

ISLE OF ELY ROWING CLUB CIO

Registered Charity number: 1174226

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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Isle of Ely Rowing Club CIO

Trustees Report for January 1st to 31st December 2021

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After a difficult 2020 due to Covid-19 Isle of Ely RC saw an increased demand from the local community in 2021 to get out and enjoy their river, take up a new sport and meet like-minded people. We had seen a drop in membership numbers in 2020 but our coaches worked hard to give as many members as much time as possible out on the water and feel involved with the club whilst working within the ever moving Covid restrictions. Our management committee adjusted well throughout the whole period and never shied away from the challenges posed in keeping our club a safe place to be whilst ensuring that all restrictions and guidance was followed. The Trustees are satisfied that the club achieved its mandate and objectives and managed its finances and other resources with prudence and foresight.

The club has had a healthy year, and grown its membership from 128 to 178, a 39% increase, broadly evenly between the sexes and between seniors and juniors. Our cash at bank has increased from approximately £77,000 (Dec 2020) to £97,000 (Dec 2021). This increase comes from the increased membership subscription income and a conscious reduction in expenses carrying forward from 2020. We expect this balance to decrease during 2022 as we emerge fully from covid and instigate some overdue refurbishments of our site and fleet.

The club began a process to upgrade its website and member communications in the fourth quarter of 2021, which concluded in April 2022. We will report more fully on it in next year's report.

Buoyed by the resurgence of 2021, the club enters 2022 with a great sense of optimism to continue the growth and progress of our mission.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number. 117 4226

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

Trustees	Elected
Teresa Aslett	AGM 28 th Sept 2020
Richard Maxey	AGM 11 th May 2019
William Bertram	AGM 26 th May 2018
Nicholas Johnson	AGM 26 th May 2018
Susan King	AGM 21 st Aug 2021
Jill McCulloch	AGM 21 st Aug 2021
Kasia Brzoska	14 th Oct Aug 2021

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. Once again, neither event could be run in 2021 because restrictions in place due to the Covid pandemic.

We did not employ any professional fundraising agents to work on our behalf in the period 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 180 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.

We have 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 taking part in rowing; our club has in the past worked with both adults and juniors with such conditions to enable them to enjoy this pastime.

The club has a very active junior section which draws members from a variety of local schools. Our regular Sunday morning sessions for juniors resumed as soon as restrictions allowed and are well attending catering for juniors who wish to row for their general fitness and wellbeing, learning new skills and developing important social skills through to the juniors who wish to compete in competitive races.

Our senior section of the club has grown from strength to strength this year. We now have a variety of squads (women's sculling, women's sweep, men's sweep and our newest addition – men's sculling) all these groups benefit from the coaching group who give up their time willingly to help our members develop their skills and technique.

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 are pleased to be able to report that these courses resumed once restrictions were lifted and we welcomed around 80 adult beginners onto the course – many of whom remained club members and are still enjoying getting out on the water.

The Ely College Rowing Project resumed after the last lockdown with about 100 students registering an interest in short taster courses. This large group produced 32 members of our current long-term cohort which began regular weekly sessions before school from November 2021. About ten of these have since joined the Sunday juniors group as well. As noted below the College had considerable financial support for the scheme from Gemini, the sponsors of the University Boat Races.

COACHES' DEVELOPMENT

A number of our club members who have helped regularly at the coached sessions have gone on to undertake a Level 2 Sports Coaching qualification – these courses are run by British Rowing. In addition, some have also completed their RYA Level 2 Powerboat Handling course which is a requirement to drive our coaching launches. This is a great demonstration of our club members' development in rowing but also their commitment to enabling the club to continue in its aim to bring rowing to the local community.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH & BALANCE

By way of evidence of the club's recovery post Covid, the table summarises the growth in membership during calendar 2021

Members	end 2020 ¹	end 2021 ¹	Growth
Total	128	178	50 (39%)
M	50	71	21 (42%)
F	78	107	29 (37%)

WEBSITE & MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

In the fourth quarter of 2021, the management group began a study to upgrade our website. The principal objectives were to improve its utility as a tool for member communications, and to make it easier and quicker to maintain using the club's wide talent pool rather than a single highly-skilled individual. We instigated a competitive bidding process which concluded in

¹ These numbers are taken from the Jan 2021 and Jan 2022 management reports respectively, as the closest available to the year-end in question.

February 2022 and we will report more fully on it in the 2022 report. No expenses were incurred on this item during 2021.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Because of the uncertainty about covid at the start of the year, we took a very cautious approach to spending and investment. However, and notwithstanding the covid pandemic continuing throughout the year, the club was able to operate an almost full programme of activities, thanks to careful management and planning; and the support and enthusiasm of all members.

As a result (rounded to £100), a surplus of £14,900 was achieved from operational activity (subscriptions, member services and club operations). Fundraising activities and one small asset sale generated a surplus of £10,000; giving a total of £24,900 funds generated. £5,400 was invested in the club, and £19,500 carried to reserves.

Membership subscriptions are the main source of income for the club. Despite the second year of covid pandemic, this income source has stood up well. Maintaining an almost full programme of activity avoided the need to suspend subs as had happened during lockdowns the previous year. We also benefited from the covid effect which forced the Oxford vs Cambridge Boat Race off the Thames, and onto the more socially distanced river at Ely. This, together with very positive TV coverage of the club at the time of the race created an increased interest in rowing in the area; and combined with a general desire of people to become involved in outdoor activity, has resulted in a significant increase in membership and new subscriptions.

