



BRITISHROWING

Regional Chair's Report Eastern Region

June 2020

TEAMWORK | OPEN TO ALL | COMMITMENT



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Please note that all information in this report is in the public domain and can be freely shared with clubs, events, members and volunteers



1. Governing body update

British Rowing Club Emergency Fund

A British Rowing Club Emergency Fund has been launched to deliver grant funding to those Affiliated Clubs that are most in need as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and whose future would be in jeopardy without support. The fund has been designed to supplement, rather than duplicate, support from Sport England, the Government and other sources.

The fund opened at 12:00 on Monday 8 June and will be open for a period of three months, closing at 17.00 on 8 September 2020.

Full details of eligibility and the criteria for funding are set out on the British Rowing website. This includes who can apply, what will be funded and not funded, supporting information required and FAQs.

Applications must be made using the online form available via this link www.britishrowing.org/clubemergencyfund.

British Rowing club affiliation

470 clubs have completed their British Rowing club affiliation, which leaves 70 clubs outstanding. Thank you for your continued support in these difficult and challenging times. Sarah Leys will be in touch with regional chairs with a list of the clubs that are outstanding in the regions.

Back to Rowing

British Rowing has formed a 'Back to Rowing group' which has three sub groups, each of which is preparing advice for clubs. These groups are made up of British Rowing staff and volunteers. The three areas that they are working on are 'reopening your club', 'back to training' and 'back to competition'. The advice from these groups will be published as part of our 'Return to Rowing' document.

<https://www.britishrowing.org/2020/06/coronavirus-advice-return-to-rowing-version-two/>



British Rowing virtual Championships

British Rowing is delighted to launch the inaugural British Rowing Virtual Championships, bringing together indoor rowers from across the country and beyond for a weekend of real-time racing.

Taking place on the weekend of 27-28 June 2020, the Championship format will comprise 2000m races and 500m sprints for all adult and adaptive rowers, alongside a range of team relays and additional adaptive, junior and junior adaptive events.

For more details on the event follow this [link](#) to the website.

Online Races / Challenges Series

British Rowing has launched a series of free online challenges and races which are open to anyone through [British Rowing's online challenge platform](#).

The current series of races will run to the end of June and range from 500m sprints and 5,000m time trials through to 4,000m team relays. Running concurrently with the online races will be a [series of challenges](#) inviting users to log their training mileage on the web platform in order to cover a range of distances, from marathons to full Atlantic crossings.

The full programme of online races and challenges can be found on the [British Rowing website](#).

Sport England / Government support for clubs

Sport England has announced that its Community Emergency Fund has had another £15 million added to it from the National Lottery. Applications for the fund have been paused to allow them to process over 8,000 applications. As illustrated on the dashboard overleaf, 72 rowing clubs have applied for funding and been assessed. 55 have been successful, receiving an average of £3,827.04. This equates to £210,487 of funding for rowing clubs. We will let you know if/ when the fund reopens.



Submissions and Assessments

Sport

Rowing ▼

Note: filtering data by sport will only show assessed applications as this category has been retrospectively applied by the assessor during the assessment phase

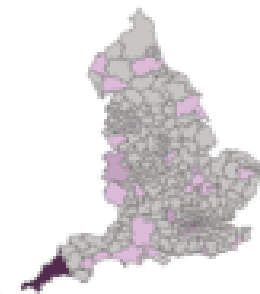
Search by LA

Search 🔍

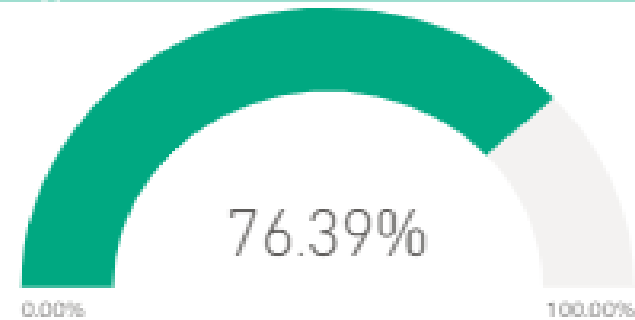
Note: searching from local or unitary authority, it also picks up partial matches e.g. "Norfolk" = North Norfolk, South Norfolk etc! You can also click directly on the maps to filter.

