have added the SLARC squad (J16-18) to help the development of the youngsters alongside the adult squads it is exciting times. It has been great to see so many out in the small boats working on their skills and after Christmas we will be hoping to move to bigger boats (e.g. Eights).

Equipment Side

On the equipment side it has been a quieter year with the main project being the refurbishment of the Skylarc in the winter. As we look forward with the growing numbers it is clear that we need to look more at upgrading our fleet and equipment rather than necessarily expanding the number of boats due to storage issues.

Priority should be focused on those boats which see the most use which are the Coastal fours/quads but also the club could do with 2 coastal pairs and another set of rowing blades.

Something that I am frustrated not have made more progress with this year is the fundraising side, mainly due to lack of time. With this in mind as Fee said we are looking to have a more structured approach to fundraising/professionalising the club which will hopefully put us in a strong position to upgrade the fleet.

Building Out the Structure

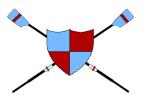
As I said at the beginning, I am really encouraged by the momentum on all fronts in the club. A major focus this has year has been on trying to build out the support infrastructure with a number of courses run including;

- First Aid,
- Subsidised PB2 in partnership with Lymington Town Rowing club,
- Coaching assistant/support course

That said there is still a huge amount to be done and if we are to be successful we need people to step forward and for the committee to be engaged, it is encouraging to note us continuing to build out the roles.

Looking forward, our immediate priorities are:

- Ensuring that we are capable of getting all our members afloat.
- Continuing to upskill our volunteers through more training courses/sessions.
- Increasing the number of voluntary coaches to support or growing number race crews in the season. To this end we are offering a reduced membership for people who are willing to coach a crew for the season. We will allocate the crews in the spring, each coach will be expected to be present for at 2 sessions a week and to support their crews at race events. Anyone who is interested should contact me.



Conclusion

Finally, I would like to thank the committee members for all their hard work and in particular Fee for her patience and wisdom. I would also like to say a thank you to the Squad Captains, Pete/Sophie and to Tim, Kirsty and Sue for all their hard work in getting crews afloat and to those who have been repairing the boats to keep them running such as Terry and Chris Bunce".

It has been a busy year, this is a fantastic club which is in a good place but with its scale it is clear we need to build out the structure but still keep our core values. We have some really exciting momentum and hopefully we can secure more championships in the 2023/4 season".

5. TREASURER'S REPORT (Fee Brooker)

"I'll start by saying that overall, this has been a pretty positive year on the financial front with a just small deficit on the income and expenditure account.

In the accounts, there is the usual "Income And Expenditure Account" but I have also prepared a "Sources And Uses Of Funds Statement" on the second page to show where our money came from and where it went.

In 2023, we had four main sources of recurring income:

- 1. Rowing Membership and racking fees
- 2. Income from sales of pontoon license fees to residents of Lymington Shores
- 3. A small amount of hire charges for use of clubhouse by third parties
- Learn to row courses

Together these came to just over £30k in the year to September 2023.

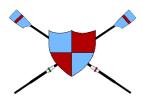
Our largest areas of expenditure on day to day running costs were:

- 1. Boat maintenance
- 2. Utilities
- 3. Insurance
- 4. Pontoon license
- RIB costs
- 6. Bus & Trailer costs

Together these came to over £21k. And below that there is a myriad of other costs which took our running costs to just under £30k.

This left just under £1k for discretionary spending.

We were able to add a further £2k to this from another successful Milford on Sea Regatta. The surplus was down slightly on 2022 largely due to reduced entries but this was offset to some extent by an excellent landside result.



A number of small donations plus the sale of some unused equipment added another £2k giving us around £5k surplus for discretionary spending.

This enabled us to upgrade a number of our older ergos and to buy a second-hand double. We also invested a second-hand pontoon which we will use to give us extra launch capacity into the lagoon and which we will use in the trial collaboration with Lymington Town Sailing Club I referred to earlier.

After this expenditure, the overall result for the year was a deficit of £303.

Separate to the general income and expenditure account, we have recently been the beneficiaries of a donation of £5k from the Leon Crouch Foundation and I would like to formally record our thanks for this generous donation. We have put this aside into a newly created Boat Fund which we hope to be able to add to in the coming year through fundraising efforts.

We have attempted to get a number of grants this year but with limited success. It would appear that we live in too affluent an area as grant funding is generally directed at more deprived areas. However, we were successful in getting a grant of £3,000 from British Rowing towards the cost of coaching for a talent and schools programme. We have used some of this but £2.7k is held in a separate account to help us expand this next year.

