

*Lymington Amateur Rowing Club*  
*Almansa Way, Lymington, Hampshire, SO41 9PX*

## **April 2024 Committee Meeting**

### **Held at LARC**

**Present:** Fee, Hugo, Chris, Kirsty, Sophie, Caroline, Rob, Terry

**Present by invitation:** Pete Lock (in part for item 1 only)

**Date:** 4 April 2024

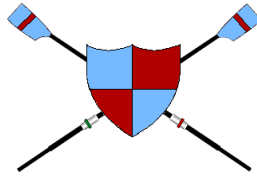
**Review of previous minutes** – draft notes for the March meeting were approved.

**Apologies:** Sue, Shirley, Keith

### **1. MILFORD ON SEA REGATTA**

Pete Lock joined the meeting by invitation for this item only to check that we have everything in order for MoS regatta on 18 May. It was agreed that we want to follow prior format as much as possible as that has been successful in the past. Actions were agreed as follows:

- Event poster needs to be ready in the next 10 days – ideally in time for the Coastal Head on 13<sup>th</sup> April (Caroline)
- NFDC approval to be confirmed now we have Insurance of £10m confirmed (Hugo)
- Verbal confirmation of Council approval to be given to Steve at H&D (Hugo)
- Ahead of the event, check out location of lobster pots (Chris and Rob)
- Keyhaven safety boats drivers and support confirmed (Rob)
- Buoys and mark to be set up in advance if possible (Chris & Rob, Terry to guide)
- Radios to be hired from Murphy Communications (Hugo)
- 100 Hard copy of programme to be organised (Caroline)
- H&D safety equipment to be picked up at Southampton Head (Hugo)
- Criticare First Aid to be confirmed (Hugo)
- Notify police, Council, Coastguard (Hugo)
- Drinks license (Kirsty to check with Tori)
- Check generator working (Terry)
- Car park key – check how we will get this when confirming with NFDC (Hugo)
- Draw (Hugo)
- Prizes (done)
- Sponsorship to be obtained (Rob & Caroline)
- Check condition of beach and that we can launch (Rob/Hugo)
- Landside in hand (Kirsty)



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On the subject of sponsorship, Rob and Caroline circulated a list of potential sponsors and a proposal for different sponsor categories. These could be for MoS and/or wider sponsorship eg Swfit.

**Action: All** It was agreed that everyone would review and come back to Rob/Caroline with comments/additions/details of any personal contacts at any of the organisations identified.

## **2. REPORTS**

### **2.1 Captain's Report**

Circulated in advance of the meeting:

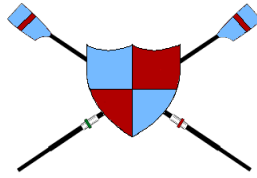
- Captain's Report April 2024<sup>1</sup>

Further to the Captain's report the following items were discussed:

- 2.1.1 Hugo commented that the arrival of the Swift Boat is a significant and exciting change for the club
- 2.1.2 On the racing side we have a big entry for the Coastal Head – 9 crews – and we are hoping that the Alan will be back in time otherwise we will be short of a boat and may have to drop a crew
- 2.1.3 Hugo confirmed there is "RIB Group" running – Hugo, Chris, Ian Granne and Pete Lock – looking at our RIB options. The plan is to sell the old RIB now repaired and then the temporary one we bought from The Royal Lymington . The aim will be to buy a bigger RIB, probably 5m.
- 2.1.4 Boat sales are progressing – John Edwards has been sold for £1650 and Pegasus single for £2000 (to be paid in instalments over 4 months). Pete has made a offer of £250 for This Way Up.
- 2.1.5 Al Keir and Bruce need refurbing.  
**Action – Terry** to ask Trevor Wakeman for a quote
- 2.1.6 We need to upgrade out tool kit
- 2.1.7 Meeting of coxes (existing and those who wish to learn) to be held on Saturday 6 April at 10am. Plan is to allocate to crews so that they become "the firth man in the boat"
- 2.1.8 Colin Fagan Head – it was agreed there is no option but to cancel this with the forecast wind
- 2.1.9 As there will be no rowing on Saturday 6 April, anyone able to come down at 10am to help with maintenance/blade painting should be encouraged  
**Action – leads/captains** – to ask members to help

