



Ebchester Boat Club

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Charity Number 1187183

Trustees' Annual Report

November 2021 - October 2022



The Genesis of Ebchester Boat Club

The first boat was kept at Ebchester, under some trees, in 1872. By 1876 others began to take up the sport and soon the Ebchester Amateur Rowing Club was formed under the presidency of Mr. Bullerwell, a school master from nearby Hamsterley Colliery. A boathouse was quickly built and the winner of the first proper handicap, in 1878, was Mr. William Hardy of Whickham.

By 1899 a newer boathouse was opened by Mr. Joseph Brown, a village tradesman.

The Great War interrupted activities, with no less than 59 members serving '*King and Country*'. The 1916 and 1917 accounts show sizeable donations to the '*Ebchester Knitting Party*' who provided clothing for the armed forces. Following the war the club continued to thrive, with several regattas being held each summer, and in 1922 a new pleasure boat was brought into operation

The Second World War drastically reduced the number of events at Ebchester Rowing Club. Many men of the East Lancashire Regiment were stationed in the Consett area and the Regiment hired Club boats when practising the erection of pontoons on the river at Ebchester.

The first season after the 1939-45 war was probably the most hectic in the club's history. Five regattas were held and many new younger members joined the club. At least four regattas were held in each of the following years. Entries for the 1957 regatta were, according to the local paper, the best ever - scullers from Durham, Chester-le-Street, Tynemouth and Hexham all took part. However, the all-wooden boathouse, having served the Club well for almost 60 years was in very poor condition. Members organised an appeal, contacting both local firms and individuals. Response was excellent and the '*do-it-yourself*' building soon got underway with members doing most of the work. The new boathouse was completed in time for the 1960 season during which a dressing room was included on the first floor.

Regrettably, in the mid-sixties, changing social habits began to affect the interest in and activities of the Club. The decline continued into the 1970s and the Club was dissolved on 12 March 1974.

In 1981 the 5th Tyne Sea Scouts began to use the boathouse and since then the river has been used regularly for canoeing and kayaking.

2011 saw the formation of the Ebchester Boathouse Development Partnership, which aims to build a new boathouse and bring rowing back to the River Derwent. Regrettably, the boathouse has not yet been re-built but rowing did return to the river in 2015 and gradually became more regular.

Ebchester Boat Club

At a meeting held on 7 March 2019 it was agreed to form the Ebchester Boat Club (EBC), a multi water-sport club based at Ebchester, with additional activities to be held on the Derwent Reservoir. The primary aim of the club would be the development and participation of water sports for the benefit of the community. The club would be affiliated to both British Canoeing and British Rowing.

Ebchester Boat Club was registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 2 January 2020. The Club's financial year runs from 1 November to 31 October. This third report is in respect of the period from 1 November 2021 to 31 October 2022.

The object of the Trust as set out in its governing document is:

To promote community participation in healthy recreation for the public benefit in Ebchester and the surrounding area by the provision of facilities for rowing, paddling and other water sports capable of promoting physical health and fitness ("facilities" means land, buildings, equipment and organising sporting activities).

Activities

Rowing

Over the winter season of 2021 to the spring of 2022 the club underwent a quiet period to allow the current members the opportunity to hone their skills and get back up the level they were rowing pre-covid. The club started to branch out and form close working relationships with other local clubs, not only to allow our rowers to learn how to use larger 'sweep' style boats, but also to give others from outside Ebchester the chance to get used to rowing a fine single scull, which according to most is an art form in itself.



In 2022 the club underwent some changes in personnel with our long-standing coach stepping down to focus on her studies. She has been a stalwart of the club since it re-opened and will be missed by everyone here and we wish her well with her studies. Due to the change-over we were unable to run learn-to-row courses, but this gave us plenty of time to plan future events and get our existing members back up and fully running post-covid, which has been no easy feat. Feedback from the members is that they have enjoyed the opportunity to try new things and would like this to continue, alongside having as many sessions at both Ebchester and Derwent Reservoir as possible.



