

SCRC 2021 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2020... It feels like the right thing to do is to just forget it. Pretend it didn't happen.

But it did and as often happens in times of difficulty the highlights are marked by people that go beyond.

The year started with great intentions. We had raised most of the money needed to send 2 qualified crews to Henley Royal Regatta in July. With wonderful support from Ridley College, we had a Spring Gala planned in their Great Hall to close the funding gap. 4-time Olympic Gold Medalist and Henley Royal Steward Matthew Pinsent had agreed to come over from England as our guest of honor.

Then March arrived and as they say – the rest is history.

No rowing in the Spring as the health professionals tried to sort out what was safe and what wasn't.

We finally received permission to allow singles only by early June. That came with new protocols around confirming rowers were symptom free, would respect physical distancing on shore and would thoroughly wash their boat and oars after every row.

Until we were able to develop an on-line check in process, many volunteers showed up daily to check rowers in and out of the compound. I can't thank these individuals enough. Without them we would not have been able to offer even singles the chance to row.

Also, in June our Club Captain for 14 years, Mark Welsh, accepted a new job in a new career.

Former club president Jim Marino offered to step into the role of coordinating what little on water activities there were and did an outstanding job through to the end of 2020.

Eventually we were allowed doubles and pairs but for the first time ever an entire year saw not a single regatta.

We wrapped up the Fall by NOT having our Captain's Dinner.

As I write this report, we have scheduled our Annual General Meeting to take place courtesy of Zoom. The good news here is that the turnout may be the best ever!

Like most people I am doing my best to be optimistic about 2021. While it may not have started well there are vaccines coming. If they come soon enough and enough people get them, and the virus doesn't continue to morph, and we all follow protocols... we may see more athletes on the water this year and regattas at some point.

I'll close with a large thank-you to the Board for not just helping steer the club through 2020 but for being part of the volunteer force that helped athletes get on the water. Thank you to the tremendous support from donors who during this difficult time were able to help the club with generous donations. Thank you again to the many volunteers that showed up at the gate at 6:00am and throughout the day in early summer to check rowers in and out. And finally, thank you to the athletes – junior, senior and masters - who with no prospect of competition continued to turn out for the sport we all love.