



# AVON COUNTY ROWING CLUB

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN PERSON SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 12:00 PM

### **PRESENT (in person):**

Kim Pennelegion, Jon Garner, Tim Grice, Philippa Sondheimer, Julian Sondheimer, Alex Fraser, Ian Bellamy, Andy Mason, Penny Senior, Jane Day, Theresa Hawkins, Robin Leach

**APOLOGIES:** Nick Totman, Debbie Blackmore, Jim Dawson, Geoff Peattie, Clair Ponting, Carol Friend, Kath Finucane, Antony Constantinidi, Chris Hopper, Emma Baker-Gaunt, Hannah Warren, Alastair Watson, Katherine Greenhead, Susan Comber

Jon Garner opened the meeting, thanked everyone for attending, confirmed that the AGM was quorate and explained that he would be chairing the meeting on Antony Constantinidi's behalf.

### **1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR 2022 AGM**

No matters arising

Tim Grice proposed and Jane Day seconded the adoption of the minutes. Motion carried. Unanimously

### **2. MATTERS ARISING**

#### **- Club 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner**

We intend to organise a celebratory dinner to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of ACRC (following the merging of Avon Rowing Club and The Bristol Rowing Club).

#### **- Subscription rates 2024-25 (wef April 2024) (proposal attached)**

Jon Garner provided the context for the proposed subscription increase from April 2024 and thanked the Club members for being supportive. It was noted that even with the proposed increase, we will still have the lowest subscriptions rates across the region, in the main because we raise money each year from our 4 events, with the support from many club members Robin Leach noted that the club raises these significant funds from other clubs entering our events, it is important that we balance a modest entry fee with good competition; this will enable us to continue investing in boats and coaching whilst keeping subscriptions at a reasonable level. Jon Garner responded that the entry fees are set for each event by the organising committee and that there is no intention to increase race entry fees in the near future. Julian Sondheimer noted that other regional event entry costs are comparable to ACRC. There was a discussion about the extent to which members should be encouraged to help at events and it was felt that we have the balance about right.

Proposed that club subscription rates for 2024-25.

Full adult senior - £324pa (£27pm), Junior/Student - £162pa (£13.50pm), Vac Student £35 (April-March), Coach £72pa (£6pm), Boat rack - £84pa (£7pm), Indoor rowing membership - £216pa (£18pm), Non-rowing membership - £72pa (£6pm). Family rates – when a full adult sub is paid, children are half-price. A family never pays more than the cost of two adult subs.

Andy Mason proposed, Ian Bellamy seconded the proposal. 11 agreed, 1 abstention, none against Motion carried.

**3. CAPTAIN'S REPORT (attached)**

No matters arising.

**CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS (attached)**

No matters arising.

**4. SAFETY ADVISOR'S REPORT (attached)**

No matters arising.

**5. TRUSTEES' REPORT (attached)**

No comments arising from the Trustees' Report

Jane Day proposed and Tim Grice seconded the adoption of the Trustees' Report. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

**6. TREASURER'S REPORTS (attached)**

Julian Sondheimer highlighted the following from the Treasurer's report :

- The Club accounts are for the period to March 2023
- Overall, the Club accounts remain in a good shape
- In this current year, the Club has seen some sizeable increase to its cost base and this has been part of the reason for the proposed subscription increase.

Ian Bellamy proposed and Robin Leach seconded the adoption of the Trustees' Report. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

**BOATHOUSE MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS (attached)**

Julian Sondheimer highlighted the following from the Boathouse Management Accounts report:

- The Boathouse Management accounts are for the period to March 2023
- Rent payable to the the Duchy has gone up considerably following the 5-year lease review. The lease specifies that every 5 years, the Boathouse Management Group (BMG) rent will increase with the RPI over the 5-year period, this has meant an overall increase of 30%. As a result, the BMG has increased the fee that the club pays by 5.5%; this is the same increase as the other tenants on site (University of Bristol and Monkton School).
- Energy bills have quadrupled so far this calendar year. We are looking at how to reduce our energy costs over a long-term basis, one consideration is solar panel installation however for the site this would cost approximately £35k in capital expenditure.

Ian Bellamy proposed and Tim Grice seconded the adoption of the Treasurer's Report. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

**7. APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL EXAMINER**

Susan Comber has confirmed she is willing to continue in the role of External Examiner for the coming year.

Julian Sondheimer proposed and Robin Leach seconded the appointment of Susan Comber as External Examiner. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

## 8. REPORTS FROM CLUB EVENTS (attached)

No matters arising

## 9. MEMBERSHIP, SUBSCRIPTIONS, AND CHARGES

No matters arising, although noted that following the significant dip in membership numbers during COVID, we are now seeing an increase and hope that this will continue.

Thanks were given to Katherine Greenhead and Jane Day for the Learn to Row/Development programme and that this has created a far higher retention rate of new members than in previous years. Jane Day thanked all the club members who have supported this programme.

## 10. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

POSITION	NOMINEE'S NAME	PROPOSER'S NAME & Signature	Seconded by: Name & Signature
President	Alastair Watson	A Constantinidi	<p>Kim Pennelegion read out the proposer and seconder names to those present.</p> <p>All nominations were seconded as a group by the attendees. No dissensions.</p>
Captain	Jon Garner	Kim Pennelegion	
Honorary Secretary	Kim Pennelegion	Mark Peacock	
Honorary Treasurer	Julian Sondheimer	Victoria Cranwell	
Men's Co-ordinator	Tim Grice	Philippa Sondheimer	
Women's Co-ordinator	Jane Day	Abbie Rees	
Social Rowing Co-ordinator	Philippa Sondheimer	Marian Lovell	
Beginner's Co-ordinator	Katherine Greenhead	Jane Day	
Junior Co-ordinator	Penny Senior	Alex Fraser	
Go Row Indoor Rowing Co-ordinator			
BSU Student Co-ordinator	Kaitlyn Noble	Abi Shears	
General Committee Members	1. Jim Dawson	Marian Lovell	
	2. Antony Constantinidi	Jon Garner	
	3. Emma Baker-Gaunt	Jane Day	
	4. Patsy Lamb	Jane Day	
	5. Marian Lovell	M Dennis	
	6. Angela Scott	Patsy Lamb	

Andy Mason proposed and Penny Senior seconded the nominations. All agreed. Motion carried.

## **11. ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENTS**

The committee was asked about the role of the Club's VPs. All were reminded that VPs have previously been Officers of the club or have otherwise been elected to be VP by an AGM. They may be asked to step into unfilled Officer positions, provide advice and assistance to inexperienced Officers, support in disciplinary matters and are generally viewed as a 'friend of the Club' providing support to ensure that the Club does not fail.

Jon Garner thanked Antony Constantinidi for his contribution as Club President for the past 12 years. He will continue his involvement with the club and will continue to support Alastair Watson as the newly elected President. It is of particular note that Antony was instrumental in the new boat house development, without his contribution, the boathouse would not have happened. We will celebrate his tenure as President at some point in the coming year.

Jon Garner proposed that Antony Constantinidi becomes a Vice President of the club, this was seconded by Robin Leach. All in favour.

Nominees: Andrew Barton, Julian Bewick, Debbie Blackmore, Chris Blunt, Janet Cooper, Graham Hockley, Chris Hopper, Robin Leach, Chris Levan, Geoff Peattie, Rosie Richardson, Simon Richardson, Penny Senior, Philippa Sondheimer, Julian Sondheimer, Nick Totman, Keith Trivett, Paula Weeks, Clair Ponting, Antony Constantinidi.