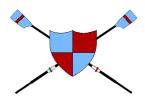
The bar surplus for the year came in at £1,091.

We closed the year with rowing assets valued at over £110k, cash in our current account of £8.9k, £5k in our boat fund and £2.7k in our coaching fund. Our rowing membership stands at an all-time high of 152 rowing members".

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Fee Brooker)

The following people were elected as officers of the club.

President	Brian Goodall
Chairman	Fee Brooker
Club Captain	Hugo Mills
Honorary Treasurer	Fee Brooker
Honorary Secretary	Shirley Reid
Ladies Captain	Sophie Boyd

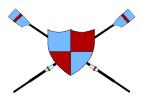


Men's Captain	Position vacant - no nominations		
Junior Lead	Sue Morant		
New Members and Recreational Rowing Lead	Kirsty Melin		
Junior Representative	Imogen Scott		
Safety Officer	Chris Bunce		
Welfare Officer	Liv Bull		
Media Lead	Ellie Potter		
Social Secretary	Elysia Parry		
New positions			
Junior Parent Representative	Sue Morant		
Recreational Rowers Representative	Caroline Beaumont		
Club Development and Fundraising Lead	Rob Scott		
Facilities Lead	Keith Hutton		
Boat Man	Terry Woolford		

Non- Committee positions

H&DARA Liaison Secretary	Alex Barnes

The Chairman expressed a particular note of thanks to Alex Barnes for his time and effort in relation to the H&DARA Liaison role.



7. SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2024

7.1 Membership Fees

The proposal for 2024 membership fees (Appendix II) which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting was debated at length.

The Chairman stated the proposed fees were based on the following memberships:

- Adult race
- Adult recreational
- Junior membership

The proposed fees were bench marked against other rowing clubs, with the most expensive membership costing £5.50 per week.

In response to a query from the floor, "why did fees have to be increased", the Chairman explained in addition to maintenance costs, such as utilities, mini bus insurance, club management fees and the fact there tended to be few new members over winter, additional funding was required to refurbish aging equipment and purchase new equipment. We would prefer not to be totally dependent on fundraising for this and the proposed fees are expected to generate a small surplus for discretionary investment. The Chairman added, race member fees include H&DARA fees.

The Captain stated the club is almost at capacity and there was little room for an increase in membership. There is already a waiting list for Juniors to learn. Adding, in an effort to make membership more affordable, the following initiatives had been introduced:

- 1. Payment by monthly Direct Debit.
- 2. Captains Scholarships.

 None of which have been taken up in the past and it was agreed that we should do more to publicise these.

The Captain added:

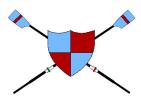
3. Volunteer Coaching Membership:

A new membership proposed for 2024, at a cost of £60 per year.

The aim of this membership is to encourage those with qualified coaching experience to coach a specific crew.

There was one objection to this proposal from the floor, with the member expressing a view that the club should not be paying for coaching.

The Chairman asked for a show of hands to trial this membership for 2024. The proposal was approved.



There was widespread agreement that the club needed to fundraise and that the fundraising row due to take place in September had to be cancelled due to Poole Regatta being rescheduled. The general conscious among most members was that they would prefer to pay a little extra in membership rather than fundraise given it tended to be time consuming.

The Chairman explained that in the new role of Club Development and Fundraising, Rob Scott would take the lead on corporate development with a view to attracting funding and grants.

A counter proposal for race and junior fees of £260 was made as a possible compromise on the proposed rate increase to £275.

One member expressed a view that recreational fees should be aligned with race fees. A counter proposal for recreational fees of £200 was made.

The Chairman invited members to vote on the proposed membership fees and counter proposals.

Following the vote, rates for all categories were agreed as set out below:

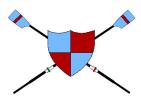
Category	2024 Membership Fee
Adult Racing	£275
Adult Recreational	£180
Volunteer coach (new)	£60
Junior	£275
Gym Membership	£180
Student 3 month (Race)	£75
Student 3 month (Rec)	£50
Inside	£150
Outside	£100

7.2 Racking Fees

Racking fees were discussed at length with the proposed increase from £55 to £100 for outside storage and £150 for inside storage attracting objection from two members.

It was noted that a benchmarking exercise had shown that fees were significantly below market rate. In addition, given the constrictions of storage space, club boats were having to be rotated and racked outside.