72 Number of Submissions	72 Number of Assessed	55 Number of Approved	£3,827.04 Average Recommended Grant	£210,487.00 Total Grant Value Approved
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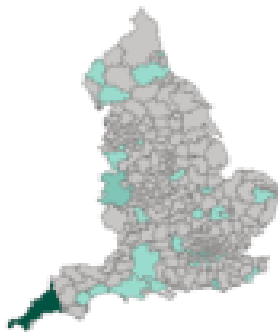
Number of Applications by Local Authority



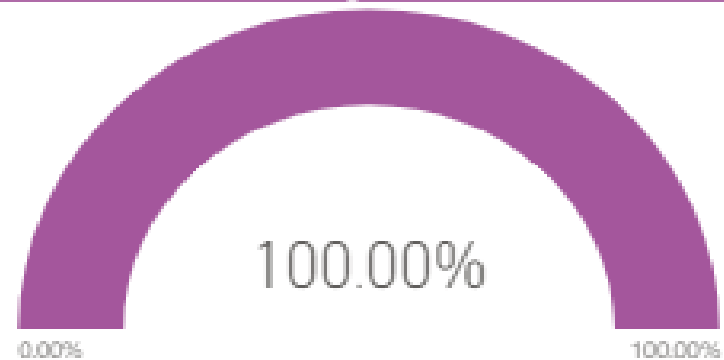
Percent Approved (Of those Assessed)



Number (& Total) of Approved Applications by Local Authority



Percentage Assessed





Other funding sources are still available and these are listed below with links. We recommend that clubs investigate the loan options available, some of which are interest free for a year and then have a very low interest rate if they are not paid off in the first year.

Governments Grant Funding Schemes for Small Business Grant Fund / Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/882809/small-business-grant-and-retail-leisure-hospitality-grant-guidance-for-businesses.pdf

General Information to find out what financial support you can get for your business

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/financial-support-for-businesses-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

You can find financial support and advice for your Club at the following:-

<https://www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder> & <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/financial-support-for-businesses-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Business rates holiday for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-your-retail-hospitality-or-leisure-business-is-eligible-for-business-rates-relief-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

Temporary changes to VAT payments to help manage cash flow.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/deferral-of-vat-payments-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

Guidance for Small Business Grants Fund (SBGF) and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund (RHLGF).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-business-support-grant-funding-guidance-for-businesses>

Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme>



Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BLS)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-coronavirus-bounce-back-loan>

Other additional resources that may be useful to anyone paying staff

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-support-for-business-from-outside-government>

Club Matters has also launched a [Club Matters Coronavirus page](#) on their web site which will be updated regularly. It provides guidance, toolkits and case studies.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) advice

Our latest advice for the rowing community, including our 'Return to Rowing' advice document, is available at www.britishrowing.org/coronavirus

Howden club insurance offer

We are currently supporting Howden (the providers of British Rowing member insurance) to develop a new club insurance offer. They have developed a new online portal for this offer and would like feedback from a selection of clubs on the design, functionality etc. If you are able to help with this by providing feedback via the following link your support would be much appreciated. Please also feel free to and share the link with a selection of clubs in your region. <https://app.usabilityhub.com/do/b3bf86631eff/3996>

Keeping your club going

Many coaches and clubs have come up with great ways to keep members active during the coronavirus pandemic. Coaches have set training sessions that can be done at home without any equipment, whilst some clubs have let people take ergos home and others have organised quizzes using Zoom or similar online tools.

Please let us know at clubsupport@britishrowing.org what your club is doing so we can share it with rest of rowing community. We have been publishing the ideas we are receiving from clubs [here](#).



It is really important to make sure everyone stays safe while using online tools – our advice on this is available at:
<https://www.britishrowing.org/2020/03/reminder-safeguarding-and-online-tools/>

Go Row Indoor newsletter goes weekly

British Rowing's #GoRowIndoor newsletter has now become a free, weekly email full of workouts and fitness content for everyone at home - whether you are a beginner or full-time athlete, have access to a rowing machine or not. We want to help keep everyone fit and healthy whilst staying at home. With a range of on-machine, off machine workout videos, challenges and training content, it is not to be missed.

The newsletter is out at 08.00 every Wednesday, so please do spread the message to your club members, class goers and family to get signed up (if they aren't already) - <https://www.britishrowing.org/subscribe-to-indoor-rowing/>

NHS medal

The 'Do what you Can' NHS Medal, has now raised over £110,000 with all profits go to the NHS charities. The challenge is simple - do what you can - just like the NHS. This can be completed during your daily exercise sessions and is not be restricted by discipline, so indoor rowing, walking, running, cycling, wheelchair, or event pushchair, all count. However and whenever you undertake your challenge is up to you. Please do spread the word. More information can be found [here](#).

ClubHub

On Thursday 7th May Phil Pring & Ashley Wyatt, members of the community development team, did a webinar on features within ClubHub. They were supported by Jim Hotchin from Maidenhead Rowing Club who was one of the club representatives that helped to develop the system. 31 Clubs that have not be using the system attended the webinar. If you are interested in learning more about the system and how it could help you manage your club please visit the [ClubHub](#) page on the website or contact a members of the team ClubHubsupport@britishrowing.org.



Tell us #YourStories

A reminder that if you have any interesting stories you'd like to share with the rowing community, remember to let British Rowing know via our page [here](#). #YourStories is designed to celebrate, inform, educate and highlight opportunities within rowing – whether it's fundraising, club development activities, key milestones you'd like to celebrate or dedicated volunteers you'd like to thank.

