



BRITISHROWING

# Regional Chair's Report

February 2022

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

### **Club affiliation is open**

The club affiliation process to British Rowing for the 2022 / 2023 year opened on Monday 14 February on the ClubHub Portal and all clubs have been emailed letting them know that their affiliation can be renewed online.

Emails sent to clubs:

1. Club Affiliation Renewal – ClubHub Login reminder – 9<sup>th</sup> February
2. Club Affiliation 2022 Renewal : 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 – 14<sup>th</sup> February

All clubs were emailed as a reminder to ensure that their login details to ClubHub are correct, and they are able to access their club profile page. Hopefully our clubs are familiar with the affiliation process in ClubHub Portal, but we did include more information in Monday's email on how to complete their affiliation. Affiliation, including payment, needs to be completed by 31 March 2022.

As always, we appreciate your support in reminding clubs to get their affiliations renewed and payments to us.

### **Changes to affiliation for 2022 / 2023**

Marieke presented ideas to change club affiliation at your January meeting, but we felt that there wasn't enough information or time to consult our clubs to fairly implement the changes in time for this year's affiliation. We are continuing to work on the plans with a view to introduce this as part of a broader change for the next affiliation year.



### **New Club Affiliation application form**

We have created a new club affiliation form to complete online (instead of the word document which had to be scanned / signatures collected etc.) everyone is free to test this by filling it out here: <https://forms.gle/ziYDoasgnprRSA8ZA>

We have created a regional chairs and regional safety advisers sign off form as this has been taken out of the club form. This can be found here: <https://forms.gle/LBBxGZGcDrVDMjnLA>

The application word documents have been replaced on our website and you can find a link to the new affiliation form and more information on affiliation [here](#).

### **The process**

Affiliation applications are not complete until approval has been obtained from the relevant Regional Rowing Council. The BR membership team will liaise with the Regional Rowing Council Chair and Safety Adviser when a new application is received.

Applications are likely to take a minimum of four weeks to process and are dependent on the dates of the British Rowing Board meetings.

New applications must be submitted with enough time before a deadline date below to check the application and liaise with the Regional Chairman. We cannot guarantee that any applications or requests that pass a deadline date will be able to be included in an agenda for Board approval.

These are the Board dates for 2022

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March (deadline – 7<sup>th</sup> March)



Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May (deadline – 9<sup>th</sup> May)

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July (deadline – 11<sup>th</sup> July)

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September (deadline – 12<sup>th</sup> September)

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November (deadline – 14<sup>th</sup> November)

If all affiliation criteria have been met your application will be presented to the Board for approval.

### **Go Row Indoors**

The Indoor rowing team were pleased to hear that Bristol Ariel RC have re-started their Go Row Indoor Club class activity for 2022. Being huge advocates of the programme, the club now runs seven Go Row Indoor classes a week and they recently confirmed that the club has raised just shy of £20,000 to club funds since they started the classes – in the face of the pandemic! – and increased club membership with 25 new ‘indoor members’ paying a per month membership for unlimited classes. This can also be possible at clubs in your region too. Check out more about what the [Go Row Indoor Club](#) has to offer and express an interest by emailing [indoor@britishrowing.org](mailto:indoor@britishrowing.org) – we’ll then get back to you to talk things through and next steps.

### **Workshop For Fitness Professionals**

We are pleased to announce our next [Go Row Indoor Workshops](#) for Fitness Professionals are now LIVE for bookings. We have two workshops planned in March, one virtually and one in person on:

- **Thursday 24 March**, 1-4pm – Virtual Go Row Indoor workshop – [Book here](#).

**Wednesday 30 March**, 10-3pm – Go Row Indoor workshop London at [Black Prince Community Trust, SE11 6AA](#). [Book here](#).



### **Flood relief funding**

After the recent three storms Sport England has reopened its Community Emergency Fund, clubs can apply for up to £15,000, see the Sport England website for details on what they will and will not fund.

