

Lymington Amateur Rowing Club
Almansa Way, Lymington, Hampshire, SO41 3PY

Minutes of 2022 AGM

Held on Thursday 20th October 2022@ 7:30pm

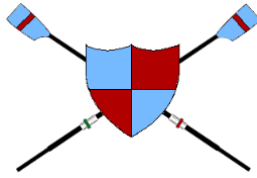
- 1. Apologies were received in advance from:** Hugo Mills
- 2. Minutes of the 2021 AGM:** There were taken as read and approved.
- 3. Chairman's Report** (Mark Viner)

Good evening everyone and thank you for attending this year's A G M. As all previous occasions I will not say much about the actual rowing side of the club as that is the Captain's prerogative. I will just congratulate everyone who has represented the club at any event this year regardless of the result - well done & thank you. Also, I will just touch on our regatta. Well done to everyone involved. Far too many to mention by name but a great success, and I would like to thank all the current committee members both those who are carrying on and those who are stepping down.

With that in mind most of you will be aware that I am standing down this year after about 25 years as Chairman & some will say "Thank God about time" and in reply I will say I am quitting while I am ahead or jumping before I am pushed! This is not a decision I have taken quickly or lightly - it has been on my mind for some time. Originally, I intended to stand aside when we first finally moved to this new site with an air toward that it's "job done over and out". However, things in my life change and it was no longer a priority. The following year Covid struck & we were not allowed to do much properly anyway & then last year I got gazumped by a couple of other long-term serving Committee members standing down and I felt it would be inappropriate for me to quit as well at the same time. So, this year I got in early and announced it a couple of months ago.

With all that in mind I would like to state that I have always been proud and honoured to hold this position at the club and I have endeavoured to promote the club when and wherever possible having served as both Chairman and President of the H&D during my tenure hopefully raising our profile within the association. It has not always been an easy task however am very pleased with the club's current situation a new clubhouse thriving, with a large growing membership, money in the bank and a good standard of rowing and therefore I am happy to hand on the baton so to speak.

I will just mention what it's like being Chairman for whoever takes on the job. I recall on many occasions at the old clubhouse older members at events like tonight sideling up to me and saying



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“you do know when we move to the new premises we will have to be a lot more professional and business like” and I would nod and say “yes you’re probably right”. Subsequently some of those very same people have congratulated me on the new clubhouse and its success, the only thing is it’s just a bit too professional and business like for their liking. I just nod and say “yes, you’re probably right”. So, my advice for the new chairperson is that nod, agree and then ignore works most times.

I am allowed one little moan while I am still Chairman & that is attendance at our local Hants & Dorset regattas. I am well aware that everyone individually has a valid excuse but I don’t want to hear them. I am constantly told at meetings that we have well in excess of a hundred members but on two occasions this past season I was the only representative from Lymington in attendance. I will just say this: if we want the other clubs to come to our regatta, we must reciprocate at theirs or they may stop; and they will definitely moan at us or, more precisely, me.

Anyway, enough moaning and I will finish by saying again how very pleased I am that the club is thriving and, whilst I am standing down, I am not going anywhere. I am still going to be a member, still going to officiate at as many regattas as possible and still continue to help at as many club events as possible to continue our onward success for as long as I possibly can into the future. Thank you.

4. Captain’s Report (Pete Lock for Hugo Mills)

First of all, my apologies for not being there in person at the meeting and for the long report but lots has been going on.

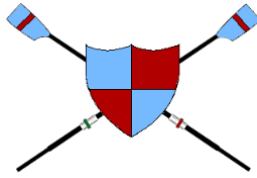
The last 12 months have been very positive with the club continuing to build good momentum across all squads, improve the club infrastructure and achieve some really encouraging racing results.

I am hoping that this enthusiasm and momentum will continue into the 2023 season, with more people bringing energy to the running of the club and where personally I believe we should be challenging for Hampshire and Dorset Championships on several fronts.

Rowing Update

The 2021/2 Season was the first full season following COVID-19 although it did rear its head in early 2022 – more about that later.

The focus in the autumn of 2021 was on getting the fitness levels going again with a view to a Men’s and Women’s eights campaign. There was great attendance at the ergo sessions in the loading bay from the Men’s, Ladies’ and Junior squads churning out those vital metres.



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Pre-Christmas racing was focused at a number of events in Small Boats, this was kicked off by Tim and Kenny in their Double winning at Reading Small Boats

Next up was Henley Sculls which provided many of the youngsters their first experience of a river race. Against a very strong headwind it was an achievement just to finish but there were some notable performances for the club with Tim and Kenny winning Masters E2x and Callan coming in 5th in J16 sculls.