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<sup>1</sup> Appendix I



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## **2.2 Finance Report**

Circulated in advance of the meeting:

- Finance Report for the month of March 2024<sup>2</sup>

The following was discussed:

- 2.2.1 March was another busy month on the finance side due to membership renewals
- 2.2.2 Membership renewals have come in well – 91 adult renewals and 44 JLARC/SLARC renewals
- 2.2.3 It was agreed that we are at capacity in the adult race squad and any new joiners will need to be held in rec for now; on the junior side, post LTR anyone wanting to join will have to be invited to apply to join the Dev section to give us control over numbers
- 2.2.4 The purchase of the Swift boat will be fully covered by the Boat Fund once the Rowing Foundation monies and balance of the Pegasus proceeds arrive.
- 2.2.5 It was noted that Hugo has asked Mark to have a look at boat storage with a view to converting the outside trailer to be able to accommodate the Swift
- 2.2.6 Also noted that we need to chase Pete at Swift for the footboards **Action – Fee** to chase
- 2.2.7 We are in the process of developing the Adventure programme – expected to be alternate Thursdays - which will hope will generate income towards the next boat purchase (planned to be a H&D Coastal 4+). Hugo is planning a long row (Studland to Lymington or Round the Island in August )as a fundraising opportunity.
- 2.2.8 The boat fund will have £5.7k In it once the RF and Pegasus amounts replenish the fund
- 2.2.9 It was agreed that messaging internal and external about the arrival of the boat should be built around new activities (juniors/adventuring/camps)
- 2.2.10 Noted that we have 5 crews including 2 junior crews entered for the Swanage Coastal Rowing League event on 27 April
- 2.2.11 It was agreed that we need a name for the Swift boat and that we should run a junior competition.

## **3 CLUB DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND STRATEGY**

Circulated in advance of the meeting:

- Draft Club Development plan and strategy<sup>3</sup>

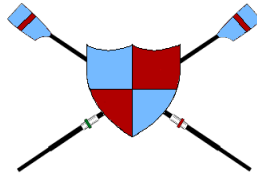
The following was discussed:

- 3.1.1 Fee advised that as agreed at the March Committee meeting, Hugo, Caroline, Rob and her had been working on writing up the Club Development Plan and Strategy which the Boat Strategy supports
- 3.1.2 It was noted that not everyone had received a copy of the draft. **Action – Caroline to resend**

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<sup>2</sup> Appendix II

<sup>3</sup>Appendix III



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3.1.3 The aim is for the draft to be further developed over the next couple of weeks to include specific actions and priorities for the next 6 months/ 12 months etc

3.1.4 Once finalised, the document should be socialised amongst the wider membership

**Action – all:** to read the document and feedback any comments/suggestions.

#### **4 British Rowing ClubHub**

Fee advised that she is currently looking at Clubhub (free to club affiliated to BR) to see if it could help us:

- Streamline membership renewal/recording
- Ensure GDPR compliance with members data
- Provide a better way for the club to communicate with members

**Action - Fee** will report back next month on progress

#### **5 Club Structure**

Fee advised that she has been reviewing the club structure this month and hopes to be able to report back with a recommendation to the Committee at the May Committee meeting

#### **6 H&D points claim**

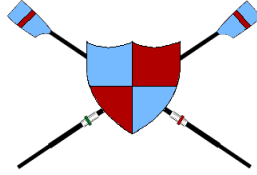
Fee noted that with Alex no longer being a member, we need to ensure that H&D race entries, registrations and points claims are all taken care of. Shirley and Fee are able to organise the initial registration of all adult racers and all juniors. Registration of additional new members through the season should be limited for adults as we do not plan to take on further race members. New juniors will need to be registered if likely to race. It was agreed that additional registrations and points claims needs to be the responsibility of captains and leads as they will coordinate entries.

