



Ebchester Boat Club

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Charity Number 1187183

Trustees' Annual Report November 2023 - October 2024



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 report is in respect of the period from 1 November 2023 to 31 October 2024.

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

When the weather got too cold and windy to row at the Boathouse in autumn 2023, Ebchester Boat Club moved indoors at Ebchester Community Centre and committed to weekly winter training. With a combination of stretching, ergs and core exercises, the crew kept up their fitness in readiness for the return of water rowing. Whenever possible we also braved the cold to get out in singles or a double at the boathouse on Sunday mornings. Once the nights got lighter in late spring 2024, Wednesday evening rowing sessions returned to the boathouse, in preparation for Ebchester competing in the Northern Rowing Sunday League Series 2024. With meetings taking place in rowing clubs around the North East and Northumberland once a month over the summer, the Sunday League offered Ebchester a great opportunity to compete in side by side racing against crews from other clubs. As the newly formed Ebby Eagles (mixed crew) and Ebby Hawks (women) we raced at Tyne Amateur Club at Newburn, Talkin Tarn RC and Durham with exciting wins against Talkin Tarn and Tees rowing clubs. At the last meeting at Durham on 6 October 2024 Ebchester were presented with a special award for our performance over the series by Colin Percy, organiser of the Sunday League. This completed a very enjoyable and successful season for EBC.



Paddling

With continued support from a larger coaching team, now 6 strong, we have continued to provide a larger number of sessions for local groups. As some of our coaches are Paddlesport Leaders, these sessions have included youth groups beyond the Scout Association. Our thanks need to be extended to these volunteer coaches who continue to pass on their skills up to 3 times a week. We continue to provide canoe, kayak and paddle board sessions with some focusing on specific skill improvement but others on pure and simple fun! Help from Gateshead Scouts continues with funding and advice. Purchases of more buoyancy aids and helmets was with their invaluable support. The scouts wider offer of water-based sessions during School holidays, through the Whickham Thorns activity centre, aided by council-led schemes, continues to be popular. This brings even more young people to the outdoors and gives them valuable chances to try out water based activitie which will hopefully spark the promotion of better physical and mental health in later life. The continued clearing of the weir and river bank also takes up time. Fallen and washed down timber will very quickly block the river if it is not removed. Thanks go to those individuals who help is with this continued work. We go into another year with continued enthusiasm and the promise of future efforts.



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 continued to recover following the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic and a change of personnel. As public interest in water-borne activities continues, there has been a noticeable demand for paddle sport activities, especially kayak and canoeing skills. The scouting movement in particular benefitted from this demand. Coaching skills are continually being developed to broaden the scope of the club.

Financial Review

The Club's receipts amounted to £1,975. The total expenditure of the Club was £2,759, leaving a balance of £2,210 represented by cash in the bank. A balance of £2,210 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 £1,800).

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)

Brenda Beveridge

Geoff Marshall

Approved by the Trustees

4 August 2025

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Iain A. Knox', is centered within a light blue rectangular box.

Full Name: Iain Knox

Position: Chairman



Ebchester Boat Club

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Registered Charity Number 1187183

Appendix A

Accounts for the period 1 November 2023 - 31 October 2024

Income

	2023 - 24	2022-23
Grants	0	570
Memberships	1,935	1,091
Course Fees		200
Sundry	40	35
Insurance Claim	0	0
Interest	0	0
	£1,975	£1,861
<i>Income / Expenditure</i>	<i>-£784</i>	<i>-£385</i>

Expenditure

	2023 -24	2022 - 23
Affiliation	1,250	1,273
Equipment		0
Insurance	1,010	973
Repairs		1,122
Training	499	0
Travel		0
	£2,759	£2,246

Balances

	11/08/2024	31/10/2023
Current Account	2,210	2,989
Cash in Hand		
	£2,210	£2,989

Liabilities

Creditors		
Debtors		
Grants Pending	0	860

Net Worth	£2,210	£3,849
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Assets

	31/10/2024	31/10/2023
Fixed Assets	0	0
Equipment	25,000	25,000
	£25,000	£25,000

Reserves

General Fund	1,710	2,489
Restricted Reserves	500	500

	£2,210	£2,989
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NB: £860 grant-pending no longer available

Grant Income

	2023-24	2022-23
Durham Sport		500
	£0	£500