The eights then showed their potential for the first time at a cold Wallingford where two scratch eights - one for the men and one for the ladies - put in solid performances.

A small squad of the Juniors then raced Hampton Junior Head with solid performances most notably from Callan and Seb in the 1xs – this was a great event for the youngsters and we will be taking a bigger squad this year hopefully.

On the same day a number of remaining squad were competing in the virtual British Rowing Indoor Championships where Imogen put in an impressive performance coming in 5th in her age group and the J15 boys led by Sol also performing well. We are planning to focus on NJIRC in February 2023 once again.

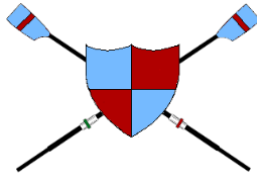
The Small Boat season finished with Walton Small Boats Head where Pete and myself won the Masters C pair. Again, we hope to take a bigger entry to this Head this year from the Men and Ladies' squad.

Pre-Christmas racing was rounded off by the Christmas Pudding races which saw c.45 members of all ages come together to compete in 12 scratch 4 combinations fortified by bacon sandwiches. The festive atmosphere finished with some Carols let by Brian Goodall on the guitar.

After Christmas, the focus was on eights for the Women's Head and Vets 8s Heads, respectively. A solid performance at Henley 4s and 8s in February where the Men came in 3rd in the Masters C/D/E Eight and the Ladies a highly creditable 5th in the Women's Eights (Band 2), made us cautiously optimistic.

However, COVID then reared its head, decimating both 8s, resulting in scratch crews racing in both competitions and making it an achievement just to make the Start Line! Despite this both crews managed to compete with the Women coming in 9th out of 15th in their category and the men 5th in the Masters C Eights and 31st overall.

The Junior Squad continued to train well with a highlight being the Bryanston Stampede with the youngsters winning a number of races.



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After Easter the racing focus for most of the club was on the Hampshire and Dorset season where for the first time in a few years we had strong Men and Women's Novice squads. It was great to see that their hard work was rewarded with them winning at Novice level and competing strongly at Junior level which bodes well for 2023.

On top of these squads, we had a very competitive pair of Seb and Callan who secured several wins and challenged for the Championship. The club also shared the Novice Sculling championship with wins for both Pippa and Annabelle.

The highlights for me though, was when the club turned out in numbers, we really showed that we could compete with anyone. We saw this at the excellent Milford Regatta (a big thank you to Pete and Rebecca for their hard work), then at Swanage where a particular strong performance from the Juniors led by Jane helped the club win the Victor Ludorum and finally in the Open Regatta at the South Coast Championships where we took 5 crews to the regatta and came back with 3 1sts, a 2nd and a 3rd which resulted in us winning the Victor Ludorum for the Open.

Finally, the Juniors rounded out their season with a fantastic Itchen Junior Regatta where the majority of the squad came away with winners medals despite some of them only starting rowing in the summer. More importantly, the atmosphere and engagement of both children and parents was fantastic to see and highlights the real momentum currently in the Junior program.

Our Masters crews also campaigned very impressively at Masters' Championships, Henley Masters and World Masters as well as in FISA Offshore regattas.

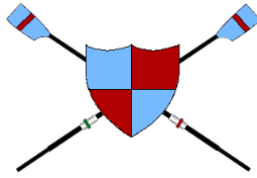
Equipment Side

On the equipment side it has been a quieter year after a busy 2021/22 but we have continued to focus on building out to cover our squads, purchases have included

- A Janousek Coxless 4/Quad from the army
- A Janousek Coxless Pair/Double from the Army
- A Janousek Scull from the Army.
- A 2nd Used Trailer which is enabling us to store more boats at the club.
- Another set of Wintech Sculls for Juniors/Rec Rowing
- Upgrading our Weights

Going the other way, the club sold the Trafalgar to Tideway Scullers School.

Our current priority is to ensure that our current fleet is maintained which will include hopefully a refurbishment this winter of the Skylarc. In terms of new boats our next priority is a coastal Pair.



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Looking Forward

As you are aware, we have tried to move towards a Performance Squad and Rec/Jun Devpt Squad approach for the 2022/23 season to ensure we can support and develop our talent. We are hoping to crank this up over the next few months.

