

Renting SWIFTS and other equipment

Strategic Rationale

The club has rented boats to members for over 20 years. However, at the start of 2021 the club's entire boat stock was 20-30 years old and obsolete. In effect, only members who could afford c.£3,500-a-seat for a competitive boat & equipment (or had a friend who'd lend them one) could row in a high-performing boat.

The boat park holds c.100 boats, and yet only c.35 are needed to support any race or event held by the club. In 2021, the club only had c.18 of those boats....18 boats that no experienced rower wants to row in if they have the means to avoid doing so.

This issue regarding the club's lack of good equipment is compounded by the fact that the boat park is full...new rowers cannot reliably access rack space, and therefore won't buy a boat themselves even if they had the means to do so.

As we exited lockdown, it was evident that the club needed to evolve to ensure that we didn't disadvantage/discourage newer members, younger members and those with lower financial means. Hence, we set a new strategy for the club:

Our Journey: from a collection of boat owners who row; to an inclusive, accessible, community rowing club.

One club:

- That organises a range of rowing & social events for all members.
- That helps people who help the club.
- Run in a financially and socially sustainable manner.
- For a diverse collection of community members.
- Of people who are fair, transparent and respectful to each other.

Whether you want aim for Gold or simply the finish...we have a place for you

Our goal is to make rowing accessible to all who wish to take part, regardless of background, ability or financial status and in doing so contribute to the physical and mental wellbeing of our community.

The club needs to replace its old stock. It also needs to raise funds to maintain this new equipment and then replace it at the end of its useful life.

Along with our other efforts with HAGR, Press, Sponsorship/Grant drives, this is making a dramatic difference to the way Islanders' access rowing.

Below is a list of FAQs that may be helpful.

Summary

There are five categories of bookers.

- **Club / Community events:** All equipment (including the SWIFTs) is free to use by all Members & attendees. This includes have-a-go events, club-organised training evenings & beach sprint training sessions that are open to all members, club organised events (such as the beach sprint events) that are also open to all members. The club will prebook multiple boats for such events in advance.
- **SWIFT Subscription:** provides the member with non-exclusive, unlimited access (outside of club / community events) to all the club's equipment, including the SWIFT boats, for private

training. In addition, the member will receive priority access to the SWIFT boats for club races (including Sark2Jersey, Carteret and Round Island). The cost is either a one-off annual pass for £180, or 12 monthly payments of £15.

- **PAYG SWIFT Hire:** £5-per-seat-per-session hire for a SWIFT boat for private training or racing purposes as above.
- **Free Hire:** All Members can access the club's Ergs, older (non-SWIFT) equipment / boats on a non-exclusive basis free of charge.
- **Exclusive Hire of older Equipment:** the club continues to rent its Euro double, singles and its older quad boats for an annual fee in accordance with long-standing practices. Boat 132 is an example of this.

How to obtain a Performance Subscription

Follow this link <https://club.race-nation.co.uk/club/jersey-rowing-club>

Or follow the link on the website

How do I book equipment?

Head to www.jerseyrowing.com, access to the book system is under training.

The booking system is a link to a page on the Jersey Rowing Club Web site for booking JRC equipment and is only to be used by JRC members.

The booking system also includes Ergometers and may include other facilities in the future such as hiring the Rib-boats. Our goal is to make all the clubs equipment available to all its members (subject to qualifying criteria such as holding PB2 for Rib access)

The system we use has been designed and built by members of the club for club members. It is still being refined and we look forward to receiving your feedback. RaceNation & the Website are functional and work well, but it's not Amazon.

If you see any issues, then please bring them to the attention of the committee. We endeavour to keep things both fair and simple to administer.

What equipment can I use with a SWIFT Subscription or PAYG SWIFT Hire

All of the club's equipment. You can row in a SWIFT quad one day, a SWIFT single the next and SWIFT double the day after. Only those without a SWIFT Subscription need to pay the £5-per-seat-per-session hire charge.

How far ahead can I book?

For members, one week.

The club will book further in advance for specific events like the Club Training Evenings, Beach Sprints and Beach Sprint training times.