Penny Senior proposed and Andy Mason seconded the election of the above-noted Vice-Presidents. Unanimous vote, Motion carried.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12.35 PM**

## Captains report 2023

Once again it has been a busy year on the Avon at Saltford & I hope everyone has enjoyed their rowing this year. It's also been my first year as Captain and I'd like to thank the committee for all their help, support and advice. As you know, Penny stepped down after 15 years as club captain and it was wonderful & very fitting for her to receive the British Rowing Medal of Merit recognising both her work at the club and also with junior rowing more widely. Congratulations Penny.

Membership has decreased slightly during the year but is now much more stable than immediately post covid. We revamped the Adult Learn to Row course this year with the aim to greatly increase retention from the course and make it more enjoyable and integrated within the club right from the outset. So far, this seems to be working & my thanks to Katherine, Jane, Tim & everyone who has given so much of their time to support the Spring & Summer LTR courses and the subsequent development squad over the summer. The junior squad remains very healthy too and Penny & I are now looking at plans for 2023/4 and beyond to see how we can expand this section of the club to offer rowing to a broader catchment of young people.

Bath Spa University continue to be a very active part of the club during their term-time and they recorded their best ever results at BUCS regatta earlier in 2023. The Social Rowing group goes out very regularly on Thursdays and Sundays and frequently takes out an octuple. If you haven't tried it, you should. It's a lot of fun. The after-row cake is really pretty good too! Members of this group also supported a BR rowing tour of the upper Severn in what turned out to be a very soggy summer weekend in July.

The club has started three new initiatives this year. Go-Row-Indoors (ie Indoor Rowing Classes) has been providing classes since last October, and also giving a valuable additional route into on-water rowing for our LTR courses. As Gudrun reports below, we've now had 371 people attend sessions (ie bums on ergs) which I think is a fantastic start to this new section of the club. I'm looking forward to seeing it grow in 2023/24. Many thanks to Gudrun and all her coaches who have made this happen.

The second initiative is a group being lead by Patsy looking to develop "Equality, Diversity & Inclusion" in our rowing activities. We're starting slowly to find our feet, but I'm looking forward to reporting further on this in the coming months. If you're interested to find out more about this then please have a chat with Patsy or me. The British Rowing 5-year plan issued this year has a major focus on bringing rowing to people of under-represented communities & backgrounds & we want Avon County to be an important part of this strategy roll out in the SW.

Thirdly, we have introduced paid coaching as a regular addition to support crew training. This was a big step for the club as we have always previously relied on volunteer coaching, but so far it has been very well received by squads and has worked well. We are now developing the plans for coaching for the coming year & which will be discussed at the first committee meeting after the AGM. Personally, I think a combination of paid and voluntary coaching made available across all squads is a vital element in ensuring that Avon County continues as a strong & successful club able to retain existing members and attract new ones.

As a club we have enjoyed racing again this year, although there has been a noticeable lack of opposition for many events at junior and masters which has proved frustrating. It seems that a number of regattas are failing to attract the entries they have had in recent years. However, despite this we did attend 34 heads & regattas, entered over 200 crews and recorded 71 wins (with the juniors accounting for nearly 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of these). Overall, I think that's a pretty good result. Well done.

In the last few days we've also had the exciting news that one of our previous juniors, Finnola Stratton, represented GB at the European U23 in the W1x and came a very impressive 5<sup>th</sup> in the A final.

Thank you to our Event Organising Teams (you know who you are!) who have done such a great job in putting on 3 heads and a regatta this year. Full details are in the reports below, however in summary all were extremely successful & well run, received great feedback from many of the 722 crews which came to race and collectively made £20k profit. Of

course, none of these events can happen at all without the superb support from all members of the club. Thank you all. We also held our regular Pudding Head at Christmas and Midsummer Madness in June. Both were great fun, highly competitive, & we will plan to hold them again this coming year.

And we've spent the money from the events! *Abi Shears* is the latest addition to the club fleet, a 70kg carbon wing 4x- which has already seen a lot of racing action and has helped ease the pressure on the big demand for 4x/- in the club – we now have 7! There is a new 60kg single (as yet nameless 😊) on order which is due late October, and we have bought a 2<sup>nd</sup> hand, very well loved, 75kg single '*Merlin*'. *Antony & Sean* have also been to the boat doctors and returned as good as new. The on-site boat medics have been busy too with tape and glue and thanks to them for keeping us on the water.

The flood back in January (about 2.25m on the gauge) was the first one to flood the facilities building since it has been completed. Whilst it caused quite a lot of mess, fortunately it didn't do too much damage to buildings or equipment. Thanks to the mop and bucket team for "operation marigold"! We did lose a raft & an awful lot of gravel though. The latter has been replaced between the boathouses very recently (and also the track across the top field has also been regraded) and we plan to have a new pontoon ready to use by the time of the AGM.

If you want to know more about anything in this report, or have some ideas, or wish to get involved in any aspect of the club activities, just come and have a chat.

Finally, thanks to everyone who keeps the club running smoothly. Running a club such as Avon County is a huge undertaking and it wouldn't happen if it weren't for our members. Thank you.

Jon Garner  
ACRC Captain

### **Junior Coordinators Report 2023**

The junior squad is still healthy with about 50 members. We have started several newbies off as usual this year – when they have turned up. It is noticeable that people book in for a taster session then do not turn up – or contact us to say why they haven't. This didn't happen before the Pandemic but is extremely frustrating as organising taster sessions in very labour intensive. Those that have taken up the sport are progressing well.

Land training during the winter was slightly less popular than it has been but attended by a more consistent group of juniors. Water training is also a little less well attended than previously although Sundays are still very busy!

As with last year we have struggled to find competition at the events we go to, particularly for quads. Smaller boats still seem to be more popular and we have several occasions when we have provided the only competition for an event as we have entered several crews - clearly not ideal.

We travelled to Scotland to Strathclyde Park for the Junior British Rowing Championships in July. Eight of the ten crews that raced made it into a final (three B, one C, one D and three E finals) with our WJ15 2X (Tatiana Davidson & Liv Greenwell) achieving our best result of 5<sup>th</sup> in the B final. We have also raced at The Scullery Head and the National Schools Regatta, as well as local events.

Thanks to all the coaches, parents and helpers who help keep the junior section running, their help is much appreciated.

Penny Senior  
Junior Coordinator

## Women's Squad Report 2023

### Overview of the squad

Approximately 45 members of the women's squad. Of these, 27 members are involved to some degree in planned weekend outings with some crews now becoming more established. The rest of the squad are purely rowing socially and others row in singles. Sadly only one squad member remains from the LTR group last year.

There are 9 women in the current Development Squad some of whom will move across to the squad during September whilst some will social row. There are 8 women in the summer LTR group. This course is due to finish at the beginning of September at which point we will know whether they plan to join the Club. It has been agreed that they will continue to row as a group for a while longer as they build up their competence and experience and will then move across to the squad that best suits them when they are ready to do so.

Planned training broadly happens on a Saturday morning with the intention of reverting to two sessions as we move out of summer with a Sunday morning offered where there is demand. There have been weekday outings for some crews who are self-managing as we have all tried to take advantage of the longer, light days. Tuesday evening has historically been the 'just turn up' time for the squad but there has been limited interest for that approach this year, something to be explored again in 2024.

### Coaching Support

As always, squad members value any coaching input that is available and we are keen to explore ways to increase this over the autumn and winter months.

Jon has continued to offer invaluable coaching time for the squad on Saturday mornings along with support from other coaches within the squad in terms of coxing on the water. Some of the coaches within the squad would like to improve our own skills generally and we are hoping to arrange for a Club Coach course to be run at ACRC and some are keen to learn to drive the launch to be able to offer more coaching from alongside crews. We are also exploring other ways to develop as coaches.

Poppy from Bath Spa kindly ran some sculling sessions on Monday and Wednesday evenings during June with support from Primrose and a few club members which enabled more people to get into singles and small boats to develop confidence and enable more independence.