Racing focus in the winter will be on Men and Women Eights campaigns and in the case of Juniors developing skills with an eye to qualify at least one crew for the Junior Inter-regionals. For the summer it will be as before with Hampshire & Dorset the main club focus but people competing on the river and offshore as well, I am hoping our membership structure with H&D entries included will encourage more racing!

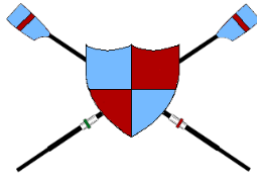
Aside from the racing the 3 main goals would be;

- Continue to build out the squads – through Kirsty, I believe we have one of the best Learn to Row offerings in the country and the focus now is to ensure that we can develop the next elements of rowing journey once people have learnt the basics.
- Ensure there is the coaching support for Men's, Ladies' and Junior squads to develop our promising athletes.
- Increase engagement of club members to improve the sustainability and resilience of the club to support further growth.

Conclusion

Personally, I would like to thank the committee members for all their hard work and Mark for his wisdom but I would also like to say a thank you to the Squad Captains, Pete/Livvy and Jane . Without them rowing would not happen and finally to Kirsty who through her energy has rebuild the Junior squad numbers.

In summary it has been a busy year, this is a fantastic club which is in a good place and this year has shown when we turn out and pull together, we can compete with the best, hopefully there is lots more to come in the 2022/23 season.



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5. Treasurer's Report (Fee Brooker)

Copies of the accounts (included at Appendix I to these minutes) were distributed and Fee gave a short report as follows:

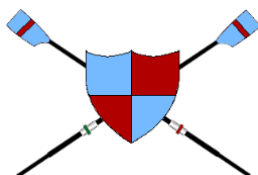
“Overall, this has been a positive year on the financial front. We came into the year with substantial cash reserves having been restricted in our ability to spend money during the COVID years. We have further boosted this with membership income which was up almost 25% on the previous year plus we have been able to sell more pontoon memberships to Redrow residents. We had a successful MoS regatta not only from a racing perspective and also financially.

On the expenditure and less positive side, however, we have seen our costs increase in a number of areas. The license fee we have to pay to the harbour commission for the Pontoon has doubled this year, and our insurance for equipment has also increased as we have invested in more kit (more about this later). We also had a big bill for new brakes on the minibus as well as a big jump in charges for utilities. Over the summer we had some paid coaching to cover the successful summer sessions we ran for new members and juniors.

During the year we have been able to make some significant investments in new rowing assets – a second eight, a four/pair, a double/pair, a single, a second RIB, several ergos, and most recently a new trailer which is also helping with our storage needs. We have sold some boats which were not being used which has freed up cash as well as space.

We close the year with rowing assets now valued at over £100k, cash in the bank of £9k and with our rowing membership at what I think might be an all-time high of 133.”

Questions were invited from the floor and clarification was sought in relation to our charges for utilities, the cost of the pontoon licence and economics of the pontoon membership. These were dealt with by the treasurer and Pete Lock who had been involved in the renegotiations for the pontoon lease.



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4 Election of Officers (Mark Viner)

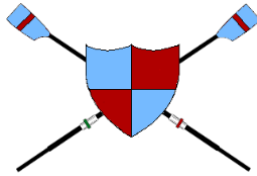
The following people were elected as officers of the club

President	Brian Goodall
Chairman	Fee Brooker
Club Captain	Hugo Mills
Honorary Treasurer	Fee Brooker
Honorary Secretary (general club matters)	Emma Airey
Men's Captain	Pete Lock
Ladies' Captain	Sophie Boyd
Junior Lead	OPEN – covered by Hugo Mills pro tem
New Members & Recreational Rowing Lead	Kirsty Melin
Junior Representative	Imogen Scott
Welfare & Safeguarding Officer	Livvi Bull
Safety Advisor	Jane Wild

In addition, the following members were elected as committee members:

Alex Barnes	Hants & Dorset Liaison
Elysia Parry	Social lead
Ellie Potter	Social Media lead
Terry Woolford	

Mike Leyland-Jones remains in position as bar manager, a non-committee position.



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5 Other nominations

Nominations were made and unanimously agreed for the following:

In recognition of his long service to the club, **Lifetime Vice Presidency** for **Mr Mark Viner**

Lifetime honorary membership for **Mr Eric Smith**

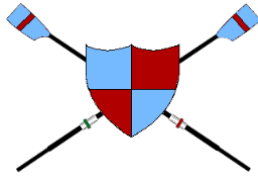
6 Subscriptions for 2023

The proposal for membership fees (attached at Appendix II) which was circulated in advance of the meeting was considered. Rates were approved for all categories except for the racking fees which had been proposed to remain at £50 but was agreed to increase to £55. Clarification was given that the rate for racing members – Adult and Junior – includes one entry per member per H&D regatta but does not include late entries.