How many bookings can I have in the system at one time?

As many as you wish. However, we ask members to be considerate to other members, only book equipment when you fully intend to use it. Bookings can also be cancelled on the booking system.

What if I want to cancel?

You should cancel your booking on the system 24 hours in advance. Less than 24 hours please also post the cancelation on Facebook to alert members of new availability.

Why no refunds?

The club is entirely run by volunteers. We do not want the administrative burden of maintaining bank details securely nor to be constantly returning small amounts of money.

If you're not sure you going to use the equipment, don't book it. This also has the effect of keeping the equipment available for others who are sure they wish to use it.

How long can I book a boat for?

Bookings may be up to one and half hours. You must have the boat back on the slip at the end of your booking.

How will the system be monitored for fairness?

All committee members with a formal position (captain/chair, vice-captain, treasurer, secretary and membership secretary) have access to the club's email account and file store.

All bookings flow into an email folder, spot checking times / hirers / boat details is therefore quite straight forward. We also receive monthly reports on equipment use.

Who gets to use the boats for races?

Priority will be given to Full Members with a SWIFT Subscription

Next, Student / Youth Members with a (discounted) SWIFT Subscription

For doubles & quads: priority will be given to crews with more Members with a SWIFT Subscription (i.e 4 > 3)

We maintain a log for allocations, and we'll simply look to be fair in the rotation should it be needed.

Is there a discount for Youth / Students?

Yes.

Can I hire a SWIFT Boat exclusively for the Season?

No. Not only would this be against our accessibility pledge, but we have also made commitments to several of the grantors that boats would be made available to all members throughout the year.

Can I have 2, or even 4, subscriptions.

No. Each member can only have one subscription.

What about coxes, do they need to pay?

No. Only the rowers need to pay.

How do I make a request and when will I hear if I have a boat for a race?

Please email Thejerseyrowingclub@outlook.com within 7 days of the event. Your request must clearly indicate the type of boat and a second option if applicable.

The request for boats must be made at least 4 days before the race. For a race on Saturday your request must be in by 23:59 on the Tuesday before the race.

The committee can then make a quick decision and confirm allocations.

The club doesn't have enough SWIFT boats for races.

We know, but we had to start somewhere. In Jan 2022, the club had no SWIFT equipment, we now have 3 Quads, 2 Doubles and 2 Singles.

With the new sponsor this should increase further with the purchase of 2 more singles being prioritised for this summer, two further doubles next year. We also have other grant requests in the pipeline too.

To have raised enough money to purchase 11 new boats in under two years is a tremendous achievement. This has taken the collective effort of over a dozen people, representing a significant amount of work, effort and skill that most in the club don't see.

The money raised is the single, largest programme of investment in the club's 50-year history.

The boats were given "free" to the club, why should we pay to hire them?

In raising money from the Sir James Knott Foundation and the Jersey Community Fund, amongst others, we made commitments that we would not only maintain the assets but also that we would put measures in place to ensure that we were not reliant on grant funding in the long-term.

Furthermore, in applying a second time to the Jersey Community Fund we have been required to evidence that the Club is indeed raising money like we said we would in order to both maintain the boats and replace the assets over their useful life.

The c.£60,000 worth of assets purchased to date are not 'free', boats require replacing at the end of their useful life so that future generations of rowers can also access the sport without needing to provide the massive upfront investment in a boat. Maintaining, racking and insuring the boats isn't free either.

To raise the money to maintain & replace the equipment we can either increase everyone's membership (effectively penalising the boat-owning-members) or only charge those persons who use the equipment. We felt the latter was fairer.

We also believe that £15 ppm is extraordinarily good value for the equipment we now have. It takes 19.5 years at £15 pcm to contribute that upfront £3.5k-per-seat cost...and that's before maintenance, insurance and storage costs.

What do you do with the money?

All monies raised through these fees are held in a restricted reserve to cover all maintenance costs, ancillary equipment purchases, to purchase further boats and to pay the replacement cost of the club's boats in the long-term.

The reserve is governed by the Committee and subject to annual review by our auditor.