There has been a fantastic response from across the squad in terms of supporting LTR and the development squad this year with a lot of women (and men!) involved with the new way of running the course. This has meant that those coming through have already met a lot more people in the squad and are generally more competent at this point which will be great as some start to migrate across to the squads in the coming weeks.

### Kit

We welcomed the arrival of a new lighter-weight 4x- along with a set of sculling blades. The Committee have now agreed to buy a new light-weight 60kg 1x which will be a great addition for the squad.

Some work has been undertaken to start to paint blades as they are looking quite shabby but we need to push on more with this. The women have also been trialling the use of some skinny sweep blades which are on loan from Monkton – currently trying to agree a price to buy these.

### Future Plans

As we move forwards, I am proposing that going forwards for Head season we have 'groups' of rowers to make up crews with squad members being in more than one group to have different rowing formats/opportunities to suit them - sculling, sweep, boat types and sizes but we will need a number of coxes and coaches to make this effective. I hope that this approach gives more established rowers a sense of belonging whilst continuing to develop the less experienced squad members as well as those that will be joining over the coming months from LTR/development squad.

The group approach will need some flexibility dependent on availability of squad/group members each week but it would broadly mean that people train in similar groupings when they are down to give some consistency whilst also allowing the opportunity to create and train racing crews. This will work best when we revert to double Saturday outings as we start to lose evening rowing - cox one/row one, row one/cox one, two full training outings, row one/development outing, etc. I hope this approach will also increase the experience and confidence of both the squad overall but also the coaching team within the squad.

My aspiration is that all squad members will be able to either cox or steer a quad or both. This will obviously take some time to achieve but will upskill all squad members whilst enabling the squad to self-sufficient and not relying on a small number to steer boats down the river!

### Racing

Some racing took place during Head and Regatta Seasons mainly with the established crews – WMasC4x-, WMasA2x and MxMas8+. The quad went to Henley Masters and Nottingham, the 2x went to Henley Women and the Mx8+ to Nottingham along a few more local events.

I hope with the group rowing approach moving forwards that we are able to set crews to race at more events locally and nationally.

Jane Day  
Women's Squad Coordinator

## **Men's Squad Report 2023**

### **General summary of activities**

#### Overall pattern

- Squad sessions take place on Wednesday evenings (land training in winter, outings in summer) and Sunday mornings. Attendance on Wednesdays is necessarily affected by individual mid-week commitments. The core group attending on Sunday mornings has remained relatively small. General sign up for an additional squad session on Saturday mornings has been at best sporadic and outings within this time slot have tended to remain self-organised. I will revisit the possibility of the Saturday becoming a more regular organised session.
- There has a reasonably healthy level of self-organised activity including both in respect of smaller boat crews (including singling) and mixed rowing.
- The squad has benefitted considerably from the support of paid coaching. This has been a fresh initiative over the past year. I comment on it further below.

#### September 2022 – March 2023 (Head Racing)

The squad was well represented at Avon Bluefriars, Gloucester, Stourport, AAH, Worcester, ASH and Vesta, in particular at our own events, with a number of winners.

In very simple terms in respect of the winter period, it is convenient to summarise the main groupings with the men's squad as follows:

- A 4- self-organised group (JG et al)
- A 4x- self organised group (Darrel et al)
- A 'core' group of about 14 squad members based around Sunday morning squad attendance and forming the basis of a competitive Mas8+ crew (and other potential Masters crews), the precise Masters designation depending on crew size and composition at any given event. The precise training and development activities of this group have been planned and co-ordinated according to level of attendance in any particular week. This group was the principal beneficiary within the men's squad of paid coaching.

Members of these three groups additionally (and supplemented by individuals not otherwise referred to above) self-organised into smaller and/or other crews (including mixed crews). There was healthy level of single sculling.

#### April 2023 – September 2023 (Regatta Season)



This has been more difficult. As with last year, with notable exceptions among a smaller cohort of the more elite and committed rowers and single scullers (and also mixed crew members), there has been a more or less complete dearth of regatta entries. I discussed the reasons for this in my previous report and these reasons mostly still apply; very variable and generally low levels of general squad attendance due to alternative summer commitments and holiday plans; consequent lack of consistent training and formation of settled crews; reluctance to compete within the unforgiving (and potentially short lived) format of side by side racing particularly in the context of inconsistent training and preparation. My optimism last year that this might change has not yet been borne out and I suspect that it will not do so soon. We'll keep trying.

Notwithstanding the above, the squad has been/will be represented at a high level of accomplishment by a limited pool of experienced rowers (including in mixed crews and in singles) at BAR, GB Masters, Henley Masters, Bewdley, Oxford, Gloucester and Great Ouse.

### **Strategic Overview**

My records show 44 current squad members. Of these it is probably reasonable to estimate that about 28 are actively involved in squad based rowing activities (including self-organised, individual and in mixed boats). This is a small active squad cohort which encompasses a wide range of ages, technical ability, experience and to some extent competitive commitment. The challenge will continue to be to integrate individuals into matched crews, in particular from within what I have called the 'core' group.

I see the priorities for the coming year as follows:

- To continue to increase squad numbers and work to retain new recruits. This is not going to happen overnight. Retention from last year's LTR and Development was eventually no more than about 50%. Individuals who joined but left within the year, left on entirely amicable terms to accommodate other commitments and/or sporting preferences. I think we have to accept that this is likely to continue to be the pattern. There are currently 11 men within the current crop of LTR and Development. Some of these have definite potential to fit in well in the future. Being realistic, I would be happy if we retained at least 5 of these, although we will try to do better than that.
- To this end, to ensure that the new and recent recruits are supported with consistent, structured and focused coaching (see [Paid Coaching](#) below) and with input and support from more senior and technically advanced rowers.
- To start trying form more settled crew combinations and squads within matched age bands.
- On a different topic, to increase significantly the pool of those prepared to cox and/or self steer. This burden is currently falling unfairly on a few.

### **Coaching**

#### Land Training

Land training ran from September 2022 to April 2023 following a weekly programme devised, circulated and overseen by Andy Mason. This was delivered through live attendance on Wednesday evenings for those able to attend or through individual members following the same programme at home (or so they claimed!).

Huge thanks to Andy for this (and for his weekly attendance to supervise and encourage).

#### Paid coaching

Poppy Kearney was engaged by the club in the summer of 2022 as a paid coach. It is readily accepted, with considerable gratitude, that the main consistent beneficiary of this was the core grouping in men's squad. Poppy's coaching was exceptional both in respect of identifying individual and collective technical issues and applying remedial measures. She was hugely supportive and her input resulted in a substantial overall technical improvement in particular within the core squad as demonstrated by the performance of the 8+ crew which competed at Vesta (and thanks to Patsy as cox for her support in this respect).

We are still really only at the foothills in relation to paid coaching – and I'm extremely keen to continue to build on progress thus far.

#### In house training on Sundays and Wednesdays

This was principally delivered by Andy Mason in particular over the winter season. Again, huge thanks.

## Other

In April 2023, despite the best efforts of the weather to thwart it, Steve and Darrel organised and ran a highly successful camp in over weekends April focusing on starting techniques. Many thanks to them.

I should also mention with my thanks the excellent help with coxing we have had from Primrose.

## **Learn to Row and Development**

This is the subject of a separate report. I simply summarise issues which directly affect the Men's Squad:

- We are very grateful to Jane and Katherine for their enormous hard work over about 5-6 months on this. The men have supported this as have the women.
- As at the time of writing (8 August 2023) we have started to bring the men across for squad outings in order to start the process of integration. The quality of the coaching they have received thus far is obvious.
- As indicated above there is a decent cohort of potential recruits from LTR/Development. We will need to make sure that they are properly looked after.