Racking fees were debated at some length. It was noted that the benchmarking exercise last year had shown that our fees for racking were significantly below the market rates and that this remains the case in the 2022 benchmarking review. Given the shortage of boat storage at the club and the high demand by members for racking for private boats, a counter proposal was made that racking rates should increase by 10% inflation. This proposal was put to the vote and a significant majority voted in favour of an increased racking fee of £55 with a view to increasing closer to market rates in the future.

Accordingly, membership fees for 2023 have been set at the following rates:

Category	2023 Membership Fee
Adult Racing	£240
Adult Recreational	£160
Junior	£240
Gym Membership	£160
Student 3 month (Race)	£65
Student 3 month (Rec)	£45
Rack Charges	£55
Pontoon membership	£150



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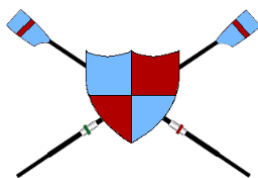
7 AOB

There were two items of AOB:

Ex members network – Kirsty Melin proposed the creation of a “network” for ex members with a view to keeping them connected to the club and opening up the possibility of them rejoining. She volunteered to organise this. We have contact details for many. This was unanimously approved by the meeting.

Club Trustees – Pete Lock proposed that this should be reviewed annually at the AGM as officers change and updated as necessary. This was agreed and taken as an action by Fee.

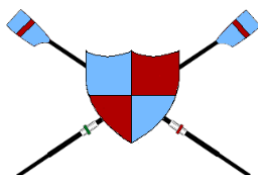
There being no further matters, the meeting closed at 21:15



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Appendix I - Income & Expenditure – year ended 30 Sept 2022

INCOME	2022	2021	2020
Membership fees	20348	15345	9531
Sponsorship income *	3405	1000	0
Milford on Sea Regatta income	5775	0	0
Race entries	1550	2786	1334
Pontoon membership income	2257	1556	489
Rowing equipment sales	1650	1360	0
Members contribution to club socials	1762	0	0
Other incl NFDC COVID grant in 2020	210	1334	13618
Learn to Row courses	120	420	0
Boat racking income	350	350	350
Transfer from bar account	250	151	764
Merchandise sales	189	86	0
Fundraising and donations	241	80	530
Premises room hire	297	20	0
TOTAL INCOME	38404	24488	27521
EXPENDITURE			
Boat and equipment maintenance	2861	5045	231
Rowing equipment purchases	23705	2605	6711
Cost of club social events	2232		
Race entry & transport costs	1714	1853	1154
Insurance	3328	1764	2219
Pontoon license fee	2400	1496	1298
Cost of river licenses for pontoon members	412		
Bus & trailer costs incl fuel, MOT, tax, brake repair	2291	1275	1611
Coaching costs	1890	0	0
Costs of Guinness World Record Challenge	0	1150	0
Management fee for premises	724	852	1962
Purchase of bar stocks	384	559	436
Merchandise stock	153	552	0
Miscellaneous/other	1170	499	1857
RIB costs including fuel	831	743	851
Utilities	1423	442	762
H&D & BR affiliation and SCC sponsorship fees	769	442	953
Website hosting and domain name	307	284	82
Bar license (2 years)	140	0	0
TV license	164	0	0
Milford on Sea Regatta costs	3018	0	20
Trophies	0	0	140
Gym hire (circuits)	0	0	255



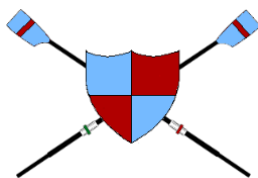
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Buildings costs	0	0	435
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	49916	19561	20977
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	-11512	4927	6544
*Note: 2022 income includes £3k of sponsorship income from 2021 GWR event			

APPENDIX I – Club Assets and Membership Numbers

CLUB ASSETS	
Boats & other rowing equipment (@ insurance value)	102,435
Current bank account	9,167
Dave Stafford bank account	756
Bar petty cash	300
Bar stock	230
Merchandise Stock	200
Total assets	

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS	2022	2021	2020
Full racing	39	30	22
Junior & Student	59	55	29
Recreational	35	36	14
Total rowing members	133	121	65
Pontoon	18	15	7
Total membership	151	136	72



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Appendix II

Membership Fee Proposal 2023

This document outlines the proposed approach for Membership Fees for 2023 for consideration by the Members at our AGM in October 2022.