Paddling

Following on from a covid-induced lack of paddling at Ebchester, we certainly made up for it this year. It was evident that lockdown had increased the appetite for water-based activities and many groups were keen to get involved. An increased number of Scout certificated coaches helped us to run sessions for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Leaders from Gateshead, Blaydon, Chopwell Consett, Blackhill and Annfield Plain to name but a few. Based on the Scout Association paddle sports activity syllabus, the sessions supported kayak and canoe skills alongside general water safety. Whilst we didn't manage to develop our wish to provide public sessions, the increased number of coaches and particularly guidance from a senior coach helped us to plan for this development towards the end of the year. Furthermore, as is necessary every year, we cleared debris from the river keeping it flowing and ensuring that the weir is clear of potentially damaging debris.



Public Benefit

In carrying out these activities, the Trustees have taken into account the Charity Commission's Guidance on the public benefit requirement (PB1, PB2 & PB3) and have complied with their duty to have due regard to this guidance when exercising their powers and duties.

Achievements and Performance

The Club for much of the season underwent a period of consolidation following the restrictions imposed during the Coronavirus pandemic. Development of rowing activities has been limited by a change of personnel, but preparations for next season are well in hand. A resurgence of public interest in water-borne activities led to the development of paddle sport activities, including kayak and canoeing skills and general water safety. The scouting movement in particular benefitted from this activity. Coaching skills have been developed in preparation for public sessions in the coming season.

Financial Review

The Club's receipts amounted to £4,206: comprising grants amounting to £1,000, membership fees and an insurance claim. The total expenditure of the Club was £6,295, leaving a balance of £3,378 represented by cash in the bank. The Club is grateful to Arnold Clark Automobiles Ltd. for the grant that enabled the Club to purchase buoyancy aids. A balance of £2,878 remains in general funds

A copy of the annual accounts is attached to this report as Appendix A

Reserves policy

The Club has no employees and the costs of winding up the Trust would be nominal. The only need for reserves at present is to cover essential running costs and emergency expenditure for which the trustees consider it prudent to maintain a general reserve representing approximately eight months' running costs (this year set at £1,500).

Structure, Government and Management

Government

The Club's governing document is its Constitution, based on the Charity Commission's 'foundation' model CIO Constitution.

The Club is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Its only members are the trustees.

The governing document provides that apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

The Club has no employees. There are eight volunteers who have registered to help us.

The Trustees would like to thank the volunteers for their valuable contribution to the work of the Club

The Club has agreed policies relating to:

Financial Controls

Health & Safety

Safeguarding

Structure and Management

Board of Trustees

Club Management

Rowing

Paddling

Reference and Administrative

The name of the charity is Ebchester Boat Club. It uses no other name.

The charity is registered in England and Wales (Charity number 1187183).

The address of the principal office of the charity is 19 Springhouse Lane, Ebchester, DH8 0QF.

The trustees were:

Iain Alexander Knox (Chairman)

Cathy Graham

Kate Johnson (nee Hastie)

Brenda Beveridge

Geoff Marshall

Approved by the Trustees 26 August 2023

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:



Full Name: Iain Knox

Position: Chairman



Ebchester Boat Club

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Appendix A

Accounts for the period 1 November 2021 - 31 October 2022

Income

	2021 - 22	2020-21
Brought forward		
Grants	1000	4,900
Memberships	946	1,371
Course Fees		180
Sundry	35	50
Insurance Claim	2,225	0
Interest	0	0
	£4,206	£6,501
<i>Income / Expenditure</i>	<i>-£2,089</i>	<i>£3,404</i>

Expenditure

	2021 - 22	2020 - 21
Affiliation	790	653
Equipment	2,800	901
Insurance	1,583	558
Repairs	1,122	177
Training		754
Travel		54
	£6,295	£3,097

Balances

	31/10/2022	31/10/2021
Current Account	3,378	5,494
Cash in Hand		
	£3,378	£5,494
Liabilities		
Creditors		-2,375
Debtors		
Grants Pending	860	860
	£4,238	£6,447

Assets

	31/10/2022	31/10/2021
Fixed Assets	0	0
Equipment	25,000	26,000
	£25,000	£26,000
Reserves		
General Fund	2,878	3,928
Restricted Reserves	500	1,666
	£3,378	£5,494

Grant Income

	2021-22	2020-21
Banks Community Fund		4,400
Barbour Foundation		500
Arnold Clark	1,000	
	£1,000	£4,900