



TEES ROWING CLUB NEWSLETTER

April 2026

Dear Members

We hope you enjoy this edition of the TRC newsletter. Please send any feedback or articles and photos to [Shelly Woodhead](#) (Assistant Secretary) or [Elizabeth Bostock](#) (Secretary).



Winning veteran rowers show 'we're not dead yet'.....

This is the headline of the recent BBC's article about our oldest Tees crew. Thanks to the work of Jill Patterson, the club's publicity officer, the BBC came to Tees RC to see what was going on.

'A crew of veteran rowers with national and international honours has beaten rival crews 30 years younger than them.'

In their latest competition - a 4,500m (14,764ft) time trial at the Tyne Head of the River Race - they finished faster than crews competing in the 50-55 age category.'

Links to the full BBC news article and TV broadcast can be found [here](#)

Another fantastic achievement. You have all made Tees RC proud.



Tees launches and how to use them safely

Please see the [new instructions for using Moneypenny](#) on the club website.

Note: the makers of Moneypenny advise that to reduce the risk of capsizing, someone should be in the driver's seat when rescuing a person and that the person is recovered on the opposite side to the driver.

Thanks to Len Small and Ernie Bland for putting this together and for all the work that they and the Recs do on the launches.



A big thank you

The new committee, on behalf of Tees RC members, would like to thank Becky Graham, Tom Hillier and Michele Holdsworth for their hard work over the last few years in the positions of Captain, Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Without volunteers such as these three shining examples, Tees RC would not exist. Thank you!

The 2026 AGM

The following were elected to the committee at the AGM held on Sunday, 29th March at 10.30am

Committee members:

- President: Steven Leigh
- Chair: [Richard Olver](#)
- Captain: [Kristi Eddy](#)
- Honorary Treasurer: [Ken Watson](#)
- Honorary Secretary: [Elizabeth Bostock](#)
- Equipment Manager: [Lucy Radley](#)
- Men's Vice Captain: [Ian Burns](#)
- Women's Vice Captain: [Fran Brito](#)
- Safety Adviser: [Iona Macleod](#)
- Assistant Secretary: [Shelly Woodhead](#)
- Ordinary member: [Gillian Bentley](#)
- Ordinary member: [Tony Atherton](#)

Non-committee members

- Entries Secretary: [Tom Hillier](#)
- Coaching Co-ordinator: Chris Morrill
- Publicity Officer: [Jill Patterson](#)
- Competition co-ordinator/chair: [Steve Heath](#)
- Membership Secretary: [Fiona Ventress](#)
- Welfare Officer: [Helen Wescott](#)
- Assistant Welfare Officer: [Ian Burns](#)

You can contact any committee member using the links above or via the club website.

Dates for your diary

Quiz Night 17th April

Organisers: Rosie Cooper and [Iona Macleod](#)
Book your ticket now



Please would members help to keep the launches safe:

- check that the correct safety equipment is on board
- keep the launches clean and tidy
- refill the launches with fuel **outside** the boathouse.
- make sure the inflatable RIB is easily accessible, as it is easier to use for rescues than a catamaran.

You can find the updated launch safety checks document [here](#).

**FRIDAY
17TH APRIL
7PM**

Bring family & friends. £12 a ticket. Book on Tees website. Scan QR code below teesrc.safety@gmail.com

Tees Watersports Club, Northshore, TS182NL

Tees Regatta 16th May

Organiser; [Steve Heath](#)

This is the club's big event. All members are expected to volunteer in some capacity if they can: help with setting up course, help on the day, taking down the course and tidying up on the Sunday as well as baking and sandwich making for the cake stall. The list goes on ...

Watch out for emails.

Health Rowing 11-12th April

Health rowing

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE!

April 11, 12 and some Sundays 10:15 am

Help patients managing cancer, improve their ability to cope with the condition & treatments, through rowing & socialising.

Thank you for giving time, energy, and heart, even if just over coffee & biscuits!



Insurance and managing risk

The club has just re-affiliated to British Rowing under the **Affiliation Plus scheme**, which includes bespoke liability insurance cover.

A new 'temporary membership' class is being introduced for L2R participants and visiting/guest rowers, so they will have this cover too. See the March 2026 committee meeting minutes for more detail. These will be circulated after approval at the April committee meeting.



The Wire Man

Long-standing Tees RC member, Julian Bunn (pictured), is hard at work on preparations for the Tees Regatta course. Each year, the lane wires and cross wires are checked, measured and re-wound. In total over 6.5Km. His meticulous work,



L2R Courses

These will run at weekends from early April. Please make the newcomers feel welcome and look out for emails requesting help.



Tees Rowing Club

37 supporters

£795.60 raised

Any online shoppers out there? Help Tees RC boost income in a very easy way. We have 37 supporters so far ... how quickly can we make it to 50?

Find out more [here](#)

makes laying the course a great deal easier.
Thank you, Julian.

If you win a race, please send a photo to [Tony Atherton](#) who will upload it onto the website against your win. Pictured: WG 8+ pennant winners at South Yorkshire Head on 28th March.



Photos for website

[CLICK HERE FOR THE LATEST TEES RC NEWS](#)