<https://www.sportengland.org/news/emergency-funding-available-storm-damaged-facilities>

See British Rowing's website for advice on how to mitigate the damage caused by flooding <https://www.britishrowing.org/2019/11/flood-action-tips-for-rowing-clubs/> and also check out the club management guide for more information here: <https://clubs.britishrowing.org/tools-resources/club-guide-club-management-guide>

As flooding is becoming more common and we are now seeing facilities that have not traditionally done so, clubs may be interested in doing some flood prevention and resilient work, so you can get back into your club quicker and back on the water. This website has great practical advice and offers grants towards this <https://www.floodguidance.co.uk/grants-funding/english-grants-and-funding/>

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) advice**

We have changed our rowing activity to level 1 in light of the government's removal of legal restrictions, our latest advice for the rowing community, including our 'Return to Rowing' advice document, is available at [www.britishrowing.org/coronavirus](http://www.britishrowing.org/coronavirus)

### **British Rowing Membership Focus Group**

We are in the process of reviewing our membership offer and would like to talk to club members who do NOT hold a British Rowing membership (and have not done so for at least 5 years). We are looking to hold a series of focus group discussions where we will explore what matters to you and how British Rowing could improve their membership offers. There will be no selling involved. Just a chat over a cup of tea (or drink of your choice!) , discussing what could be done differently. The focus groups will be conducted virtually during mid-end March. If you would be interested in taking part in one of our focus groups, please complete the form attached to let us know your availability.

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6751905/Focus-Group-Sign-Up-Form>



### **J16/DiSE Camp**

Due to the success of the 2021 GBRT J16 Virtual Camp we have made the decision to run it again in 2022. This year it will take place on Sunday 20 March between 2pm and 6pm and will once again be open to all J16 rowers and their coaches across Great Britain. We believe that the learning that comes from attending this activity could be an important step in many young rowers development and therefore we want to make sure that this provision continues to be available to as many of the rowers that are aspiring to trial for the GB Rowing U19 Team in the future. For more details see attached.

### **Taking Equipment to Europe**

As clubs return to normal and coaches are thinking about training camps in warmer parts of Europe, we would just like to remind you that after Brexit there are rules on moving equipment about Europe that now need to be followed. The GB Rowing Team has put together helpful guides on what needs to be done before you get on the boat or train to training camp.

This is not a short process, so please advise your clubs to not leave it to the last minute as it could cost a lot of money in taxes, get your equipment impounded, or even stop equipment from leaving the country

<https://www.britishrowing.org/2022/02/training-camps-towing-to-the-eu-guidance/>

<https://www.britishrowing.org/2022/02/the-days-of-throwing-some-boats-and-equipment-on-a-trailer-are-sadly-long-gone/>

### **Irwin Mitchell offer to affiliated clubs and competitions**

In partnership with Irwin Mitchell, British Rowing is offering free access to a secure online suite of legal documents to help your club comply with all its legal obligations. Irwin Mitchell are here to support you when you need it. If you have any questions or you'd like to speak with someone, you can call the free British Rowing Legal & Tax Helpline on 0333 010 0345

<https://clubs.britishrowing.org/tools-resources/irwin-mitchell-legal-portal>

<https://www.irwinmitchell.com/british-rowing/legal-portal>



### Check Clean Dry

British Rowing is supporting this campaign to raise awareness about non-native species affecting the ecosystems that rowers enjoy. An invasive species is a non-native biological organism, and its introduction can impact British plants, animals and their environment. Sometimes they can help native organisms, but they can also devastate entire ecosystems.

As rowers, we spend most of our time on the water (or occasionally in, if you're unlucky!), therefore it is our responsibility to check our equipment and clothing to make sure we don't spread non-native invasive species.

To help protect the water sports we love, we can follow three simple steps when leaving the water:

**Check – our equipment and clothing for live organisms**

**Clean – and wash all equipment and clothing thoroughly**

**Dry – all equipment and clothing, as some species can live for many days in moist conditions.**

By following these simple steps, not only will you help protect the environment, but a clean boat is also a speedy boat for racing season!

With Easter camps and the summer racing season coming up, your boats will be travelling across the country and even across the continent to warmer climates. So make sure you follow the three simple steps; Check, Clean, Dry to ensure you don't bring any unwanted hitch hikers back to your home water.

To learn more visit the [GB non-native species secretariat website](#).

### EA Licence update

Listed below is the licence fee for the River Thames for the next 3 years, fees for rowing boats will be going up by 4% for 22/23 & 23/24 seasons and then by 2% for the 24/25 season. These rates are still lower than if you bought them direct from the EA. We are still to confirm the charges for the rivers Stour and Ancholme and will publish them as soon as available. In response to your feedback we have updated the ClubHub system so the process of buying multiple licences is easier (see how to guide attached)

Boat Type	Navigational Water	21/22 Fee	Increase	22/23 Fee	Increase	23/24 Fee	Increase	24/25 Fee
Standard	EA	£28.40	£1.14	£29.54	£1.18	£30.72	£0.61	£31.33
Junior	EA	£8.70	£0.35	£9.05	£0.36	£9.41	£0.19	£9.60
Coaching Launch	EA	£49.30	10.00	£59.30	10.00	£69.30	10.00	£79.30





For more detail information follow this link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-environment-agency-national-navigation-boat-registration-charging-schemes/national-navigation-boat-charging-schemes-from-2022#part-1>

### **Platinum Jubilee Reflections Flotilla**

On Saturday 24 September 2022, the Jubilee Reflections Flotilla will mark the River Thames' celebration of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Reflections will be an opportunity to come together to capture the enchantment of the night river, creating reflections as the boats glide peacefully by.