Tim Grice

Men's squad co-ordinator

## **Beginner Squad Report 2023**

As in previous years, we have run two 9 week courses this year. However, we have changed the way the course is structured and now start all beginners with single sculling, doing this for 5/6 weeks before we move to a block of sweep rowing. Support from club members has been really good and the beginners have had the benefit of a lot of different expertise. I think that the beginners already feel involved in the club and recognise many of our members, giving a better feel of inclusion.

Our first taster day in March was held on a day that gave us extremely challenging conditions, but they coped well and didn't seem to be put off by the weather, always a good sign.

We had 25 people sign up for this one and 4 couldn't make the day because of illness. Of these, 16 signed up for the course with an additional learner who couldn't do the taster day because of injury. two deferred to the summer course, one decided it wasn't for them and I didn't hear from two of them again. Of the 17 who took part in the Spring course we have 14 who have joined the club, many of whom are going to be very useful additions to the squads. Commitment to the course was good and they are making good progress.

For the summer taster we had 22 people signed up – one didn't attend (confused about the date!) We had 21 people attend, in the end. The summer course has 14 people, two of whom deferred from the spring taster. I wanted to limit numbers for this course given our resources are finite so didn't chase people if they didn't come back to me when I asked for feedback. The summer course is a bit more of a mixed bag, but everyone is having a positive experience and progressing at different rates. One thing of note is that attendance on the summer course has not been as good as people take holidays, this inevitably means that they haven't progressed as fast as the Spring course.

Will have a look at the list of people who have expressed an interest in joining us next year when things quieten down a bit. Need to get the dates on the website for the course next year. We have a fairly steady stream of enquiries coming through as well as people who are keen to have private lessons. I have held these off for now explaining that we don't have the capacity to accommodate them until the current courses are finished.

Further changes in mind for the course(s) next year, building on and learning from what we have learnt this year. All in all, I think it has been a success and I am very grateful for all the support.

Katherine Greenhead

Beginner/Learn to Row Co-ordinator

## **Social Rowing Report 2023**

Social Rowing started in Spring 2021. It is for all adults, people who only want to row once a week or now and again, people who have a crew but want an extra row etc.

At the moment we go out on Thursday and Sunday mornings. Thursday is cake day – thanks to our bakers ( mostly Kate ).

The squad has grown a little since last year and are hoping that some of the Dev Squad rowers will be joining us; some have already had a Thursday morning outing in the oct.

Last year we were excited about the advent of Robin Leach as an octuple. This seems to have morphed into the Penny Senior which is better for people with big feet but rather heavy to carry. We are hoping that its use for both us and the Dev Squad ensures its future.

The long-term aim stated in 2022 was to try and get rowing going several times per week with everyone happy to sweep, scull, steer and cox. We are now definitely focussing on sculling but we do need to get more of us coxing, especially if the squad is to grow.

We were disappointed not to get a crew for Head of the Dart, particularly as we had devoted some effort to ensuring that they would take an entry from an oct. However, the timing of the event was unfortunate for 2023 so we abandoned.

Two of us joined in the BR Rowing Tour 2023 – bit of a challenge but a couple of good rows.

We had a Mingle with Minerva in June – lots of them, some of us, all very cheery – and are hoping to do this again after the summer.

Social Rowers have now formed a Catering Committee, led by Theresa and Kim, and are looking forward to making our fortune at the upcoming club events.

Short term planning by WhatsApp works well but I am hoping that MailChimp will help us to publicise and recruit for some of the many RecRow events in this country and abroad.

Philippa Sondheimer  
Social Rowing Co-ordinator

## **Go Row Indoor Report 2023**

The first Go Row Indoor exercise class was held on the 22/10/22.

We provided the following number of tasters for each month.

Month:	No. Taster sessions
October 2022	5
November 2022	12
December 2022	2
January 2023	9
February 2023	15
March 2023	4
April 2023	4
May 2023	1
June 2023	4
July 2023	4
August 2023	2

In total we have given 63 free taster sessions since the classes started, at a cost of £315.00 for the club. (63x£5.00)

From January 2023 we asked all attending GRI classes to complete a GRI membership form regardless of how they pay, to ensure we had the medical information. The number of people who signed up to be a member does not match the number of tasters given (some individuals did not attend their taster session after signing up).

I cannot provide a clear indication of the money taken for the GRI because members have several payment options:  
monthly DD of £18 for unlimited classes,  
monthly card payment of £18 for unlimited classes  
PAYG cash or card payments of £5 per class

In addition Avon County wet Rowing Club members have a concession fee of £10 monthly for unlimited classes or £3 PAYG.

We have run a total of 88 classes with a total of 371 people attending following their taster session, meaning that those classes were paid for in some form or another. Had all the classes been paid for at a cost of £5 per attendance this would have been an income of £1855.00.

However from this we would then need to deduct the costs of the instruction for the class (which I believe to be at a cost of £25/class). I believe 76 classes were run by a paid instructors, at a cost of £1900.00

As such, year to date I would say that the GRI classes are currently running at a loss.

The majority of memberships originally came from word of mouth, this has now changed to advertising in the form of posters and social Media posts and from interest shown in the learn to row courses. Some paid advertising was carried out, however the interest from this was not value for money so I do not believe this is an option we would be looking to peruse further at this time.

Issues faced are non booking of classes and just turning up, and/or non attendance of classes. We are looking to see if GRI members can book online via the website or via an app in the hope that this improves these issues.

Someone with both the skill set and time to do advertising in/on social media platforms would be greatly welcomed to help promote the classes and increase regular attendance.

The GRI section runs smoothly on the whole and needs little supervision, the aim is to continue to increase interest through promotion.

Gudrun Wiesenthal-Saunders  
GRI Co-ordinator

## **Safety Report 2023**

The main reasons for safety incident reports being filed by club members in the last 4 years are compared below.

<b>Description</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Simple capsize out of a single	9	18	26	14
Simple capsize out of a double	3	2	3	2
Collision with no damage	4	10	1	9
Collision involving injury or damage	7	2	4	3
Near miss requiring swift avoiding action	1	2	2	3
Incidents at the pontoons	2	3	4	2

Other	8	5	3	4
Other clubs' accidents at our events	7	11	0	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>38</i>

Whilst collisions and near misses combined have actually reduced slightly (14 to 12) the severity & consequences of these collisions has increased. Reducing collisions and improving rowers' navigation skills will remain a major safety focus for the 2023/24 committee.

The Duchy have recently removed 2 of the 3 large trees which had fallen into the river & they are active in helping to remove illegally moored boats, several of which result in navigation problems on the bends.

Slips & trips around the boathouse and pontoons has been less of a problem this year which is a very positive result. There is work to be done constantly to keep the site & pontoons in good condition & thanks to all the members who contribute to this. A good tidy out of the boathouse following the January flood helped I feel. It was a chore at the time, but certainly de-cluttered the space.

Incident reports from other club visitors are associated with our events and cover a range of different incident type from capsize to hitting bridges. Events committees review all these incidents and have put in place several new measures in the last couple of years to improve the problems at the bottom bridge 'black spot'.

The 3 most significant incidents in the "Other" category have all happened over the summer & were:

- Non-member visitors to the site during one of the sunnier days assaulted a club member. Actions have been taken to try to prevent against this re-occurring & enhanced CCTV is being investigated.
- A trailer incident resulting in a wheel falling off was caused by driver error in failing to release the trailer handbrake before pulling away. Fortunately there was no injury or equipment damage, just a large garage bill.
- A large branch fell from the Poplar and landed on a launch. No one was in the launch at the time. The trees are inspected regularly and a further inspection after the incident found no health or structural issues with the tree.

ACRC were awarded the BR Safety Good Practice Award again in 2023.

The annual Club Safety Audit was completed in November 2022 and accepted by British Rowing. The Safety Policy is on the Safety Notice Board and on the club website.

Thank you to all who mend our boats, fix our rafts, report our incidents, and work to keep our facilities and river as safe as possible for us all to use.

