



## DURHAM REGATTA

### Report to Members of Durham Regatta, AGM November 2020

This year's report is regrettably short as the regatta along with most activities has been significantly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. With no realistic prospect of being allowed to run the regatta in June, the executive committee made an early decision, endorsed by the board, to cancel the 2020 Durham Regatta.

The committee organised Durham Regatta @Home, a virtual event, on the regatta's intended dates, that attracted some hundreds of entries and raised of the order of £500 for St Cuthbert's Hospice, a charity that the regatta has previously supported.

#### Meetings:

*Members meetings* – due to the cancellations of the regatta in 2019 and in 2020 and the withdrawal of students from residence in Durham during the pandemic, no quorate meetings of members took place during the year. The regatta will make more use of online and other media technologies to attempt to attract more members to take part in virtual meetings.

The *Regatta Executive Committee* met regularly throughout the year to manage the day to day affairs of the Regatta. All positions were filled by election or appointment. One decision to note – the regatta is no longer to continue its attempt to re-instate the commentary box on Baths bridge.

The *Board of Directors* has met three times (one inquorate) in the year to discuss a range of strategic and operational matter. Most notable is the issue of maintaining the depth of the River Wear for rowing and other water based activities.

**Dredging:** Durham Regatta has been acting in effect as the liaison agent for stakeholders. The survey of the River Wear commissioned from JBH Consultants (financed principally by Durham County Council and Durham University with significant contributions also from DARC and Durham Regatta) has been completed, round table discussions with the Environment Agency have taken place (virtually) and the final stage of obtaining a permit to undertake a capital dredge within the previously accepted sustainable Gravel Management Plan is underway. The regatta will obtain estimates for the dredging work as soon as possible from EA approved contractors and depending on the sums involved, the regatta will undertake appropriate fund raising activities with a view to commissioning the work for 2021.

#### Consequences of cancellation 2020

The cancellation was the third in the regatta's history. The early cancellation reduced financial and other risks to very low levels and has helped to preserve the future viability of the regatta company. The only outlay against the original budget was a booking payment to the company that supplies the replacement commentary box and other communications equipment., we expect this to be rolled over to the next regatta. The regatta currently maintains just under £60k in reserves.

#### Sponsors

The Directors are very grateful to all who sponsored the regatta and who have either donated this year's contributions or transferred them to next year. In particular the regatta would like to thank co-sponsor Alpha Security. We continue to have the support of Concision for our web site.

#### Regatta Grants

The regatta continued to provide small grants, but within a reduced budget, to support local rowing clubs particularly in relation to coaching, safety and other similar activities.

#### Retiring members of the committee

We record our thanks to Ellie Drescher who has been our treasurer for this year.