

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

### **AGM 2017 - DRAFT**

Much has been achieved by the Management Committee during 2017. I am conscious that most of this work happens in the background without as much visibility as it sometimes deserves. This report serves to give members a flavour of what happens. I have omitted lots of day to day things, which take up a lot of time and it is therefore not meant to be exhaustive. Importantly it tries not to stray into rowing matters.

A variety of volunteers run events, cater, maintain things and repair things. They do a whole host of other things as well. These are people who work hard and receive no monetary reward. For this we are extremely grateful.

The club moved into its new premises well over a year ago. The size and complexity of the new club and boat houses provides a fantastic environment in which to row and socialise. It also comes with considerable challenges. As the club grows its size and range of activities then more resources are required to facilitate this. We were particularly pleased when Ant Musgrave agreed to become the club's Facilities Manager. Ant's appointment means that the club can be opened during the day to expand rowing and land based activities. We hope to increase both the intensity of use of existing activities (mainly rowing) as well as encouraging new activities. Also, having the club open for longer will increase the opportunities for new sources of income. These are clearly strategic developments which are yet to be thoroughly worked through, but having someone in place to help generate and facilitate puts the club in a good position to support future initiative, whatever they be.

The Facilities Manager is an important piece of the jigsaw, complementing the bar, which is brilliantly ran and provides a major source of income.

Having state of the art facilities has attracted new members. All squads have welcomed new rowers and those who have been tempted to return to rowing. Whilst it is sometimes misleading taking a year end snapshot of membership, the following gives a flavour of membership levels and growth. The Junior Squad has been particularly popular with 30 members at the year end, although this has recently surged to 50, a 66% increase on last year. Senior men have increased by 45%, Senior Women have maintained 2016 levels, but this has increased since Aug 2017. Men's Masters have shown a healthy increase whilst the Women's Masters have grown dramatically in its first real year of competition.

The facilities have also attracted volunteer members, who use the facilities extensively. An increased membership base, both in terms of rowing but across the local community, helps with our important charitable objectives.

Safeguarding has been a topical issue recently and for good reason. At TARC we take safeguarding seriously and during the year the club has held safeguarding training for over a dozen members – committee members, coaches, junior coaches etc. Our new clubhouse enabled us to host the session at the club and it was attended by several members from other clubs. The committee will regularly review safeguarding provision and will host more courses as and when needs require.

Rowing is an expensive sport. There is no getting away from this. Boats and ancillary equipment need to be maintained and replaced. Rowing on a large tidal river gives all of us at TARC a first class experience, unrivalled by the majority of the country. However, the downside (if I can call it that) is

that equipment depreciates more quickly than in other environments. In order to provide funds to keep the fleet in good order and to improve it over time, we need to invest.

We are pleased to report that Reece Group have renewed their sponsorship for another year. Reece Group have been a major partner for the club – helping with the original build as well as providing welcome funds for the purchase of equipment and their continued support is much appreciated. Fundraising is an important source of funds and there have been successes in this area. I would like to place on record thanks to all those that have donated funds to the club.

When the finances for the new clubhouse were put in place, there was need for a loan to complete the works. I am happy to report that we have made early repayment of a part of the loan. Importantly, we have put in place plans for further early repayments from business as usual activities. This helps put the club's finances on a sound footing with a credible plan for a loan-free club at some time in the future.

The clubhouse is nearing two years old. Buildings and equipment require care and maintenance. There are a whole host of things – fixtures & fittings, shutters, alarms, electrics. The list goes on. During the year we have carried out several improvements and more are planned (e.g. we recognise that, for those of us who use the erg room, that ventilation is an issue). In addition we have contracted Chubb to regularly review the alarms and shutters, as well as carrying out electrical and fire safety tests. All of this work enables members to use the club in a safe and secure environment.

In our first years of operation as a registered charity we have embedded a new governance structure with the club's Trustees taking a lead role in overall governance. I am pleased to report to members that all material decisions are given the appropriate level of scrutiny. The Committee are responsible for the day to day running of the club but it is important that this mechanism is in place and I would like to thank the Trustees (as a body) for their oversight and challenge.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who gives up their time to help – boats, events, running the club, kitchen, bar. This is not an exhaustive list. We all know who they are and we are all grateful.

Thanks

Phil Robinson

Chairman TARC