At dusk an illuminated flotilla of invited vessels, both manpowered and motorised, will parade down through central London from Chelsea to Tower Bridge. All craft will be decorated in white lights which will reflect on the water's surface, creating a river of light. With this being the River Thames' first night-time flotilla, the event will merge light and dark, working in harmony and unison with the superb Illuminated River display, as well as with the lit buildings and structures bordering the banks of the Thames.

The event will be raising funds for the RNLI, supporting their construction of a new lifeboat station at Waterloo Bridge.

If you are interested in taking part please go to the [Thames Festival Trust](#) website and register your interest, alternatively why not organise an event in your own area with other river users.

### **New series for Masters rowers**

Have you seen our articles for masters rowers on British Rowing Plus, in partnership with Rosie Mayglothing? They are open to everyone so please do spread the news!

We would love to feature different rowers and coaches from around the masters community so please do contact [wendy.kewley@britishrowing.org](mailto:wendy.kewley@britishrowing.org) if anyone from your region would like to contribute. We'd love to hear from you!



## **The Big Row**

Love Rowing's annual fundraiser **Is Back!**

The challenge this year will be to row around the world during the month of May, there will be weekly Competitions & prizes, a live leader board and Mini challenges within the main challenge, there will be online Zoom ergo sessions with Famous sports stars and much more.

More details on how to get involved check out the love Rowing website <https://www.loverowing.org/pages/the-big-row>

## **British Rowing Learning Education & Development (LEaD)**

### **Coach Development programme update**

The British Rowing coach development programme has resumed after the disruption from the pandemic and the river levels. Details of what on offer can be found on the British Rowing website [here](#)

## **GROW**

We have launch the new [GROW](#) programme which is committed to introducing a new generation of young people to rowing, and creating a sport which is more representative of today's society. GROW will be actively promoted over the next few weeks via email marketing and relevant social media. There is an application form so please share this with your clubs in order that we can attract lots of great applications.

Clubs that are interested in being part of the programme need to register their interest by the 18<sup>th</sup> March. Applications for coaching positions open 21<sup>st</sup> March and close 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022.

If you would like any further information about the GROW programme, please email [GROW@britishrowing.org](mailto:GROW@britishrowing.org).

### **How to request a workshop or qualification**

Unable to find what you looking for? Clubs and individuals can request a workshop or qualification by completing the request form [here](#) The learning, education and development team will work with the regional coaching reps to support these requests where possible.



### **Where to find details of workshops and qualifications**

For further information on our workshops and qualifications you can visit the British Rowing website for further details [here](#)

**Level 4** The next intake for this programme will be in September 2022. If you are interested in this programme, check out our webpage for further details and our webinar outlining the benefits and structure of the programme. [Level 4 Advanced Coach programme](#)

**Level 3** We will shortly be advertising the induction process for the next Level 3 Senior Club Coach programme which will begin in September 2022. Look out for further details shortly. [Level 3 Senior Club Coach](#)

**Level 2** All the information regarding our Level 2 Session Coach [award](#) (for anyone who would like to support rowers for occasional sessions or help deliver on learn to row programmes) or our Level 2 Club Coach [certificate](#) (for anyone who delivers over a season or leads the learn to row programme in their club/school/university) can be found by following the links.

### **Safeguarding Online Classroom**

UK Coaching Safeguarding & Protecting Children (Online Classroom)

Welfare officers, coaches and volunteers can still undertake UK Coaching Safeguarding and Time to Listen training online.

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 setting.

To book a place on this 2-hour workshop follow the link [Here](#) Please note, this online classroom session is for over 18's only.