Jon Garner

**AVON COUNTY ROWING CLUB  
TRUSTEES ACCOUNT**

**YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2023**

For & On Behalf of  
Avon County Rowing Club



J Dawson  
Trustee

25.7.2023

Dated

**AVON COUNTY ROWING CLUB  
TRUSTEES ACCOUNT  
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2023**

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
<b>INCOME</b>		
Rent receivable	7,990.34	7,990.34
	<u>7,990.34</u>	<u>7,990.34</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Rent Payable to Duchy	7,990.34	7,990.34
Unaccrued expense relating to previous year	35.00	-
	<u>8,025.34</u>	<u>7,990.34</u>
<b>Excess Income over Expenditure 22/23</b>	<u>(35.00)</u>	<u>-</u>

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31 2023**

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Lloyds TSB Bank Account	2,513.83	2,548.83
Debtors	-	3,995.17
	<u>2,513.83</u>	<u>6,544.00</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Creditors	-	3,995.17
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,995.17</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>2,513.83</u>	<u>2,548.83</u>
Financed by:		
<b>CAPITAL ACCOUNT</b>	2,000.00	2,000.00
<b>TRUSTEES ACCUMULATED ACCOIJUNT</b>	513.83	548.83
	<u>2,513.83</u>	<u>2,548.83</u>

**ACRC Accounts to 31 March 2023**

**AVON COUNTY ROWING CLUB**

**BALANCE SHEET**

as at 31 March 2023

31-Mar-22		31-Mar-23	
£	FIXED ASSETS	£	£
122,737	Boats and Blades		99,078
334	External assets (pontoons, hard standing etc)		267
<u>123,071</u>			<u>99,345</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
52,076	HSBC & CAF current accounts	21,226	
-	- HSBC deposit account	-	
3,000	CAF Gold account	69,281	
18,109	Virgin Charity deposit account	18,156	
7,242	Stock	9,779	
7,587	Debtors	12,057	
<u>88,014</u>		<u>130,500</u>	
(10,205)	less: Creditors	(10,082)	
-	- Creditors (grants not yet spent) *	-	
<u>(10,205)</u>		<u>(10,082)</u>	
<u>77,809</u>	<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>120,418</u>
<u>200,880</u>			<u>219,763</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>			
196,179	Unrestricted Fund	193,654	
4,702	Grants not yet released to income account *	3,761	
-	- Restricted Fund **	22,348	
<u>200,880</u>		<u>219,763</u>	

\* See Note 3 (grants analysis) for a note about the treatment of grants in the accounts

\*\* Includes funds generated by Heads, Regatta and 100 Club, not to be used for general expenditure

Based on the records produced to me, the Income & Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023 are in agreement with the accounting records kept by the Club.

.....  
S Comber

Dated: .....

**DESIGNATED FUNDS**

The Club Committee has determined that the balance sheet total should be divided into designated funds:

<b>Assets used for normal day-to-day rowing club operation:</b>			
123,071	Fixed assets		99,345
25,000	Working capital		25,000
7,242	Kit and medals stock		9,779
<u>155,313</u>			<u>134,125</u>
<b>Reserves for specific purposes:</b>			
-	- Opportunistic boat purchases		-
2,500	Contingencies		2,500
<b>Reserves available for development:</b>			
-	- Restricted		22,348
43,067	Unrestricted		60,791
<u>200,880</u>			<u>219,763</u>



**AVON COUNTY ROWING CLUB**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**for the Year ended 31 March 2023**

Year 31-Mar-22		Year 31-Mar-23
£	<b>INCOME</b>	£
40,548	Subscriptions from active members	39,105
2,265	Fees from potential members	4,743
2,137	Donations & fund raising (excl specific boat purchase)	2,619
1,175	Grants recognised as spent <i>(see Note 3: Grants analysis)</i>	940
4,776	Subscriptions and rent from associated clubs	4,776
2,196	Boat storage fees	2,100
-	- Go Row Indoors	(350)
19,244	Dividends from Heads & Regatta	20,515
24	Bank Interest	338
-	- Profit on catering at events	185
<u>72,365</u>		<u>74,970</u>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
10,793	Rent and maintenance of premises	10,675
4,557	Insurance - boats	5,773
813	Insurance - other	-
4,035	Boat maintenance	6,307
610	Event equipment	2,348
30,755	Depreciation and write offs	24,825
932	Launch fuel & repairs	406
16	Coaching (including courses)	2,034
1,535	British Rowing and EA/Canal & River Trust fees	1,664
969	Administration costs	750
158	Web Site & Publicity & Club Dinner	191
622	Net expenditure member services	173
-	- Elite support	-
-	- Sundry	-
<u>55,796</u>		<u>55,147</u>
<u>16,569</u>	<b>Profit / (Loss) before exceptional items</b>	<u>19,823</u>
	<b>EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS</b>	
-	- Site development costs net of donations and grants <i>(see Note 4: site development)</i>	-
-	- Donations for specific boat purchase	-
<u>16,569</u>	<b>Profit / (Loss) after exceptional items</b>	<u>19,823</u>

**NOTE 1 MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS**

	Year 31-Mar-23 £
<i>Unrestricted Fund:</i>	
Balance at start of year	196,179
Change in fund	(2,525)
Absorption of event working capital into these accounts	-
Balance at end of year	193,654
<i>Grants spent but not yet released to income account:</i>	
Balance at start of year	4,702
Grants spent	-
Grants released to income account	(940)
Balance at end of year	3,761
<i>Restricted Fund:</i>	
Balance at start of year	-
Dividends from Heads & Regattas	20,515
100 Club profit	-
Donations & Fund Raising for Boat Funds	1,833
Boat/oars purchase (after any grant)	-
Balance at end of year before transfer	22,348
Transfer from Unrestricted Fund	-
Balance at end of year	22,348

**NOTE 2 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**

	Year 31-Mar-23 £	Restricted	Unrestricted
<b>BOATS &amp; OARS:</b>			
Cox box	599		599
Ergo (secondhand)	500		500
		-	
		-	
<b>OTHER:</b>			
			-
	1,099	-	1,099

**NOTE 3 GRANTS ANALYSIS**

Until a grant is spent, it is shown as a creditor in the accounts.

A grant (and a donation) which is given for and spent on a specific capital item is brought into the Income account over a period of years, on the same profile as the associated depreciation.

31-Mar-21				31-Mar-22				31-Mar-22				31-Mar-23			
£		£		£		£		£		£		£		£	
Unspent (c/f)	Awarded in year	Spent in year		Unspent (c/f)				Unspent (b/f)	Awarded in year	Spent in year		Unspent (b/f)			
-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-	
-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-	
-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-	
-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-	
-	3,000	3,000		-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-	
-	3,000	3,000		-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-	
				<b>TOTAL - ALL GRANTS</b>								<b>TOTAL - ALL GRANTS</b>			
31-Mar-21				31-Mar-22				31-Mar-22				31-Mar-23			
£		£		£		£		£		£		£		£	
Unrecognised (b/f)	Spent in year	Recognised in year		Unrecognised (c/f)				Unrecognised (b/f)	Spent in year	Recognised in year		Unrecognised (b/f)			
-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-	
550	-	110		440	-	-		440	-	88		352	-	-	
-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-	
129	-	26		103	-	-		103	-	21		83	-	-	
101	-	20		81	-	-		81	-	16		64	-	-	
2,097	-	419		1,678	-	-		1,678	-	336		1,342	-	-	
-	3,000	600		2,400	-	-		2,400	-	480		1,920	-	-	
2,877	3,000	1,175		4,701	-	-		4,701	-	940		3,761	-	-	
				<b>TOTAL - ALL GRANTS</b>								<b>TOTAL - ALL GRANTS</b>			

**NOTE 4 SITE DEVELOPMENT**

In May 2013 the Trustees of Avon County Rowing Club signed a Project Agreement in relation to the site at Saltford. The other parties were the Duchy of Cornwall, the University of Bristol and Monkton Combe School. The Agreement committed the Trustees and the Club to pay certain sums of money and to sign sub-leases with the University of Bristol and Monkton Combe School. In return, the Agreement committed the Duchy to issue a 60 year Head Lease to the Trustees and to have new boathouses and a facility block constructed. The new buildings belong to the leaseholder and the sub-tenants have rights to occupy designated parts of them.