Economic backdrop

Last year we held all fees except for Juniors at the same level but advised that we anticipated having to increase rates across the board by at least inflation in 2023. Whilst we recognise that members are all suffering from the impact of inflation, our own cost base is subject to the same pressure and we need to consider an increase in membership fees to help finance this.

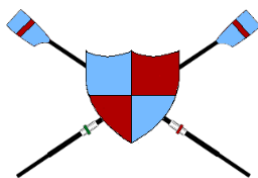
Our heavily discounted 3 year licence for the pontoon had to be renewed this in 2022 leading to a doubling of that cost – an additional and unexpected £1.2k. Our insurance for boats has also increased this year by £300 due to the boat investments we have made in 2022. Going forwards our fixed costs look set to increase by £3.5k next year due to inflationary rises.

Our fixed cost base next year, excluding any discretionary spend on rowing assets (boats, blades etc) but allowing for inflation, is expected to be £21.5k. We can reasonably anticipate income of £2.6k from the sale of pontoon licenses to residents of Lymington Shores which leaves a funding gap of £18.9k. At the time of writing, the club's membership stands at 127 so the minimum contribution from each member to cover our fixed costs is £150.

We have repeated the benchmarking exercise prepared last year to compare our rates against other local clubs (See Appendix). This shows that LARC's fees continue to be amongst the lowest and, in particular, with our Junior and Adult Race fees remain well below average. Our racking fees are significantly cheaper than other local clubs at a time when storage space is at a premium with our growing fleet of boats.

Membership Fee Proposal 2023

Category	2022 Membership Fee (Adult/Junior)	Proposed 2023 Fee	2023 weekly equivalent
Adult Racing	£200	£240	£4.60
Adult Recreational	£120	£160	£3.00
Junior	160	£240	£4.60
Gym Membership	£120	£160	£3.00



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Student 3 month (Race)	£55	£65	
Student 3 month (Rec)	£35	£45	
Rack Charges	£50	£50	
Pontoon membership	£120	£150	

Adult members

Racing membership:

The proposed fee for racing members is £240. This will include coached 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.

Recreational membership:

The Recreational/Development membership fee will be set at a base level of £160 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.

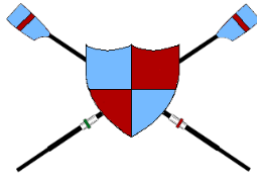
Junior members

A new squad structure for juniors will come into from 1 October. This will have two sections:

- (i) a performance section for more experienced rowers for whom there will be a minimum training and racing commitment; and
- (ii) a development section for less experienced rowers who are still developing their skills and may progress to the Performance section.

We are proposing that the fee for junior members be set at £240 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 and organisational requirements of the junior section of our membership.

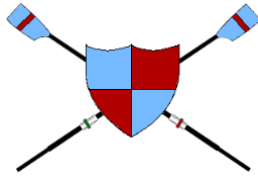
The fee will cover coached sessions on the water, training programs, training camp and will give prioritisation on boats at peak periods. The membership fee will cover the cost of registration with Hants & Dorset (H&D) as well as entry fees to any H&D Regattas.



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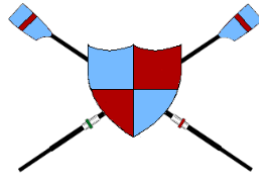
Notes:

1. The overarching principles behind the proposal is to ensure the club's ongoing fixed costs are covered by membership income whilst recognising the importance of affordability. The membership fees proposed ensure that the weekly equivalent cost of the base membership remains less than £5 for all classes of membership. We believe this continues to represent excellent value.
2. Adult Race and Junior membership is proposed to be set at £240. The fee will cover H&D registration as a racing member as well as H&D race entry fees which will also remove a significant administrative burden from the club.
3. The Recreational/Development membership fee will be set at a base level of £160 to give a contribution to the club's fixed costs. Coached sessions will then be available on a paid basis.
4. We will continue to include social membership for parents of juniors.
5. Racking fees are to remain at £50 per private boat. However, we recognise that this is significantly below the rate charged by other local clubs and, given the shortage of space and high demand for private racking spaces, we anticipate that racking fees are likely to increase in the future.
6. 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 most expensive membership but get a 25% discount on all other family memberships.
7. A late payment charge of £40 will apply to fees paid after 31 March
8. Payment by instalments will continue by standing order and will be extended to include Recreational memberships as well as Racing and Junior memberships.
9. A sessional membership will be introduced for occasional users which will allow them to buy a block of 4 coached sessions. Sessions need to be booked via one of the captains/leads to enable monitoring of usage.
10. 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).



