



Beccles Rowing Club - "Recognition and Rewards for Rowers"

The growth of Beccles Rowing Club and its commitment to inclusive and accessible rowing and fitness has been formally endorsed and financially supported by a number of diverse local and National organisations. The club is proud to have received recognition for its efforts from The Suffolk Foundation and the Low Carbon Buildings programme who have funded a solar installation that powers the Club premises with sustainable and naturally produced electric power which will ensure much needed lighting is provided for evening and winter sessions on the river or on the ergo machines. Even on cloudy days the batteries are recharged and will provide power for the interior lights and the security floodlights outside. The club also now even boasts a kettle, which can be boiled from the same source! The design and installation was carried out by local contractors Solar Energy Alliance of Lowestoft who specialise in solar and wind powered generation.

The National Lottery-funded Awards for All organisation has awarded a sporting grant which has been used to buy two much needed sculling boats. Be now an additional single scull available and a further model due to arrive. Single scull boats are crucial for testing the development and technical skills of members and allow for coaches to really focus on individual needs and programmes. Beccles Rowing Club is delighted that Awards for All continues to actively support the drive for expansion and the recruitment of new members.

Further progress has been achieved following the excellent efforts of James Gilbert and other youthful accomplices, who have just had an outstanding success with an application to the Youth Opportunity Fund and the Youth Capital Fund. Both these are administered by The Suffolk Youth Connexions Service and are part of an ongoing programme to help develop facilities for young people in Suffolk. The group presented a case for a much-needed additional safety and rescue launch with outboard engine. Beccles Rowing Club is committed to providing adequate supervision for members and especially the increasing number of junior members. Via this process, a new double sculling boat has also been funded, which will replace a much-loved and garlanded double scull which is no longer operational. A further grant will fund launch driver training for four juniors, all of whom will qualify to Royal Yachting Association powerboat level 2 and be able to use the Club's launches for safety and rescue.

In light of the impressive support that Beccles Rowing Club has received from the wider community, Chairman Robin De Vere Green commented:

“We are extremely grateful to all of the local and National bodies that have hitherto supported us in our quest to make Beccles Rowing Club an inclusive and welcoming club, where all ages, sexes and abilities can come together for fun, fitness and competition. We are proud of what we are creating and would very much like to thank the Suffolk Foundation, the Low Carbon Buildings Programme, Awards for All, the Youth Opportunity Fund and the Youth Capital Fund, all of whom have contributed to our Club development and the quality and accessibility of our provision to the local community. We are very proud of what we are building at Beccles Rowing Club and we are hugely encouraged that others endorse our vision and our efforts so wholeheartedly.”

Those interested in rowing, who would like to try a Beccles Rowing Club six-week induction programme, should contact Captain Phil Marler via

www.becclesrowingclub.co.uk