British Rowing education & training update

British Rowing has appointed UK Coaching to conduct a comprehensive review of our learning, education and training programme with the aim of informing a new Education and Training Strategy. The research methodology for this project includes consultation with all key stakeholders through a combination of surveys, one-to-one consultation and workshops. We will also engage with rowing participants and seek to understand whether the current offer is responsive to their needs.

Whilst many education and training courses have been postponed due to coronavirus, the following coach development opportunity is available:

- ***UK Coaching Safeguarding & Protecting Children (Online Classroom)***

While the face to face Safeguarding Workshop has been suspended, UK Coaching has developed an online workshop to fill the gap and give coaches and club leaders the opportunity to continue their learning. This online classroom will raise your awareness of the tell-tale signs of abuse and give you the tools and confidence you need to deal with any issues sensitively, appropriately and effectively should the need ever arise in your coaching career. To book a place on this 2 hour workshop follow use this link.

<https://www.ukcoaching.org/courses/search?courseid=12288&distance=25&order=soonest&bookableonly=false>

British Rowing lockdown webinar series

British Rowing has been hosting a very popular webinar series during lockdown to keep the rowing community engaged. Topics vary each week. If you have any suggestions for future webinars you'd like to see, please complete this [form](#). More information can be found on the website -

<https://www.britishrowing.org/british-rowing-lockdown-webinar-series/>

2. Regional membership figures

Eastern

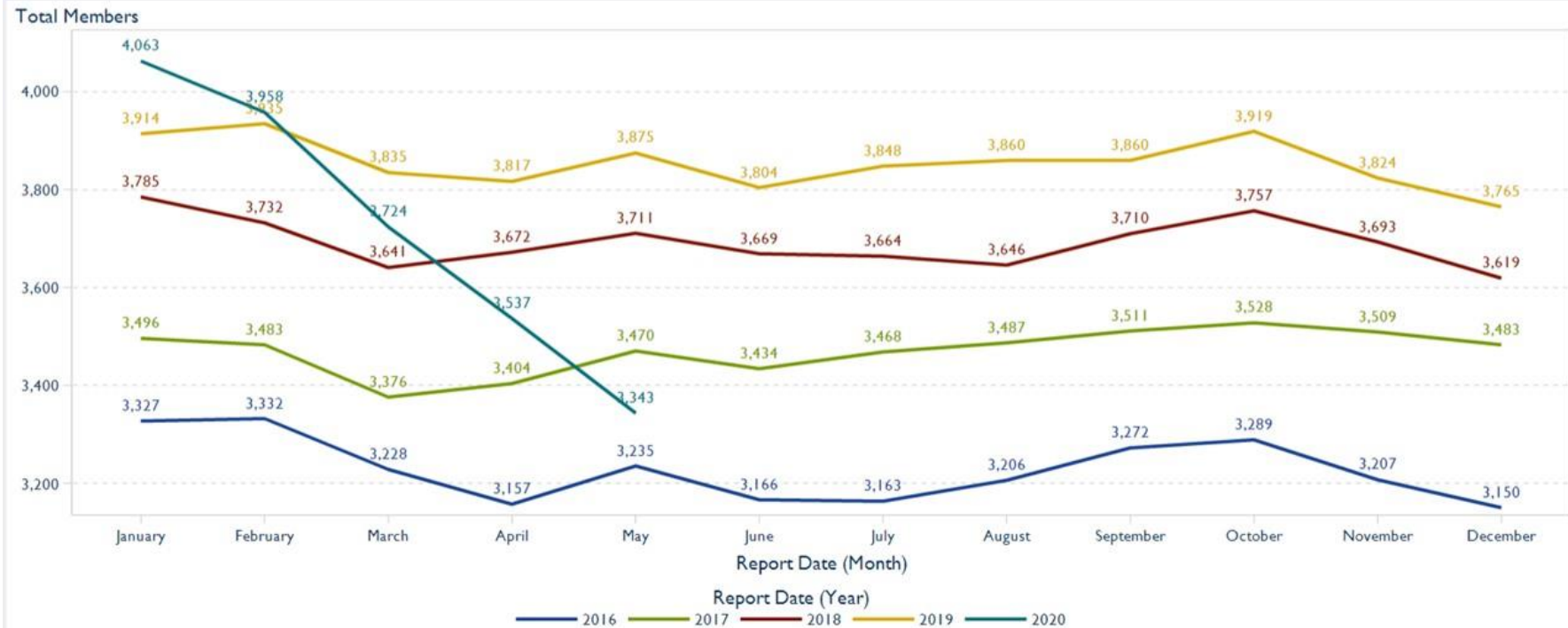
May 2020

Region	2020	2019	Net Year Change	% Year Change
Eastern	3,343	3,875	-532	-13.7%



Eastern

May 2020



3. National membership figures

Total Members 2016 to Present

May 2020

We have 27,717 distinct members as of the end of May 2020. In April, we predicted that the number of members would fall to approximately 28,000 due to Covid-19 suspending all rowing activity. Since mid May there has been communications to members outlining the safe return to rowing.