The Chairman invited members to vote on the proposed racking fees.



Following the vote, rates for all categories were approved as set out below:

Racking Category	2024 Racking Fee
Inside	£150
Outside	£100

8. AOB

8.1 Bar

Mike Leyland - Jones raised a question about the bar manager role. Although Mike remains the named member on the NFCC license, with someone taking on a fuller bar manager role, the bar side of the club could be substantially developed, with more open nights held to promote the social side of the club and generate income. The Captain expressed his thanks to Mike for running the bar and it was agreed this is something we should revisit.

8.2 H&DARA Annual Dinner

The Vice President, Mark Viner, encouraged members to support the annual dinner to be held in November.

The Captain adding, in addition to the Junior Ladies winning the Hampshire and Dorset Championship, Liv Bull had also won Cox of the year.

8.3 Itchen Junior Regatta

The Captain added, the Novice boys crew had won at Itchen Junior Regatta.

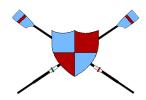
8.4 Other matters

Two other matters arose during the course of the meeting.

Firstly, it was noted that minutes of the monthly committee meetings had not been regularly posted on the club's website this year. This was acknowledged and agreed that going forward notes will be posted on the website with a hard copy on the noticeboard.

Secondly, it was noted that the process for collecting race entries for the H&DARA season needs to be reviewed to make it more transparent and easier to manage.

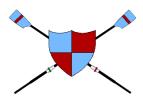
There being no further matters, the meeting closed 21:30



Appendix I

INCOME & EXPENDITURE – YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER

INCOME	2023	2022	2021
Membership fees	27225	20348	15345
Milford on Sea Regatta income	6543	5775	0
Pontoon membership income	2183	1845	1556
Merchandise sales	1579	189	86
Fundraising and donations – unrestricted	1052	241	80
Rowing equipment sales	1000	1650	1360
Members contribution to club socials	814	1762	0
Premises room hire	714	297	20
Race entries paid by members	619	1550	2786
Junior payment for Dorney & JIRR	597	0	0
Junior coaching levy	405	0	0
Learn to Row courses	395	120	420
Boat racking income	325	350	350
Insurance claim	300	0	0
Other incl NFDC COVID grant in 2020	205	210	1334
Members contribution to first aid training	180	0	0
Members payments for circuits	120	0	0
Bar transfer	114	250	151
Sponsorship income - unrestricted	0	3405	1000
TOTAL INCOME	44370	37992	24488
EXPENDITURE			
Boat and equipment maintenance	6559	2861	5045
Rowing equipment purchases	5475	23705	2605
Utilities	5163	1423	442
Milford on Sea Regatta costs	4360	3018	0
Insurance	4038	3328	1764
Race entry & transport costs	2771	1714	1853
Pontoon license fee	2756	2400	1496
Coaching costs	2542	1890	0
RIB costs including fuel	2069	831	743
Purchase of merchandise stock	1693	153	552
Miscellaneous/other	1322	1114	499
Management fee for premises	1252	724	852
Cost of club social events	1203	2232	0
Bus & trailer costs incl fuel, MOT, tax	1037	2291	1275
H&D & BR affiliation and SCC sponsorship fees	745	769	442
First aid training and supplies	652	0	0
Dorney & JIRR events	498	0	0
Website hosting and domain name	288	307	284
Cleaning	150	0	0
Gym hire (circuits)	100	0	0
Costs of Guinness World Record Challenge	0	0	1150
Skip hire for club clean up	0	360	0
Purchase of bar stocks	0	384	559
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	44673	49504	19561
TOTAL EN ENDITORE	440/3	49304	13301
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	-303	-11512	4927



OTHER INCOME 2023

Bar Surplus for the year - £1,091

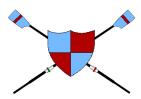
Donations - £3,000 from British Rowing's Love Rowing fund. This has been set aside in the Dave Stafford Account to subsidise coaching for BR Talent Programme and Schools. £2,700 remains unspent.