Construction of the new buildings commenced in August 2013. The buildings were completed in August 2014 and at 31 March 2015 Avon County Rowing Club had no remaining expenditure commitments. The total expenditure from Club resources was £71,521. The remainder of the Club's share of the cost was met by grants and donations, including £60,000 from British Rowing and £50,000 from Sport England.

The Club does not propose to include any value relating to the new buildings in its Balance Sheet and therefore the net amounts paid by the Club after grants and donations were included in the Income & Expenditure account as an Exceptional item of cost.

The expenditure incurred in the year to 31 March 2017 was the Club's share of expenditure on installing improved sewage disposal facilities.

# Saltford Boathouse Accounts

Period 12 months to March 31st 2023

Avon County Rowing Club

University of Bristol

Monkton Combe School

Avon County Rowing Club / University of Bristol / Monkton Combe School  
Saltford Boathouse  
Accounts 12 Months to March 31st 2023

CASH BOOK - CAF Cash A/C 25093 & Gold A/C 97892  
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2022/23

	Code	Per Accounts £	Debtor £	Creditor £	Accruals/ pre-paid £	TOTAL 2022/23 £	TOTAL 2021/22 £
<b>INCOME</b>							
ACRC	1	10,620.00				10,620.00	10,620.00
UBBC	2	7,380.00			2,460.00	9,840.00	9,840.00
MCS	3	6,780.00				6,780.00	6,780.00
		24,780.00			2,460.00	27,240.00	27,240.00
Other income	11	100.00				100.00	-
	<i>Income</i>	<u>24,880.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,460.00</u>	<u>27,340.00</u>	<u>27,240.00</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>							
<b>Basic</b>							
Rent	101	7,990.34				7,990.34	7,990.34
Insurance - to August 19th 2023	102	4,084.91				4,084.91	3,619.16
Bank Fee	103	72.00				72.00	96.00
		12,147.25				12,147.25	11,705.50
<b>Utilities</b>							
Electricity	201	2,715.10		524.94		3,240.04	2,420.51
Telephone	202	311.85				311.85	355.97
Cesspit Emptying	203	-				-	-
Water	204	211.36		277.23		488.59	360.23
		3,238.31		802.17		4,040.48	3,136.71
<b>Cleaning</b>							
Service	301	1,085.56		105.00		1,190.56	1,640.00
Ancillary	302	619.97		48.39		668.36	347.41
		1,705.53		153.39		1,858.92	1,987.41
<b>Security</b>							
Keys	401	45.00				45.00	21.41
Locks	402	132.00				132.00	101.50
Fire Alarm Annual Maintenance	403	204.00				204.00	204.00
Intruder Alarm Annual Maintenance	404	412.20				412.20	384.00
Emergency Lighting Annual Maintenance	405	96.00				96.00	96.00
Fire Alarm Repairs	406	109.68				109.68	-
Intruder Alarm Repairs	407	-			500.00	500.00	-
Emergency Lighting Repairs	408	-				-	54.90
		998.88			500.00	1,498.88	861.81
<b>Repairs/Maintenance</b>							
Buildings (incl accrual for annualised roller door maintenance)	501	319.54			500.00	819.54	547.70
Roadways	502	3,960.00				3,960.00	-
Trailer field, Barnsdale field	503	200.00				200.00	170.00
Planted areas	504	677.73				677.73	152.00
Pontoons	505	95.79			500.00	595.79	183.32
Gym Equipment (incl accrual for annualised ergometer maintenance)	506	175.96			700.00	875.96	648.60
		5,429.02			1,700.00	7,129.02	1,701.62

Avon County Rowing Club / University of Bristol / Monkton Combe School  
 Saltford Boathouse  
 Accounts 12 Months to March 31st 2023

CASH BOOK - CAF Cash A/C 25093 & Gold A/C 97892  
 INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2022/23

	Code	Per Accounts £	Debtor £	Creditor £	Accruals/ pre-paid £	TOTAL 2022/23 £	TOTAL 2021/22 £
Improvements/Equipment							
Pontoon/bank	701	-				-	426.24
Signs	702	320.79				320.79	480.72
Equipment (fireguard)	703	89.99				89.99	2,760.64
		<u>410.78</u>	-	-	-	<u>410.78</u>	<u>3,667.60</u>
<i>Expenditure</i>		<u>23,929.77</u>	-	955.56	2,200.00	<u>27,085.33</u>	<u>23,060.65</u>
Surplus Income over Expenditure before Interest and Other Charges		950.23	-	(955.56)	260.00	254.67	4,179.35
Bank Interest Received	901	246.36				246.36	1.21
Surplus Income over Expenditure after Interest and Other Charges carried forward to Maintenance Reserve		<u>1,196.59</u>	-	(955.56)	260.00	<u>501.03</u>	<u>4,180.56</u>

Avon County Rowing Club / University of Bristol / Monkton Combe School  
Saltford Boathouse

Accounts 12 Months to March 31st 2023

BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31 2023

	2022/23 £		2021/22 £
<b>Bank</b>		<b>Bank</b>	
Cash A/C	4,419.15	Cash A/C	33,056.39
Gold A/C	37,366.25	Gold A/C	7,130.90
	<b>41,785.40</b>		<b>40,187.29</b>
<b>add Debtors:</b>		<b>add Debtors:</b>	
Debtors	-	Debtors	60.00
	-		<b>60.00</b>
<b>less Creditors:</b>		<b>less Creditors:</b>	
UoB Payment of Rent in Advance	(2,460.00)	UoB Payment of Rent in Advance	(2,460.00)
Accruals annualised specific maintenance	(2,366.80)	Accruals annualised specific maintenance	(1,957.00)
Accruals insurance excesses	(1,000.00)		
Other creditors	(974.15)	Other creditors	(1,346.87)
	<b>(6,800.95)</b>		<b>(5,763.87)</b>
	<b>34,984.45</b>		<b>34,483.42</b>
<b>represented by:</b>		<b>represented by:</b>	
<b>Maintenance Reserve</b>		<b>Maintenance Reserve</b>	
Accumulated Surplus Bfwd	34,483.42	Accumulated Surplus Bfwd	30,302.86
2022/23 Surplus income over Expenditure	501.03	2021/22 Surplus income over Expenditure	4,180.56
	<b>34,984.45</b>		<b>34,483.42</b>

Note to the Accounts:

The policy of the Boathouse Management Group is to generate surplus income averaging £4,000 per year over 10 years, to provide a fund for refurbishment and replacement of capital equipment when required.

**Avon Bluefriars Head 2022, Saltford      Saturday 8 October 2022**

Many thanks are due to the organising Committee, the army of helpers and the catering crew.

This was our second time running the Avon Bluefriars Small Boats Head (ABH) and overall it was a very successful day. The weather was kind, the entry of about 190 boats was well up on 2021 and there were many good comments from visiting coaches and crews which will stand us in good stead for the future.

**Entries** were organised by Philippa Sondheimer, assisted by Jane Day who was learning the ropes for this job at our Autumn Head.

ABH22 had around 190 boats racing in 3 short and 3 long divisions, well up from the 132 last time. This was very welcome as it was a very positive indicator of people getting back to competition after the difficult Covid times. There is room for more growth again.

**Helpers** The rota of helpers proved not at all easy to organise... again. Members were slow to sign up and some were simply away and not available. Bradford on Avon were extremely helpful in lending a hand. Simon Brown from Monkton drove a launch all day. Those who did commit did a fantastic job.