The record for the number of members in May is 32,059 in 2019. Before Covid-19 we had seen record high values in January, February and the second highest in March. From this we had expected 2020 to be a good year for the number of members which has unfortunately been interrupted by Covid-19.

Looking forward to June, we expect that the yearly percentage change in the number of members from 2019 will be less than in May due to the return of limited rowing in single sculls. The number of members is likely to remain low for sometime as there is no racing and RACE members make up the majority of our members.

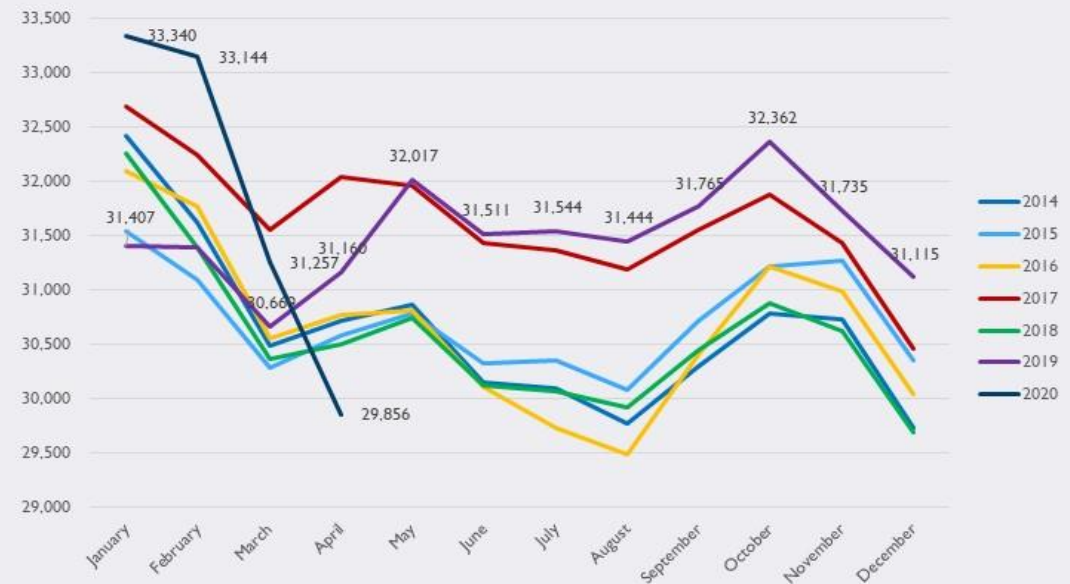


Total members 2014 to present

In April 2020, we had 29,856 members. This drop in membership was expected based on Covid-19 stopping all rowing activity since 20th March. The record for April rolling memberships is 32,032 from 2017 and before Covid-19 we were expecting membership to be around that level.

A further decrease to around 28,000 members is expected for May. However, we are confident membership figures will pick up once rowing is allowed to take place again.

Total Members, 2014 to present



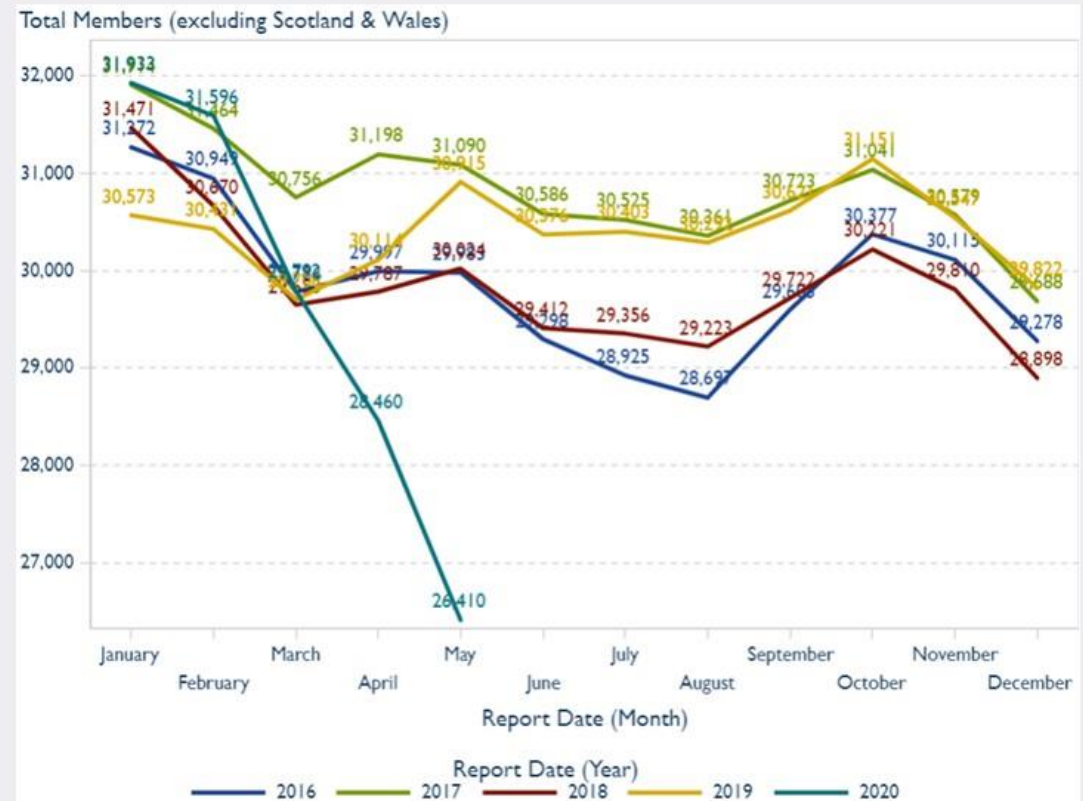
Total Members excluding Scotland & Wales

