



NGRC, The Sidings, Railway Approach, Newhaven, BN9 0DF
Email admin@ngrc.co.uk

Trustees' Annual Report

April 2024 March 2025



NGRC's wooden gig Amelie, alongside her GRP sisters Aurora and John Carthew

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Annual Report April 2024 – March 2025

Introduction

Welcome to NGRC's report for Lewes District Council covering April 2024 to March 2025. This report summarises its membership breakdown, activities delivered since April 2024, governance & financial arrangements, and planned activities for 2025/26.

With the purchase of a wooden pilot gig, *Henry Sardon*, and the use of our Glass Reinforced Plastic gigs *Aurora* and *John Carthew* the club has been busy participating in racing competitions, maintaining social and technique rows throughout 2025, as well as intensive training for the 2025/26 racing season.

Allan Brown, Committee Chair, December 2025

Membership Numbers & Demographics

There has been a 10% increase in membership to 75 (31st March 2025) from 67 (1st March 2024), of which:

- Men 31 – 41%
- Women 44 – 59%

The table below gives further breakdown of membership by age/race category, gender and Race/Ethnic origin. Data for Race/Ethnic origin has been sourced from a redesigned membership renewal questionnaire introduced during 2024/25.

Age/Racing Category	Male	Female	Race/Ethnic Origin - All 'White British' except:
16-39 - Open	0	1 (1.3%)	
40-49 - Veteran	4 (5%)	2 (3%)	
50-59 - Supervet	9 (12%)	19 (25%)	x1 White Any Other, x1 White Irish
60+ - Master	16 (21%)	20 (27%)	x1 Mixed Any Other Mixed Black, x1 Mixed White & Black Caribbean, x1 White Any Other, x2 White Irish
Age Not Declared	2 (3%)	2 (3%)	
Total	31 (41%)	44 (59%)	



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The breakdown of membership on March 1st 2024 was as follows:

- Total full active members on 1/3/24: 67 - 43 female (64%) 24 male (36%)
- 'Veterans' Aged ages 40-50 - female 7, male 3 (15% share of 67 total)
- 'Super vets' 50-70 - female 35, male 10 (67%)
- 'Masters' 70+ - female 4, male 8 (18%).

Classes & Activities Delivered

Types of Row 'classes'

- **'Taster'** rows – delivered by qualified coaches, for people wanting to see what gig rowing is like before they commit to signing up for a learn to row course.
- **Learn to row** course - It can take 6-10 weeks (at one hour a week) to pass as a competent rower. The capacity is four learner rowers during a row session, **accompanied by two competent rowers and a cox.**
- **Technique rows - for newly trained rowers** and other competent rowers to hone their skills.
- **Social** rows – for the casual rower, wishing to be active with like-minded rowers and without the pressure to compete or undertake challenging physical exercise. These are scheduled for one-hour slots during the week.
- **Adventure/Commemorative Rows** - These include special occasions often involving a small flotilla of gig rowing boats, such as bank holiday pic-nic rows, summer Solstice sunrise and sunset rows, Remembrance Sunday row.
- **Race Training** rows – for members who are committed to compete and be selected for participating at racing regattas. Includes sessions at a local gym and use of indoor ('ERGO') rowing machines at the clubhouse.
- **Cox's Training** Courses - under the guidance of a qualified coach, encompasses classroom learning and coached/observed practical learning at the marina and in the boats.

Racing Events/ Regattas

Aside from the local row activities, the Club raced at:

- Appledore Supervets, June 2024
- Seaford Bay Regatta, June 2024
- Langstone Regatta, July 2024
- Race to the Lighthouse, Fridays in June & July 2024
- Dragon Boat Racing, Bewl Water, August 2024
- Head of the Ouse, September 2024
- 5 Islands, Poole Harbour, October 2024



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Aurora, Seaford Bay, June 2024

Social/ Fundraising Events

- Denton Community Challenge, June 2024
- Seaford Bay Regatta, Refreshments tent, June 2024
- Head of the Ouse, Refreshments tent, September 2024
- Cleaning boats requests are timetabled giving members an opportunity to participate in maintaining the club's Boats.

Wooden Boat Purchase

The Club purchased of the wooden Gig *Henry Smardon* from Brixham Gig Rowing club in June 2024. Considered more suitable for racing, she has replaced our older and heavier wooden boat *Amelie*, who is currently in dry storage and up for sale.

Henry Smardon's first competitive outing was to the Langston Regatta, Hayling Island in July. Following a poll with members, a decision was made to rename her as *Martlet* (the heraldic mythical bird depicted on East Sussex flags). The plan is to formally rename her when he is out of the water during 2025/26.



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NGRC's latest acquisition wooden gig Henry Sardon, Langstone Regatta, July 2024

Community Engagement Update

NGRC promotes its activities, primarily through its website, public facebook pages and informal contacts. Other than 'being seen' with its gig boats out on the water, whether that's at race regattas, social rows or special events such as Remembrance Sunday, the club engages with the community at local social and fundraising events (eg; Denton Community Challenge). Rather than having its own bar and café, NGRC is a regular user of local businesses, including catering establishments, local gym, and chandlery.