We were also able to restart the schools rowing programme with Ely College. We were grateful to British Rowing for a grant to assist this restart. We were also able to assist Ely College in obtaining a grant from Gemini, who are the main sponsor of the Boat Race. The Gemini grant has enabled the College to secure and expand the programme by doubling the number of pupils participating, which increased the corporate membership subscription for this group.

Member services income was boosted by being able to restart Learn-to-Row courses to cater for the significant demand referred to above.

Club Operations represent the running costs of the club. These were managed prudently and came in within the budgets set at the start of the year.

As mentioned above, both the Great Ouse Marathon & Ely Head Race had to be cancelled for a second year. We are therefore grateful for a grant from the Cambridge Rowing Association (CRA) to cover this year's lost income.

We are also grateful for grants from Ely Community Unit Trust and the City of Ely Council referred to elsewhere in this review; and to donations totalling nearly £1,500 from a number of private individuals and members.

During the year, we sold a set of 8 oars surplus to our requirements, but beneficial to a new start-up club.

Because of the very cautious approach to discretionary investment in the club; we only refurbished one boat this year. We did however receive a number of donations in kind, including a second hand portacabin and three second hand boats. All of these met identified needs. The club was able to commit investment to refurbish the portacabin and convert it into changing rooms, and we are grateful for the grant from the City of Ely Council towards installing a toilet in it. We were also pleased to receive funding to pay for a defibrillator from the Ely Community Unit Trust; and a flag and flagpole from a private donation, which arrived in time to fly for the Boat Race activity.

The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis, so no adjustments are made for stock carried over, debtors, prepayments etc. However, any significant items of this sort can affect year-on-year comparison of the club's financial performance. In the current year, we have received prepayments of £2,125 for 2022 subs which has the effect of increasing the reported income in the year under review, but will reduce the reported income in 2022. As noted in the Financial Review last year, the club is carrying stocks of £1,575 purchased for the 2020 Ely Head Race, which had to be cancelled. The race had to be cancelled again this year so the stock is being carried forward again until the next running of the race. This has no effect on the current year, but will boost the surplus in the year when the race is next run.

Teresa Aslett
Trustee

T Aslett

Date 9.6.22

Richard Maxey
Chairman/Trustee

Richard Maxey

Date 9/06/2022

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

For the year ended 31 December 2021

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.

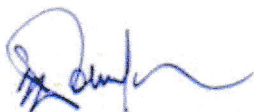
Basis of independent examiner's statement

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: 9 June 2022

Isle of Ely Rowing Club - Charity No 1174226
Accounts - 1 January to 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year
A1 Receipts				
Subscriptions	£26,610	£0	£26,610	£17,086
Member services	£7,836	£0	£7,836	£4,586
Club operations	£1,217	£0	£1,217	£718
Fundraising	£8,232	£3,664	£11,896	£5,118
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>£43,895</u>	<u>£3,664</u>	<u>£47,559</u>	<u>£27,508</u>
A2 Asset and investment sales	£200	£0	£200	£0
<i>Total receipts</i>	<u>£44,095</u>	<u>£3,664</u>	<u>£47,759</u>	<u>£27,508</u>
A3 Payments				
Subscriptions	£16	£0	£16	£0
Member services	£1,731	£0	£1,731	£3,723
Club operations	£17,979	£1,000	£18,979	£13,175
Fundraising	£2,120	£0	£2,120	£1,575
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>£21,846</u>	<u>£1,000</u>	<u>£22,846</u>	<u>£18,473</u>
A4 Asset and investment purchases	£3,713	£1,664	£5,377	£9,920
<i>Total payments</i>	<u>£25,559</u>	<u>£2,664</u>	<u>£28,223</u>	<u>£28,393</u>
<i>Net of payments / receipts</i>	£18,536	£1,000	£19,536	(£885)
A5 Transfers between funds	£0	£0	£0	£0
A6 Cash funds last year end	£77,103	£0	£77,103	£77,988
<i>Cash funds at this year end</i>	<u>£95,639</u>	<u>£1,000</u>	<u>£96,639</u>	<u>£77,103</u>

Approved by the trustees on

15th JULY 2022

And signed on their behalf by:

Richard Harvey
 T Aslett

Isle of Ely Rowing Club (registered charity No 1174226)
Notes to accounts 01 January to 31 December 2021

1. Accounting period

These accounts cover the 12 months from 1 January to 31 December 2021.

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.
<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, specific fundraising activities, and organising rowing races open to other clubs.

3. Restricted funds

Sources and movements on restricted funds during the period:

i. Schools rowing

British Rowing provided a grant towards the cost of a re-starting rowing sessions with City of Ely College after a long layoff due to covid. This was put towards coaching costs and a member of the College staff taking a rowing coach qualification during the year.

ii. Defibrillator

Ely Community Unit Trust paid for a defibrillator which was bought and installed at the club during the year.

iii. Toilet

During the year, the club acquired a second hand portacabin. Work is ongoing to convert this into changing rooms. City of Ely Council made a grant towards the installation of a toilet, which will be carried out in the new year.

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

	Restricted income	Restricted payments		year-end balance
	Fundraising	club operations	asset purchases	
Schools rowing	£1,000	£1,000		£0
Defibrillator	£1,664		£1,664	£0
Toilet	£1,000			£1,000
Total	£3,664	£1,000	£1,664	£1,000

4. Prior year comparatives

This financial year was the second year of the Covid pandemic. Last year, the club was significantly affected, and this was reflected in the club's accounts. With careful planning and management, a much fuller programme of activities was possible this year.

The prior year comparative figures presented with these accounts should be read in the context of the different levels of activity which have been possible.