

Isle of Ely Rowing Club CIO

Trustees Report for January 1st to 31st December 2020

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Isle of Ely RC has had, in common with other similar organisations, a difficult 2020. The effect of the Covid-19 pandemic has severely restricted the ability of the organisation to undertake its principal activities. Nevertheless, the Trustees are satisfied that the club has achieved its mandate and objectives as far as it has been able, and has managed its finances with prudence and foresight.

The club has operated in accordance with the Covid-compliant policies of British Rowing, which has meant no on-water rowing for approximately half the year, and no regattas, learn-to-row courses or other organised events at all. In addition, our community outreach to Ely College had to be suspended from March onwards owing to the difficulties of maintaining secure bubbles. Unrelated to the pandemic we unfortunately also lost our GB World-Class Start group which relocated to Peterborough early in the year.

The membership of the club fell as a consequence of all this to around 130 yet maintained its community focus and diversity in age and gender. During the half of the year when rowing was possible, we were able to provide some coaching on the water to allow novices to progress. Throughout the year indoor rowing events using video conferencing became a focus, with group charitable events and some inspiring competitive success at national level. Club crews similarly organised remote training sessions to maintain fitness and motivation.

In financial terms the management committee has managed the club in line with the reduction in subscription and event revenue, resulting in a small deficit (£885) for the year which has been absorbed by the cash reserves (£77,103). The Trustees consider the policies adopted by the management committee and their execution to have been prudent and effective in steering the club through this difficult period.

While we all look forward to the exit from lockdown and the resumption of activities as usual, the Trustees maintain a cautious outlook for 2021 as the post-pandemic future becomes clear.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number. 117 4226

Principal Address: WA Cooke and Sons Ltd Site, Kiln Lane, Ely, Cambs. CB7 4TX

Trustees	Position	Elected
Teresa Aslett	Chair	AGM 28 th Sept 2020
Richard Maxey	Secretary	AGM 11 th May 2019
William Bertram	Ordinary Member	AGM 26 th May 2018
Cecilia Tredget	Ordinary Member	AGM 26 th May 2018
Nicholas Johnson	Ordinary Member	AGM 26 th May 2018

Independent Examiner of Accounts: Nick Pollington

Bankers: HSBC Account No: 14420810 Sort Code: 40-16-08

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisation

Isle of Ely Rowing Club CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered on 11 August 2017.

The Management Committee, reporting to the Board of Trustees, carries out day to day management.

Trustee vacancies are filled by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting; any vacancies not filled at the Annual General Meeting may be filled by the trustees acting in accordance with clause 13(5) of the Constitution.

When new trustees are appointed, they are given an introduction to the work of the charity and provided with the information they need to fulfil their roles.

Risk Management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The Trustees confirm that major risks have been reviewed and system and procedures have been established to manage those risks. The trustees are satisfied that the organisation has the resources to continue as a going concern.

Public benefit

The charity has due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Fundraising governance

The majority of our income is received from membership subscriptions. This is supplemented by income from events and project grants.

Our major annual fundraising events are the Great Ouse Marathon in September and the Ely Head Race in November. Neither event could be run in 2020 because of the Covid pandemic.

We did not employ any professional fundraising agents to work on our behalf in the period since our registration and received no complaints about any aspect of our fundraising activities.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The stated aim of the Isle of Ely Rowing Club CIO is the promotion of community participation in healthy recreation for the benefit of the inhabitants of Ely and surrounding areas, in particular by the provision of facilities for rowing.

Ely has a stretch of river ideal for the sport of rowing. For many years it was used only by a local private school and Cambridge University and there were no facilities for local residents. The club was founded on a volunteer-led basis to remedy this situation. With around 130 members of all ages and a comprehensive fleet of boats and qualified volunteer coaches it now provides a significant means of bringing the social and health benefits of the sport to the local community, at a cost considerably less than membership of a gym.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

The Club is an open volunteer led organisation which answers a previously unsatisfied local need and utilises a high-quality local amenity.

Age & Gender Distribution (at January 2021)

Age(yrs)	11-<20	21-<30	31-<40	41-<50	51-<60	61-<70	71-<80	Total
Members Total	31	15	14	21	27	13	7	128
By Gender F	23	11	10	14	13	6	1	78
By Gender M	8	4	4	7	14	7	6	50

As may be seen from the above table, there is a wide age range and a balanced gender

representation. It is also important to point out that physical and mental conditions are not a barrier to membership and a number of members face challenges of these types.

The club has a very active junior section which draws members from a variety of local schools. Between lockdowns the regular Sunday morning sessions for juniors were able to resume and many have made really good progress in skill, technique and endurance. One of our junior girls won a silver and a bronze medal at the national Indoor Rowing Championships (BRIC), which were held virtually this year.

Our seniors were able to row between lockdowns too, and many who had only rowed in crew boats gained the confidence to scull in fine single boats for the first time, with the help of some expert coaching.

Our women's crews in particular continued to train together via Zoom and we made efforts in other ways to keep the social side of the rowing club going. Our Saturday morning breakfast meeting continued remotely; and at Easter 2020 about 30 members rowed a marathon on rowing machines, or ran or cycled the equivalent, and we raised over £6000 for Addenbrookes Hospital Trust.