NGRC proactively engages with other local rowing clubs (Affinity Rowing Club, Lewes Gig Rowing Club, Lewes Rowing Club), sharing a floating pontoon with the latter at the Marina with the former two clubs. NGRC jointly organised both the Seaford Bay Regatta held in June 2024 and the Head of the Ouse Regatta in September,



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pooling organisational, safety, coxing, fundraising skills and boat & berthing resources for participation by clubs along the South Coast, Essex and London.

Welcome additions of collaborating with the other Gig rowing clubs during 2024 were:

- Race to the Lighthouse – every Friday (weather permitting throughout June & July) with mixed crews and coxs randomly chosen from each club
- Establishment of a Sussex Gig Rowing squad. Selected and trained by coxs from each club, these combined club men and women crews were trained to compete effectively against the well-established clubs from the south-west. The first event scheduled for the Sussex squad was at the National Counties Championship, Swanage in October. Unfortunately, this national event was cancelled due to poor weather conditions.

NGRC is also collaborating with these clubs to seek opportunities arising from local marina, quayside and beach developments.

NGRC is a member of the Cornish Pilot Gig Association (CPG), and one of our cox/coaches is a regional rep on British Rowing. These national organisations are key to promoting rowing (Gig rowing specifically with the CPGA). This has enabled NGRC to participate and promote itself (and Newhaven!) at racing regattas nationwide, and benefit from latest good practice for training technique, and health & safety guidance.

Looking Forward to 2025/26

Increasing Cox capacity

As at March 2025, there were 6 active coxes with a 7th in training; expecting to qualify late Spring/ early Summer 2025. With increased cox capacity, there is better opportunity to provide more rowing sessions that meet the needs of a growing membership.

Racing Events/ Regattas

Committed to attend:

- World Gig Championships, May 2025
- Supervets Championship, Swanage, June 2025
- Seaford Bay Regatta, July 2025 (*canx'd twice due to high winds*)
- 5 Islands Race, Poole Harbour, August 2025
- Race to the Lighthouse, Seaford Bay, Friday evenings, Summer 2025
- Head of the Ouse, September 2025
- Three Harbours Winter Regatta, Hayling Island, January 2026

Adventure/ Commemorative Rows

- 'Wave off' in Seaford Bay of 'Pegasus' canoeist for round the UK trip in aid of veteran Paras with other local Gig Rowing Clubs, May 2025
- Brighton Beach Gig Raiding Party, via Saltdean & Rottingdean, May 2025
- Remembrance Sunday, November 2025



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APPENDIX 1

Governance structures of the organisation, and any ongoing organisational change

NGRC is a charity, which is governed by a Trustees Chair and their Trustees.

The main aim of the club is getting people out rowing.

To do this, and delegated by the Club's Trustees, a Committee oversees the delivery of the Club's aims & objectives, and supporting activities of the club.

There are various objectives/ roles that the Committee, undertakes to support this aim, including (in alphabetical order):

Boats & Equipment maintenance (Bosun) – ensuring that the club's boats and equipment are available according to the needs of the club, and stored and maintained to a safe standard.

Cox Liaison (Volunteer coach/cox) – providing a two-way channel between the Committee and Coxes & Coaches meeting, and jointly plan the availability of different types of row in order to meet demand.

Finance (Finance Officer) – ensuring that the club is financially viable where its income covers expenses for running expenses and identified developments. This includes; securing grants, fundraising activities and managing income from membership and row fees. Also ensuring that the club undertakes its obligation of submitting signed annual accounts.

Governance (Chair) – in support of delivering the club's aims and objectives, ensuring that policies, guidance, and processes are in place and reviewed according to latest best practice and legal requirements.

Health & Safety (H&S Officer) – ensuring that members are safe and secure whilst rowing, but also when getting in and out of boats, and helping with the maintenance of boats. A Risk log is maintained to identify and mitigate any identified risks and issues, along with an accident book to record any incident and follow up action.

Membership (Membership Officer) – overseeing membership enquiries, new membership applications, and administering current membership.

Publicity (Publicity Officer) – promoting the club and its activities to its members, the public, and key stakeholders through social media, including the NGRC website and at participation at events and activities.

Racing (Race/Regatta Secretary) – oversight, organisation, participation in racing events.

Safeguarding & Welfare (Safeguarding & Welfare Officer) - ensuring that the health, well-being, and human rights of our members are upheld whilst participating in club activities. The club's code of conduct outlines good practice behaviours in support of its commitment to safeguarding with concerns being addressed through the club's complaints policy.

Social (Shared between Committee members) – organisation and coordination of events, other than rowing that support the emotional health of the club and fundraising activities.



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Strategy (Chair) – through the delivery of a business plan, oversee the future development of the club and address future challenges and opportunities.