 ${f Grant}-{f \pounds}5,\!000$ from the Leon Crouch Foundation which has been set aside into a separate Boat Fund

CLUB ASSETS AND MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

CLUB ASSETS	2023	2022
Boats & other rowing equipment (@ insurance	110,685	102,435
value)		
Current bank account	8,864	9,167
Dave Stafford bank account – including £2,700	3,456	756
Coaching Fund		
Boat Fund bank account	5,005	0
Bar petty cash	250	300
Bar stock	450	230
Bar bank account	1,974	1,054
Merchandise stock	307	200
Total assets	130,991	114,142

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS	2023	2022	2021
Full racing	40	39	30
Junior (49) & Student (23)	72	59	55
Recreational	40	35	36
Total rowing members	152	133	121
Pontoon	18	18	15
Total membership	170	151	136



Appendix II

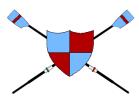
LARC MEMBERSHIP FEES 2024

Category	2023	2024 PROPOSED	Illustrative cost per	
			week (50 weeks)	
Adult Racing	£240	£275	£5.50	
Adult Recreational	£160	£180	£3.60	
Volunteer coach (new)*	N/A	£60	£1.20	
Junior	£240	£275	£5.50	
Gym Membership	£160	£180	£3.60	
Student 3 month (Race) **	£65	£75	N/A	
Student 3 month (Rec) **	£45	£50	N/A	
Racking Fees				
Inside	£55	£150	£3	
Outside	£55	£100	£2	

** Note this is targeted at those students returning in the summer Jun-Sept

RATIONALE:

- 1. Benchmarking shows that the proposed fees align with local competitor clubs after allowing for a year's inflation of their current year fees.
- 2. Our estimated operating costs for next year are £28k, This includes an estimated £6.5k for boat maintenance which is an ever increasing number with more wear and tear taking its toll on kit. We anticipate pontoon licence fee income of £2.6k leaving a shortfall of £25.4k. Our membership has been consistently around 140 for the past two years. This suggests a minimum contribution for each member of approximately £180.
- 3. Racking charges are significantly below market at £55 at a time when space is at a premium. We highlighted this last year and indicated that we would be looking to increase this. A number of club boats now have to be stored outside and we should consider prioritising inside storage for club assets. We are proposing differential pricing for indoor (£150) and outdoor (£100) spaces which would be in line with Christchurch's rate.
- 4. There are some private boats stored at the club which appear to be used very infrequently and additionally a small number of members have multiple boats stored whilst others are unable to secure a space. This suggests that we should revisit the allocation of private boat storage to ensure that it is fairly distributed.



Adult members

Racing membership:

The fee for racing members is proposed at £275. This will continue to include coached group sessions on the water and land training programs and give priority on boats and pontoon usage at peak periods. It will also cover the cost of registration with Hants & Dorset (H&D) as a racing member as well as entry fees to any H&D Regattas. The average cost of this per adult racing member in 2023 was approximately £50. It does not include late entry fees which are to be paid by the member.

Recreational membership:

The Recreational/Development membership fee will be set at a base level of £180 to give a contribution to the club's fixed costs. Coached sessions will then be available on a paid basis. Any Recreational/Development member who wishes to race occasionally may do so by upgrading their membership.

Junior members

The fee for junior members by set at £275 and will continue to align with the adult racing fee. We believe that the alignment of the junior rate with the adult race rate better reflects the coaching, some of which is paid for (£2.2k in 2023 supporting approx. 50 juniors) by the club, and organisational requirements of the junior section of our membership.

The fee will cover coached group sessions on the water, training programs and will give prioritisation on boats at peak periods. The membership fee will cover the cost of registration with Hants & Dorset (H&D) as well as entry fees to any H&D Regattas. It does not include late entry fees which are to be paid by the member.

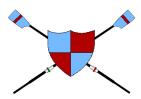
We will continue to include free social/supporter membership for parents of juniors to enable them to join in the club's social events and, for those who would like to, to assist with supporting and running some of the junior sessions.

Family/household discount

To help those families who have multiple membership, we will continue to offer a family discount. For families with more than one family member, they will pay full price on the most expensive membership but get a 25% discount on all other family memberships.

Late payments

A late payment charge of £40 will apply to fees paid after 31 March. Happily we did not have any of these in 2023.



Payment by installment

Payment in monthly instalments by standing order will continue to be available for all rowing members who wish to spread the cost. Anyone wishing to pay by instalments, please contact the treasurer on <u>LARCtreasurer1881@gmail.com</u>.

Captain's Scholarships

The Captain will continue to offer up to 3 scholarships per year for the Under 18s. This will be at the Captain's discretion with the aim of ensuring that promising and committed athletes are able to afford to row. The scholarship will cover membership fees (now including H&D race entry fees).

Joiners during the year

All fees are annual fees. Members joining on or after 1 September pay 50% of the annual fee. Members joining on or after 1 December pay 25% of the annual fee.