



EVESHAM ROWING CLUB

The Boathouse ♦ Abbey Park ♦ Evesham ♦ Worcestershire ♦ WR11 4ST ♦ ☎ 01386 446131

Founded 1863 - Established and conducted for the furtherance of sporting activities



This Letter comes to you from:-
The Chairman - John Lomas Telephone 01386 47029
29 Lanesfield Park, Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 4NU.

Dear Fellow Member,

I have enclosed your Annual Subscription Notice for the year commencing 1st October 2011.

The Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 20th July 2011 voted to accept the Executive Committee recommendations to increase subscriptions in line with inflation except where they have been rounded to the nearest 50 pence per month for Direct Debit purposes. There was one exception to this in respect of the Social subscription where the meeting voted for a large increase to £84 for members of working age. The reasoning behind this was to cope with the many members who park their car at the Club during the working day, as it was felt that in comparison to public car parking charges, the single social membership price still provided a vastly cheaper option for members.

Evesham Rowing Club is a Members Club and as such is run by many volunteers who provide their time free of charge for the benefit of all members. However in recent years it has proved more and more difficult to find members to help at the numerous functions that the Club organises placing an ever increasing burden on the minority that do help. The unanimous feeling of the members who attended the Annual General Meeting was that in future all members should offer twelve hours of service per annum to assist at various events – this is the equivalent of only one hour per month. Sally Vale-Fisher offered to coordinate this help, which may turn out to be helping for three hours at a time at four different events or some other variation. This will help the Club enormously and spread the load across the whole Club membership. Please remember that all this voluntary work keeps the subscriptions at their current level, because without it the figures would have to be significantly higher. If any members feel unable to offer practical help, an additional payment of £72 per annum to their subscription would cover the cost of the Club having to pay someone for twelve hours work at the current minimum wage.

One of the other main messages emerging from the AGM was the need to reduce the Club's debt to Heineken UK. We borrowed £50,000 from them in 2006 to enable us to complete the Lottery project and have nearly reached halfway in the repayment process. There is a balance of just under £27,000 outstanding and because of the current financial climate and our lack of bar turnover, the brewery is exerting pressure on us to repay the loan as soon as possible. If the repayment of this loan became a possibility it would enable us to look elsewhere for a more lucrative deal with another brewery. It was suggested that if fifty members lent the Club £500 each, with the Club repaying £108 per year as a discount on their future five subscriptions, that this would be the ideal way forward. Four members came forward with cheques on the night with many others promising help later on. Obviously Life Members do not pay an annual subscription, but if they were able to help we could offer them some other method of repayment.

Thank you for reading and hopefully responding to this letter and I would like to wish all of you a successful year ahead as a member of Evesham Rowing Club. One last request if you received this letter through the post and not by e-mail, could you please let me have your e-mail address, if you have one, as this saves the Club considerable postage costs.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

John Lomas – Chairman

19th September 2011