#### **7 AOB**

##### **7.1 Regatta merchandise**

The possibility of getting some MoS merchandise as a way of raising additional funds was discussed. The design proposed by Shirley was very well received but there was a concern about the level of interest and how much we could sell them for to other clubs. The major concern however was of high chance of cancellation of the event and, even removing the year

7.2 Caroline asked whether it would now be appropriate for us to write to thank all the people/organisations who sponsored the 24 hour row and donated prizes for the raffle. It was



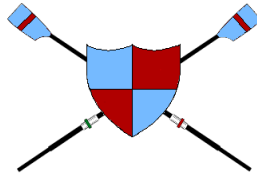
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agreed that it is and also the other organisations who donated funds which went to the boat fund (Leon Crouch Foundation, Lymington & Pennington Council, HCC, The Rowing Foundation).

**Action – Caroline** to write to 24 hour sponsors and raffle doners; **Fee** to write to other organisations.

Prepared by: Fee Brooker, Chairman

Next meeting: Thursday 2 May 2024 @ 20:15



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Appendix I

**Captain's Report**  
**Committee Meeting April 2024**

1st April 2024

**Racing Update**

It has been a busy few weeks on the water as we finally got some racing underway although sadly fast conditions meant our Ladies WEHARR Eight who had trained consistently found themselves cut from the event.

On 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024, we took a number of crews to BTC Head where in benign conditions we saw some strong performances (see Appendix for full results);

1<sup>st</sup> Tim and Kenny in Men's Open 2x

1<sup>st</sup> Men's Junior Coastal 4+ - Alex Bellion, Patrick, Sol, Toby with Henry McCabe in coxing seat (his 1<sup>st</sup> head)

1<sup>st</sup> Zara and Izzy in WJ16 2x

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024, our Men's Eight (effectively a Masters Eight) race in the Head of the River Race and in fast conditions managed a highly competitive 175<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Small Clubs Pennant.

Interestingly, we were 4 seconds behind a younger Itchen Imperial Eight.

On the same day we also had the J16 Girls 4 racing at Bryanston for a slot on the Wessex team. They comfortably beat the Poole crew for the slot, meaning we will be filling the Girls J16 2- and 4- slots for the Wessex Team at the Junior Inter-regionals on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

Finally, Sol was racing as part of the English Beach Sprints Development Team at Bosham where his composite quad won both events.

Looking forward we will hopefully be attempting to run the Colin Fagan Head on 6<sup>th</sup> April 24 and we have 9 crews racing in the Coastal Head on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (assuming that the Alan Goodall is back on time) across 8 events.

Finally, we are looking to get a cox program running since with between 8-10 race crews this is now our biggest challenge. We need to ensure that the 7 who are currently trained feel confident and are supported and ideally find a few more!!

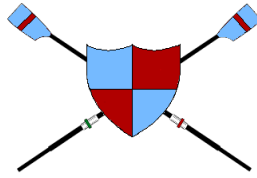
**Regatta Planning**

This has to be the focus for the next 4-6 weeks - some progress has been made in terms of planning; We have had verbal approval from NFDC (just need a renewed insurance document)

Safety Boats – \_believe these have been secured from Keyhaven Yacht Club and also Turns boat is sorted.

However, we have a number of issues to sort out in the next 3 weeks which we will review at the Committee Meeting but the big items are;

Ensuring we have Insurance Renewal to enable us to get NFDC and then Hants and Dorset Permit



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Ensuring that – 1) Event Poster is out no later than 13<sup>th</sup> April), 2) Sponsorship is secured prior to next committee meeting.

**Equipment Update**

Significant progress has been made on the equipment in the past month;

Boat Sales: £3,650 has been realised from selling the John Edwards (to Goring Gap Rowing Club) and Pegasus the Swift Scull (to Will Reeve).

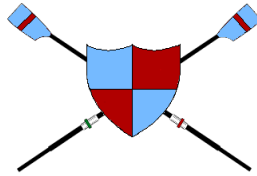
Bournemouth Rowing Club 4+ has arrived and is already reducing strain. We have also gained some old concept blades from St George's Weybridge which is also helping ease strain on blades.

Offshore 4x+ has arrived which will significantly reduce strain on Coastal Fours as well as offering us to develop new strands to our rowing offering (see Strategy document).