16–18-year-olds can still undertake training. UK Coaching have added an online classroom workshop developed in partnership with the Child Protection Sport Unit (CPSU) of the NSPCC, created specifically for coaches and volunteers aged 16 to 18 years old. Further details can be found [here](#)

### **First Aid**

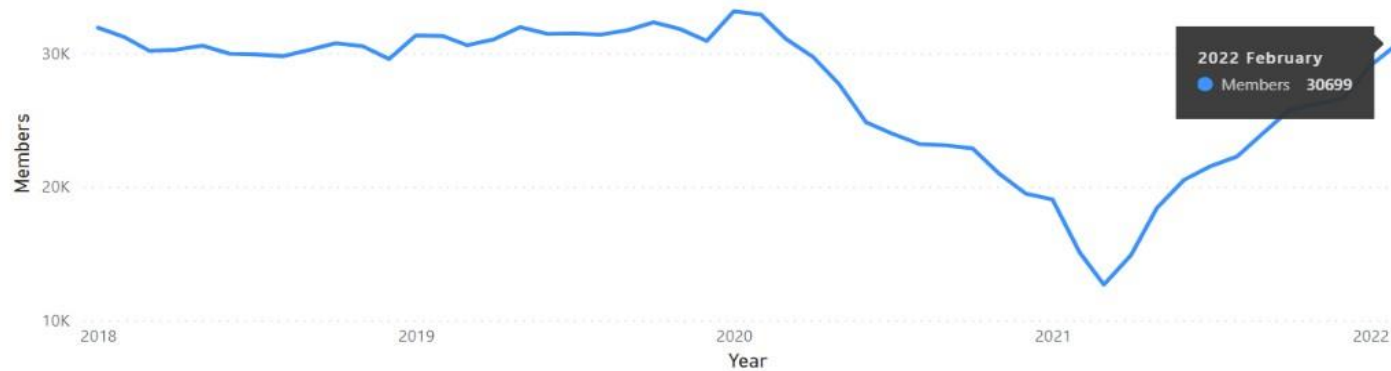
Some first aid providers are now offering face to face training once again. The red cross offer a number of training courses including a 4-hour First Aid for Sport. Further details can be found [here](#)



## 2. National membership figures

### Total Members (including Indoor) – Since January 2018

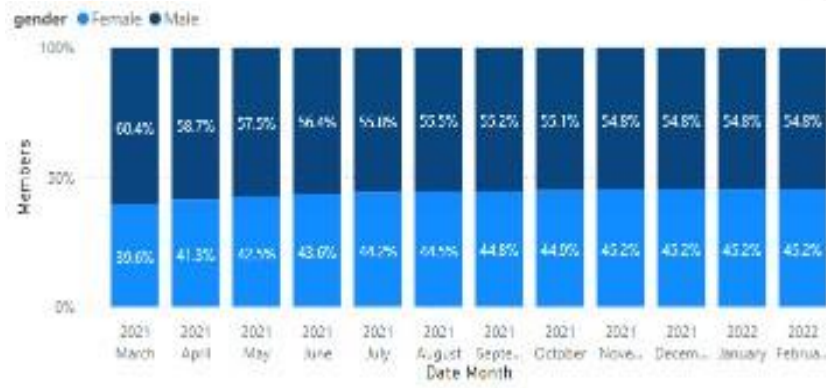
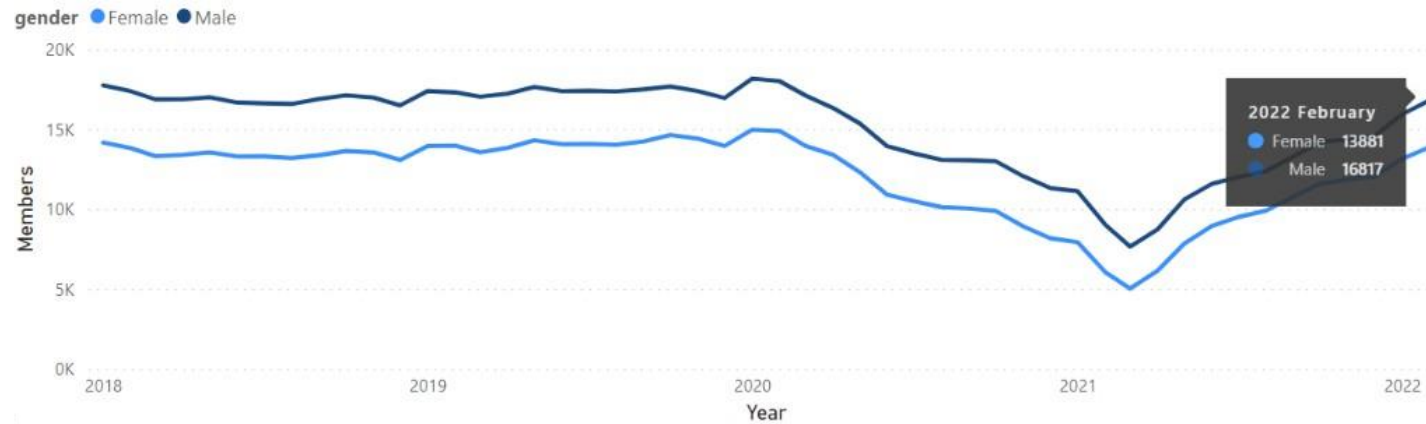
February 2022