May 2020

The total number of members excluding those in Scotland and Wales is 26,410 in May 2020.

Comparing this to May 2019, there was a decrease of 4,505 members (14.6%). The yearly percentage decrease is greater when excluding Scotland and Wales showing that the number of members in these regions have not decreased as greatly as British Rowing members as a whole.

Before the new membership system in November 2018 we didn't include Scotland and Wales in the total member figures. These figures are best used for comparison before the change in membership.



Comparing like for like

Before we changed systems in February 2018 we didn't include Scotland and Wales in the total figures but 'Overseas' and 'Other BR Regions' were part of the calculations.

The graph below tracks monthly membership excluding Scotland and Wales from 2016 – present.

Monthly Memberships excl. Scotland and Wales



Total Members Yearly Change

May 2020

May 2020	27,717
May 2019	32,059
Net Year Change	-4,342
% Year Change	-13.5%

In May 2020, the number of members decreased by 13.5% compared to the same month last year. This has fallen further compared to the 4.2% decrease in April. We hope to see the percentage change from 2019 improve in June 2020 as some limited rowing activity is returning.

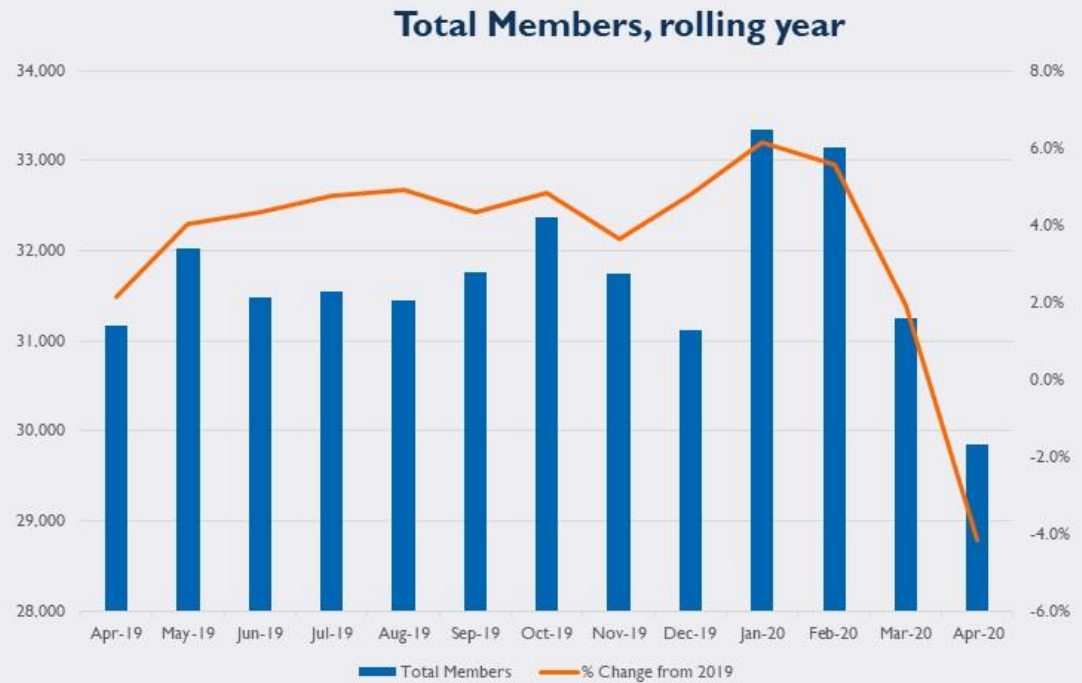


Total Members

March 2020	29,856
March 2019	31,160
% change y-o-y	-4.2%
Actual change	-1,304

In April 2020, membership decreased by 4.2% compared to the same month last year.

