

CHAIRMANS REPORT AGM 16 March 2016

We continue to enjoy success at all levels throughout the club as we aim to offer good value to all members as we pursue our rowing ambitions using our limited river space and facilities.

We all have to compromise along the way to ensure all members have fair access but we seem to manage that fairly well and I thank all those members on and off the committee who put time into managing the club and effort into helping all squads achieve their aims.

Club Development

The proposed new development is still at the forefront of our minds, I am pleased to confirm that our planning application has been presented and we are now awaiting the outcome. I thank Sam Mogeridge who put the finishing touches and presented our application and the members of the planning group who spent many hours getting the plan together. You will see presented in the clubroom the outline of our proposal – a proposal that is realistic in its approach to the land available and the funding required to implement and ensure the facilities meet the needs of our growing and active club

We now have to focus on the financial plan to achieve the necessary funds. I thank Mark Starling who although stepping down from his role as Men's Captain is to head up a planning group to focus on the marketing and sponsorship aspects of fund-raising. If you have expertise in this area that can contribute to our efforts please contact Mark to see how we can use your help.

The bulk of the required finance will be sourced from outside the club but in a smaller way we will continue to hold social occasions for members to take part in and enjoy, so please continue to support when you can to maintain our steady drive of enthusiasm towards completion of the project.

So on to the Committee I thank all members of the Committee for the work achieved to maintain what I believe is a well- managed club. In fact at a meeting of our local councillors the comment was noted on the efficiency of our management and how well we run the club

- They obviously hadn't been to one of these meetings!

A number of the current committee are unable to offer their services this coming year, most notably the Captain and Treasurer. I will hand over soon for their reports that detail the real progress we are making.

When we come to voting for your new committee you will know of two slight changes this year. We have encouraged voting by proxy to give more members access to this meeting who would otherwise be unable to have a voice. We also have two contenders for the role of Captain. To enable discrete voting and ensure we reach a fair conclusion not based on the traditional show of hands there is a ballot paper for each to use.

To introduce voting by proxy and needing to hold a ballot to decide contenders doesn't happen often so I hope all runs smooth and produces fair results. The Committee welcome any suggestions you may have to improve our communication with the membership and encourage more members to take an interest in club affairs

I now hand over to the Captain for his report.