



Chair's Report to the AGM

Mike Parsons

15th July 2026

Continued Thanks To All Who Have Helped Make The Season Special

- A very significant majority of what we do is done by volunteers who give their time to the club for the benefit of others. "A society grows great when people plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit.
- **Everyone** who stepped forward and volunteered during the year. We had a really great response to the volunteer calls for Marlow Spring and Marlow Town regattas
- **John Stephenson** who continues to work tirelessly as boatman. We are truly in his debt and the state of the fleet a testament to his endeavours.
- **Rhoanne Sweeney** our membership secretary. **Josh Pert** our IT Manager and **Emma Holmes** who has continued in the Janitorial Manager's role, and along with **Alex Kennet & Catherine Scanlon** continued their early morning cleanliness vigils and made the place significantly cleaner and more well ordered..
- **Ella Holloway** our racking administrator and is keeping us all in order and continues to improve boat and blade racking organisation.
- **Neil Skipper** for his support both as our insurance officer.
- **Abbie Bird** our kit officer who has just recently stepped into the role and is keeping us well turned out in Cardinal Red. Many thanks for your service.
- All our coaches, **Jamie, Russ, Ben, Peter, Flora, Richard, Grace, Maisie, Amelie, Libby, Aoife, Ed, Mike, Mike, Harry, Emma, Tamsin, Lisa, Molly, Dan, Annabelle, Bruce, Ben, Paul, Lily** and all the others I should have listed. A special thanks to **Russ Haley** who has returned to coaching and made a huge impact from day one.
- To our safety admin, **Louise Elstone**.
- To the rock solid wall of support that is **Sarah Boszormenyi** who has supported her squad, our BnB programme, ALTR, the regatta, the bar and any number of other parts of the club. Strong support and completely reliable, many thanks.
- Our **squad leaders** and our coaches who put in some incredible hours at odd times of day and in all weathers. Of particular note are the changes in the Masters Men's and Women's squads with the arrival of **Mike Landers, Tamsin Vernon** and **Emma Pressling**.
- The regatta committee and all who helped make the regatta happen. We collectively pulled off yet another incredibly well received event. **Graeme Gordon, Mel Sage, Helen Thompson, Jim Cotter, Jeremy Rowe, Geraldine Rowe, David Jackson, Ruth Naylor, Charles Hill, Helen Essa, Stef Mendes-de Leon, Jenny Maiden, Josh Pert and Rob Robertson**.
- **Flora Robertson** who run an incredible back office that keeps the Junior Squad up and running.
- **Emma Holmes** and **Helen Harris** who have continued in role as the ALTR admins, **Tamsin Vernon** who has taken the reins of ALTR and has made an incredibly accomplished start with a great coaching team of **Emma Pressling, Liv O'Callaghan, Annabel Ruinet** and **Mike Landers**, who continue to do an exceptional job of extending our reach. This team is complemented by **Lisa Knill, Molly Newman** and **Dan Pressling** and the Senior Development squad. Both the improvers and Dev squad continue to be a key part of our drive to engage more adults in rowing. We also need to thank **all who have supported** our ALTR taster days.
- This year's committee, President, **Cath Bishop**, Chair, **Mike Parsons**, Treasurer; **David Wells**, Captain; **Ruth Naylor**, Secretary; **Alex Kennet**, Welfare Officer; **Julie Lyons**, Deputy Chair, **Joel Evans**, Deputy Treasurer; **Mel Shelton**, Deputy Captain; **Lorna Loretto**, Deputy Secretary; **Magda Al Nugaidi**, Safety Officer, **Jim Cotter**, Director, **Ed Phillips** and Junior Representative **Richard Hull**.
- Our outstanding bar Manager, **Katie Millington**.
- Our corporate fundraisers, led by **John Kirtland**
- Senior squad events and fundraising lead, **Georgie Nesom** and Senior Squad finance supremo, **Ailish Dudley**.
- We need to say a special thankyou to **Cath Bishop** our President who has provided some exceptionally valuable input during the year.
- ..and to all who cleaned the stage, swept a bay, made sandwiches for the umpires, stepped up to help at an event, fixed a leaking tap, changed a light fitting, wrestled with a website crash, organised a social

Five Years Reviewed In Five Weeks Headlines

The 2019 Plan

- *Target: Best in Region*

Communications & Media Presence

- External
- Internal
- Parents

Fleet and Equipment Renewal - Fixing the funding gap

Performance Expectations, Development Pathways & Coaching Support to deliver

Culture – Sense of ‘One Club’

- Shared values
- Willing to support

Junior Squad funding resolved, back on the path to high performance

Winning Where We Compete

- Championship
- Club
- ‘Best’ in our area

Growing Membership

- Destination club
- Best at what we choose to do
- Diverse membership

Great Place to Row

- ‘Be the best rower I can be’
- Thriving socially
- Sense of shared destiny
- One club

Last Five Weeks of Splash Headlines

(Splash now in its 8th year)

Pathways

- ALTR restart
- JLTR recruiting for the Summer break – RYA2 training
- Devs & Imps – Wins at Marlow Town – 2- racing at HWR

Recreational Squad

- Flowerpot in two quads
- Coffee on the pontoons at Bisham

Culture

- HRR Barbeque in the Copas Partnership Enclosure

Volunteering

- MTR Volunteers ~ 1000 hours
- Mass turnout for the Bisham re-racking
- Stephen Back – Go Row qualification Baton pass from Richard Lewis

Junior Squad

- MTR & Reading Town wins for the younger Juniors
- HWR wins in W4x and W2x
- HRR – PE first and Diamond Jubilee Win!!
- Numbers at target, 63 to ~140

Senior Squad

- Numbers ~80 (from 30)
- HRR pathway regatta performances – A Finals and wins
- HRR – Thames Cup “dared greatly” back in 2027?
- HRR - Marlow members wins in Goblets and Remenham

Masters Squads

- MTR and Eton Excelsior Invitation Wins for MM & MW
- Peterborough Wins for YV
- National Masters – 10 Golds
- Henley Masters – 3 Wins

Challenges

- Gym HVAC and condenser replacements
- Bay 3 door rebuild
- Scale – T3 full and weekly operations

Where We Are Headed?

The 2025 Survey and Plan

- *Target - Best club in Britain*

Volunteering, Fundraising & Fleet Renewal

- Expectations
- Communication
- 'Credits'
- Recognition & reinforcement
- Communicated plan
- Fundraising group
- Parents Support Group

World Class Coaching

- Pathways
- Coach development
- Internships
- Marlow model
- Leadership
- Cox development
- Squads hitting target

One Club – Winning Culture

- Living the values
- One Club socials – expand the base
- Summer 'graduation ball'
- Alumni
- Communications – Website refresh

Clubhouse & Infrastructure

- Changing rooms – Women's #1
- Bar refurbishment
- Trucks, trailers & launches
- Freshen up the foyer
- Building 'looks the part' - maintenance team

Rock Solid Foundations

- Bookkeeping & accounting comms
- Structure filled
- Induction & Safety training
- Building maintenance and maintenance team

'Future Now' Projects

- Parking
- Second site

Best Club in Britain

- Championship wins
- Club wins
- Pathways into sport
- Social Impact
- Recreational experience

Lifelong Love...

- Destination club
- Diverse membership
- Growing membership
- Alumni come back...
- Helping people become rowers for life

Great Place To Row

- 'Be the best rower I can be'
- Brilliant at the basics and the....
- Thriving Socially
- Sense of shared destiny
- One Club – many squads and groups

welcoming Competitive

Inclusive

supportive

Friendly