One of our senior women won two gold medals in the BRIC mentioned above, and was consequently selected to represent us in an International indoor rowing championship in February 2021.

No competitive rowing events were held on water after February/March 2020.

Learn-to-Row courses have been an important part of our aspiration to build the profile of the club as an accessible community sports club, and to increase our membership. We were unable to stage any of these courses in 2020 because of the pandemic but hope to resume them in April or May 2021.

The Ely College Rowing Project had to be put on hold from March 2020 because of the pandemic. Extra-curricular sport was not permitted for much of this period and the arrangements for the year group bubbles conflicted with the model we had adopted of a mixed-age group of 15 students. Also many of our volunteer coaches were retired and thus in vulnerable age groups. As soon as we can, we hope to resume the scheme. It is likely that the sessions from easter 2021 onwards will be after school and we hope that we shall be able to include students from Witchford Village College as well as the Ely College participants.

British Rowing 'Start' Group

The Club hosted a British Rowing 'World Class Start' group. 'Start' athletes are chosen for their potential to represent the country internationally. In the early part of 2020 the Ely/Cambridge World Class start group moved to Peterborough, so we have lost a number of members and also the inspiring example of some fine and dedicated scullers.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The 12 months covered by this report were severely impacted by the Covid pandemic.

Membership subscriptions are the main source of income for the club, and are generally collected on a monthly basis. During the first Covid lockdown, the club could not operate, or could only operate on a very restricted basis for five months. The club decided to suspend subscriptions for this period, or until members were able to use the club again. However, members were invited to make voluntary donations in lieu of subs until they were able to resume rowing. The club much appreciates the financial support from members who were able to contribute in this way.

Member Services were also affected by Covid in two main areas.

All “Learn to Row” courses had to be cancelled. This resulted in loss of income from course fees. It also meant that a significant channel for recruitment of new members dried up. This affected total membership, and consequently income from membership subscriptions later in the year.

Member Services also covers rechargeable items – most noticeably race fees. Race entries have to be made through the club. The club pays the entry fees, and then recharges the competitors. All racing was cancelled on a national basis from March. This has a noticeable impact on the accounts as rechargeable payments and rechargeable receipts are recorded separately, and were both down significantly. However, as these payments and receipts net off, the equal reduction in both meant this had no effect on the club’s finances.

Club Operations represent the running costs of the club. Many of these costs are fixed, but savings were made where possible; and in particular maintenance costs and cost of fuel for coaching launches were significantly down on previous years because of reduced rowing activity.

Mention was made in last year’s Financial Review that the club’s landlord had decided to sell the site we currently operate from; and that the club was considering its options for future operations. In order to give time for this appraisal, the club entered into a 12-month lease with the new landowners. This does however involve a new rent payment which the club has had to absorb within its operating costs.

Fundraising normally include two open races which the club runs – The Great Ouse Marathon and Ely Head Race. Surpluses from these contribute significantly to the club’s fundraising. Both these races had to be cancelled this year.

Notwithstanding these difficulties, members have continued to support the club well, and a surplus of £5,492 was achieved from operational activity (subscriptions, member services and club operations); and fundraising activities generated a surplus of £3,543; giving a total of £9,035 funds generated. Although this surplus is down on previous years, the club is satisfied with the performance in the prevailing circumstances.

During the year, the club was able to continue to invest in its future. Prior to Covid, a new cox box was purchased, and the power supply to the site was renewed. Once we were aware of Covid restrictions, and the possible effect on income, further investments were carefully targeted. As the first lockdown was wound down, rowing was again permitted, but mainly

restricted to single sculls, which created an increased demand for this class of boat. We were able to buy a new single scull for juniors, funded mainly by a grant from the Rowing Foundation and a donation from Ely College. We also had two single sculls and one double scull donated by former members who were retiring from rowing. One of these required some work to bring into commission. In accordance with our policy this cost is included as an investment. The other donated boats incurred no cost, so don't appear in the accounts. These donations significantly increased our ability to offer "Covid secure" rowing – including the double scull which has been used extensively by "family bubble" crews!

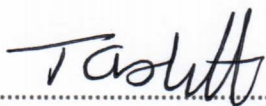
We also took the opportunity to refurbish the lightweight 8 whilst it was laid up because of Covid restrictions.

Total investments in the club for the year amounted to £9,920; the £885 shortfall from the surplus generated during the year was taken from the accumulated funds in the bank account.

Stocks – the accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis, so no adjustments are made for stock carried over. However, any significant purchase of stocks in one year for use in a future year can affect year-on-year comparison of the club's financial performance. In the current year, £1,575 was spent on stock for the Ely Head Race, prior to having to cancel this. This stock will be carried over to the next running of the race. This expenditure this year had the effect of reducing the reported fundraising surplus in the year under review, but will boost the surplus in the year when the race is next run.