We will appeal early before ABH23 for helpers from Bluefriars BC and this may generate some additional Helpers.

**Racing** All went well, but there were over-long gaps between crews at the Start, which together with unscheduled manoeuvres by canal boats meant there were some delays. The issues have been addressed and hopefully will enable us to run the day on time for ABH23.

At the Bottom Bridge, where there has been a past history of collisions and near misses, we put up some new signs to help guide coxes and steers-people and staffed the approach with very experienced marshalls. There were still some incidents, but a lot less than before.

**Money** ABH22 produced a profit for the day of £3210, including catering. It's still early days now that ACRC has fully taken over responsibility for running the race from Bluefriars, so we can be well pleased with this amount.

In addition, it's important to understand that this is a 'Small Boats' Head with the largest boats being 4+ and 4x. The event is followed by our Autumn Head, a 'Big Boats' event for eights; then our Spring Head which caters for all categories. That means that income for ABH, especially for one of the first races of the season, is bound to be a bit restricted.

**ABH23** will be raced on Saturday 7 October. Please hold the date.

Jim Dawson, Chairman Avon Bluefriars Small Boats Head Organising Committee



We enjoyed excellent weather, for the time of year, the mist lifted in time for the day to start as planned. Having 2 divisions for the event allowed for a 4pm close of play, as intended. This event, like the previous Bluefriar's event, represented an opportunity to bring on a clutch of 'Understudies' in the organisational roles to augment the very experienced club leadership in learning the ropes of staging these events – this learning opportunity proved successful and beneficial for the long-term future of the club.

**Entries** 114 crews raced on the day with 4 crews scratching in the 24 prior to the event. There were only a handful of entries for the short course and it may be worth ensuring this is all done in the same division in future years, to assist with manning arrangements.

**Timing & Results** Mobile device hotspot connectivity for tablets – despite arranging for at least one person from each timing team to set up connectivity from their mobile device, we still had some connectivity issues with the Webscorer tablets during the event. Some mobile devices seemed to hibernate and lose connection. Might need to ensure that people switch the mobile hotspot off and on again when they reach their timing location. Not sure that we'll ever be able to fully resolve this, and we must be prepared to fix any issues as they occur (as we did at this event). This means that we must have a phone number contact for at least one person in each timing team so that we can ring them if needed, and talk them through how to resolve the issues.

**Catering** The BBQ machine presented challenges with its heat output. Learnt, however, that one of the controlling valves was not switched to fully open – since rectified for subsequent events. Gave consideration to replacement solution – buy or hire or use existing devices lying around the site. Ultimately concluded that for the volume of customers involved, the supply and management of gas cylinders and the clean-up implications for the cooking equipment – hiring in for the occasion remains the best option, provided the price remains manageable. The main lesson to take forward.....there were too many burgers and not enough bacon!! Since addressed at subsequent events.

**Finances** Race Fee Income £6576, minus costs of staging £2101 Giving - Profit from the Race Event - £4474. Plus, profit from the catering of £856.26. **Provided an overall recorded profit of £5330.75**

**Lessons Identified:**

- Having only 2 Divisions made it easier for the assignment and recovery of helpers around the course, deconflicting from their rowing commitments.
- Separate briefings for volunteers & helpers in each of the Divisions was deemed a good idea, because it tended to ensure that the right people were available to receive the information.
- An effective set-up on the Friday afternoon significantly reduced the need for a big set-up presence on the morning of the event.
- However, there was a slight paucity of people for the clear-up at the end of the day..... a recurring theme for other events.
- It would be useful to know, in advance, with some surety, what volunteers might be forthcoming from University of Bristol to assist.
- Lastly.... But perhaps most importantly, it was deemed that **a 3<sup>rd</sup> safety boat up at the top of the course is needed, to respond to any capsizes in the cold water in the start queue.** The rib was deemed to be an obvious solution.

Planning is underway for the AAH23, with the hope an expectation that many of the same team will help out with the planning and organisation.

Fergus Hawkins  
Chair, AAH Organising Committee

## AGM REPORT

### Avon Spring Head 2023, Saltford, Saturday 4 March

Grateful thanks are due to the organising Committee, the army of helpers and the catering crew.

The Inspecting Umpire report was very positive.

We lost Raft 3 in the severe end-of-winter floods and borrowed a small, but too high raft from Saltford Sailing Club which was surprisingly helpful. We are hoping to get a permanent replacement, possibly by transferring some of the under-used long pontoon from Monkton's Dundas boathouse.

Overall, we had an excellent day with lots of good comments from the 32 Schools and Clubs who entered crews. Light cloud, no rain, rather cold all day, little flow on the river.

**Entries** We closed the entries early to curtail the numbers due to the loss of Raft 3 and the feeling that launching would take longer because of that. Despite that, very few more entries were received after we closed. So the numbers of boats and rowers were well down on ASH22. The Women's' Tideway Head was also on 4 March, but there were no other obvious clashes of date. 32 Clubs and Schools supplied entries. The entry for ASH23 was considerably smaller than ASH22 (figures for ASH22 are in brackets). 238 (315) boats took part: 29 (48) eights, 87 (111) fours, 74 (79) doubles & pairs, 48 (77) singles. We held the entry fee to £12 per rower. So 77 boats less than ASH22: a reduction of about 25%.

#### Entries in Divisions (Start numbers were less due to scratchings)

Shorts	1	16 (26)	3	24 (37)	5	17 (35)
Longs	2	60 (73)	4	64 (72)	6	57 (74)

#### Comparison with ASH22

ASH22 = 1063 people = £12756 income from entry fees  
ASH23 = 776 people = £9312 [But NB ACRC & Bath Spa crews pay half price so actual amount was less].

**Racing** Generally proceeded smoothly, but there was an unavoidable 40 minute delay caused by an ill-mannered and uncooperative barge called Juggernaut.

**Barnsdale Park field** We suggested No Right Turn exiting onto the busy A4. We had a new sign telling exiting drivers to wait at the bottom of the ramp until it was clear at the top, and NO HILL STARTS. Judging by the state of the ramp afterwards, it appears this was totally ignored. The slope has been repaired since by Wessex Water as part of their repairs to the sewer.

**Radios** The radios have all been purchased from Monkton Bluefriars and are being looked after and housed by Alastair Watson. All were safely returned at the end of ASH23.

**Stop watches** We now have custody of all 13 stop watches in one silver case. They still belong to Bluefriars. We have offered to purchase them from Bluefriars but have not heard anything from Julian Bewick. They are now looked after and housed by David Skaife.

**Money** ASH23 turned in a profit for the day including catering of £7970, less that ASH22 due to the lower entry, but a very good addition to ACRC funds. Well done all of us!

**ASH24** will be raced on Saturday 2 March. Please hold the date.

Jim Dawson, Chairman Avon Spring Head Organising Committee

**Bristol Avon Regatta – Saturday 13 May 2023 – Report for AGM**

We increased the seat fee to £12 but this did not deter entries. Once again, we filled up very quickly and suspended entries on 21 April, a week earlier than in 2022. The draw comprised 183 crews, with 131 races. To fit this in the day, we started racing 30 minutes earlier (first race 9am) and that worked well. Racing never lagged far behind the timetable (assisted by limited river traffic) but a capsized cost us 15 minutes and the day ended 25 minutes behind schedule.

We had some changes to the organising committee but the planning and set-up went well. Another change was to locate some umpiring points on the far bank and that was successful, thanks to careful planning and the availability of a ferryman.

It was our turn to host the West of England Challenge Vase (for coxed fours) and we were very pleased to have four excellent entries in both the Open and Womens events.

The regatta statement of account is attached and shows that nearly £5,700 was generated for the club.