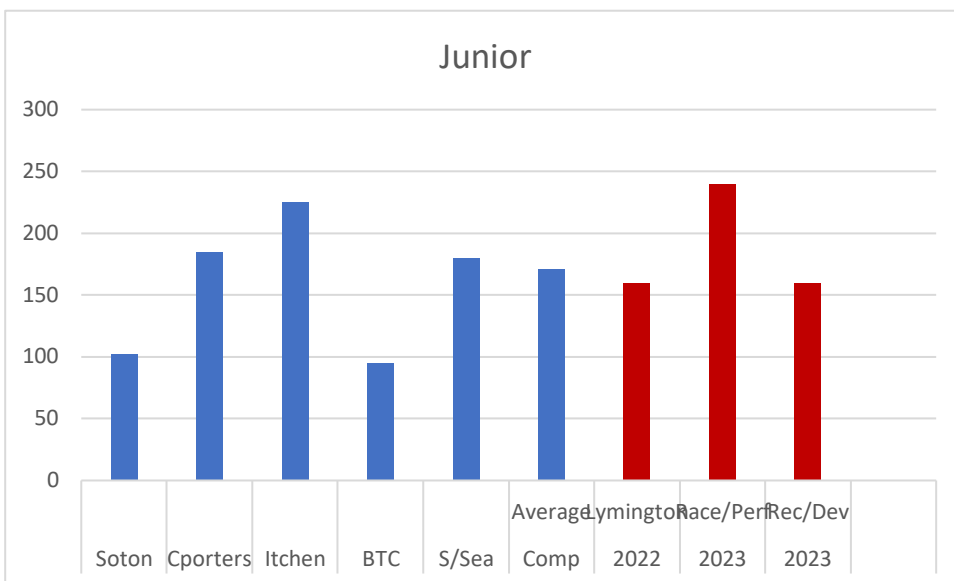
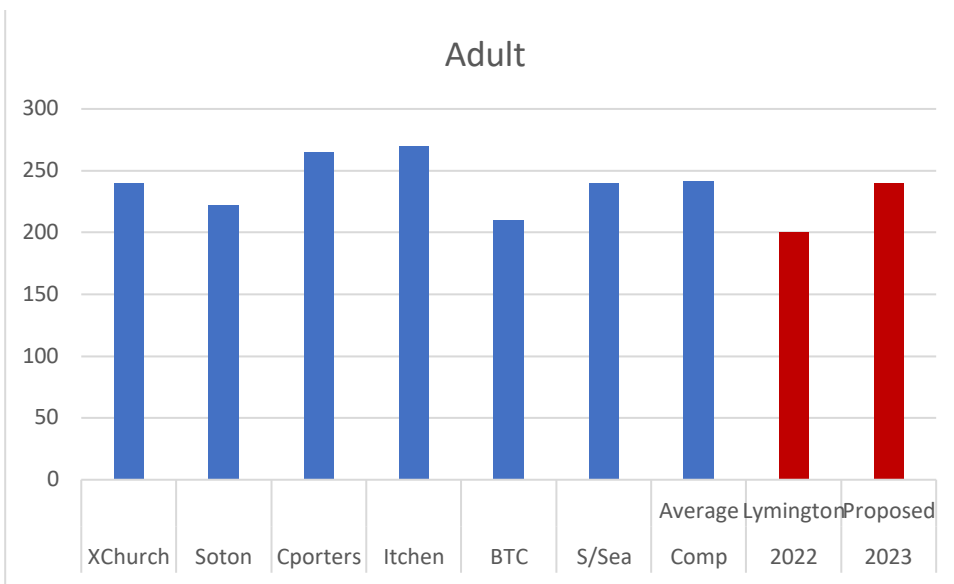
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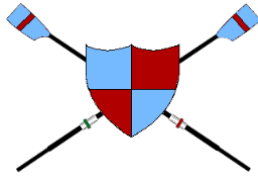
11. All fees are annual fees. Members joining on or after 1 September pay 50% of the annual fee. Members joining on or after 1 December pay 25% of the annual fee.
12. The fee for pontoon membership for residents of Lymington Shores will increase to £150 from £120 reflecting the significant increase in the cost of our pontoon licence.



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Appendix - Benchmarking 2022





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