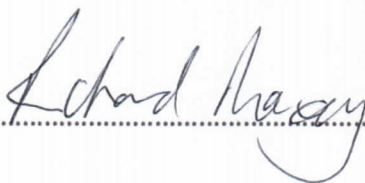
As we start 2021, Covid is still with us, and as mentioned above, the club is actively considering its options for a site to operate from. The Trustees consider it is appropriate to maintain strong cash reserves and a cautious budget for the coming year.

Teresa Aslett
Chairman



Date 24/06/2021

Richard Maxey
Trustee



Date 24/06/2021

Independent Examiner's Report on the accounts of Isle of Ely Rowing Club

For the year ended 31 December 2020

Set out on the following pages numbered 9 to 11

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (The Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the club and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

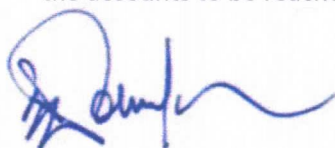
Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act , and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Nick Pollington

Dated: 24 June 2021

Isle of Ely Rowing Club - Charity No 1174226
Accounts - 1 January to 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year
A1 Receipts				
Subscriptions	£17,086	£0	£17,086	£22,352
Member services	£4,586	£0	£4,586	£16,460
Club operations	£718	£0	£718	£2,896
Fundraising	£3,000	£2,118	£5,118	£17,249
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>£25,390</u>	<u>£2,118</u>	<u>£27,508</u>	<u>£58,957</u>
A2 Asset and investment sales	£0	£0	£0	£0
<i>Total receipts</i>	<u>£25,390</u>	<u>£2,118</u>	<u>£27,508</u>	<u>£58,957</u>
A3 Payments				
Subscriptions	£0	£0	£0	£47
Member services	£3,723	£0	£3,723	£8,837
Club operations	£12,477	£698	£13,175	£13,973
Fundraising	£1,575	£0	£1,575	£7,662
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>£17,775</u>	<u>£698</u>	<u>£18,473</u>	<u>£30,519</u>
A4 Asset and investment purchases	£6,874	£3,046	£9,920	£14,655
<i>Total payments</i>	<u>£24,649</u>	<u>£3,744</u>	<u>£28,393</u>	<u>£45,174</u>
<i>Net of payments / receipts</i>	£741	-£1,626	-£885	£13,783
A5 Transfers between funds	-£1,626	£1,626	£0	£0
A6 Cash funds last year end	£77,988	£0	£77,988	£64,205
<i>Cash funds at this year end</i>	<u>£77,103</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£77,103</u>	<u>£77,988</u>

Richard Maxey
RICHARD MAXEY 24/6/21

Teresa Aslett
TERESA ASLETT 24.6.21

Isle of Ely Rowing Club (registered charity No 1174226)
Notes to accounts 01 January to 31 December 2020

1. Accounting period

These accounts cover the 12 months from 1 January to 31 December 2020.

This accounting period included 9 months of the Covid pandemic, which significantly restricted the club's operations. The prior year comparative figures presented with the accounts should be read in the context of the reduced club activity reflected in the current period's figures.

2. Accounting policies

The Trustees have approved two formal accounting policies:

1. Accounts to be prepared on a receipts and payments basis.
2. Assets are defined as boats and blades; and other equipment costing £500 or more.

The accounts are analysed under the following headings:

<u>Subscriptions</u>	membership subscriptions and any associated refunds paid by or to members of the club. For five months of this year, whilst the club could not operate, or could only operate on a very restricted basis because of the Covid pandemic, subscriptions were suspended. However, members were invited to make voluntary donations in lieu of subs until they were able to row again. For 2020, these donations are included with subscriptions.
<u>Member services</u>	income and costs relating to services provided to members at an additional cost.
<u>Club operations</u>	revenue costs and any associated income or refunds relating to running the club, including subscriptions the club pays to various rowing organisations.
<u>Fundraising</u>	income and costs relating to other sources of funds, including grants and donations (excluding donations from members in lieu of subs), specific fundraising activities, and organising rowing races open to other clubs.

3. Restricted funds

Restricted funds received and utilised during the period:

- i. purchase of a single scull for junior rowers

The Rowing Foundation provided a grant towards the cost of a light weight single scull and blades for junior rowers. The balance of the cost was transferred from club funds, mainly from an unrestricted donation from Ely College.

Rhaxxy
RICHARD MAXON 24/06/21

T Aslett
TERESA ASLETT 24.6.21

ii. Insurance of Charles Stanley Boats

Charles Stanley & Co donated a fleet of boats and equipment to British Rowing to be used for recreational rowing across the Eastern Region. Isle of Ely Rowing Club manages half of this fleet on behalf of British Rowing, with costs to be recovered from other clubs who use it.

Because of the Covid pandemic, the boats could not be used, but they still needed to be insured on a laid-up basis. As the club was unable to recover this cost in the normal way, British Rowing made a restricted grant to cover the cost of insurance.

The income and payments relating to these activities are recorded in the accounts as follows:

	Restricted income		Restricted payments		
	Fundraising	transfer from club funds	club operations	asset purchases	year-end balance
Purchase of scull	£1,420	£1,626		-£3,046	£0
Insurance	£698		-£698		£0
total	£2,118	£1,626	-£698	-£3046	£0

Richard Maxey
24/06/21

Teresa Aslett
24.6.21