From the British Rowing members in April 2020 87% are based at clubs in BR regions.



Membership by Type

May 2020

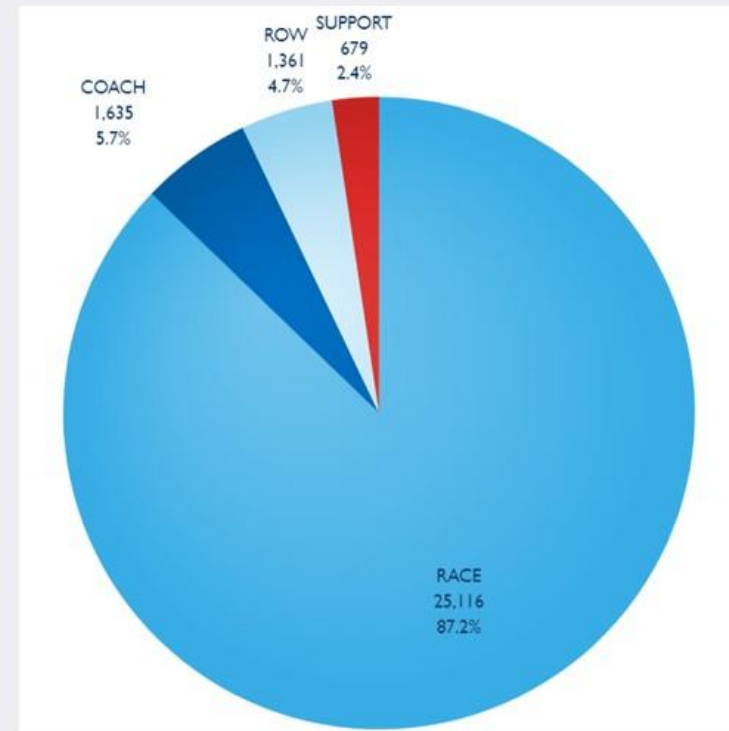
With 25,116 memberships (87.2%), RACE makes up the vast majority of all memberships. This group decreased by 3,767 memberships (13%) since May last year. There are 11,431 female (45.5%) and 13,685 (54.5%) male RACE memberships, the most equitable of all membership types.

ROW memberships decreased by 49.5% (-1,332) compared to May 2019. There are 1,361 remaining memberships of this type. Across all membership types the ROW membership has significantly the largest decrease in membership. There are 564 (41.4%) female and 797 (58.5%) male ROW memberships.

There was 20.9% (-432) decrease in COACH memberships compared to May last year. The total number of COACH memberships is 1,635 of which 503 (30.8%) are female and 1,132 (69.2%) are male. This type has the poorest gender split of all types.

SUPPORT memberships make up 2.4% of all memberships with 679 memberships. This is made up of 233 (34.3%) females and 446 (65.7%) males. In May 2020, SUPPORT was the only membership type to see an increase compared to this time last year. There was an increase of 88 (14.9%) memberships.

There were no Friends of British Rowing memberships sold in May 2020, leaving the rolling total at 55.



Membership by type

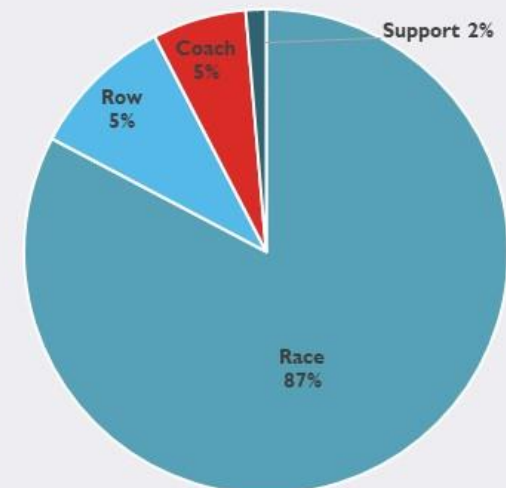
RACE memberships make up the vast majority of memberships (86.9%) but this segment decreased by 782 memberships compared to April 2019 (-2.8%)

ROW memberships were down 49.6% (-1408) compared to April 2019. Leaving a total of 1432 members in this segment. Across all membership types this segment had saw the strongest decrease.

COACH memberships were down 19.7% (-418) compared to April last year. Leaving the total number of people with a COACH membership at 1701.

SUPPORT memberships make up 2.2% of all memberships and this segment has been growing steadily since it was launched in November 2018. In April 2020 it was the only membership type with an increase in members compared to the same month last year. SUPPORT memberships were up 23.8% (+134).