The entries continued to be dominated by junior crews and thought is being given to possible modifications, for example making the Saturday juniors only with development of an event on the following day for seniors and masters.

Julian Sondheimer, Chair, BAR Organising Committee

**BRISTOL AVON REGATTA**  
**13 May 2023**

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	Regatta 2023	Regatta 2022
<b>INCOME</b>		
Entry fees (Note 1)	7,446.00	6,380.00
Catering and programme sales (Note 2)	1,233.76	567.16
Donations	211.71	196.71
Sponsorship	50.00	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>8,941.47</b>	<b>7,143.87</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<i>On raising</i>		
Medals	340.59	336.66
Numbers and pins	40.91	31.15
BROE fee	143.44	129.24
	<b>524.94</b>	<b>497.05</b>
<i>On events</i>		
Sound system (not yet paid)	200.00	265.00
Radio hire	-	250.00
First Aiders	475.20	373.00
Lifesavers	-	-
Ferry driver	300.00	-
Chairs, tables hire	-	-
Toilets	474.00	420.00
Refreshments, expenses and wine for umpires, sponsors	375.10	280.19
Programme printing	169.00	182.00
Rubbish disposal	99.99	149.99
Consumables, postage	24.93	-
Damage to a narrowboat	-	30.00
Insurance borrowed power boats	-	112.00
BR Insurance	121.00	121.00
	<b>2,239.22</b>	<b>2,183.18</b>
<i>Other commitments</i>		
BR affiliation fee	61.00	61.00
Insurance of trophies	171.71	166.71
West of England Committee	271.00	186.20
	<b>503.71</b>	<b>413.91</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>3,267.87</b>	<b>3,094.14</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>5,673.60</b>	<b>4,049.73</b>
<b>NOTE 1: ENTRY FEES</b>		
Entry fee per seat (normal)	12.00	11.00
Seats in published draw	593	555
	<b>7,116.00</b>	<b>6,105.00</b>
Entry fee per seat (ACRC/BSU)	6.00	5.50
Seats in published draw	43	34
	<b>258.00</b>	<b>187.00</b>
<b>Entry fees (for published draw)</b>	<b>7,374.00</b>	<b>6,292.00</b>
Adjustments	72.00	88.00
<b>Entry fees (actual)</b>	<b>7,446.00</b>	<b>6,380.00</b>
<b>NOTE 2: CATERING AND PROGRAMME SALES</b>		
Takings	2,122.60	1,328.21
Ingredients	697.59	593.05
Hire of barbecue	191.25	168.00
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>1,233.76</b>	<b>567.16</b>

## Membership Report 2023

### Membership Report to Avon County Rowing Club AGM 2023

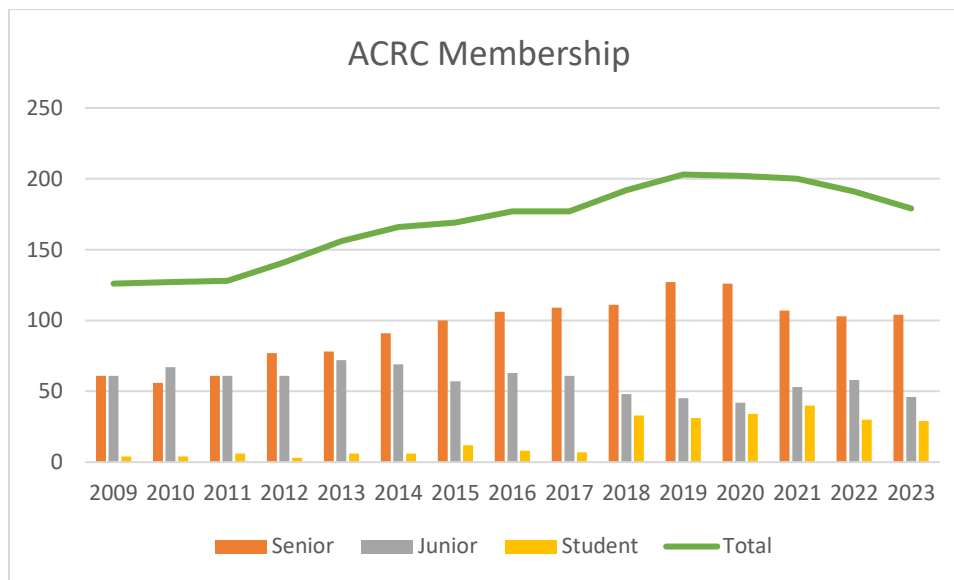
Avon County Rowing Club has changed over the last fifteen years! This is an attempt to put together some membership numbers to illustrate some of the changes.

Our membership goes through a yearly cycle which might have become more pronounced as Learn to Row has become more formalised. Typically, we have a low point in about March/April when people have been put off by bad weather and recruitment for new rowers is only just beginning. So, it is important to be consistent within and between membership series so as to avoid drawing unjustified conclusions.

The figures below are for March of each year.

They show:

- Membership has grown strongly since 2009 but is now falling slightly
- There has been a re-balancing between junior and senior (inc masters) members
- The advent of Bath Spa has been very important to us.



## Background note for increase in Membership Subscriptions

AGM 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023

The committee proposes to increase membership subscription rates as detailed below. Not all rates are changing and any changes which are agreed at the AGM will only come into effect in April 2024. The changes are highlighted

### Proposed new subscription rates

Full Adult/Senior - £324pa (£27pm), Junior/Student - £162pa (£13.50pm), Vac Student £35 (April-March), Coach £72pa (£6pm), Boat rack - £84pa (£7pm), Indoor rowing membership - £216pa (£18pm), Non-rowing membership - £72pa (£6pm). Family rates – when a full adult sub is paid, children are half-price. A family never pays more than the cost of two adult subs.

### Current subscription rates

Full adult senior - £288pa (£24pm), Junior/Student - £144pa (£12pm), Vac Student £30 (April-March), Coach £72pa (£6pm), Boat rack - £72pa (£6pm), Indoor rowing membership - £216pa (£18pm), Non-rowing membership - £72pa (£6pm). Family rates – when a full adult sub is paid, children are half-price. A family never pays more than the cost of two adult subs.

The decision to propose an increase in membership subs is not something which the committee takes lightly. Therefore, I wanted to give you some background & explanation behind the proposal before the AGM vote.

This is the first increase in subs since the 2018 AGM which voted in favour for an increase taking effect in April 2019. Since then RPI has risen 32% and is likely to increase still further in the coming months. More relevant is that the general running costs of the club have increased significantly, and particularly in the last 12 months. We have had a 5 yearly site rent review increase of 30% (linked to RPI) and site electricity costs have more than doubled since January. Insurance, equipment & maintenance costs have all increased too. Adding these together our fixed cost base is increasing by at least £2,500 per year just this year alone. We are also using these funds increasingly to support a greater level of coaching resource available across the squads.

As a club, we are fortunate to be able to benefit from the profit generated by the 4 events we hold each year and which are successful because club members support them so well. They are of course always subject to cancellation for various reasons (usually weather) and so cannot be totally relied upon for income. However, over the years these events have allowed us to build up and maintain an excellent fleet of boats whilst also being able to keep subs at levels below those of other clubs in the area. We expect to be able to continue this in coming years.

For comparison, I have listed the Full Adult monthly membership rates for clubs in the area: ACRC £24 current, £27 proposed, Minerva £35, Bristol Ariel £28.50, City of Bristol £33, Gloucester £36. We don't know if any of these are going to increase in the coming year, but it would seem likely.

As a club we also appreciate that any increase in subs may be difficult for some members. We also don't want to lose anyone from rowing because of the membership cost. So I would also like to take this opportunity to say that we are able to provide a small number of discretionary reduced rates, in full confidence, when this is needed. Just see me, or Marian, or your squad co-ordinator if you want to know more about this.

Jon Garner  
Captain