Prior to each Annual General Meeting, expressions of interest are requested from all members to undertake committee roles. Existing Committee members are confirmed within their assigned roles, but if there is more than one expression of interest, the successful candidate is the one with the majority of votes made by members at the meeting.

Although there has been no significant organisational change, vacancies for roles do arise during the year, and expressions of interest are sought from members, with appointments made by the Committee on an interim basis until confirmed at the subsequent AGM.

APPENDIX 2

A) Financial overview

A key objective of the club is to ensure that it is financially viable where its income covers expenses for running expenses and identified developments.

Being a registered charity, annual accounts are prepared, signed off by its Trustees and submitted to the Charity Commission.

Income and expenditure is administered through a business account with Barclays, which is also linked to a club Paypal account that receives income from row bookings.

In the current year the charity has prepared its accounts on a receipts and payments basis, in accordance with Charity Commission guidance for charities with income under £250,000. The prior year accounts were prepared on an accruals basis. The change has been made to simplify reporting and better reflect the charity's size and activities.

In recognition of its membership demographic, membership fees (£75yr) and booked rows (£4 a row) are kept to a minimum. Administered by the Trustees, a bursary is also advertised to members needing additional subsidy to row.

Other than membership and row income, income is secured through applying for grants and undertaking fundraising activities. The club is very grateful for Lewes District Council grant which was instrumental in being used to purchase the wooden boat, *Henry Smardon*.



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B) Financial issues/ risk

Any issues/ risk are mitigated by good financial management within its governance structure and related financial activities. To date there have been no financial issues/ risk impacting on the club during 2024/25. Income has matched expenditure.

A large proportion of the Club's income is sourced by grant funding of which Lewes District Council is a significant contributor. The club has been awarded a grant (three-year duration) from LDC from 2025/26.

There is also unknown variable income (eg; from rows cancelled by the unseasonal adverse weather) and variable cost (eg; inflationary cost of consumables, and repairs). Pro-active fundraising and membership has to date mitigated against this risk.



Henry Smardon, 5 Islands, Poole Harbour October 2024

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
NEWHAVEN GIG ROWING CLUB (SUSSEX)

On accounts for the year
ended

31 MARCH 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1177297

Set out on pages

1-2 ACCOUNTS , 1-9 TRUSTEES REPORT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above
charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD/MM/YYYY.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation
of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act
2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out
under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I
have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission
under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have
come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with
the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material
respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of
the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection
with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a
proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

29/01/26

Name:

ROBERT ALLEN

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

IPCC

Address:

21 LAKFIELD WAY

BRIGHTON

EAST SUSSEX BN1 9EL



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Newhaven Glig Rowing Club (Sussex)

1177297

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

01/04/2024

To

31/03/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
0					
Donations and legacies	1,377	10,000	-	11,377	13,260
Charitable activities - memberships, rowing, events	16,987	-	-	16,987	14,010
Other trading activities: Kit sales, Lottery Commission payments, Fundraising	1,695	-	-	1,695	1,447
Rental income	1,325	-	-	1,325	1,375
Bank interest	400	-	-	400	-
Miscellaneous	787	-	-	787	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	22,571	10,000	-	32,571	30,092
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	22,571	10,000	-	32,571	30,092
A3 Payments					
Raising funds	2,390	-	-	2,390	11,176
Charitable activities	8,243	-	-	8,243	12,570
Other	131	-	-	131	2,488
Boat purchase: Henry smardon	-	13,800	-	13,800	-
Mobile Phone	150	-	-	150	-
Rent	7,851	-	-	7,851	-
Professional services insurance / accountancy	5,793	-	-	5,793	-
Loan repayments	1,486	-	-	1,486	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	26,044	13,800	-	39,844	26,234
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	26,044	13,800	-	39,844	26,234
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 3,473	- 3,800	-	- 7,273	3,858
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	14,957	18,822	-	33,779	-
Cash funds this year end	11,484	15,022	-	26,506	3,858

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank	11,484	15,022	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	11,484	15,022	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK

OK

OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

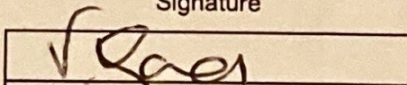
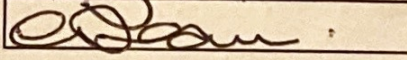
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
2x GRP Gigs: Aurora, John Carthew	Restricted	-	20,000
Wooden Gig, Amelie	Restricted	-	3,000
Wooden Gig, Henry Smardon	Restricted	-	9,000
Balance of Kit order in stock (at cost price)	Unrestricted	-	700
Oars: Junior, Racing,	Restricted	-	4,559
Tetradock	Restricted	-	1,368
Ergs x3	Unrestricted	-	873
Dollies	Unrestricted	-	666
Lifejackets	Unrestricted	-	765
Trailers x2	Restricted	-	5,850
Misc: Chandlery, pins, cox bags, radios, seats, boat covers	Unrestricted	-	3,750

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
12 months rental of clubhouse	Unrestricted	-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	V Bowes	30/11/26
	C. Deane	30/11/26