Membership by type



Members by Gender & Age

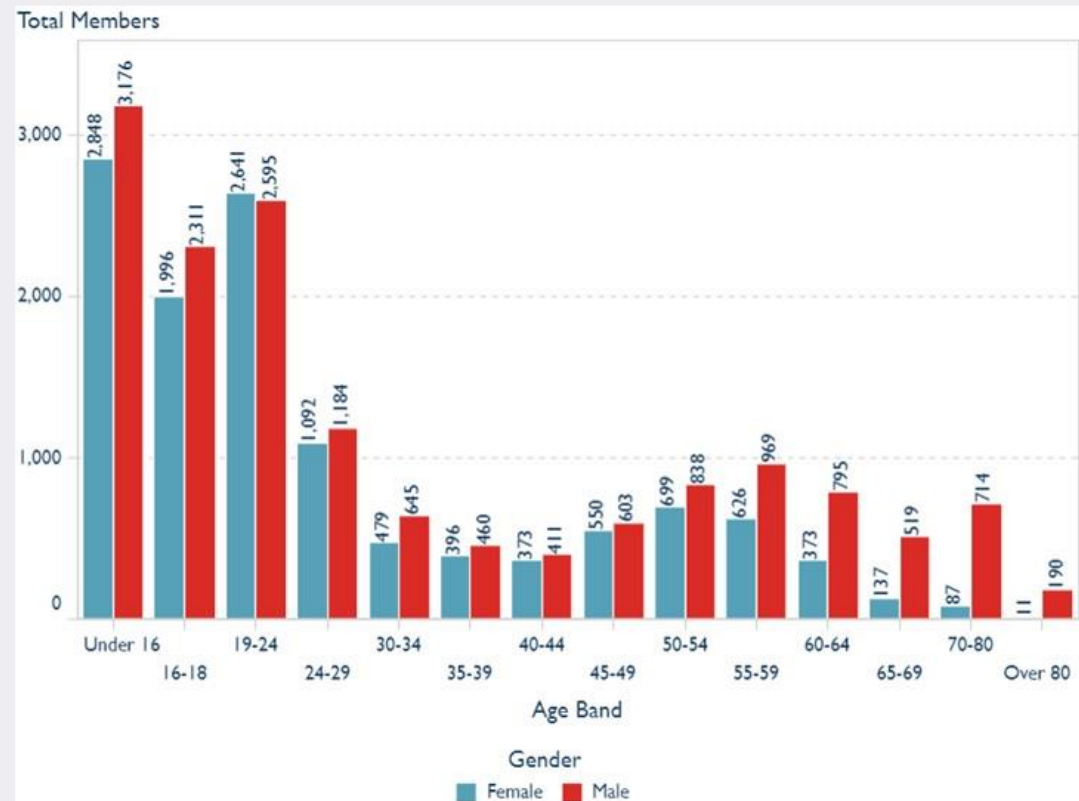
May 2020

In May 2020, there was 15,410 Male members (55.6%) and 12,307 Female members (44.4%).

Only two gender and age bands saw a positive increase in members since May 2019. Females aged 70-80 increased by 12 members (16%) and females aged 60-64 increased by 9 members (2.5%).

Both female and male under 16 age groups decreased by over 20% since May 2019. This is possibly due to coaches in schools often facilitating membership purchases and these junior members not participating in rowing whilst not at school.

In general, the percentage decrease in female members across age groups was greater than their male counterparts since May 2019. This could possibly indicate that females were less likely to renew their memberships throughout the Covid-19 inactivity.



Members by Gender & Age

May 2020

Groups highlighted in red decreased more than the average decrease in membership of 13.5%.

Age Band	Gender	2020	2019	Net Year Change	% Year Change
Under 16	Female	2,849	3,621	-772	-21.3%
	Male	3,176	4,071	-895	-22.0%
16-18	Female	1,996	2,130	-134	-6.3%
	Male	2,311	2,450	-139	-5.7%
19-24	Female	2,641	2,958	-317	-10.7%
	Male	2,595	2,871	-276	-9.6%
24-29	Female	1,092	1,285	-193	-15.0%
	Male	1,184	1,528	-344	-22.5%
30-34	Female	480	603	-123	-20.4%
	Male	645	742	-97	-13.1%
35-39	Female	396	507	-111	-21.9%
	Male	460	539	-79	-14.7%
40-44	Female	373	464	-91	-19.6%
	Male	411	499	-88	-17.6%
45-49	Female	550	643	-93	-14.5%
	Male	603	679	-76	-11.2%
50-54	Female	699	811	-112	-13.8%
	Male	838	943	-105	-11.1%
55-59	Female	627	687	-60	-8.7%
	Male	969	1,070	-101	-9.4%
60-64	Female	373	364	9	2.5%
	Male	795	824	-29	-3.5%
65-69	Female	137	169	-32	-18.9%
	Male	519	568	-49	-8.6%
70-80	Female	87	75	12	16.0%
	Male	714	749	-35	-4.7%
Over 80	Female	11	16	-5	-31.3%
	Male	190	193	-3	-1.6%

