**TRUT REPORT FOR TRC AGM 2022**

**Pandemic**

Lockdowns continued to come and go in 2021 with restrictions on member’s use of the RTWC changing as the year went on in line with government, British Rowing and other guidance. Cleaning provision continued at a higher level than before the pandemic. By the end of the year all facilities are open again though with advice to restrict numbers in confined spaces. TRUT has also bought 3 HEPA filters to complement ventilation in removing airborne droplets.

**Finances**

We continued to be successful in winning grants so that the finances remained in a good position to weather future challenges. Staffs were furloughed where possible, retaining key staff, but other costs especially maintenance remained high and for much of the year it was not possible to run functions to earn income. By the end of the year, functions have started again, initially making no profits to defray membership costs but as we turned the year we are beginning to earn surpluses from functions. Before the pandemic, functions provided half of the net income to TRUT, keeping membership fees low. It is still not clear when we will get back to this level.

In relation to costs, in July we reported that £32,400 has been spent to that date on special maintenance – air handling system uprated to improve ventilation – boiler pump replaced – new cameras – bar chiller systems repaired – shower floors and walls repaired after they cracked – outside lighting replaced – bar stock written off – etc.

**Membership Fees**

During the pandemic, TRUT has been charging clubs the 2019-20 Fee Rates. The 20-21 rates were not implemented for 20-21 or for 21-22, however the 20-21 Fees will be implemented from April for 22-23. This is necessary as income remains uncertain and costs are rising – energy, Minimum wage from April and National Insurance Rates, as well as general inflation.

**Housing Developments**

As we close the year, planning permission has been granted or sought for all the land around the RTWC. The land belongs to Homes England, with MUSE appointed as developer. The first houses will be built to the east of the club between us and the Thirteen building with all the houses being taken by Thirteen.

A number of meetings and conversations have been held with MUSE and SBC as there are implications for our operations. We have secured agreement to an improvement in sound proofing for the nearest development so that we don’t get complaints about noise from RTWC functions or member activities and further meetings with Thirteen are planned once building starts.

A further concern relates to events such as the TRC regatta and LDS. Parking on the triangular area to the west of the RTWC is no longer possible as it has been excavated for planning permission. SBC has offered the use of the Riverside Car Park for trailer parking but to make this work we need to be able to launch boats there. A proposal has been put to relevant parties for funding for a pontoon to be located there at the time of functions and discussions continue.

In anticipation of being surrounded by housing, with the expectation that residents will be hunting for additional car parking spaces, we were advised to make arrangements to secure the benefit of our car park for our members, before the houses were built. Hence the new registered parking arrangements.

**Canals and Rivers Trust**

Discussions have also been held with SBC and C&RT in relation to the deterioration of the river with trees and silting up, and about the planned manning reductions at the Barrage.

**Events**

Tideway Scullers brought 33 squad members for a very successful camp over New Year, enjoying our river 3 times per day and swelling our coffers.

In the near future, Powerhouse will host a national dragon boat event on April 30th with their multi-lane course installed, shortly before the TRC Regatta in May.

2022 is the 21st anniversary of the opening of the RTWC and we hope to run an event for members in the autumn to celebrate this.

RGP