- The number of **total members (including Indoor)** has increased by 1 622 from 29,077 in January to 30,699 in February, with numbers continuing to approach the pre-pandemic membership of 32,899 in February 2020.



# Total Members by Gender



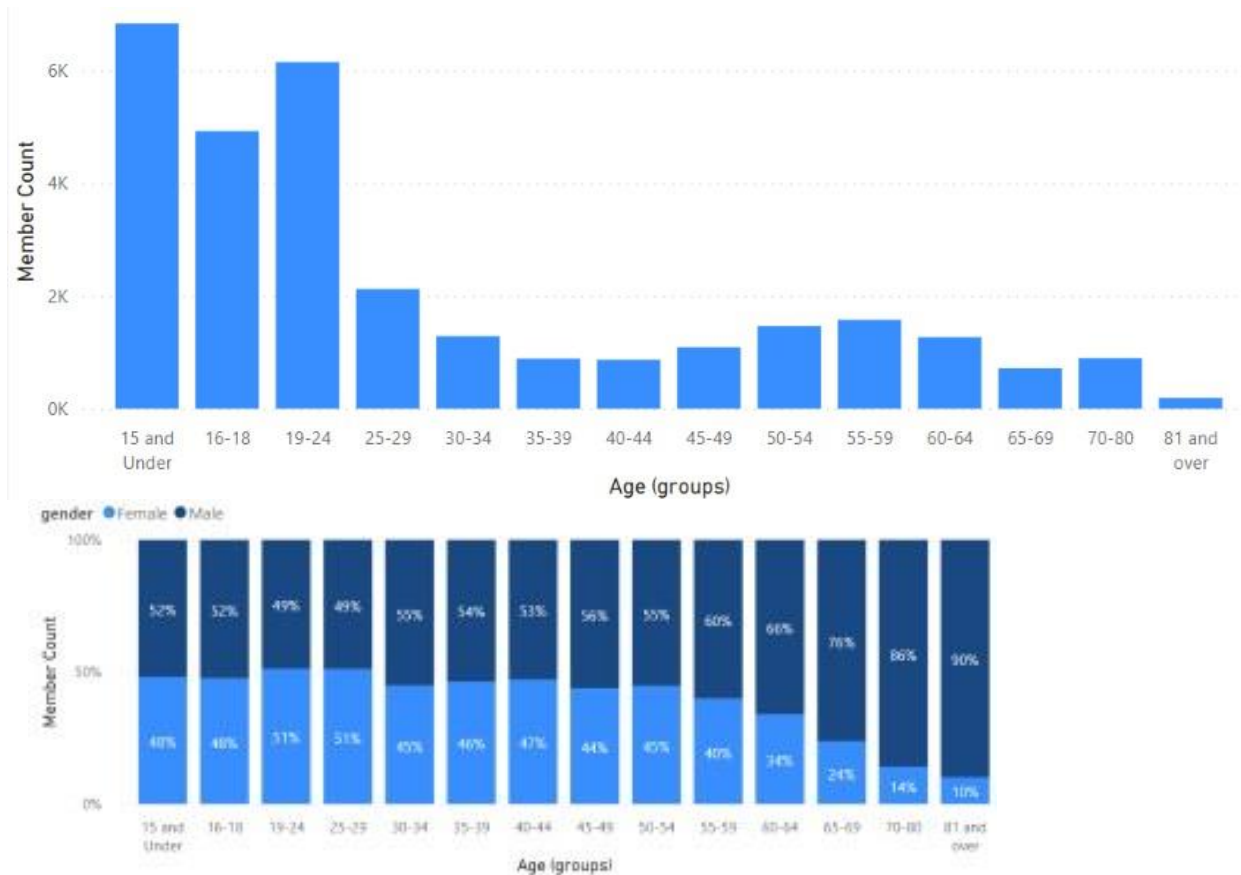
While the number of female members is growing, the overall percentage is not