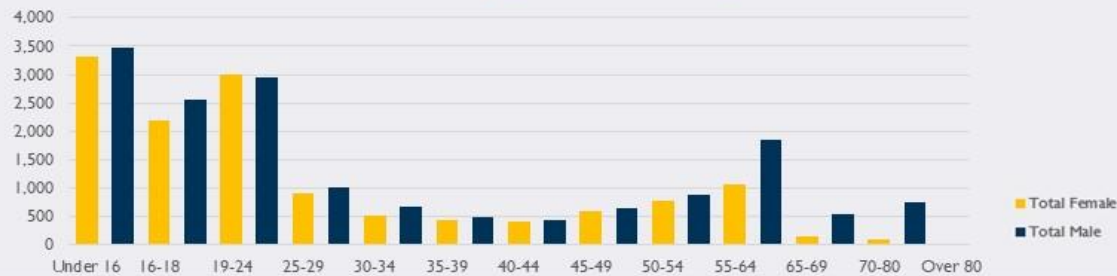
Membership by gender

In April 2020 the membership gender split remained 55% male, 45% female. Female memberships decreased by 3.2% (-442) whereas male memberships decreased by 4.7% (-808).

The largest net increase in memberships in April took place in J16 - J18 boys (+146) and girls (+133). The 55-64 age group also saw an increase compared to the same month last year.

Looking at percentages, 70 – 80 year old females were one of the few growing age groups (+13.7%) followed by over 80 males and 16-18 year olds.

Members by gender and age



Age	Gender	2020	2019	Net change y-o-y	% change y-o-y
0-15	Female	3,320	3,596	-276	-7.7%
	Male	3,485	3,981	-496	-12.5%
16-18	Female	2,190	2,057	133	6.5%
	Male	2,560	2,414	146	6.0%
19-24	Female	2,997	2,976	21	0.7%
	Male	2,957	3,026	-69	-2.3%
25-29	Female	900	979	-79	-8.1%
	Male	1,014	1,143	-129	-11.3%
30-34	Female	517	602	-85	-14.1%
	Male	684	753	-69	-9.2%
35-39	Female	426	509	-83	-16.3%
	Male	493	539	-46	-8.5%
40-44	Female	399	459	-60	-13.1%
	Male	424	484	-60	-12.4%
45-49	Female	597	641	-44	-6.9%
	Male	636	669	-33	-4.9%
50-54	Female	770	784	-14	-1.8%
	Male	884	943	-59	-6.3%
55-64	Female	1,065	1,008	57	5.7%
	Male	1,846	1,839	7	0.4%
65-69	Female	142	159	-17	-10.7%
	Male	528	571	-43	-7.5%
70-80	Female	83	73	10	13.7%
	Male	762	785	-23	-2.9%
Over 80	Female	12	16	-4	-25.0%
	Male	166	154	12	7.8%

* Cells were highlighted in green or red when a % y-o-y difference >10% was found.



4. Active partnerships and other contacts

- Bedfordshire: Team Beds - Coach development: michelle@teambedsandluton.co.uk
- Buckinghamshire: Leap - skitson@leapwithus.org.uk
- Cambridgeshire: Living Sport - info@livingsport.co.uk
- Essex: Active Essex - Volunteer and Club Development: Toby.Andrews@ActiveEssex.org
- - Coaching lead: Lauren.Neve@ActiveEssex.org
- Hertfordshire: Herts Sport Partnership - info@sportinherts.org.uk
- Norfolk: Active Norfolk - Club development: aaron.roberts@activenorfolk.org
- Northamptonshire: Northamptonshire Sport – info@northamptonshiresport.org
- Suffolk: Suffolk Sport -Info@suffolksport.com

British Rowing Community Support Team: clubsupport@britishrowing.org



5. Funding opportunities

Sport England

The Sport England funding page has lots of information on finding funding, so if you are looking to purchase equipment or improve facilities more information on their funds and how to apply can be found on their website - <https://www.sportengland.org/funding/>

Active Partnerships (Old CSPs)

Active Partnerships are networks of local agencies committed to working together to increase the number of people taking part in sport and physical activity. Most of the Active Partnerships have funding pages which have information on local and national funding sources. For more information on Active Partnership please visit the Active Partnership Network website - <http://www.activepartnerships.org/active-partnerships>

Tesco Bags of Help Grant

Bags of Help is Tesco's local community grant scheme where the money raised by the carrier bag charge in Tesco stores is being used to fund thousands of community projects across the UK. The projects must meet the criteria of bringing benefits to the community.

Bags of Help is administered by Groundwork who is working with Greenspace Scotland to support successful projects in Scotland. Visit the website for more information - <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/tescocommunityscheme/pages/Category/boh-grant-for-project-tes>

Sport Capital Fund

Sporting Capital is the first social investment fund in England that focuses specifically on organisations and projects that help to develop communities through sport and physical activity. They have a £3m Fund that provides loan funding of between £50,000 and £150,000 to eligible organisations. Further details can be found on their website - www.sportingcapital.org.uk