We are still working through our ribs with an aim to try and ensure that we are able in due course to buy a 2<sup>nd</sup> more appropriate rib for all forms of Coaching/Safety. There is a Rib Group who are at present trying to sell the old smaller Rib and we will then look to fund raise for an upgraded rib. This process will involve selling the blue rib.

The Alan Goodall is still at Burgashell and am hoping to have it back ahead of 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

Ahead of the Regatta Season, we will be reviewing our kit, top of the list is sorting out the tool box!!

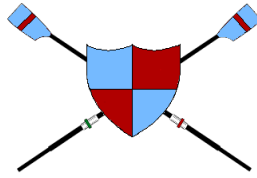


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**APPENDIX 1 -  
 RESULTS Head  
 BTC Head**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Crew</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Men Open 2x	Tim & Kenny
1 <sup>st</sup>	Men Junior 4+	Alex Bellion, Patrick, Sol, Toby with Henry McCabe in coxing seat (his 1 <sup>st</sup> head)
1 <sup>st</sup>	WJ16 2x	Izzy and Zara
2 <sup>nd</sup>	MJ16 2x	Brage and Tom
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Men's Novice 4	Zac, Will, Elliot and Ben with Fin Coxing
4 <sup>th</sup>	Junior Men's 4+	George, Rufus, Jake, Lukas with Hugh Coxing
Head of River Race	175th	Mens Eight
		Kenny, Luke, Waddy, Hugo, Leon, Mike, Toby with Livvy coxing
Wessex Trials	1st	WJ16 4+
		Rebecca, Jess, Izzy, Zara with Alex Bellion coxing





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Appendix II

**Finance Report – for the month of March 2024**

Another busy month on the finance side. Membership renewals continued to come in and rowing membership income in the month was £6.6k. One further external Pontoon membership renewed generating a further £150 of income. A further £300 of racking fees were collected and £327 for room hire.

The big news of the month was the purchase of the Swift quad including blades and launch trolley. This cost £15.4k after a 10% discount on RRP. We had £13.4k in the Boat Fund and have been awarded a grant of £4,000 towards the Swift from The Rowing Foundation which will take the total raised to £17.4k once received. John Edwards was sold to a third party for £1,650 and Pegasus has been sold to a member for £2,000, to be paid in 4 monthly instalments of £500.

On the expenditure side, we spent £1.3k on boat and equipment maintenance including £927 on the RIBs - £135 on a new fuel pump, £250 to repair the leak, £375 on the trim and tilt assembly and £167 on replacing trim fluid. We bought the second-hand RIB from Royal Lymington for £900 as a potential stop gap but as noted in Hugo's report we are reviewing the situation on RIBs overall. We paid £600 to Bournemouth Rowing Club for the season loan of their Coastal 4+.

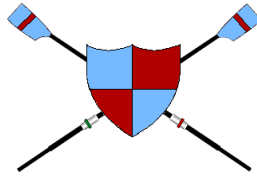
Other expenditure items included £750 for the defibrillator and £690 for the BR affiliation renewal.

We closed the month with a cash balance in our current account of £20.7k.

The Dave Stafford account still has a balance of £2.7k which is the remaining Love Rowing money for funding future schools/talent coaching.

Please see next page for Boat Fund analysis.

Prepared by: Fee Brooker, Hon Treasurer, 3 April 2024

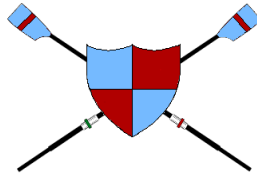


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**BOAT FUND**

The balance on the boat fund account as at the end of March was £236 to which the Rowing Foundation donation of £4k and balance of the Pegasus proceeds of £1,500 will be added to give a fund of £5.7k towards the H&D Coastal 4+.