The change in female membership has levelled off at 45.2% since November

There are also more male memberships being bought this month than female

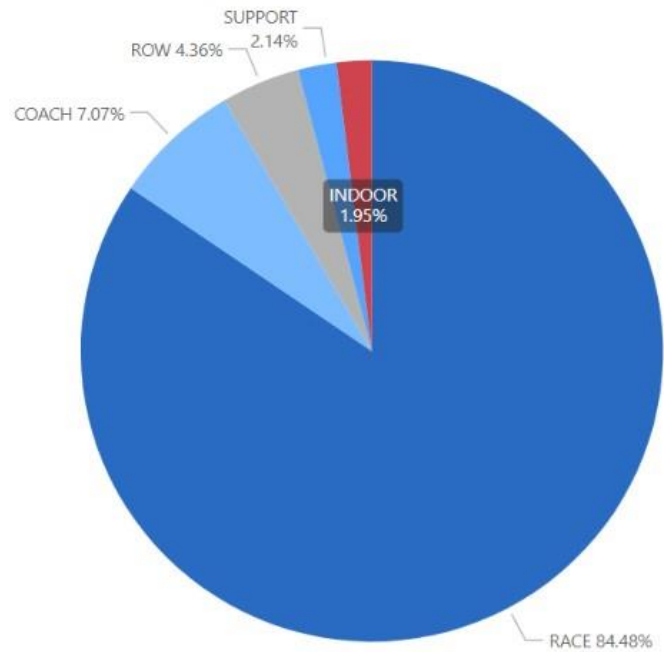
## Total Members by Age Band

February 2022



- Members span all ages from 14 yr olds to over 80's. The under 16's make up the biggest part of BR membership with 6836 members followed by the 19-24's with 6149 members and the 16-18's with 4926. Comparing this with the drop off to only 2124 members in the 25-29 range highlights the importance of retaining our under-25 members.
- The graph below shows how gender and age interact. In the 19-29 age group, there are more female than male members. All other age groups have more male than female members, with the greatest disparity being in the oldest age groups.

# Memberships by Type



Membership Type ● RACE ● COACH ● ROW ● SUPPORT ● INDOOR

Membership Type	Jan-22	Feb-22	Net change	% Change
RACE	25,742	27,606	1,864	7.2%
COACH	1,827	1,876	29	1.6%
ROW	1,537	1,564	27	1.8%
INDOOR	851	798	-53	-6.2%
SUPPORT (incl FOBR)	618	613	-5	-0.8%
LIFE	173	173	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,748</b>	<b>32,630</b>	<b>1,882</b>	<b>6.1%</b>

- RACE membership has continued to grow and now makes up 84% of memberships. Head race season is now fully underway with large races such as Head of the River and Women’s Head of the River coming up in March.
- The slight decreases in INDOOR and SUPPORT have been more than offset by the increases in RACE, COACH, and ROW.

## Memberships by Name

February 2022

Membership Type	Membership Name	Jan-22	Feb-22	Net Change	% Change
RACE	Adaptive	59	63	4	6.8%
	Adult	8,527	8,949	422	4.9%
	Junior	11,020	11,772	752	6.8%
	Scottish & Overseas	785	1,083	298	38.0%
	Student	5,349	5,737	378	7.1%
COACH	Coach	1,827	1,876	-1	-0.1%
INDOOR	Indoor - Pay Annually	722	660	62	8.6%
	Indoor - Pay Monthly	125	133	8	6.4%
LIFE	Life Member	173	173	0	0
ROW	Row	1537	1,564	27	1.8%
SUPPORT	Friend of British Rowing	38	38	0	0
	Umpire	302	301	-1	-0.3%
	Volunteer	278	274	-4	-1.4%
<b>Total</b>		<b>30,748</b>	<b>32,630</b>	<b>1882</b>	<b>6.1%</b>

- All RACE categories have increased this month with Junior and then Adult increasing the most.
- SUPPORT and COACH memberships have all decreased, although only very slightly.
- The membership types that have decreased have only been single figures, and there have been large increases over all the other types.





### 3. Useful Links and other contacts

Active Partnerships

<http://www.activepartnerships.org/active-partnerships>

Sport England

<https://www.sportengland.org/>

Environment Agency

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>

Canal & River Trust

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/>

UK Coaching

<https://www.ukcoaching.org/>



## 4. 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](http://www.sportingcapital.org.uk)

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](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)

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>

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>