

DONCASTER ROWING CLUB AND
INCORPORATING DONCASTER SCHOOLS ROWING ASSOCIATION

AGM Wednesday 25th. November 2015

CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Another successful year? Yes most certainly we have!

This year I am extremely proud to tell you that we have two champions in our junior ranks - step up Sarah Beevers and Sam Turnill!!!

Sarah Beevers who holds the British Indoor Championship record on the ergo at J15 girls level breaking the record twice in the year. She also broke the World J15 records at 500m and 1000m levels.

Sam Turnill who holds the British Indoor Championship record on the ergo at J12 boys level.

Well done to both of them and how proud we are of them at DRC!!!!

The Peoples Million Lottery Fund was put to good use and DRC has benefited from it.

We welcomed Dan Fisher into the role as Doncaster Rowing Club Community Coach and he has done a huge amount of work to move the Club forward with our involvement in schools and with his coaching attributes. I will leave him to report on his successful year in the role.

Unfortunately the Lottery funding finishes at the end of December and we will lose their income.

Dan Fisher is leaving to travel abroad and I would take this opportunity to thank him on behalf of the Club and give him a resounding round of applause and wish him every success wherever his travels take him. Hurry back as you will always be welcome at DRC.

We are actively involved in trying to secure a sponsorship to retain the position of Community Coach and I will keep the Club advised on how this progresses.

We lost our involvement with the BR England Talent Pathway programme when they did not re-employ Laura Richardson who was filling in for Fiona Hill. Fiona has now resigned and BR have not taken up our offer to continue with this programme. Disappointing it may be to lose on this but I am convinced that DRC has enough of it's own talent to drive our Club forward!

We had a Henley Royal Regatta quad selected this year but we missed out in qualifying for the Fawley Cup by 0.7 of a second - very, very frustrating. We will continue to support crews for this prestigious event providing they are able to meet the high demand of the qualifying requirements.

We attended the British Junior Championships at Strathclyde and although we didn't come away with any silverware, it was a huge learning for the juniors that took part.

A long way to go for both these events but it shows DRC commitment in supporting our competitive athletes and we will continue to do so!

Elsewhere we continued to bring back medals and silverware from every Regatta and Head race we attended, far too many to itemise in this report but suffice to say it shows our continuous success in this important area. This continuously puts DRC on the rowing map and enhances our reputation in the sport of rowing.

Our South Yorkshire Head was a resounding success and this year we introduced our very own Doncaster 'Head of the Don' race as a replacement for the Doncaster Regatta. Attendance levels were disappointingly low however it was our first year on the circuit and as word gets around I am sure the attendance will improve. That apart, we had an extremely successful event and we look forward to running it next year with the participating numbers up and on par with the South Yorkshire Head.

Our own Club participating numbers have increased and I will leave Martin Elliott our Members Secretary to report on this.

It is an important factor in the Club that we continue to increase our membership, young and adult alike, to keep DRC solvent.

Our 'Learn to Row' courses have been a huge success thanks to the administration and efforts of Rick Rolt to maintain and keep this programme rolling on. Thanks also to those members who have patiently sat in boats and helped on these courses.

Hull University, who I am pleased to welcome to our AGM tonight, continue to use our facilities and we have had numerous requests from other Universities to come down and use our stretch of safe water. We will continue to support such requests very much in line with our motto 'Rowing for All' which is proudly displayed in front of our boathouse - we will practice what we preach! It goes without saying that such request will only be granted providing they do not impact on DRC activities both on and off the water.

This as you all know is the only time I get the opportunity to single out and thank individuals who have helped deliver Doncaster Rowing Club and Doncaster Schools Rowing Association to it's present position.

To the Section Captains, namely Alan Withnall, Carol McGlone, Liam Baker, Sarah McGlone - they have done so much behind the scenes to make this Club the success that it is - A huge note of thanks.

To our Junior Development Officer and Performance Coach Adrian Pogmore who has again delivered huge success in the performance section of the Club - many thanks.

To our Junior coaches, Lyn Taylor, Carol McGlone, Gail Eden - well done in bringing the juniors on and you will agree we have some excellent potential coming through in this section of the club - many thanks.

To all our coaches that have worked tirelessly, given up a huge amount of their free time and been rewarded with their individual crews picking up so many winning trophies and medals throughout the year. Stand up all of you and take a well deserved round of applause.

This year we also took on Vice Captains of the Men and Ladies Sections, Sue Fisher and Rick Rolt have been a huge help in organising the running of the Club - many thanks.

A note of thanks goes to Lewis Hicks who continues to manage our Doncaster Rowing Club website and a good job he is doing!

Debbie Webb our Child Support Officer who supports us in this very important area and to Martin Elliott our Members Secretary who chases you for money - many thanks to you both.

To those members who gave so much of their time to carry out repair and improvement jobs in the boathouse, cutting down trees, gardening and odd jobs. Many thanks - it is all appreciated.

Every year I single out Dave McGlone for his tireless efforts in maintaining our Fleet of boats. We have the best looking Fleet and best rowing colours in the country and our boats always look immaculate - Dave does an inordinate amount of work to maintain these standards. It's members like me that come along and cause him sleepless nights - my sincere apologies Dave for my recent lapse in boatmanship but I won't go into this in any more detail!! Lets have a round of applause to thank him all the same!

Others worthy of a mention are our illustrious band of truckers - Phil Haigh, Dave Turnill, Ryan Bywater, Brian Smith, Phil Noble, Adrian Pogmore, Adrian Taggart, Dave Maxfield, Adam Manson to name but a few truckers!

To the Management Team most of whom are here tonight for their support to me as Club Captain in the day to day running of Doncaster Rowing Club. They do a great deal of monotonous work necessary to keep Doncaster Rowing Club afloat. It's not an easy task and well done all of you.

Our Chairman Brian Oliphant has done a huge amount of work behind the scenes in getting the local schools involved with rowing and Richard Harpum is again singled out for the sterling work he does with the financial admin of the Club and the admin for our South Yorkshire Head and Doncaster 'Head of the Don' - my sincere thanks to them both

To Mount Pleasant and Richard McIvovoy for his endless sponsorship and support with our truck/trailer and our Annual Doncaster Rowing Club Ball (which I hope you will all be attending this year Saturday 30th. January 2015 at Mount Pleasant Hotel). He is a huge support behind the scenes and many thanks for his continued involvement.

And last but not least my sincere thanks goes to Heather Withnall as Secretary who keeps me in place and does a marvellous job in doing so and for also heading our Catering Dept. which was a huge success this year - what a marvellous job she is doing!

The success of the club is down to the hard work of everyone concerned too many to single out but you know who you are and I have given my thanks to you all separately in moving Doncaster Rowing Club forward.

We lose athletes as they move away to Universities and jobs but we are comfortably shored up by the athletes that take their place. This is one of our main drivers in continuing to take our club forward and show the rowing fraternity that Doncaster Rowing Club is a force to be reckoned with.

To be successful with Doncaster Rowing Club requires us to be flexible, give and take a little more, help out where you can make a difference. Don't leave it all to the same people all the time. The more the merrier comes to mind here.

Our aim remains unchanged - to continue building on the fine work that has been achieved so far and we will strive to improve the competency skills in rowing and sculling at all levels in the Club, to get fitter and stronger but most importantly for everyone to enjoy their rowing.

Thank you all once again for the support you have given me in this last year 2015 as Club Captain. My aim is always to drive the Club forward in a friendly and competitive manner and I believe we have achieved this and more through the past year.

Well done to all of you and thanks for your support - without it I would have surely floundered.

Adam Manson
Club Captain
Doncaster Rowing Club