

# **Tyne Amateur Rowing Club TARC Annual General Meeting** **30 November 2017**

## **Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 August 2017**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Draft**

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**Registered Charity number: 1161250**

**Principal address:**

Water Row  
Newburn  
Newcastle Upon Tyne  
NE15 8NL

**Charity Trustees:**

John Goddard- Chairman of trustees  
Liz Bray - Secretary  
Philip Robinson (Ex-officio as Chair of Club Management Committee)  
Simon Dobson  
Ian Wagstaff  
Tom Hill  
Michael Windle  
Claire Hughes  
Graeme Wheeler  
Martin Bell

Ian Stratford (Attends trustee meetings as an adviser, non-voting)

Tyne Amateur Rowing Club (TARC) has been operating as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) for over two years since being registered as a charity on 13 April 2015. Club members and the wider public can inspect our charity details on the Charity Commission website. Our trustees are appointed by club members and the number was increased to 10 at the Annual General Meeting on 9 November 2016.

The TARC trustees delegate responsibility for running the club on a day to day basis to the club's Management Committee, members and officers of which are also appointed by the club members. UK charity law holds the trustees responsible overall for the club. Trustees are required to take an overview of the club's property, operations and activities, to ensure that we comply with legal requirements, to monitor and minimise risks and to establish a clear strategic direction for the club.

TARC charity trustees have met 3 times since the previous Trustees' Report (to 31 August 2016) and matters discussed are summarised as follows.

### **Trustees' Meeting 27 September 2016**

- Declaration of Interests by Trustees
- Potential anomalies in the Constitution
- The need to appoint a new Club Water Safety Adviser
- Detailed financial report by the Club Treasurer, including the reserves policy and projected loan repayments following completion of the new club house, Implications of recent additional club employees.
- Club disciplinary procedures.
- Governance and future strategic direction.
- Draft agenda for the forthcoming Club AGM.

### **AGM 9 November 2016**

The AGM was exceptionally well attended and addressed some highly significant issues for the club, including presentations by both candidates for the club captaincy followed by the election of Jerry Barker. The Trustees' paper on governance and the issue of responsibility for establishing strategic direction were discussed in detail.

### **Trustees' Meeting 15 March 2017**

- Best practice guidance on disciplinary procedures.
- Conduct of meetings, recording and secure storage of Trustee documents and decisions. Reference made to Charity Commission guidance.
- Governance and the need for clear and accessible information for club members on the implications of charitable status and the role of trustees.
- Constitution – review task agreed, report back at next meeting.
- Draft Annual Return (Trustee's Report and Financial Statement for 2015-16) due to be sent to Charity Commission end June 2017
- Group to work on draft strategic direction for the club
- Detailed report by chair of Management Committee indicating an exceptionally busy period for the club. Trustees recorded sincere thanks to all members and volunteers.
- Financial report by club treasurer
- Previously agreed maximum spend limit for the club committee. Formal Trustee resolution needed.
- Staff & volunteer issues: possible post of Facilities Manager and need to risk assess some jobs undertaken by volunteers: electrical, plumbing, launch engines etc.

### **Trustees' Meeting 14 June 2017**

- Disciplinary procedure referred to TARC Committee with offers of Trustee help.
- Agreed need for secure storage of all important club papers
- Agreed Trustee minutes should be available to members but not on the public website. Member-only access needed to inspect committee and trustee minutes. Discuss a way forward with TARC Committee colleagues.
- Draft paper on Conduct of Trustee meetings and circulation of papers
- Governance – simplified diagram tabled for comment
- Trustees to identify contacts for potential club sponsors

- Sport England return and draft club Business plan tabled. Need better “counting” of participants to do accurate returns.
- Financial report received. Noted progress with loan repayment and outstanding final sum for the building.
- Draft resolution on spend limit deferred pending completion of Business Plan.

Next meeting was held on **11 October 2017**, outside the period for this report.

### **General Trustee overview of 2016-17**

The Trustees feel the club is vibrant and well run by the very hard-working committee and by the many people who volunteer with tasks week-in week-out and at events. Many of the people who do work at and for the club are not seen by all the members and may be there outside of the main training sessions. They quietly get on fixing, mending, cleaning, grass-cutting, cooking, doing paperwork, buying fuel, driving trailers and so on: the list is endless. We extend a big thank you from the Trustees (who are also volunteers!!!) to the club committee and officers (more volunteers!!) to our staff, to junior parents to the new category of volunteer members and everyone who does things to keep the club going.

Membership numbers continue to increase. The figures quoted below relate to the year August 2016 to August 2017. Junior numbers remained fairly similar with 30 at the end of August. Some older, more experienced juniors trained with the senior squads but others departed for further education, so there were only 2 junior girls training with the seniors by the end of August. The junior squad has more girls (63%) than boys (37%). Junior rowers have continued to be very successful in competition and Claudia Turley represented England at the at the Home International Regatta.

The senior women are expanding as a squad. Numbering 25 in August 2016, it might appear that numbers have dropped to 17, but this can be explained by the establishment of a new and separate women’s masters squad, totalling 12 at the year-end date. The senior men have increased from 15 in 2016 to 22 at the year end. The men’s masters squad continues to be consistently strong numerically but dropped from 31 in 2016 down to 28 at the year end, thus no longer the largest squad. The masters women have already notched up a number of race wins in their first year and hope to gain more squad members from among the current Learn-to-Row and Community Rowing novices, as participants develop in ability and confidence.

Adult novice rowers who have learned to row on our summer courses or on the Wednesday morning “Community Rowing” session, are encouraged to race in the popular “Sunday Series” of short splash and dash races monthly through the summer and the “Great Tyne Row”. This year has seen two visually impaired rowers training and competing on the water: one completed the challenging Great Tyne Row in a stable quad.

All the squads have had good performances over the year as the Captains’ Report will testify and credit and thanks are due to all the very dedicated coaches, launch drivers, trailer drivers and the many volunteers who repair and maintain the boats and equipment and help run events, to keep us training and racing.

Pupils with learning difficulties from Longbenton School have been using the club as a secure environment to develop life skills to help them live independently. They have also been using indoor rowing machines and we hope some will be able to develop water skills in the coming year.

The growth in rowing and other healthy activity is very much to be welcomed as it is central to the club's charitable objects and we can point to evidence that the club is attracting more people from a wider range of age groups and abilities, many of whom are becoming more physically active and enjoying better health through sport. We should not forget the less tangible health benefits of the social side of the club to all its members and for some, the chance to use skills, do useful jobs, meet and talk to other people, feel a sense of involvement in water sports and re-connect with the local riverside.

The trustees are aware of Charity Commission requirements on public benefit and are pleased to be able to report that the club has made good progress during the 2016-17 year toward its charitable objects, other club targets and providing wider public benefits.

Our new partner charity for 2017 – 18 will be the local St Oswald's Hospice and they plan to host a range of fundraising events and activities at the club.

For more details on our achievements and performance over the last year, see our draft return to the Charities Commission (copy attached) which has to be submitted in its final form by the end of June next year.