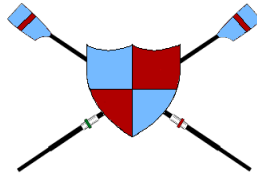
	Source	Cumulative	Applied	Balance
Leon Crouch	5,000	5,000		
Avon entry refunds	200	5,200		
Dinner raffle	589	5,789		
24 Hour Row	4592	10,381		
Dave Stafford account transfer	756	11,137		
Lymington & Pennington Council	600	11,737		
Hampshire County Council	1,500	13,237		
Boys in the Boat fundraise	200	13,547		
Boat sales – John Edward	1,650	15,087		
Boat sale – Pegasus 1 <sup>st</sup> instalment	500	15,587		
Interest	52	15,639		
Swift 4x			-15,403	
Balance 31 March				236
TO COME				
The Rowing Foundation				4,000
Pegasus balance				1,500
Anticipated Boat Fund				5,736



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**INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

	<b>March 24</b>	<b>Year to date</b>
<i>Opening cash balance</i>	18596	8864
<b>INCOME</b>		
Membership income	6606	22750
Sponsorship income		
Milford on Sea Regatta income		
Pontoon membership income	150	1805
Rowing equipment sales		400
Members contributions to social events		2960
Other		60
Learn to row courses		
Racking fees	300	450
Transfer from bar account/bar sales		
Merchandise sales	10	734
Fundraising and donations		804
Premises room hire	327	486
Race entry fees	103	586
Members contribution for Dorney/JIRR		600
Insurance claim		237
Indoor rowing classes	30	1257
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7526</b>	<b>33129</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Boat and equipment maintenance	1312	2388
Rowing equipment purchases	900	2150
Boat hire	600	600
Cost of social events		3553
Race entry and transport costs	-192	221
Insurance	158	948
Pontoon license costs		318
Cost of river licenses for pontoon members	376	376
Bus and trailer costs incl fuel	174	974
Coaching costs	120	2010
Management fee for premises		511
Merchandise stock		424
Bar stocks		48
Miscellaneous	9	1294
RIB costs including fuel	52	728
Utilities	134	729
H&D, BR affiliation and SCC sponsorship	690	690
Website hosting and domain fees		276
Bar license		
TV license	41	82
Milford on Sea Regatta costs		
Transfer to Boat Fund	200	413
Indoor coaching course		450
Dorney/JIRR entries		584
Safety equipment	750	1098
Cleaning	60	390
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>5384</b>	<b>21,255</b>
<b>Closing cash balance</b>	<b>20738</b>	<b>20738</b>



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Appendix III

**DRAFT CLUB STRATEGY – WORK IN PROGRESS**

“Our mission is to encourage all forms of rowing in the Lymington and New Forest areas and to provide a fun and thriving social community for our members”

To achieve this, our priorities for 2024/25 are to:

- run a **diverse rowing programme** which meets the needs of our members;
- ensure the club has the right **supporting fleet of boats and facilities**;
- build for the future by **getting more people involved** and ensuring they want to stay by creating a fun and rewarding environment;
- **raise funds from new sources** to enable reinvestment in the club and make sure that membership remains affordable for local people.

Our aims in 2024 for each of these areas are set out below.

**Rowing programme**

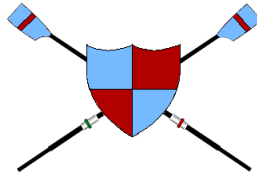
We will continue to place racing squads and our desire to succeed at the heart of the club. Our race squads will benefit from a structured land and water training programme and opportunities to compete all year round.

LARC’s rowing heritage is H&DARA Coastal Racing. We have a strong reputation and a track record of success in this area and H&DARA head races and regattas will continue to be the main racing focus along with selected British Rowing fixtures.

We will also support members who want to target World Masters, World Rowing Coastal Championships and, with a growing number of members now participating in Offshore Coastal/Endurow events along the South Coast and further afield we also want to encourage and support this.

We want to inspire our juniors to become the next generation of rowers. We will help them develop their skills with structured land and water training throughout the year. Optional summer camps will supplement regular training. We will encourage participation by our juniors in H&DARA events as well as other series to give them the opportunity to try a range of rowing formats.

We will provide recreational rowers with a variety of opportunities to get on the water with regular coxed and coached sessions in Lymington. We will also organise tours and exchanges that give people the chance to experience other waters and boat formats.



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For those at the beginning of their rowing journey, we will provide learn to row courses for juniors and adults and a pathway for them to continue to build their skills and experience.

Following our accreditation as a British Rowing GO ROW Indoor centre we will also promote indoor rowing with coached courses and support members to compete in NJIRC and other indoor rowing events.

Going forward, we will make sure LARC engages and collaborates with the wider rowing community and continues to develop its programme to take advantage of new opportunities - in particular, in coastal and offshore rowing on the South Coast.

In summary, we want to build a programme that inspires and supports people to enjoy rowing and achieve their goals – whatever stage of the rowing journey they're at.

### **Fleet and facilities**

Our **boats and equipment** are critical to the club being able to deliver our rowing programme and we must continue to maintain, refresh and build our fleet for the future.

Our priority will be to maximise availability for race squads and water time for all rowing members. With a growing and more diverse membership, demand on crew boats in particular is high, amongst both the race and recreational membership, and so we need to find ways to reduce demand and wear on the race boats, whilst ensuring all our members can get afloat.

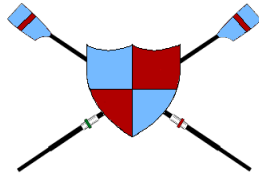
Given our coastal location and the weather of recent years severely limiting opportunities to race on the river and to progress our members into river boats on home waters, we will prioritise the maintenance and development of our coastal fleet (including Offshore).

Our priorities for building out the boat fleet are to make at least one more coastal four available for both training and competition in H&DARA and at least one, more versatile, coastal crew boat available to enable our junior and recreational members to get afloat in a safe manner.

We recognise that an upgrade to the club's RIBs is desirable and will review options to try to achieve this in the most economical way, recognising other demands on club resources.

We plan to continue the programme of gradual improvement to the club's Erg and weights equipment

Our **clubhouse** provides a fantastic facility for members to train, get together and socialise. The appointment of a Facilities Lead on the Committee will ensure our facilities are in good



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working order. We plan to enhance our facilities this year with the installation of a defibrillator to the outside of the loading bay.

### **Community**

The club is one of the oldest sports clubs in Lymington and we recognise its importance to our community of members, parents, volunteers and supporters. Quite simply, the club couldn't run without them, and we will strive to be a welcoming place for people to come together around the sport they, their families and their communities love.

We will train and support the people who make the magic happen – from coxes, coaches and rib drivers to fundraising, boat maintenance and facilities volunteers and continue to offer a special coaching membership rate for volunteer coaches.

Members will be encouraged to make full use of the clubhouse with socials, off-peak gym access for all and the ability to propose their own events, and to get together at all club socials.

We are also planning to build better links with local schools and develop a schools programme to introduce more young people in the area to enjoy the sport and all its benefits to health, wellbeing and skills development.

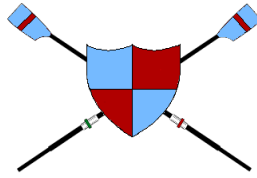
We will also recognise our part in the wider community and the heritage of Lymington by taking part in non-rowing community events, including with the Lymington Afloat Festival at St Barbe Museum in Autumn 2024.

### **Fundraising**

The club has had great support recently from Lymington & Pennington Town Council, Hampshire, County Council, British Rowing, The Rowing Foundation, as well as private donors including The Leon Crouch Foundation. However, funding is getting ever more challenging to secure. At the same time, demands on our fleet and equipment have never been higher and, like most things, the cost of running the club is increasing.

So, we'll look for new ways to raise funds to make sure the club can be financially sustainable and remain affordable for local people to join.

Aside from the traditional fundraising opportunities, we will also try out offering experiences for visiting clubs and groups who want to enjoy the truly special rowing environment and facilities we have here in Lymington.



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And we will review the structure of the club and consider whether there is a better alternative which would enable the club to benefit from tax reliefs and thereby increase the value of donations.

Anyone involved with the club who wants to fundraise will be supported to do so, and we would like to create a Fundraising Sub-Committee which could focus and professionalise our approach.

**SUMMARY**

In conclusion, by fostering a diverse rowing program we aim to cultivate a strong and inclusive community among members, volunteers, and supporters and at the same time attract the necessary income for financial sustainability. This virtuous circle enables us to reinvest in our fleet and facilities, ensuring that we can continue to provide a diverse rowing program that enriches the lives of all involved and promotes the values of teamwork, equity, and excellence.

(Work in progress, 3/4/24)